Chair’s Column:

Final Thoughts

By Sonia Gavin, LRL Chair 2014-2015
Legislative Information Resources Manager
Legislative Services Division, Montana Legislature

Here it is, my final Chair’s Column…

As I look back over the past year, I reflect on how much I have learned and how humbled I am at being allowed to lead such an awesome group of individuals. You all are a very dedicated, talented and knowledgeable group and I value the collective knowledge, always knowing I can call or email any one of you for assistance with a problem or question. I especially enjoyed getting to meet some of you in person at our Professional Development Seminars and the annual NCSL Legislative Summit. There is nothing like getting together to discuss the unique field in which we all work. In my mind, that is the best thing about attending seminars and the Summit, talking about our shared issues and learning how other libraries do what they do. Working for state legislatures is a very different working environment, and knowing that we are not alone in this adventure is priceless.

Librarians are working in a dynamic and changing field. With more and more information available online, it’s our duty to assist our staff and legislators find pertinent, current and authoritative information. No one else can surf the Internet as well as librarians to find on-point information! The more I learn about how each state is so different, but somewhat the same, it never ceases to amaze me. The model for legislative libraries seems to be all over the place, with some being solo librarians such as myself, Shelley Day in Utah and Eddie Weeks in Tennessee (just to name a few), to the large staff at the Texas Legislative Reference Library under the leadership of Mary Camp.

We have many exciting sessions planned for the annual NCSL Legislative Summit in Seattle. Some highlights include a tour of the Seattle Public Library. According to their website, “In 1998 Seattle voters said ‘yes’ to the largest and most comprehensive library initiative in our country’s history, launching a $290.7 million project to rebuild and renew The Seattle Public Library.” This unique building has many exciting collections for us to learn about.

Other sessions include Cheryl Rae Nyberg, coordinator of Reference Services at the Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library at the University of Washington School of Law. She is a co-presenter on the session, “Effective Research Strategies: Finding and Presenting Information,” at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 5.

Once again, the LRL staff section is also bestowing the annual Notable Documents Awards on worthy publications from various states. I thank Elizabeth Lincoln from Minnesota for chairing this committee over the past few years. Sorting through all of the submissions is a huge task, and I thank the committee for their efforts this year.

The planning committee for the Professional Development Seminar, which will take place Oct. 4-7 in Austin, has many exciting sessions for all of us as well. There will be a tour of the impressive Texas Legislative Library as well as tours of other area libraries, a session on the various social media platforms that are used in the library, and our “Five Minutes of Fame” roundtable, which is always a great learning experience.

At the annual NCSL Legislative Summit in Seattle, I hand the chair over to the very capable hands of Jennifer Bernier. I want to thank all of you for this opportunity, and I encourage you to consider becoming more involved in our small but mighty staff section. See you in Seattle!

Sonia
LRL Legislative Summit Plans

Join your colleagues from other states at the 2015 NCSL Legislative Summit! LRL members have planned a variety of informative and interesting sessions for the meeting in Seattle. We will also enjoy two Dutch Treat dinners and hold our annual Business Meeting. See our agenda below.

LRL Dutch Treat Dinner
7 p.m.
Join your fellow legislative librarians for our annual LRL Dutch Treat Dinner. We'll meet at 7:00 at the Palomino Restaurant and Bar, 1420 Fifth Avenue in Seattle.

Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2015
Effective Research Strategies: Finding and Presenting Information
3:30–5 p.m.
Explore the best sources and process for gathering information on policy issues. Learn about innovative ways to present information to legislators and key staff.
Speakers: Cheryl Rae Nyberg, Coordinator of Reference Services, Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library, University of Washington School of Law
Mark Andrews, Legislative Research & General Counsel, Utah
Brian Bean, Legislative Research & General Counsel, Utah
Bryant Howe, Legislative Research & General Counsel, Utah

Thursday, Aug. 6, 2015
Seattle Public Library Services: Program and Tour
2–4 p.m.
Learn about the services and collection of the Seattle Public Library and enjoy a tour of this unique public building.

