CHAIR'S COLUMN  
by Debbie Tavenner, OH  
LRL Chairperson

Greetings! I want to take this opportunity to thank my peers for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the LRL for the upcoming year. It is a privilege to do so and I take the responsibility very seriously. I intend to work hard with the other officers and NCSL staff to continue the high standards set by our previous Chairs, most recently Marilyn Cathcart. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Marilyn for guiding us this past year. I hope I can replicate her good judgment and organizational skills.

Inside this newsletter are summaries of Annual Meeting sessions of interest to legislative librarians. This is a standard feature of NEWSLINE to benefit those unable to travel to the meetings, but I always read the summaries even if I have been there. Thanks to those who took on the responsibility of taking detailed notes during the sessions. And our special thanks to Suzy Hughes and the staff of the Louisiana Legislative Research Library for taking care of the many local arrangements that are required when hosting a meeting. The programs were informative, topical, and well organized; the networking/social events were delightful.

By now everyone has received the brochure announcing the Professional Development Seminar in Denver, November 3-5, 1994. This meeting seems to be growing in attendance each year and the more of us attend, the more we can learn from each other. I want to encourage all who are able to attend. I believe the program represents a balance of technical and management skills that will be beneficial in our home libraries.

Throughout the coming year I want everyone to feel welcome to call or write to me with ideas for programs for the Annual Meeting in Milwaukee and the Professional Development Seminar in Albany. I'd be pleased to hear comments or concerns about ongoing projects and would welcome volunteers in various roles and on various projects. The "Librarians Helping Librarians" project is just getting off the ground. Everyone's assistance in shaping it will be appreciated.

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LEGALISITVE RESEARCH LIBRARIANS STAFF SECTION  
of the National Conference of State Legislatures  
1560 Broadway, Suite 700, Denver, CO 80202 303/830-2200

Chairperson: Marilyn Cathcart, Director, Legislative Reference Library, Minnesota  
NCSL Staff: Chris Patarozzi
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH LIBRARIANS
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR
November 3-5, 1994, Denver, Colorado

This year's Professional Development Seminar will be held in Denver at the Westin Hotel and NCSL's Denver headquarters. This is your chance to meet NCSL staff and tour the offices, as well as to get the latest update on NCSL's operations and services.

One whole morning will be devoted to practical navigation and use of the Internet. The class is custom tailored for librarians and by a librarian, James Hodson of the Bibliographic Center for Research. James has taught many such classes and has published several articles on computers in libraries and the National Research and Education Network (NREN). He will teach e-mail, UNIX commands, gophers, and FTP, but will also cover reference uses specific to legislative librarians, such as accessing government information files.

Becky Lenzini, President of the CARL Corp., will demonstrate their system, we'll see the Access Colorado Library & Information Network in action, and be treated to a behind the scenes look at development of the public-private partnership that makes Colorado legislation available to the public online. And for those of you who are intrigued by the title, "Dealing with Difficult People," bring your stories and examples to Dr. RJ Graham, Clinical Psychologist, who specializes in solving people problems in the workplace.

And you'll have a chance to tour the Capitol and The Tattered Cover, one of the best bookstores in the country, renowned for its collection of computer and information technology books. (The new airport won't be operational yet.) Come to Denver and network with your peers!

Updated Agenda

THURSDAY, NOV. 3 (The Westin Hotel)

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.
Registration

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.
Colorado's statewide library network: Access Colorado Library & Information Network (ACLIN).
Susan Fayad, Network Consultant

9:45 - 11:00 a.m.
Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries and CARL, Inc.
Becky Lenzini, President, CARL, Inc.

11:15 - 12:45 p.m.
Luncheon at the Westin.

Online legislation: The Colorado Public Private Connection
Guest speakers Nancy Bolt, Colorado State Librarian and Kenton Kuhn, President, Capitol Connection.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Karl Kurtz, Director of NCSL Denver Office
Ted Ferris, LSCC Chair, Arizona
Doug Sacanto, Senior Fellow, State Services
Karen Hansen, Director, Publications
JoAnne Bourquard, Director, Legislative Information Services

3:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Kathy Christy, ECS

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Tour of Colorado Capitol and Legislative Library

FRIDAY, NOV. 4
(Bibliographic Center for Research and NCSL)

8:00 a.m.
Transportation leaves from Westin for BCR

8:30 - 12:30 p.m.
The Internet: A Practical Introduction to Library Applications
James Hodson, Manager of Reference Systems and Services
Bibliographic Center for Reference

1:00 - 2:15 p.m.
Lunch at NCSL

2:15 - 3:45 p.m.
"Dealing with Difficult People"
Dr. RJ Graham, Clinical Psychiatrist and Business Consultant

4:45 - 6:30 p.m.
Tour of The Tattered Cover Bookstore
(transportation provided)

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Staff Section Dinner (transportation provided)
SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, NOV. 5
(Westin a.m./NCSL p.m.)

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Continental breakfast

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Business Meeting

11:00 - 12:30 p.m.
Lunch (on your own)

12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
LEGISNET Training

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH LIBRARIANS
STAFF SECTION BUSINESS MEETING
(Monday, July 25)

Marilyn Cathcart, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and distributed a pamphlet about the State Information Network (SIN), in a cooperative program of NCSL's and the Council of State Governments' States Information Center.

Marilyn Gutstromson (ND) reviewed the progress of the State Information Network Committee, and NCSL's Pam Greenberg thanked the committee for its work.

Marilyn Cathcart briefed members on the Book Sharing project. She stated that after her term as Chair expires, she and Marcia Hoak (OR) will pursue the initial contact made with Tembi Mine, Librarian of the Zambian Parliamentary Library, regarding the book donation project. If anyone else is interested in joining the project, Marilyn requested that they contact either herself or Marcia.

Marilyn discussed proposed sites for the annual Professional Development Seminar and stated that if any states were interested in hosting the seminar, to let the officers know. Albany, NY offered to host in '95, and Earl Graybeal, State Services Organization Librarian, has offered to host it in Washington, DC in '96. Lexington, KY was suggested as a site since the Council of State Governments is located there, but Suzy Hughes said that if Kentucky were to host the seminar, the site should be Frankfort, the state's capital. Chris said that she saw no problem with Frankfort if an invitation is extended and a solid program were planned. Susan Sternberg (NJ) said that there were no hotel facilities in Trenton, but offered, if there is interest, a day tour of their capitol and library in conjunction with the NCSL Philadelphia annual meeting (1997).

Rona Mertink (TX), gave an update on the Legislative History project and passed out to each member a summary of her interpretation of their returned questionnaire as well as that of Texas. Thirty-one states responded to the Legislative Intent Survey. She would like the remaining states to respond and would also like any corrections of her summary and suggestions on the format she used. A question was raised about whether the survey results should be put on the BBS or sold in book form. Marilyn said

NCSL'S ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS

LRL staff section meetings at NCSL's Annual Meeting in New Orleans were well attended and provided a wealth of good information. Following are summaries of the sessions provided by Marilyn Cathcart, Debby Taverner, Ann Bancroft and Chris Pattarozzi.

INTERNET FOR STATE LEGISLATURES-WHY?
INTERNET FOR STATE LEGISLATURES-HOW?
(Sunday, July 24)

Three participants shared insights into how their states handled philosophical and technical issues surrounding making legislative information available via the Internet. Assemblywoman Debra Bowen (California) and Representative Marc Asch (Minnesota) discussed the "mandated approach" used in California in contrast to the "cooperative" approach represented by Minnesota. In California, Internet access to legislative information was achieved through legislation which was authored by Assemblywoman Bowen. In Minnesota, Rep. Asch encouraged development of the House of Representatives portion of the legislative Gopher, building on development which had been started by legislative staff. Both participants discussed the concepts of "free" electronic access, types of information provided, availability of legislative information to business and citizens and the openness of online information.

