Vol. XV, No. 2

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN
by
Susan Gilley, Oklahoma

I hope all of you are not only surviving your legislative sessions, but actively thriving. Despite being busy with providing service within their own organizations, many staff section members have contributed to section projects. I am proud to be part of such an active staff section as ours. I hope you share my excitement for LRL Staff Section activities.

Two projects have been completed so far this year, and another is nearing completion. You should have received the staff section directory and the list of reference sources. Results of the automation survey have been prepared and are being returned to each key contact for updating. Please help us turn this around quickly enough to allow the results to be completed and distributed to staff section members in August.

Two ongoing staff section projects require your CONTINUED participation. First, the Manual of Model Procedures for Legislative Libraries is available for your use. It currently contains position descriptions and employee evaluation forms supplied by LRL members. If you are studying these personnel issues, contact Debby Bernau, Marcia Hoak (OR), Anne Adams (AL) or me with your ideas or needs for areas to be added next.

Secondly, the periodical indexing project is continuing to provide citations to current articles in selected periodicals. This project has succeeded in placing bibliographic citations in LEGISNET while the information is "hot off the press." This committee manages to find time to help all of us locate information for which indexing would not normally be available for several months. This is a valuable service for which I gratefully thank each member of this hard-working committee.

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

Chairperson: Susan Gilley, Head, Legislative Reference Div., Oklahoma Department of Libraries
NCSL Staff: Deborah Bernau
Success of both the manual and the periodical indexing depends upon our continued commitment to maintain and use the information. If you did not previously submit materials for the manual, do so now. If you can join the indexing committee, contact Marilyn Guttromson (ND). It is our participation in staff section activities that enhances their value to all of us.

If neither of these projects "fits" you, consider a new opportunity that will soon be available to our staff section. (And if you have participated in other projects, you, too, should consider this new opportunity.) The NCSL bulletin board is becoming a reality, and our staff section has been chosen to be part of the pilot project. Contact Debby or me immediately if you can become involved or if you have ideas for its potential use. The major requirement is a commitment to use it on a regular basis.

For those with real commitment, another opportunity is to serve as a staff section officer. If you are interested in serving our section as an officer or if you wish to recommend someone, please contact the Nominating Committee as soon as possible. We need committed workers.

We have two special opportunities for professional growth in the near future. I hope you will be able to take advantage of one or both of these. This year's Annual Meeting will be in Orlando, Florida, August 10-15, 1991. Please note that this reflects a change from previous years. Registration has been moved to Saturday, and there are no more Friday meetings. The conference begins on Sunday and ends after the social function on Thursday evening. The LRL program is coming together; see the preliminary agenda in this issue of Newsline. We will keep you posted as details are finalized. It should be an exciting time, and I certainly look forward to seeing you there. Plans are also being made for the 1991 Professional Development Seminar in Washington, D.C., to focus on sources of federal information. Mark your calendars for November 14-16 and plan now to attend. All of us will benefit from your attendance.

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LRL STAFF SECTION PROGRAMS AT THE 1991 NCSL ANNUAL MEETING
Orlando, Florida
August 10 - 15, 1991
Preliminary Agenda

Saturday, August 10
Noon-5:00 p.m.
Annual Meeting Registration

Sunday, August 11
10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Annual Meeting Registration
2:30-4:00 p.m.
Online Bill Tracking Update
This program will review services and information currently being offered by the major bill tracking systems.

Monday, August 12
11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.
Staff Luncheon
1:30-3:30 p.m.
Staff Section Roundtables
Each attendee will be asked to choose two roundtable topics from among the following four:
- Information Alerting Services
- Constituent Services
- Legislative History
- Marketing & P.R.
Please indicate your choices to Debby Bernau at NCSL by July 1.

3:45-5:15 p.m.
Staff Section Business Meeting

Tuesday, August 13
8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Tour of Kennedy Space Center Technical Library & Information Services
Advance reservations required for this tour, including Social Security numbers of all participants.
Please contact Debby Bernau at NCSL for tour reservations.

Wednesday, August 14
12:30-2:00 p.m.
Staff Section Luncheon
Advance reservations required.
(Sponsored by West Publishing Co.)
5:00-6:30 p.m.
Staff Section Reception
Sponsored by The Michie Co.)

7:00 p.m.
Dinner for staff section members, spouses
and friends.
Advance reservations required.

---> Please contact Debby Bernau at NCSL by July
1st if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting this
year. Reservations are required for a number of
staff section functions. This information also
assists the officers in finalizing programs for the
staff section.

OTHER 1991 ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAMS

* Recent additions to the list of concurrent sessions
for this year's meeting include:

"Labor-Management Cooperation"

"Courting Disaster: The Impact of Drug Cases on
the Courts"

"Rebuilding Rural Communities"

"Who Pays for Housing?"

"Will the Senior Boom Bust State Budgets?"