Monday, Aug. 3, 2015
Ethics in Public Service: The Communication Connection
2–5 p.m.
Brian Baird, former six term U.S. representative and a clinical psychologist, is an avid proponent of ethical conduct in the legal and legislative professions. Baird discusses how the ability to effectively communicate relates to ethical practice and conduct for legislators, legislative staff and legislative attorneys. This engaging and entertaining presentation provides best practices to develop strong, strategic and ethical communication in your legislature.
Speaker: Brian Baird, Ph.D., Washington
LRL Informal Dinner
7 p.m.
What better place for legislative librarians to gather than the Bookstore Bar & Cafe? Join your LRL colleagues at 7:00 for a fun and informal evening. The restaurant is located at 1007 1st Avenue, Seattle, in the Alexis Hotel.

Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2015
LRL Business Meeting
7:30–8:30 a.m.
Attend the annual business meeting, including presentation of the Legislative Staff Achievement Award and the 2015 Notable Documents Awards.
Presiding: Sonia Gavin, LRL Chair, 2014-2015, Legislative Information Resource Manager, Montana Legislature

The Seattle Public Library, considered one of the top ten libraries in the nation and one of the most unique library buildings.
LRL Member News

Legislative Librarians in Other States

Elizabeth Lincoln, Minnesota

Legislative librarians at the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library are fortunate to have colleagues in most of the 50 states. Recently, two Minnesota library staff were able to visit other legislative libraries on trips eastward.

I visited Evelyn Andrews, Senate librarian, at the beautiful Senate Library in Pennsylvania in October.

In June, Minnesota’s legislative librarian, Alyssa Novak Jones, stopped in at the North Carolina General Assembly Library. Alyssa met with Cathy Martin, the chief librarian, and her staff.

We occasionally get to meet fellow legislative librarians in person at National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Professional Development Seminars or Legislative Summit, but our primary contact is electronically through NCSL’s Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section listserv.

Last summer, Minnesota hosted legislative librarians from around the United States as part of NCSL’s 2014 Legislative Summit. We didn't want our colleagues who could not attend to miss out so we shared our experiences through a Summit blog.

Minnesota librarians also wrote a PDS blog for our legislative librarian colleagues when we hosted the Legislative Research Librarians professional development seminar in St. Paul in 2009. Our electronic and personal connections with our legislative librarian colleagues are always informative—and often fun!

Pam Schofield Retires

Pamela Schofield, legislative reference librarian with the State Library of Massachusetts and long-time LRL member, is retiring after 32 years of public service.

She sends her greetings and farewell to LRL:

“I am leaving the State Library of Massachusetts and wanted to be in touch. I know I have not been as active with this special group in recent years, but have valued your work and help over my 32 plus years here. I loved the NCSL meetings and the librarians’ seminars I have attended. I enjoyed it so much when the group visited Boston in 2007. Take care and keep up the good work.”

In an article in the Worcester Business Journal, marking her notable service and retirement, Pam reflected on the changes she has seen during her lengthy career:

She was asked, “What has been the worst thing that's happened to libraries in that time? "Budget cuts," Schofield promptly replied. The nadir of those came, she said, when former Governor Deval Patrick floated the idea of closing the state library in 2009.

And the best thing about libraries? That hasn't changed in 32 years, Schofield said, answering with the simplicity and eloquence befitting a literary person: Books.”

During a recent trip to Pennsylvania, Elizabeth Lincoln, (right) director of the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library, visited with Evelyn Andrews, (left) librarian of the Pennsylvania State Senate.

Alyssa Novak Jones, (left), reference librarian with the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library, visited with Cathy Martin (right), legislative librarian for the North Carolina General Assembly.
LRL Fall Seminar—Get Ready for Austin!

LRL’s 2015 professional development seminar is a joint meeting with the Legal Services Staff Section (LSSS) and the Research and Committee Staff Section (RACSS). The meeting is Oct. 4-7, 2015, in Austin, Texas. The three groups will share several joint plenary programs and a reception, but each staff section will have time for concurrent programs based on the specific training needs and interests of their members.