In the second session, Representative Asch and Bill Behnk (Legislative Information System staff from California) discussed the technicalities of setting up systems which provide information via the Internet, including security issues, costs, equipment capability and administrative issues.
that it was up to the officers to decide. Suzy Hughes (LA) also suggested contacting Carol Billings, President of the American Association of Law Librarians, to find out if they would be interested in participating in this project.

William Pound, NCSL Executive Director, introduced Ted Ferris, newly elected NCSL Executive Committee Staff Chair, to the staff section. Mr. Pound applauded the progress in information technology, and announced new efforts at NCSL to expand online services.

Chris Pattarozzi stated that the results of the International Activities Survey and the Administrative Survey have been compiled and will be distributed after July. Pam Greenberg said that the new LEGISNET is up and running and that both the old and new database will be running concurrently throughout this year. She encouraged staff members to become part of a pilot group of users who will help evaluate and refine the new system.

Marilyn and Chris discussed the proposed Librarians Helping Librarians project in which Chris, would act as facilitator, and librarians with expertise in certain areas would be available to help other librarians via conference calls. Suzy Hughes (LA) said that she and Lynda Davis (MD) have had some experience in setting up a skills bank, so she would be like to participate in the project.

Marilyn said that the Regional Coordinators system is working well and that asking specific questions to legislative librarians has resulted in a very informative "Newsline." Marilyn suggested that no change be made to the coordinators system until 1995, except for the replacement needed for Elizabeth C. Felt (LA).

Sally Reynolds (TX) moved that the proposed changes to the LRL Staff Section By-Laws be adopted. Suzy Hughes seconded the motion, and the proposed changes were unanimously adopted by a voice vote. Upon recommendation by the staff section's Nominating Committee, Suzy Hughes moved that Clare Cholik (SD) be made LRL Staff Section Secretary, Ann Bancroft (NM) Chair-Elect, and Debby Tavenner (OH) Chair. Susan Sternberg seconded the motion and the officers were unanimously elected by a show of hands.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Bancroft, Secretary.

COUNTERPARTS ACROSS THE GLOBE: THE WESTERN AUSTRALIA PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY (Monday, July 25)

Roslynn Membrey, Parliamentary Librarian for Western Australia (W.A.), presented an engaging overview of her work there. Although W.A. has one of the smallest Parliaments and one of the smallest budgets, Roslynn and her staff of six serve more members (legislators) than any but the two most populous states, New South Wales and Victoria.

She quickly identified their members' information needs as being much like our own: widely ranging topics, yet very specific needs, with delivery needed almost immediately. The library responds in order of priority to the members, their staffs, Parliament House staff, and also government employees and, to the extent possible, the public. Roslynn says they have spent much time developing databases of information that allow for comprehensive responses in short turn-around time, and reports about 160 substantive requests to her staff per week. They also provide a computer indexed clipping service and record all news and current affairs programs on local television (but not radio).

Although Roslynn was unable to complete her presentation due to scheduling conflicts, a copy of her paper is included with this newsletter. Her account of computerizing her library (over a span of eight years) and her forays into public relations are both enlightening and entertaining. We're pleased to hear she plans another stateside visit at some time in the future. (NEWS NOTE: Roslynn is currently "on the move" from the W.A. Parliamentary Library to the Parliamentary Library in Canberra to become Director of Reader and Current Awareness Services: Congrats, Roslynn!)

THE LIBRARY'S ROLE WITHIN THE LEGISLATURE (Monday, July 25)

Ann Bancroft (New Mexico) moderated this enlightening panel discussion. Marilyn Gut tromson (North Dakota), Marian Rogers (Wisconsin) and Susan Sternberg (New Jersey), three colleagues from the Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section, discussed the context of each of their libraries, services provided and the various roles each library fulfills. The purpose of the roundtable was to explore the
unique relationship each legislative library has with its parent institution.

Some interesting facts that come to light:

- The North Dakota Legislative Council Library has two staff, a small collection (approximately 221 serials and 5,000 documents) and strong relationships with other legislative staff.

- In North Dakota, the Library subscribes to a clipping service but has started recently a "mini-clipping service" for legislative staff. The Library (i.e., Marilyn Gut tromson) is responsible for legislative history records. Prior to Marilyn joining the Library staff, legislative history records were stored in a coat closet in disarray. She has arranged them and made them available to the public.

- Marilyn's favorite question is "Now that the legislature has gone home, what do you have to do?" Attendees laughed knowingly at this question!

- The Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau is the oldest legislative library, having been in existence since 1901. The Congressional Research Service used the Wisconsin LRB as a model when CRS was being created. The LRB does bill drafting, library work and research and has a staff of 53. Nineteen employees are library/research staff, four of whom are librarians with unique roles. Librarians in LRB do no reference work. All reference-type work, even short answers, is handled by research staff.

- LRB's circulating collection consists of 58,000 volumes, there are 21,000 non-circulating Wisconsin documents. There is a large clipping collection which is marked by the research staff, but classified by LRB librarians. Patrons of the LRB include legislators, legislative staff, state departments, the public, attorneys, incarcerated persons, lobbyists, students.

- The LRB library staff create an index to the Wisconsin bulletin of legislative proceedings. Librarian, Marian Rogers noted that she is glad to have this responsibility since it helps to keep her in touch with "hot" issues. This is often useful since she is responsible for library acquisitions.

- The Office of Legislative Services Library in New Jersey is staffed by two librarians and three library assistants. The primary library constituents—researchers from Legislative Services, a group that works for legislators indirectly. The library is not open to the public; the New Jersey State Library is near and handles questions from the public.

- New Jersey's legislative library has a collection of 10-12,000 documents. Staff prepare a daily clipping service and a monthly checklist of new acquisitions. Library staff also prepare a bill guide. The computerized indexing system that is used for the bill tracking system was developed by the associate librarian and it provides multiple access points to New Jersey legislation.

- The New Jersey library is created by statute.

NATIONAL INFORMATION HIGHWAY—
FREEWAY OR TOLLROAD?
(Tuesday, July 26)

This discussion focused on the public's right to electronic governmental information versus the information industry's right to market it. Carol Henderson, Executive Director of the American Library Association's Washington D.C. office, stated that everyone has the right of timely access to all federal government information and publications, and that depository libraries, as organizers and coordinators of government information, could best serve the public as navigators through this electronic information. Federal legislation has been proposed which addresses public networking needs and preferential rates for libraries.

Douglas Brown, Director of the Colorado Office of Legislative Legal Services, stated that, although there should be reasonable copyright protection of electronic public information, there should be no public or private monopoly over this information.

Steven Metalitz, Vice President and General Counsel of the Information Industry Association, likened the information highway to a supermarket. In order to bring the product to the marketplace, avoidance of a monopoly and diversity must be encouraged as well as protection of the investment and information security. The buyer would purchase the information product based on its accessibility; safety and security; and choice, reliability and quality of information.
ELECTRONIC RESEARCH - THE ANSWER'S OUT THERE
(Tuesday, July 26)

Moderated by Larry Barish of the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, this panel consisted of presentations by three individuals: Barbara Quint, Searcher Magazine; Marshall Turner, Census Bureau; and Joe Ryan, Syracuse University.