"Crafting a National Energy Policy"

(Additional sessions are listed in the Annual
Meeting brochure. Concurrent sessions will be held
on Wednesday and Thursday.)

* All-day preconference workshops scheduled for
Saturday, August 10, are:

"State Information Management: A Policymaker's
Perspective on Using Technology to Improve Public
Management?"

"Health Care in the 21st Century"

"Ethics in State Legislatures"

"Transportation Workshop"

(Separate registration fee for each workshop; see
Annual Meeting brochure for details.)

ROOM SHARING AT ANNUAL MEETING

Are you interested in sharing a room with a member
of the staff section in Orlando? If so, please contact
Debby at NCSL as soon as possible so that arrange-
ments can be made.

LRL STAFF SECTION 1991 ANNUAL
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

This year's Annual Professional Development
Seminar has been scheduled for Thursday,
November 14, through Saturday, November 16, in
Washington, D.C. Most of the meetings will take
place at the Hall of the States, where NCSL, CSG,
NGA and other state government organizations
maintain offices. Plan now to attend, and contact
Marcia Hoak (OR), chair-elect, with your
suggestions for programs in D.C.

PERIODICAL INDEXING ON LEGISNET
by
Marilyn Guttromson, North Dakota

For nearly a year now a dedicated group of
legislative research librarians has been indexing
substantive articles from selected periodicals for
direct entry into LEGISNET. Turnaround time
from entry to access is just a few days. Citations to
articles from the following periodicals are now being
entered:

ABA Journal
City and State
Emerging Issues
Family, Law and Democracy Report
Governing
Intergovernmental Perspective
Journal of State Government
State and Local Government Review
Ways and Means

Several staff section indexers are no longer able to
participate. If you are interested in helping to pick
up the slack, please contact Marilyn Guttromson
(ND). Volunteers are needed for ABA State
Legislative Report, Government Finance Review,
Journal of Legislation and State Policy Reports. Each
of the current indexers is responsible for only one or
two serials, and NCSL provides an easy-to-use
manual. Select one or two for which indexers are
needed and join the team. Take this opportunity to
enhance your indexing and computer skills while

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contributing to the resources of the legislative library community.

THE DAVID R. POYNTER LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH LIBRARY
by Suzanne Hughes, Louisiana

The research library for the Louisiana Legislature was recently dedicated as the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library. It is a fitting memorial to former House Clerk Poynter, who designed and instituted many reforms in the legislative process in Louisiana. The library was originally organized for the Legislative Council, which served as central staff to the Legislature.

In 1970 the Legislative Council staff consisted of only 30 employees. In subsequent years the functions of the Legislature have changed greatly, as have its staffing levels and research needs. When the Legislative Council was abolished in 1981, the library was placed under the House of Representatives. The library staff has grown in relation to the needs of the Legislature. Today the library serves more than 200 legislative employees--House, Senate, Legislative Fiscal Office, legislative district office staff, legislative delegations and caucuses. The library is staffed by four information specialist/librarian positions, one library associate, and one library clerk. Two student interns work year round.

During session the work of the library is greatly expanded, and an indexers, session clerk, and additional students come in to assist with these additional functions. In 1975 the library staff began preparing the subject index to bills. The same year the PULS Line, a session telephone information service for the public, was created. That service has been under the direction of the library for several years. The subject index to bills is a major tool at the PULS Line, where it is used to help callers identify bills. The PULS Line fields about 200 calls per day during the 1990 regular session.

Year round, the library's focus is on identification of issues anticipated to be of interest to the Legislature and the collection of information about those issues. Besides utilizing this approach for acquisitions purposes, specially developed internal systems result from this focus. Articles listed on the Periodical Checklist are selected according to issue identification. Moreover, a vertical file collection is created from newspaper clippings, magazine articles, short reports, and laws from other states. Each librarian marks at least one newspaper (Louisiana papers and The Wall Street Journal) for issues or laws at the federal, state or local level that could eventually emerge as issues to be addressed by the Legislature or that are already of concern to Louisiana. Having each librarian mark a paper not only ensures a more timely processing of the information, but also enables each librarian to stay current with the news. Requests coming into the office frequently reflect the newspaper headlines.

Information processing by the library has been strongly influenced by the demands of the legislative process. "They wanted it five minutes ago" is the standard cry for legislative information. Traditional library processing systems are too slow in such an environment. Quick acquisition number assignment for a monograph now provides same-day delivery of new information to research staff. Using the major subject topics from LEGISNET (Agriculture, Transportation, etc.), the library developed a numbering system which has been used for accessioning monographs as well as collection organization in several other areas. Such a system was easy to develop and has proven to be flexible. For example, the library has a legislative documentation collection, as mandated by a recent law. Although it will take time to determine how this collection will be organized, we were able to establish immediately a subject organization of the materials utilizing those major subject topics.