Below is a preliminary agenda for the meeting. LRL’s concurrent sessions are shown in blue but participants may attend any sessions that interest them. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

**Sunday, Oct. 4**
2:30–5 p.m.  
Registration

**Monday, Oct. 5**
7 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Registration
7:30–8:00 a.m.  
Continental Breakfast
8:15–8:30 a.m.  
Welcome from the Staff Section Officers
8:30–10:15 a.m.  
Joint Opening Plenary: U.S. Supreme Court Update
10:30–11:45 a.m.  
Concurrent Sessions
  - LRL: Five Minutes of Fame: Innovations and Challenges in Legislative Libraries
  - RACSS: Staff Structures: What Does Your State Do?
  - LSSS: Redrafting “Model Law” to Fit Your Code
  - Editors: Magic Management
11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.  
Joint Luncheon
1–2:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Sessions
  - RACSS & LRL: Effective Communication with Legislators and Staff
  - LSSS: TBD
2:30–3:45 p.m.  
Concurrent Sessions
  - RACSS: Bill Analysis: Tried and True and What’s New
  - LSSS & Editing: Paperless Bill Drafting and Editing
4–5 p.m.  
Concurrent Sessions
  - LRL: Texas History and Archives, Texas State Library and Archives Commission
  - LSSS & Editors: Common Mistakes in Drafting and Editing

**Evening**
LRL: Dutch Treat Dinner
RACSS: TBD
LSSS & Editors: TBD

**Tuesday, Oct. 6**
7 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Registration
7:30–8:15 a.m.  
Continental Breakfast
8:15–8:30 a.m.  
(RACSS, LSSS & Editors shuttle to the Capitol, LRL to the Tarlton Law Library)
8:30–9:30 a.m.  
Concurrent Sessions
  - LRL: Tour of the Tarlton Law Library, University of Texas
  - RACSS: Personalities in the Professional Atmosphere – Smart Professional Practices
  - LSSS: Innovative Electronic Tools for Legal Research – Texas Legislature’s Data Systems
9:45 a.m.–Noon  
Concurrent Sessions
  - LRL: Trends in Librarianship and Library Services
  - RACSS: Designing a Productive Interim Study: Framing the Question
  - LSSS: Legal Ethics
Tuesday, continued

12:15–1:30 p.m.  Luncheon at Capitol
1:30–3:30 p.m.  Texas State Capitol Tour/Texas Legislative Staff Services
3:30–4:45 p.m.  Concurrent Sessions
   LRL: Services of the Texas Legislative Reference Library/Library Tour
   RACSS: Reflections on Legislative Service
   LSSS: Statutory Interpretation: A Case Study
4:45–6:15 p.m.  Welcome to Texas Reception

Wednesday, Oct. 7

7:30–8:30 a.m.  Continental Breakfast
8:30–10 a.m.  Joint Plenary: Social Media in the Legal World
10:15–11:45 a.m.  Joint Plenary: Two Guys on Your Head
LRL chair Sonia Gavin and vice-chair Jennifer Bernier represent LRL on the LSCC. Sabah Eltareb is an appointed member of the LSCC, so LRL is well represented.

Below are reports from Sonia and Sabah, who attended the Spring LSCC meeting in Denver.

**Staff Section Officers Subcommittee and Legislative Institution Subcommittee Meetings**

*Sonia Gavin, Montana*

The NCSL Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC) met in Denver June 5 and 6 in conjunction with the NCSL Executive Committee. I attended the Staff Section Officer and the Legislative Institution Subcommittee meetings, as well as the full LSCC meeting.

In addition to meetings, the attendees attended a dinner hosted at the NCSL offices and the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum. It was a treat to get to see the offices and the museum. Now I know where Jeanne spends her days!

The Staff Section Officers meeting focused on programming for each section for the upcoming NCSL Legislative Summit as well as our various Professional Development Seminars. Each of the attendees talked about their individual itineraries for these events. The group also talked about a speaker database that we could use for programming our events. This is in the works and will be discussed further at future meetings.