Barbara Quint presented a basic rundown on the online marketplace describing many existing online services. Some of the databases mentioned were Burrelle's Transcript Service (which has transcripts from talk shows and news programs among other offerings), Journal Graphics, NationBase (offers text for all bills from all states plus specialized services at a very high cost), Washington Alert, LegisSlate, Dow Jones, StateNet, ELSS.

Quint's thesis is that the Internet and consumer information utilities (such as America Online and CompuServe) are changing the online environment by adding vast new numbers of searchers and increasing awareness of online searching. In addition, massive new players are entering the online environment in the form of cable and phone companies. The Internet is inherently unstable: information that is located once may be removed from the Internet; available information changes often; paths to find information may change. Two very positive features of the Internet are: 1) that it provides access to networks of experts and 2) Internet has played a strong role in saving public domain data for access by the public for free.

Marshall Turner discussed the home page created by the Census Bureau on the Internet. It contains a sampler of 2,000 data products and will be experimental through fall. In the past four months, the home page has been accessed over 500,000 times. If there are questions or comments on the home page, Marshall Turner's Internet address is mturner@census.gov.

Joe Ryan focused his remarks on the Internet, describing it as a "new way of communicating". Ryan's advice was to get involved in the Internet Gopher world by planning participating in Gopherspace. His suggestions for doing this are:

- Gather intelligence about Internet Gophers.
- Get connected.
- Get trained.
- Develop a plan for a Net presence.
- Establish a Net presence.
- Experiment with products and services, marketing and advertising.
- Prepare your organization for the impact that Internet Gopher participation will have.

TOUR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH LIBRARY, SENATE LAW LIBRARY, AND LOUISIANA STATE CAPITOL
(Wednesday, July 26)

Suzy Hughes and her staff organized a very informative and enjoyable trip to the legislative libraries and State Capitol in Baton Rouge. The David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library is a division of House Legislative Services, but serves the members of the House and Senate and their staffs, other legislative staff, and to a limited degree state agencies. The librarians (total staff of 8) are responsible for distinct subject areas of research and reference based on the research areas within House Legislative Services: governmental affairs, fiscal affairs, legal affairs, and commercial regulation. The librarians also index bills in the subjects areas.

The library contains approximately 10,000 items. Two special collections of note are the White Paper File (newspaper clippings and other materials) about topics that are of relevant current interest or are likely to be emerging issues, and the Legislative Documents Collections for reports to the Legislature, staff memoranda, and committee information. The PULS (Public Update Legislative Service) also operates out of the library. It is a telephone service providing bill status information. The librarians assist the PULS students and volunteers when callers do not have a specific bill number.

We toured the different areas of the library at our leisure. Staff members were in the areas to discuss reference services and the reference collection, cataloging activities (using Data Trek), the PULS line, online database searching, and other areas.

The Huey P. Long Memorial Law Library, staffed by Arthur McNany, is one floor above the Legislative Research Library. It contains case law and other legal materials.

Guides provided tours of the House and Senate Chambers and other Capitol environs. We were taken to the spot where Huey P. Long was killed.
and Suzy took a few of us into the Speaker's office to point out a recently discovered secret hiding place in the wall where Long's bodyguards would be positioned—when he met with visitors.

A PATCHWORD OF PERENNIAL PROBLEMS AND SOME SOLUTIONS  
(Wednesday, July 26)

Beth Paskoff, Professor of Library and Information Science, Louisiana State University, spoke at the luncheon at Lafitte's Landing. She discussed several continuing issues facing the profession of librarianship. Education, marketing, management & communication, and technology were identified as areas that perennially need attention.

Education, she commented, has its limits. Because of the variety of job settings it is important to teach students to be adaptable. She recommends encouraging paraprofessionals to pursue professional education. Closely related to education is library management. A Special Libraries Association survey found members expressed a need for better management and communication skills. Beth indicated she always makes sure students have opportunities for oral presentations to work on communication skills. She stressed there is no one better to articulate library needs than librarians and that we must be assertive in doing so. Never assume people outside the field know more than we do.

Marketing is another frequent issue of concern in all library settings and is too often overlooked. Libraries are for users and librarians are responsible for building collections that will result in people using the library. We must be responsive to users and look for opportunities to bring in non-users.

The last challenge she highlighted was dealing with technology. Librarians must frequently assimilate new technology. She extracted from Gail Lester's advice in "From Traditionalist to Techie" in 12 Easy Steps," (One-Person Library: A Newsletter for Librarians & Management, Vol. 10, No. 2, June 1993, pp. 5-6). The steps are meant to be a framework for change to make one more comfortable when facing the opportunities represented by a new technology. The first step is to "accept that you have to make some changes" and the last step is "keep networking with others in the profession." In-between a couple of the more interesting steps are "make a list of processes/procedures that no longer work" and "get rid of deadwood in your organization (process, that is)."

HOSTING INTERNATIONAL VISITORS  
(Thursday, July 28)

The meeting was moderated by James Melton, Senate Sergeant at Arms, SC. Speakers were Ambassador John G. Weinmann, Former U.S. Chief of Protocol, LA, and Carvel Payne, Department of Legislative Research, MD.

Ambassador Weinmann defined protocol simply as "good manners; making people feel comfortable." But when it comes to planning for international guests, often it's not so simple. Following is a list of questions the Ambassador recommends getting answers to before your guests arrive:

- how many and who will be in the entourage?
- what is their schedule; when will you be involved?
- will they need to see anyone special; who should be contacted?
- what are their ranks, what is treatment accorded that rank, and are gifts expected?
- why are they here and what should be showcased during their visit?
- do they speak English; will translators be needed or provided?
- are there any dietary restrictions?
- are there wives or children in the group who may need special programs?

Other gestures that may help the visitors feel comfortable include finding out if they smoke, informing them about our customs such as tipping and use of first names, and determining how their names are pronounced.

Ambassador Weinmann suggested that it is impossible to over-prepare for foreign visitors and recommended finding someone in advance who speaks the visitors' language and checking with the protocol office in Washington, DC regarding specific questions, like who should sit next to whom at table.

Carvel Payne added that it is wise to check in advance on any potential health problems, know where they would have access to medical service and whether they are covered by an insurance program. Likewise, you should check in advance regarding religious practices and
accessibility to places of worship. He emphasized that if visitors come often there should be a position created where someone can become the expert in handling the planning and knowing who and what resources are available.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Sally Reynolds, Director of the Texas Legislative Reference Library, on her recent election to NCSL’s Executive Committee!

**LSCC REPORT**

*by Debbie Tavenner, OH*

Sally Reynolds, Texas, Debbie Tavenner, Ohio, and Ann Bancroft, New Mexico attended the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC) meeting in Eugene, Oregon September 8-10. By virtue of being a member of the Executive Committee, Sally is an automatic member of LSCC; Debbie and Ann are staff section designees to the LSCC. The meetings provide opportunities for sharing among the nine staff sections.

Ted Ferris, NCSL Staff Chair, has continued three LSCC task forces and created the Legislative Staff Futures Task Force. Sally Tubbesing, Maine, chairs the new task force and Sally Reynolds has been assigned to it. The purpose of the task force is to better explain the activities of the legislative staff side of the Conference, and to utilize principles of strategic planning and critical thinking to provide a plan to guide legislative staff involvement in NCSL over the next decade.

Mary Williams, Ohio, chairs the International Activities Task Force, which will continue to foster communication and exchange of information between American state legislatures and legislatures in foreign countries. This is the committee Ann Bancroft works with.

I serve on the Information Technology Task Force, chaired by Gary Olson, Michigan. This task force will continue with a publication about information technology and initiate a survey about legislative budget review of information technology expenditures.