There are funds available for webinars, so if you have an idea that you think would be worthwhile, or an issue you may want more information about, look into presenting a webinar. Using some of these funds to stream sessions from the Summit and the various PDS was also discussed. NCSL also has consulting services to help legislative staff with issues and they can do an assessment of issues specific to legislatures.

The Legislative Institution Subcommittee is looking for success stories about a piece of legislation that had bipartisan support, where staff and legislators worked together to get a bill passed. A video would be produced and available on the website to tell the story.

With legislatures becoming more polarized and citizens becoming disillusioned with the process, telling the story of what works and promoting the good is the focus of this project. Sharing stories of the good benefits all of us, and shows how by working together we can come up with good solutions.

**Programs, Professional Development and Outreach Subcommittee**

*Sabah Eltareb, California*

Participating in the third of four Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC) meetings this year, I’m struck with a couple of thoughts about the past three years I’ve attended them. (The first two I attended as an LRL officer rep and this current year as a discretionary appointment.) 1.) It doesn’t matter which city and/or hotel you are in, the rooms will be FREEZING for at least a portion of the time; 2.) There is a certain rhythm to the meetings—lots of planning and work associated with the first two and much less afterward; and, 3.) Although there is one last planning meeting to look forward to attending at the beginning of the NCSL Legislative Summit in Seattle, I’m already feeling a sense of wrapping things up in preparation to handing projects/plans on to the next set of colleagues coming onboard.

I am a member of the LSCC Programs, Professional Development and Outreach Subcommittee. The following is a list of our group’s goals/responsibilities for 2014-2015. Next to each goal, I’ve noted highlights from the meeting in Denver:

1. **Review the Statehouse Ambassador program:** short survey was emailed to all state ambassadors and NCSL liaisons, and NCSL staff evaluated the 47 responses. There seemed to be a mix of responses as to the value of keeping the program in its current state and a recognition that no one size fits all. We recommended that the program be pushed forward as an ongoing issue for the next LSCC meeting in September and assessed for its parameter and scope. We also recommended
follow-up on the comments that were submitted. There have been some good working relationships established between NCSL staff liaisons and their states and other that were not as successful. Before recommending the program be abolished, we wanted a better understanding of what characteristics might be factors.

2. Develop programs focused on staff in term limited states: It turns out that staff issues from term-limited states are not that much different from other states. The most pressing issue for all staff is the partisan/nonpartisan shift that is occurring. We recommended this as an area that needs to be brought forward for the next LSCC meeting in September, with the goal of creating programs and sessions during the next year.

3. Develop programs for Legislative Summit

a. Speakers: Updates about committed speakers for LSCC sponsored sessions (“Jeopardy” winner Ken Jennings and communications expert Sari de la Motte)

b. Service project: The challenges of imposing additional responsibilities onto the host state in coordinating a service project were discussed. No standard parameters have been created as to project, collaborators, etc. Subcommittee members liked the idea of continuing to support their existence. A couple of suggestions were floated: 1.) Put responsibility back to the staff sections; 2.) Look at low-key silent auctions or raffles, with crafty items donated from LSCC members, or perhaps, from local donors. Recommended pushing forward for next LSCC meeting.

4. Conduct follow-up activities with first-time attendees at Legislative Summit: An orientation and luncheon for first time attendees will be held on the first day of the Summit, Monday, Aug. 3, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

I’ve thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of the LSCC the last few years. I’ve gained a deeper appreciation for what NCSL is all about, worked with some great colleagues, and had the opportunity to get the insider’s scoop about programs and sessions coming down the pike.

I would like to encourage all LRL members to consider getting more involved with LSCC. One way to do so is as an officer of LRL (or any of the other NCSL staff sections). Another way is as a discretionary appointment. The final way is explained in the Legislative Staff Member Recruitment 2015-2016 NCSL Executive Committee page. If you are interested or have any questions, please feel free to ask.

The questions in this issue focus on seminars and data sets.

1. Professional Development Seminars
Is the cost to get to a location, i.e., cost of flights, a factor on whether or not you can attend? Would you be interested in hosting a PDS in your state?

2. With the recent inquiry on the listserv about the legislator information, does your library maintain data sets? What kinds of data sets are maintained? Some examples could be membership on boards and commissions, prior legislation, bills passed every session, vetoed bills, etc.