Ann Walker, Missouri, chairs the Professional Development Task Force. This year it plans to complete a model code of conduct for legislative staff and continue to oversee training and professional development. The LRL staff section, as well as all other staff sections, will review the model code of conduct for legislative staff at the Professional Development Seminar in November during the business meeting. Copies will be available at registration, or contact me if you would like a copy sooner.

The next meeting of LSCC is in early December in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

*by Sally Reynolds, TX*

*Eugene, OR, September 10, '94*

The Executive Committee Meeting of NCSL was called to order by the newly elected president, Representative Karen McCarthy of Missouri. After roll call and approval of past Executive Committee minutes, Rep. McCarthy indicated that a gift was to be given to immediate past president, Senator Robert Connor, but since he could not attend this meeting the presentation would be delayed until the meeting in December. Ted Ferris, newly elected staff chair made a few brief remarks regarding his election and working with the Executive Committee. He also presented immediate past staff chair, John Turcotte, with a wooden gavel.

Executive Director Bill Pound gave his report on the reorganization at NCSL. The Denver office will now have four divisions, with a new Economic and Fiscal Division, headed by Ron Snell. NCSL has several new objectives, including: rapid application of information technology; emphasis on technical assistance work with legislatures; expansion of marketing NCSL; development of grants and contracts; improved response to research requests and more attention to strengthening the legislative institution. He also complimented the State of Louisiana and the Louisiana staff on an exceptional annual meeting in New Orleans.

There were then several brief reports by the Leaders’ Advisory Group, Assembly on Federal Issues (AFI), Assembly on State Issues (ASI), Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC) and NCSL Foundation for State Legislatures as well as the State Government Affairs Council and State Issues Forum.

LSCC has four task forces, three that they have retained and one that is new, Legislative Staff Futures. ASI indicated that they would have only one meeting this year which will be in Salt Lake City, Utah on November 10, 1994.
Committees and subcommittees then gave their reports, including Budget, Finance and Rules, Annual Meeting and Seminars, and Program Oversight and Outreach. The annual meeting subcommittee indicated that there was discussion on changing the business meeting at annual meeting to Thursday morning instead of Thursday afternoon and that the site selection for the annual meeting in the year 2000 was between San Antonio, Chicago and Atlantic City. This will be decided at Executive Committee meeting in December.

The Task Force on Federalism Report was given by Sen. James Lack and Bill Pound gave a brief report on Task Force on State Tribal Relations.

There being no other business the executive committee adjourned.

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS INDEX

Each week Earl Graybeal of the State Services Organization Library uploads onto the BBS a State-Federal Relations Index containing timely citations on relevant topics. Here is an abbreviated listing for the week of September 6. (We have merged the journal and newspaper lists.)

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
"When slimming is not enough". The Economist; 1994 Sep 3. Note: pp. 59-60.
"Voluntary efforts to cut pollution". Nation's Business; 1994 Sep. Note: pp. 62-64.


CENSUS AND POPULATION

CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS

CONGRESS

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

COURTS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
"States are jailing more criminals than ever". State Legislatures; 1994 Sep. Note: p. 7.

ECONOMY

EDUCATION
"Computers ensure high pay, deepen wage gap, Reich says". Education Daily; 1994 Sep 1. Note: pp. 3-4.

ELECTIONS

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION
"Voluntary efforts to cut pollution". Nation's Business; 1994 Sep. Note: pp. 62-64.

ENVIRONMENT - WATER

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

FEDERALISM

GUN CONTROL

HEALTH CARE

HEALTH CARE REFORM

INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY

INFRASTRUCTURE

INTERNET
"Managers are getting wired Part II". PA Times; 1994 Sep 1. Note: pp. 4,19.

LEGISLATURES

MANDATES

NATIVE AMERICANS
"Little-noticed US law is key to casino plans". Boston Globe; 1994 Sep 2. Note: pp. 1,12.

REAPPORTIONMENT

SUPREME COURT

TECHNOLOGY

VIOLENCE

FREENETS: Access to Community & Government Information
By Kimberley Meiners, Manager, Technical Information Center, Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, OH
(Reprinted with permission from Bulletin of the Information Technology Division, SLA, Summer 1994, p.6)

Freenets, community-based computer information networks, are available for residents/users of many communities. Freenets provide information about everything from local community activities to social and health services to library and government services and documents. Freenets are connected to the Internet, allowing access to information from other community information systems, federal information services, and many international databases.

The number of freenets is growing, and one may already be in your city or coming to a city near you. Some freenets require an application for a user name/password, others may allow you to register "online" after you log in as a "guest." In some instances, freenets are developed by a local library and require a local library card number as well, so you may request to check out books online.

Accessing freenets from the Internet is usually accomplished by connecting via telnet or a gopher client. Some freenets allow direct modem access. Most of the freenets listed on the following page indicate the Internet address and/or modem number you'll need in order to connect to it. If not, send an e-mail to the contact person to obtain further Internet address/modem information.
Since many freenets are run with limited funding and/or staff, volunteer opportunities are often available. To inquire about volunteer opportunities, contact the person listed with the freenet in which you are interested. I am encouraging librarians to become involved in promoting the services available on the Internet including freenets.

Promote your profession by promoting your local freenet!

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION MEETING IN ATLANTA, JUNE 11-15
Summary by Beth Furbush,
Montana Legislative Council Librarian

I. Conference speakers

Richard Ross spoke on "Re-engineering the Future and the Learning Organization". He cautions us not to let management fads pull time away from direct service to customers. A problem with "empowerment" is that people can get hung up on power trips. There can be numerous undiscussibles, even the fact that there ARE undiscussibles! BUT it is important to be aware of the mental models which filter your world view and of organizational structures (hierarchy, policy, forces at play) that may be forming barriers to effectiveness. Your organization is performing exactly the way it was designed (or not designed) to perform. (One exercise suggested is to ask whether anyone has ever been part of a team and then find out --- what was it? what made it special? how could this be created in the current environment?)

Charles Garfield (Second to None) emphasized that "people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care (until they trust you). Other disconnected notes--Nothing great or important comes by quick and easy methods. We are in the middle of a paradigm shift from a machine centered world to a world organized around living systems in which service is basic. The longest plan we can formulate these days is 3-5 years. We are ALL in SALES. The most important resource these days is training. We have destroyed the meritocracy so that people are forced to compromise their visions in the interests of survival.

In responding to change, people adopt differing attitudes:

- TIGER: proactive, sees change as an ally, makes things happen;
- ELEPHANT: reactive, sees change as an enemy, watches things happen;
- HIPPO: inactive, adversarial, wonders what has happened (often a frustrated tiger).

II. Library Ideas: Many of these come from a continuing education class "Management of Information Technologies" taught by Jose-Marie Griffiths

- Form an advisory committee to help in management decisions (What is important? What could you give up? What should be added?)
- Set up a user group for your online catalog
- Consider using a controlled vocabulary to organize your WordPerfect files
- Be sure staff are aware of the limitations of keyword searching and be alert to the need for help in evaluating the reliability of material retrieved by online searches
- Dimensions for measuring service quality in the library setting include: Reliability; responsiveness; assurance (trust, competence, credibility, confidentiality); empathy; and tangibles (appearance, communications, facilities, equipment) as well as cost effectiveness.
- Marketing--keep your newsletters to one side, one page. Don't combine with acquisitions list (and add an ordering device to the acquisitions list). Your brochure should build an image for quality information service without going through all the nuts and bolts.