Atlantic Northern
Regional Director: Christine McCluskey, Connecticut

Jennifer Bernier, Carrie Rose, and Christine McCluskey, Connecticut
1. Cost is a factor in whether we can attend the PDS; our travel budget changes year to year.
We would certainly be interested in hosting a PDS in Connecticut sometime in the future (plans would have to be approved by our legislative leaders).
2. We maintain many databases, including but not limited to mandated reports, board/commission membership, judicial nominations, vetoes, and session dates. The Connecticut State Library also maintains some databases, such as historical legislator information and constitutional amendments.

Kate Balassie, New York
1. I’m sure cost is a factor. We have to get approval from both houses of the Legislature, and that doesn’t happen very often—certainly not for out-of-state seminars. As far as hosting is concerned, probably not. The logistics for us would be unwieldy.
2. No, we don’t. All legislative information comes through our Legislative Retrieval System, which is maintained by the Bill Drafting Commission.

Atlantic Central
Regional Director: Annette Haldeman, Maryland

Annette Haldeman, Maryland
1. Cost is a factor in attending the PDS.
In the past, we have hosted an activity/event for LRL members and would be interested in doing so again. We could possibly have an activity for LRL members when meetings are in Baltimore or D.C. There are a number of places in our area that would likely be of interest to LRL members.
2. We have an in-house research database, where historical and timely research is stored. There is also an in-house mandated reports database, which tracks reporting requirements and documents that have been submitted to satisfy those requirements. There is a staff person who works on a current legislator bio-
graphical database and has also prepared information for former delegates and senators (from the mid-1990s forward). The information is placed on the General Assembly website by our Office of Information Systems.

**Julia Covington, North Carolina**
1. Professional Development Seminars
Is the cost to get to a location, i.e. cost of flights, a factor on whether you can attend or not? Cost isn't usually the deciding factor in our state's decisions to send folks to LRL. Would you be interested in hosting a PDS in your state? Not at this time. We're a relatively small library and don’t have the resources or support to host a PDS.
2. With the recent inquiry on the listserv about the legislator information, does your library maintain data sets (databases)? What kinds of data sets are maintained? Some examples could be membership on boards and commissions, prior legislation, bills passed every session, vetoed bills, etc. We have a Boards and Commissions database available internally to staff only. In addition, we have a Legislative Study Reports database available on the Web. We track Legislative Statistics (1965-) and Vetoed Bills (1997-) using Excel. These documents are also posted on our website.

**Evelyn Andrews, Pennsylvania**
1. Currently we are NOT permitted out-of-state travel. We did host years ago. Not sure if I’d be interested. …We would need more details since PA would not want to incur ANY costs.
2. The Senate library does not maintain such data sets.

**Kim Adams, South Carolina**
1. Working in state government, cost is always a factor. And as with any agency, we have several employees who would like to attend different conferences for different organizations, so cost is a factor.
2. Our agency does not maintain databases in our state. That is done by another Legislative state agency, Legislative Services Agency. However, we do assist in the gathering of information to be stored on the website that is maintained by LSA. We do have “in-house” systems for researching legislation and keeping up with prior legislation issues. However, it is not stored on a database that can be accessed by the general public.

**Gulf Coast**

**Regional Director: Elisa Naquin, Louisiana**

1. The budget for our office has been cut so much that we hardly have a library any more. So, as you can imagine, there is not any money for travel.
2. The types of information databases that you mentioned are created and maintained by our Legislative Computer Center, not by my office.

**Frances Thomas, Louisiana**
1. Yes–and length of flight (number of connections, time to get there). We hosted a PDS in 2014.
2. The library has created and maintains a number of databases:
   - Representatives Biographical Database
   - Administrative Procedure Database (emergency rules/reports/notices of intent). Data entry is on or immediately before date of publication in The Louisiana Register
   - Library Catalog (includes legislative documents, mandates and nonlegislative material)
   - Images Database (photos posted by the House Communications office on the House website, along with some photos of the capitol
   - Select Internet Publications (key government and legislative publications; mandated reports on agency sites)
   - “What’s New on the Internet.” We send out a weekly compilation of new information appearing on the Internet to legislators and staff. It is done by data entry and sent as a pdf. Data are kept for one year. This is not really "legislative info" so I am not sure if it should be listed.

Databases are searchable separately and globally. The Representatives database (minus some information), Select Internet Publications, and Images database are available on our public site. The library tracks other information—index to legislation and actions of the legislature, gubernatorial vetoes and constitutional amendment votes—but produces a print product rather than in a database. However, database software is used to generate the print indices to legislation.

**Eddie Weeks, Tennessee**
1. The cost is not a factor. The only factor is that I get one conference a year, so it’s always a choice between the Summit and the PDS. It’s more a matter of “Have I been there before?”
2. Yes, we keep lists of legislatively mandated studies, speakers’ appointments, number of bills introduced / passed / etc., number of resolutions introduced, past members database, legislative days used, and highways and bridges named by the General Assembly.

**Great Lakes**

**Regional Director: Anne Rottmann, Missouri**

**Kimberly Bartosz, Illinois**
1. With our budget problems, I can guess that PD funds would be limited at best.
2. The LRU does not keep a database of legislator information. We do keep a paper file on each legislator with brief bios and monthly we search the Chicago Tribune and our State Library's Illinois newspaper collection through Newsbank for articles to keep on file. The GA keeps track of legislators, committee membership, and bill sponsorship by session. It is not searchable, one would browse by legislator. The 99th General Assembly is available at http://ilga.gov/; previous General Assemblies at http://ilga.gov/PreviousGA.asp, and go back to 2003/04.
Anne Rottmann, Missouri
The Legislative Library in Missouri has created and maintains a database of current and previous members of the General Assembly. We include information on party affiliation, how many terms served, what chamber, any leadership positions, district number and what counties that district included and if any other family member has served.
We also keep statistics on the use of the “previous question” motion in the Senate, number of bills passed each session, and overrides of gubernatorial vetoes.

Jonetta Douglas, Iowa
1. Cost always makes some impact, but for me several of my duties have changed so now it is mostly about timing for me. I am part of the tables and indexing unit and depending on where we are on a publication it just sometimes is not a good time to be away. I honestly have no interest in hosting a PDS.
2. We have a database for members with basic information district, committees, sponsored legislation and amendments, and a short bio. This information is broken up by general assembly (two-year increments). It spans from 1838-present. We do a breakdown of women who have served, and minorities, and are working on professions, average age. At this point we just continue to add new tables and breakdown information as new ideas come up.

Elizabeth Lincoln, Minnesota
Number 1: Cost is a factor, generally, in attending NCSL Professional Development Seminars for us. We’d be happy to host a PDS again. Minnesota hosted in 1992 and in 2009.
Number 2: Yes, the Minnesota LRL maintains many data sets. Among them are: Minnesota Legislators Past and Present database (within the legislator database, we also track leadership and committee assignments); Number of bills introduced and laws passed; Details about bills vetoed; Details about Special Sessions; Party Control over time; Executive Orders; and Information on Minnesota State Agencies, Boards, Task Forces, and Commissions.

Pat Reichert, Wisconsin
1. Professional Development Seminars Yes, cost is a big factor. No, we could not host a PDS, at least not in the next 2 years.
2. Datasets: The library and research sections have a couple datasets in the works. One is a legislator database going back to statehood that is now in the hands of the technology bureau. I don’t know when it will go live but it will include links to district maps along with legislator information. The other, which is still being developed, is a legislatively mandated reports database with links to the reports and the legislation or executive order that created it. The reports themselves are one of the LRB’s new Digital Collections. We are using OCLC and ContentDM to host seven collections: legislative service agency publications (LRB, Legislative Audit Bureau, Legislative Fiscal Bureau, and Legislative Council), legislator press releases, and legislatively mandated reports. The seventh collection is our news clippings collection, but that is not available outside the legislative network for copyright reasons. The Digital Collections were launched in January of this year and continue to grow with content, including backfiles. Information is added every week. (http://lrbdigital.legis.wisconsin.gov/cdm/)