III. Technology Ideas

- Many people at this conference were very excited about LotusNotes as a way to offer a common interface to databases and easy database creation
- Consider the utility of maintaining certain standard reference works online and of a Personal Desktop Library for legislators.
- The Library of Congress Copyright Office is looking into electronic watermarking.

IV. Library/tech Relationship (from the same CE course) - The technology personnel are experts in delivery; librarians are conversant with access to content. Both are necessary to create functioning systems.
- Do an information audit of your organization—information expense management (Who are our experts in various areas?)

V. Internet Notes

Gregg Notess (MSU) — You need time to explore. There are only a few Archie servers. Veronica searches (index to gopher servers) can give different results run on different servers. Keep bookmarks to several. (You can get a list of bookmarks from the SLA listerv or finger gnotess@universe.digex.net.) Keep the most recent version of FAQ (frequently asked questions) files, Hytelnet, etc. locally. Retrieve large files ahead of time. Be aware of limitations and check sources: comprehensive? routinely available? locally maintained? bibliographic description?

Meckler has a book out on citing electronic resources.

When you don't know a federal address, try E-mail to "postmaster@agency.gov" to get the address. Searching the gopher menus of MARVEL using jughead can get you started on congressional documents (Try "welfare reform" or "health care reform"). There is a Clearinghouse for Subject Oriented Gophers. Try gopher una.hh.lib.umich.edu/inetdirs (hope I copied this right!).

VI. Federal Documents

FedWorld (NTIS) by the end of June will offer searchable home pages for federal agencies with jumps to ordering capabilities.

The Federal Register and Congressional Register are available for a moderate fee through GPO (Federal Bulletin Board). Also GPO's Monthly Catalog and PRF (eventually with an indication as to nearby depositories selecting the item). These are managed by different branches.

VII. Benchmarking

Benchmarking peaked in 1991. A definition for the library would be "continuous improvement in services delivered through measurement of processes and products of libraries and other information providers".

VIII. Managing Diversity

The purpose of managing diversity is to create an environment which fully taps the potential of all individuals to achieve the goals of the organization. We all see things through different lenses, we are all products of the culture of our corporations, but our similarities are not as strong as we think.

COORDINATORS' CORNER...

Much of the news in the NEWSLINE is collected by a dedicated team of coordinators who call and fax to libraries and librarians in their regions to gather the latest news or ask pre-assigned questions of interest to all of us. This section will highlight response to the question, "How is new technology being used by the legislature or the legislative library in your state? CD-ROM products; optical imaging system? (Information of a more "newsy" nature appears under the heading "News from the States.")"

Coordinator Jennifer Bernier, CT, reports:

Connecticut now has an Online Public Access Task Force studying the application for new technology to our information; the task force's report is due January 1995. Currently we use the following CD-ROM products: CaseBase (to access the decisions from Connecticut courts as well as Connecticut Worker's Compensation Commission Decisions, Statutes, Acts, Regulations, etc.), ReQuest (a statewide catalog of library holdings which includes the monograph and serial holdings of most Connecticut public libraries, the Connecticut State Library (CSL), most universities located in Connecticut, and a limited number of school and special libraries), the U.S. Population Census Data, and an encyclopedia.

The Legislative Library also has available through the CSL an enormous variety of CDs ranging from the complete census and federal government agency products such as the National Trade Data Bank to commercially produced bibliographic items like Magazine Article Summaries (MAS), Dun and Bradstreet business directories, BIP, Ulrich's, and the Hartford Courant in full text. Possible future uses of CD-ROMs for Connecticut include storage of the Office of Legislative Research (OLR) Reports, as well as Connecticut Strategic School Profiles, and Connecticut Economic Information Service (CEIS).

The State Library of Massachusetts reports CD-ROM products are very popular and receive tremendous use in the reference area. They have sent notices to legislative offices about newly
obtained CD-ROM products—the census and Boston Globe are extremely popular.

The Vermont Legislative Council is in the process of installing a new LAN network utilizing WP 6.0 Windows. Several work stations have CD-ROM capacities. At present they have the CD of Vermont statutes and in time anticipate many added disks. The network, which is replacing a WANG system will have a major impact on drafting, E-mail, data libraries, circulation, and other services that the legislative council supplies to the Vermont General Assembly.

Coordinator Jonetta Douglas, IA, reports:

The Minnesota Legislative Reference Library has acquired a variety of CD-ROMs in the past year. Three of the notable ones are the U.S. Code Annotated, Minnesota Statutes, and the full contents of the Minneapolis Star Tribune newspaper. These CD-ROMs are available for searching by the library's users on a public access computer located in the reading room.

The library also has CD-ROMs of census information - 1990 Census of Population and Housing, the Agricultural and Economic Censuses, and the American Housing Survey. These CD-ROMs can be checked out of the library for use, downloaded to the user's PC if they are on the legislative network, or data may be downloaded too floppy disks in the library. The most popular CD-ROMs in the library are those including census data and the Star Tribune full-text file. Plans for the future include installing a CD-ROM tower that will be attached to the legislative network, thus making access possible from legislative offices.

Regarding the Internet, the library has been involved actively in the development of the Minnesota Legislative Gopher and is currently taking the lead in creating the structure for an expanded version. Library staff are hopeful that the "new, improved" Gopher will be available on the Internet within the next month.

Library staff have also taken the lead in creating and promoting Internet training for legislators and legislative staff. At three scheduled Internet training sessions, reference librarians from the library will be presenting information on Internet sites useful for daily legislative work. They will demonstrate interesting information sources on the Internet and give examples of real-life questions which can be answered using the Internet as a resource.

Beth Furbush, Montana Legislative Council Librarian, summarized their use of technology as follows:

CDs: The Montana Code is available on CD and we use LASERCAT extensively (union catalog for 300+ libraries in the Pacific Northwest through WLN). We also use CDs for the U.S. Code, a national phone directory (currently ProPhone, but we're thinking of changing to PhoneDisc) and Grolier's Encyclopedia as well as a few U.S. Census products that we have not used extensively.

Optical Imaging: We're proceeding slowly with the project of developing an image database of our newspaper clipping file. Our computer support staff are desperately overworked and this project unfortunately takes a pretty low priority.

Online Communications: Montana state government is developing a bulletin board system through which status information and bills will be available this session (accessible through dial-up for a fee). We track the NCCL BBS sporadically and have an Internet account through CLASS (soon to be converted to WLN). We also use LEXIS, WestLaw, DIALOG, LEGISNET, OCLC, and several local systems.

Internally, the Legislative Branch staff uses a computer network using OS/2, currently being converted to Novell. Our library catalog is online using InMagic which we also use for periodical check-in and indexing and an internal memo database.

Marilyn Gut tromson, North Dakota legislative librarian, announces that their 1995 Legislative Assembly convening in January will have computerized committee clerks. For the first time, committee clerks will create their standing committee records online. Presently, it appears the text of minutes will not be accessible.

Legislative Council Library will continue to receive paper copy of records; they will be created online and printed out for all who need them. The 1993-94 interim Legislative Council's Legislative Management Committee is considering a proposal to make the North Dakota Century Code (statutes) as well as Session Laws and the North Dakota Administrative Code available on CD-ROM.

Coordinator Anne Rottman, MO, reports:

The Kentucky Legislative Research Commission is currently engaged in training their staff on the Internet. They will be acquiring CD-ROM capabilities in the near
future and are still in the process of formulating an online catalog which will be accessed by the LRC staff in their Novell network.

Barbara Laughon of the LSC Library in Ohio provided this summary of their use of technology:

Having experienced successful user acceptance of computer searching of indexing of in-house research papers using InMagic software, the library staff is working toward also making the book catalog accessible to the Legislative Service Commission staff via InMagic.

THE LSC Library's OCLC tape records were added to the system several months ago; cataloging done since then is automatically added to the in-house database of catalog records. Currently, checking is underway to make sure all records in the catalog database are accurate.

All LSC Research Staff personal computers were recently placed on a network. Lantastic, the LSC Library network that has been in use for several years, will shortly be removed and the Library computers will be added to the larger Research Staff network. At that time, both the index for the in-house research papers and the book catalog will be searchable from all the network PCs. In the interim, researchers have visited the Library to use PCs on the LSC Library network for searching the research papers index.

Plans are to leave the card catalog in the library, but we will discontinue adding any cards to it. Just as the library staff does not miss preparing and filing the index cards for the research papers collection, we look forward to the end of catalog card filing!

Wisconsin's Legislative Reference Bureau library reports that they are in the beginning stages of assessing library automation systems. An ongoing project is updating their legislative information system (TEXT 2000) which does bill tracking, bill printing and bill drafting. They hope to have that up and running soon.

Coordinator Nan Bowers, NV, reports:

California Legislative Council Bureau Library does not have automation yet, but they are looking at going to an online catalog and CD-ROM, hopefully within a year or so.

In the Nevada Legislative Library, information on the state budget, legislative committees, bill tracking and texts, roster of public officials, state laws and regulations are all available online through NELIS, a paid subscription service. During the legislative session, public libraries throughout the state are given the service at no charge. Counsel Bureau staff can do word searches on the complete text of legislative committee minutes via FolioViews software.

The Legislative Counsel Bureau's Information Systems Unit makes use of a Geographic Information System (GIS). They have TIGER Files 1990 converted to ESRI's ARC/INFO format for use during redistricting/reapportionment. The PL94-171 data and Summary Tape files (STF) have also been incorporated into the ARC/INFO database, by Census block and legislative district. Various demographic reports, by legislative district, are produced with this data.

The Nevada Legislature has plans to turn one of their GIS workstations into a public access GIS workstation. It will include a menu-driven software program that allows the user to interactively select his legislative district, view the geography, list economic tables of the district, and get information about legislators.

Ann Bregent, Washington State Library, submitted the following press release:

In an effort to improve public access, the Washington State Legislature is pleased to announce that it is making legislative information available at no cost to Internet users. The new service will provide access to bills, bill reports, bill histories, legislative calendars and committee schedules, amendments, digests, the Revised Code of Washington, the Washington State Constitution, the topical index to bills, sponsor reports and roll calls by bill.

The Internet service is being implemented in phases. The first (test) phase—available now—makes information available by anonymous File Transfer Protocol (FTP) at leginfo.leg.wa.gov. Users can find legislative documents in the "pub" directory. They can also read several online help files. During the second phase, to conclude by the end of November, a Gopher site will be established. Bill information in the system will reflect action taken during the 1993-94 biennium until the new session begins in January 1995. During the final phase, to conclude by the end of June 1995, more advanced technologies will be implemented. These may include the World Wide Web hypertext system, the graphical Mosaic interface, and fax-request services.

The Legislature feels confident that the new services will help the public better understand
and participate in the legislative process. Internet users are invited to E-mail questions and comments to support@leg.wa.gov.

Johanna Greer, MD, reports:
Ruth Ann Melson, Delaware Legislative Library, said she is waiting for new CD-ROM equipment that should be arriving soon. It will have their code, the code from surrounding states, and Delaware case law. They are also expecting a new in-house computer system to be installed. She hopes to be able to connect to the Internet.

Johanne Holmes reports that Maryland's Legislative Library is getting ready for a renovation. The back half of the library, housing the Technical Services Department and stacks area, is getting new carpeting, a paint job, and new furniture. This entails boxing up and moving 60,000 volumes. When the renovation is complete, the library will have three new CD-ROMs which will have the Maryland Code, the Federal Reporter, the Federal Supplement, and the Code of Federal Regulations. The library has access to Internet, and the librarians will have formal training on the system in the fall. Other databases available include DIALOG, State Net, Washington Alert, CESAR (Center for Substance Abuse Research), LEGISNET, VICTOR/CARL, CAPACCESS, HealthLine, Sailor, NTIS FEDWORLD and Westlaw. DIALOG is used the most.

Susan Zavacky, Pennsylvania Legislative Reference Bureau Library said that she just began using CD-ROMs this winter containing statutes and court reporters for Pennsylvania. They do not have access to Internet but are looking into it.

Susan Sternberg, New Jersey Legislative Library, said that her agency is in the process of moving back to newly renovated quarters and does not have any new technology at this time. She expects the library to have access to Internet in the spring. Their bill room has a print-on-demand system for every version of a bill and fiscal notes. They hope to have their newspaper clippings file converted to the same print-on-demand system. If anyone would like further information about this system, give her a call at 609/984-4321 and she can put you in touch with the people who have worked on the project.

North Carolina’s code is also on CD-ROM according to Cathy Martin, of the North Carolina Legislative Library. She expects Internet to be available in the near future for the library and the entire Legislative Services Department. She uses InMagic for a number of projects.

Videau Simons, fondly known as ViVi, of South Carolina's Legislative Library said that her library has their code on CD-ROM. They are also investigating other types of technology. She just got back from a visit to the Maryland legislative library where she was shown their continuous microfilming project of committee files, their online cataloging and circulation system commonly known as IME, and the many databases that are available to their librarians for literature searches.

Mary Dell Cont said West Virginia's Legislative Reference Library has access to LEGISNET and plans to get on the Internet soon. Their code is online on an in-house system. They also have access to Westlaw, the Council of State Governments, and a statewide system that provides the card catalogs to colleges and public libraries for Interlibrary loan purposes.

Coordinator Susan Gilley, OK reports:
According to Karen Stewart, the Colorado Joint Legislative Library is not using CD-ROM, optical scanning, or any other recently developed technologies, but is examining possible uses.

Oklahoma legislature is continuing to add limited, dial-in access to selected state agencies to their online bill status. The legislative library has wired access to both the bill status and the statutory text retrieval portions of the legislative information system.

The legislative library uses several CD products available in the state law library: Oklahoma Decisions, United States Code Annotated, Federal Register, and Books in Print with reviews. They have reinstated LegalTrac, and have added Environment Report (federal and Oklahoma only).

No optical imaging system in New Mexico Legislative Library nor plans to get one in the near future. As for CD-ROM, New Mexico statutes, Attorney General opinions (87 on), New Mexico Supreme Court and Court of Appeals decisions, and 1994 Session Laws are available to those hooked up to the legislative
network system. This includes legislative branch, chief clerks, legislators and legislative branch offices in the capitol building.

The legislative network provides access during session to proposed legislation information (bill status, location; access by subject, sponsor, etc.). During the 1995 session, introduced legislation will be online. The library has a modem to access Westlaw, the Internet, NCSL's Bulletin Board and LEGISNET. Evaluation of technological needs of the library and network users is in process. The New Mexico library also has access to LegiSlate and other online information via the New Mexico State Library.

Librarian Sally Reynolds says the Texas Legislative Reference Library has been involved with the wonder of an optical imaging system for 3 1/2 years. "As many of you have seen, we have scanned and stored our newspaper clipping file on optical disk and are very pleased with the concept. We have also scanned the last two sessions of bill files and have these online also. We have just moved back into our newly restored area in the Capitol Building and with this move have ventured into another area of technology, CD-ROM.