Central Northern
Regional Director: Jonetta Douglas, Iowa

Central Southern
Regional Director: Molly Otto, Colorado

Janet Fisher, Arizona
1. Professional Development Seminars
Is the cost to get to a location, i.e. cost of flights, a factor on whether you can attend or not?
Yes, in part. We have a limited amount of funding and a number of different learning opportunities for staff in the many areas our library covers that are also taken into consideration. We regularly hold virtual meetings, trainings, and virtual conferences with libraries in our state and region.
Would you be interested in hosting a PDS in your state? Yes
2. With the recent inquiry on the listserv about the legislator information, does your library maintain data sets/databases?
Some examples could be membership on boards and commissions, prior legislation, bills passed every session, vetoed bills, etc.
We have a database of initiatives and referenda that have changed our state constitution since statehood. We also have it on our website (http://apps.azlibrary.gov/constitution/). Legislative Council keeps some of the information you listed.
Molly Otto, Colorado
1. Professional Development Seminars
Is the cost to get to a location, i.e., cost of flights, a factor on whether you can attend or not? I consider costs, location, and content when deciding to attend a PDS. Would you be interested in hosting a PDS in your state? Perhaps.
2. With the recent inquiry on the listserv about the legislator information, does your library maintain data sets/databases? What kinds of data sets/databases are maintained? Some examples could be membership on boards and commissions, prior legislation, bills passed every session, vetoed bills, etc. The Colorado Joint Legislative Library maintains the following databases/websites:
- Statutory required reports: [http://www.leg.state.co.us/library/reports.nsf/reports.xsp](http://www.leg.state.co.us/library/reports.nsf/reports.xsp)
- Colorado House Speakers and Senate Presidents: [https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/presidents%20and%20speakers.pdf](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/presidents%20and%20speakers.pdf)
- Colorado Joint Legislative Library website: [https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cga-legislativecouncil/library-5](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cga-legislativecouncil/library-5)
- Legislative Council staff maintains an internal Boards and Commissions database.

Christen Chen, Oklahoma
1. Professional Development Seminars
Is the cost to get to a location, i.e., cost of flights, a factor on whether you can attend or not? Yes, especially during the budget cuts. Would you be interested in hosting a PDS in your state? Maybe, not anytime soon.
2. With the recent inquiry on the listserv about the legislator information, does your library maintain data sets/databases? What kinds of data sets/databases are maintained? Some examples could be membership on boards and commissions, prior legislation, bills passed every session, vetoed bills, etc. Yes, we have bio files databases (excel spreadsheets). The databases include the name, which chamber, time served, birth and death dates, leadership etc. We don’t keep the legislation information.

Shelley Day, Utah
1. Professional Development Seminars
Is the cost to get to a location, i.e., cost of flights, a factor on whether you can attend or not? No
Would you be interested in hosting a PDS in your state? Before now, yes. Sorry!
2. With the recent inquiry on the listserv about the legislator information, does your library maintain data sets/databases? What kinds of data sets/databases are maintained? Some examples could be membership on boards and commissions, prior legislation, bills passed every session, vetoed bills, etc. The legislative research library within our office—Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel—does not currently maintain any other database other than the Access Library database. The library has stayed away from database entry for the most part.

The library did maintain the legislators/schools database for Utah’s NCSL’s Legislators Back to School Program for many years. I designed it to provide lists of all schools, public and private—sorted by elementary, junior high/middle, high school—with principal names, telephone numbers, email addresses, and physical addresses of each school for each legislator. I coordinated with the State Office of Education annually to receive updated information. That metadata mixed with our system did not mesh as well as we’d hoped and as a result did not guarantee comprehensive nor 100 percent correct product information. It was more work than it was worth for all staff involved on both ends.
Our office maintains all databases for legislation, legislators, etc., on the SQL server. The bill and data management specialists enter legislator data once proofed by library staff. They also enter the bill data. The data are maintained and massaged into many applications by our office IT programmers.