"We have been using CDs internally for about the last year, but we are in the process of adding them to the network. We have two retrieval stations that are dedicated for CD use only. We have a 14 cartridge CD tower and at the current time have the following CDs in our collection: Texas Statutes, Southwestern Reporter, United States Code Annotated, Code of Federal Regulations, American Law Reports, Shepherd's U.S. Citations, Encyclopedia Britannica and several of CCH's tax series. We are very excited about this new area in our library and where this technology will be headed in the near future."

COALITION PROPOSES PLAN TO FCC TO CONNECT SCHOOLS & LIBRARIES TO THE NATIONAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

A joint news release from ALA and several national education associations in July announced a plan to connect the nation's schools and libraries to the National Information Infrastructure. The innovative plan presented to the Federal Communication's Commission uses regulatory policy to benefit the public without raising prices.

The proposal was submitted to the FCC as part of a "price cap" proceeding to review how best to set the rates charged by local telephone companies for long distance companies to have access to their networks. Currently, a complex formula requires an annual rate adjustment that includes something known as the "Consumer Productivity Dividend (CPD)."

However, according to the Coalition filing, "the record is clear that this benefit has not materialized for most, if any, consumers. Residential and small business long distance rates, in fact, have been increasing the past two years according to the FCC's own analysis. At best, the 'dividend' has disappeared down a regulatory black hole, leaving the vast majority of consumers without any noticeable benefit."

The Coalition urged the FCC to redirect the CPD into a program to pay for investments made by local telephone companies in educational and library infrastructure in their territories. "The system would work as a significant incentive for (local telephone companies) to meet the urgent universal service needs of education and libraries to be effective users of the information superhighway in the future," according to the filing.

If this proposal is adopted, up to $300 million a year could be made available, every year, for connecting schools and libraries. "This may sound like a lot of money," said Keith Geiger, President of the National Education Association, a member of the Coalition, "but it is only a small part of what is needed to bring every school, classroom and library into the information age."

Arthur Curley, President of the American Library Association, noted that "this plan will help make sure that the public is the real beneficiary of this dividend. As libraries are wired and begin to offer new services, millions of people will be able to access new and emerging services through their local libraries."

ONLINE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, FEDERAL REGISTER SERVICE DEBUTS VIA THE INTERNET

GPO News Release, August 10, 1994 Contact: John Berger, 202/512-1525

The official government versions of the Congressional Record and the Federal Register are now available online the day of publication via the rapidly expanding information superhighway.

Electronic versions of the Federal Register are being produced in a cooperative project by the
Office of the Federal Register (OFR) and the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO). GPO's Production Department normally will make the **Federal Register** available online by 6 a.m. EST on the day of publication. The **Congressional Record** will be available between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. depending on when Congress adjoins the previous day. The public will have free access through participating Federal Depository Libraries. Organizations or individuals may purchase a subscription for access using their own computer terminals.

The databases reside on a GPO system using a Wide Area Information Server (WAIS) providing search and retrieval access over the Internet. The **Congressional Record**, including the History of Bills, dates back to the beginning of the 2d session of the 103d Congress in January 1994. The **Federal Register**, including the regulatory agenda, contains issues beginning with January 4, 1994. The **Congressional Record Index** (1992-94) and all **Enrolled Bills** (bills passed by both the House and Senate) of the 103d Congress (1993-1994) also are available.

The release of the databases in June 1994, marked the launch of an online system of access to government information provided under the GPO Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993 (PL 103-40). The **GPO Access** service is an important step in providing public access to the government's growing store of electronic information.

The **Congressional Record** is a verbatim report of Congressional debates and other proceedings. The **Federal Register** is the daily "record" of the executive branch of the federal government. It allows the public to follow regulatory activities of the government and to participate in the development of rules and regulations. The **Register** also includes sunshine act meeting notices and presidential documents.

Users with full Internet access and WAIS client software will be able to receive all text and graphics in the **Record** and **Register**.

This is the first time that both text and graphics have been made available electronically via an online service. GPO's customized WAIS client software, a user-interface program specifically designed for GPO's application, is available from GPO.

Those who do not have full Internet connections can access ASCII text files but not the graphics by using a phone modem to dial directly into GPO with additional software.

A subscription for a single work station to either the **Congressional Record** (including the 1992-94 Record Indexes and History of Bills) or to the **Federal Register** costs $35 per month, $200 for 6 months or $375 for 1 year. Discounts are available for multiple work stations. The **Enrolled Bills** database is available initially as a 1-year subscription for $60. Discounts are available for multiple work stations. Information about how to subscribe to the **Record** or **Register** databases is available by calling GPO at 202/512-1530 or by fax at 202/512-1262. Internet E-mail should be sent to help@eids05.eids.gpo.gov.

The WAIS databases are available for free public access at many of the 1,400 federal depository libraries located throughout the United States and its territories. The depository system includes academic, public, law, and federal libraries. There is at least one depository in every congressional district.

The WAIS server is the first phase of development for the **GPO Access** service. In the next phase, the agency plans to create the **Record** and **Register** databases using Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) in January 1995. This SGML-based system will permit more powerful search and retrieval capabilities making it easier for users to find specific information in the databases.

The Federal Bulletin Board, established by GPO in September 1992, is also designated part of the **GPO Access** service by the new law, PL 103-40. The bulletin board currently contains more than 5,000 files from more than 18 agencies representing all three branches of the federal government. Subjects included are the GATT and NAFTA agreements, the National Performance Review, and health care reform.

Users may access the Federal Bulletin Board via the Internet at telnet federal.bbs.gpo.gov 3001 (Port 3001) or dial-in at 202/512-1387 (modem settings 8,N,1,full duplex). A free users manual to the new online system of access is also available via the Federal Bulletin Board. The Elnet local client WAIS software can also be downloaded from the Federal Bulletin Board.
The Superintendent of Documents is the official source for the sale of information published by more than 100 federal agencies. Some 12,000 books or documents, 600 periodicals, and a growing number of CD-ROMs, diskettes, and online services are available.

LIBRARIANS PROVIDE EXPERTISE IN FILTERING INFORMATION

In the April edition of SLA’s SpecialList, President Miriam A. Drake reports that their membership is up four percent despite all the news of right sizing, restructuring, and reorganizing. After visiting SLA chapters all over the country, Miriam describes the librarians she met as “confidant, innovative, and involved,” but concerned with the continuing problems of publicity, image, and public relations.

She believes that computing and networking technology are now changing things; that at least in some cases, people may now recognize that “computing and networking can retrieve mountains of information but cannot evaluate and filter this information.”

“There is a growing realization that technology is not an end in itself. Technology is a tool. Satisfying information needs requires content experts who can retrieve, filter, evaluate, synthesize, and package information tailored to the need of an individual. Computer and networking professionals cannot deal with content. To them, a byte is a byte and a packet is a packet.”

NEWS FROM THE STATES...
(News notes contributed, via LRL’s Regional Coordinators)

CALIFORNIA — Sharon Akey is the new Sr. Librarian for the Legislative Counsel Bureau in Sacramento. Marguerite Beveridge, the previous librarian, had to take disability retirement following injuries in an automobile accident. She had some permanent nerve damage in her arm and neck. Sharon started on July 1. She has been with the state for 18 years, most of those in law libraries. (Actually she is a native Nevadan, born and raised in Elko.)

COLORADO — As of July 1, 1994, Colorado’s legislative library closes on Fridays during the interim to allow the library staff an opportunity to work without phone calls or walk-ins. Fridays were chosen because it is a low usage day.