West Coast
Regional Director: Danielle Mayabb, Nevada

Jennifer Fletcher, Alaska
1. Professional Development Seminars
a. Is the cost to get to a location (i.e., cost of flights, etc.) a factor on whether you can attend or not?
Yes, assuming we have travel money available in the first place. If we do not, this becomes a greater factor since we would have to pay out of pocket.
b. Would you be interested in hosting a PDS in your state?
No, not at this time.
2. Legislative Databases
a. Does your library create/maintain databases dealing with legislative information?
The library is involved in some aspects of this process, but the bulk of the work is performed by our Information Services group. One database in particular is administered by the library: Our library catalog, which includes reports generated by and for our legislature. Ongoing projects are increasing our involvement in providing historical information for these databases.
b. If yes, what are those databases and what sort of information is in each?
We have one database for each two-year legislature, which contains information on all legislators, meetings, committees, bills, actions and amendments. In addition, the library contributes a guide to Alaska legislative history research which is available on our publications page.

Maeve Roche, California
1a. We do not get any travel or conference money. We have no comp time, either, so we would be paying for these conferences ourselves and using our own time to attend.
1b. We hosted a PDS a few years ago. We would need to assess staff commitment/interest and timing/resources. I would not be the one to make this decision
2a. No
2b. N/A
Teresa Wilt, Nevada

1. Professional Development Seminars
   a. Is the cost to get to a location (i.e., cost of flights, etc.) a factor on whether you can attend or not? Yes.
   b. Would you be interested in hosting a PDS in your state? Not in the near future.

2. Legislative Databases
   a. Does your library create/maintain databases dealing with legislative information? Yes.
   b. If yes, what are those databases and what sort of information is in each?

Reports Submitted to the Legislature Pursuant to NRS or Statutes of Nevada
- Description of report and subject headings.
- Who is required to produce the report (agency, board, etc.), and who is required to receive the report
- Bill and year, Chapter in Statutes of Nevada, Nevada Revised Statutes citation.
- Frequency, due date, sunset provisions, repeal.
- Library holdings.
- Links to compiled legislative histories.

Legislators, 1861-Current
- Biographical info (birth and death places and dates, gender, occupation, city of residence).
- Legislative service (years, houses, party, counties served, standing and interim committees, chairmanships, leadership positions, resignations/appointments).
- Family connections between legislators.
- Other local, state, and federal elected offices held.
- Links to online legislative biographies, memorial resolutions, oral histories, lists of sponsored bills.

Vetoed Bills, 1899-Current
- Bill and year.
- Summary, subject headings, sponsors.
- Governor, date of veto, veto message.
- Chapter in statutes and effective date, if overridden.
- Links to compiled legislative histories.

Compiled Legislative Histories
- Bill and year.
- Title, summary, and subject headings.
- Final status and page numbers in statutes, if enacted
- Links to compiled histories and other related material

Legislator Photographs (internal)
- Name, year, chamber served in.
- Photographer and/or source
- Location: Where taken, where stored physically and digitally (link).
- Format, size, etc.
- Use in legislative publications.

Statutes of Nevada, 1861-1919 (internal)
- Bill/resolution, year, Chapter/File, page no.
- Title and subject heading.
- Approval date.

Standing Committees, 1864-Current (internal)
- Committee name, year
- Membership, including chair and vice chair (linked to the “Legislators, 1861-Current” database, so we can pull in any of that info).

- Bill and year.
- Committee names and hearing dates.
- 1983 index and those going forward have fields for budget information such as budget account number, page in executive budget, budget function, budget title/division/department, so that we can track hearing on budget items in addition to hearings on bills.

Schools by Legislative District
- Assembly and Senate district number.
- Assemblymen/Senators.
- Grade level of school.
- School name and address.
- School type (charter, public, private).
- School district.

Publication Distribution (internal)
- Which staff members get which legislative publications and how many

Amendments to the Nevada Constitution (we will be taking this over from a researcher’s project)
- Article and section of Constitution.
- Year of ratification.
- Ballot question number and year.
- Legislative resolution or initiative petition.
- Purpose of amendment.
- Statutes of Nevada citation.