Librarians Delores Lanier and Karen Stewart have found the research and legal staff to be very supportive. They still may access the library either by using their key to the main door, or by coming in through other offices. It is understood, however, that they are, for the most part, on their own. If a rush request does come in from a legislator, the phone call is taken in the main office and a message brought back to Delores or Karen so they can deal with it. So far this has only happened once or twice since July 1, 1994.

Karen and Delores do not answer phones, letting the calls go to voice mail. They check these during the day to make sure that an emergency or rush does not slip through the cracks. If anyone has questions about their new policy, call Delores or Karen. After December 9 and through session, they’ll be open 5 days a week.

MARYLAND — Joanne Greer left September 4 for Gaborone, Botswana on a four week consulting project with the Botswana Parliamentary Library. She will assist in updating the Library, in establishing procedures, and implementing the K section of the LC Classification system. Johanne will return to Maryland October 7.

MINNESOTA — The Minnesota Legislature met in special session on August 31 to pass a law dealing with sexual predators. The Governor signed the bill on the day it passed. Reference staff were very appreciative of the generous help given to them by Susan Sternberg of New Jersey. Susan provided very valuable information regarding the sexual predator bills being discussed in the New Jersey legislature. Thanks, Susan!

Also, a new policy addressing use of E-mail has been drafted for the guidance of library staff. The policy outlines the appropriate use of E-mail technology and briefly discusses issues of privacy and E-mail administration.

OKLAHOMA — Susan Gilley, Law and Legislative Reference Division of the Jan Eric Cartwright Memorial Library, says a special session on workers' compensation will begin in October, called by the outgoing governor. Legislative librarians still expect to attend the LRL seminar in November.

A "thank you" reception is being held in September for staff in the offices of House and
Senate leadership, and those offices which prepare journals, subject indexing and citation to bills, provide bill distribution, etc. Portions of our work in providing information to the public concerning current legislative activity depend so much upon their work and cooperation with us, we want to show our appreciation and also do a little public relations toward the next year.

PUERTO RICO — Maria Otero, Director of the Puerto Rico Legislative Library, visited the Maryland Legislative Library August 1 through 5. During the week she worked with the reference and technical processing staff. Maria also put in a couple of hours at the Information Desk. The visit included a day trip to the Congressional Research Service and the Supreme Court Library in Washington.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Joyce Grimes and Videau Simons, South Carolina Legislative Council, visited the Maryland Legislative Library for three days in August. The trip was sponsored by the Southern Legislative Conference. They examined the online cataloging system, bill status system, bill drafting and bill preparation activities, code distribution and other aspects of the Library and the Department. They also discovered Maryland's renowned crab cakes!

SOUTH DAKOTA — South Dakota legislature went into special session on September 9 to deal with video lottery problems. Video lottery had been ruled unconstitutional (a ballot referendum is needed) and the machines turned off, leaving a $36 million deficit to be made up by either taxes or budget cuts. One suggestion was to close down the state library for an unspecified period of time, which would weaken service at the legislative library, since they have a close working relationship. (NOTE: it was decided instead to cut several positions from the State Library, instead of closing it down!)

TEXAS — Sally Reynolds says: "We have moved back into the Capitol Building and are very excited about being back. We had been temporarily displaced for three years. The restoration of the building is still ongoing, but offices are slowly but surely being occupied. The move took 5 1/2 long and arduous days, but everyone survived. The room is beautiful and spacious-looking. We will still occupy space, however, in our former location in the Insurance Building. We will continue to print the Legislative Clipping Service there and also use it for storage of multiple copies of documents that we were unable to bring back to the Capitol."

UTAH — Space in the nearly 100-year-old Capitol is at a premium. Currently the Capitol Building houses 162 assistant attorneys general and plans are to move them out of their offices, the Executive Office Building, and several downtown leased offices into the former Tax Commission Building. What hasn’t been decided is who will get the Attorney General’s space in the Capitol and State Office Building. That will be discussed in the 1995 Legislature.

Currently only a handful of the 104 part-time lawmakers have offices. All the other legislators have access to file-cabinet drawers off the chambers and individual desks on the chamber floors. Also, when the new, large state courts complex is finished, the Utah Supreme Court (on the third floor of the Capitol) and the first floor law library will move downtown.

Decisions for Staff offices (Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, Legislative Fiscal Office, and Legislative Auditor General) have not been finalized, but as workloads increase and new employees are hired, plans are being carefully reviewed.

As plans are progressing for the law library to move downtown, the Legislature is looking at new computer capabilities, including better access to networking tools in the office, and the use of CD-ROMs to access state statutes, US Code, Supreme Court Decisions, and the CFR. We're trying to look at long term needs and goals.

NCSL PUBLICATIONS
Copies of all NCSL publications listed below are available from the Marketing Department 303/830-2200, unless otherwise noted.

BOOKS
Investing in People: Workforce Development (Item 3123)
Groundwater Protection Legislation (Item 4340)
1994 Staff Directory (Item 9356)
State-Tribal Legislation:
1992 and 1993 Summaries (Item 9364)
Lead Poisoning Prevention:
1994 Directory of State Contacts (Item 4642)
Rethinking Western Water Policy (Item 4339)
Lead Poisoning Prevention:
A Guide for Legislators (Item 4638)
LEGISBRIEFS
Needle Exchange Programs (Item 9000-0225)
Recall of State Officials (Item 9000-0226)
The Shortage of Primary Care Physicians
(Item 9000-0227)
Health Impacts of Air Pollution
(Item 9000-0228)
Income Tax Breaks for Elder Care
(Item 9000-0229)
Faculty Workloads (Item 9000-0230)
"Three Strikes" Legislation (Item 9000-0231)
Military Base Closure, Cleanup and Conversion
(Item 9000-0232)
Term Limits (Item 9000-0233)
Preventing Juvenile Violence (Item 9000-0234)
Selling Tobacco to Minors (Item 9000-0235)
Retail Wheeling of Electricity (Item 9000-0236)

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORTS
Radon: An Ounce of Prevention
(Item 7302-1905)
Significant State anti-Crime Legislation
(Item 7302-1906)
The Changing Federal Laboratories:
Is there a Role for the States (Item 7302-1907)
When Health Care if Not Enough:
Support Services for Pregnant Women and Infants (Item 7302-1908)
Superfund and Economic Development
(Item 7302-1909)
Clean Air Act Mandates:
Funding, Business Opportunities and
Economic Development (Item 7302-1911)
The Revised Model Accreditation Plan
for Asbestos (Item 7302-1912)
Supporting Families (Item 7302-1913)

VIDEO TAPES
Plain Language Bill Drafting: This videotape reviews theories and techniques in plain language writing and examines the costs and benefits of adopting this approach to bill drafting. Recorded July 25, 1994, length 1:15 hours. $10.00. CLE eligible.

Implementing the ADA in State Legislatures: Panelists discuss the effect of requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act on legislative staff services and on access to the legislative process. Also addressed are issues about maintaining architectural integrity of historic capitols while making them more accessible. Recorded July, 1994, length 1:45. $10.00. CLE eligible.

Hosting International Visitors: As more and more international delegations visit state legislatures to learn more about the institution and public policy issues it becomes more important for legislative staff to understand the cross-cultural implications of hosting international delegations. This tape explores some of the challenges legislative staff face in this expanded role. Recorded July, 1994, length 1:15. $10.00.

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Replace Marguerite Beveridge's name with Sharon Akey. (Same phone)

NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSLINE
The deadline for the Winter edition of NEWSLINE is January 15, 1995. Send news about your library or significant legislative events in your state to your regional coordinator or Chris Pattarozzi at NCSL, Denver.

Thanks to the many staff section members who submitted information for this issue.
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