Most formal processing of collection data is gradually becoming automated. In 1989 the library acquired the DataTrek cataloging module. Using this system the document is cataloged (with LC classification), and labels and catalog cards are prepared. Presently, the library has only one PC for this function. Eventually, a local area network will allow us to have an online catalog and eliminate the need for a card catalog. The library next will obtain the serials module for expediting the processing and circulation of periodicals.

1991 STAFF SECTION DIRECTORY

The 1991 edition of the LRL Staff Section directory is now available and was mailed to all legislative libraries in February. Special thanks are due Mina Waldie of the Wisconsin Legislative Referer Bureau, who compiled and edited all the ent...
again this year. If you need additional copies of the directory, please contact Debby Bernau at NCSL.

STAFF SECTION NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Lynda Davis (MD), chair, Marilyn Gut tromson (ND) and Barbara Laughon (OH) comprise the 1991 LRL Nominating Committee for 1991-92 officers. If you would like information on serving as a staff section officer, please contact one of these committee members at your earliest convenience. Officers are elected at the Annual Meeting, and their one-year terms begin on December 1.

1991 STAFF SECTION REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Ann Bancroft (New Mexico)
Contact for:
- Arizona
- California
- Colorado

Pat Sloan (Nebraska)
Contact for:
- Arkansas
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Missouri

Julie McCown (Tennessee)
Contact for:
- Alabama
- Florida
- Georgia
- Louisiana

Frances Enos (Hawaii)
Contact for:
- Alaska
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Montana

Susan Sternberg (New Jersey)
Contact for:
- Delaware
- Maryland
- New Jersey
- North Carolina

Hank Ilnicki (New York)
Contact for:
- Connecticut
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire

Brenda Larson (Illinois)
Contact for:
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Michigan

NEWS FROM THE STATES

Submitted by Regional Coordinators and Members of the Staff Section

Alaska
The state's 16 Legislative Information Offices have been networking with the state library for the past year to respond to patron requests. Most of the transactions and document deliveries are accomplished through telefacsimile. Selective dissemination of information (SDI) through the Legi-State service has also been made available to state agencies. The state library staff are currently developing an outreach program to expand library reference services to state agencies. Online information retrieval will be a major feature of this service program.

Maine
The Law and Legislative Reference Library is joining the University Resources Serving Users Statewide (URSUS) network. Library patrons will now have access to the collections of eight campus libraries of the University of Maine, four branch libraries of the University of South Maine, and several private colleges. The Law and Legislative Reference Library will access their own and the other libraries' collections via online terminal, and bar codes on URSUS member collections will allow for a wand-readable circulation system.

New Mexico
Legislation that could impact the Legislative Council Service provides for full-time chief clerk offices to assist the Legislature in its work during the interim and to prepare for succeeding regular sessions and for an increasing number of special sessions. The legislation has been vetoed by the governor.
New York
Mary Redmond, principal librarian for Legislative and Governmental Services at the New York State Library, is the winner of the 1991 Congressional Information Service/Government Documents Round Table/American Library Association "Documents to the People" award. The award—a tribute to an individual, library or institution that has effectively encouraged the use of government documents in support of library service—is primarily for the 1989 redesign of the New York State Documents Depository Program.

Oklahoma
On February 1, 1991, Susan McVey, formerly of the Legislative Reference Division, assumed the position of administrator of the Jan Eric Cartwright Library, consisting of the law and legislative reference divisions. Allan Goode has joined the Legislative Reference Division as legislative services librarian.

Oregon
The Legislative Library has added a new service this session—a series of classes on "How to Use Legislative Documents to Track Bills and Research Legislative History." It is targeted at legislators' personal staff, but all are welcome. It is basic and short (45 minutes). The library received an overwhelming response to the promotional flyer announcing the classes and has already accommodated over 100 participants. The following handouts are provided to class attendees: a library brochure; a legislative history "Pathfinder" chart; an explanation of how to use the tables in legislative documents; and an exercise. This useful and much-needed service has received very positive feedback and increased the visibility of the library.

Rhode Island
Thomas Evans, legislative reference librarian, reports that the governor is closing state agencies for a total of 10 days during this fiscal year ending June 30, 1991, due to a budget deficit.

JUDITH RUSSELL MOVES TO GPO
Judith Russell, former Government Marketing Manager for Mead Data Central, has accepted a position with the U.S. Government Printing Office as director of the Office of Information Dissemination Policy. She is known to many staff members as a frequent attendee at and supporter of LRL Staff Section activities.

REVIEW WHAT'S NEW
Have you recently noticed a book, article or reference work that might be of interest to other legislative librarians?
If so, please forward the citation to Debby Bernau at NCISL for inclusion in the next issue of Newsline.


NCSL Publications
Copies of all NCSL publications listed below are available from the Book Order Department (303)/830-2200) unless otherwise noted.

Constructing Local Solutions: Affordable Housing. 1991.


State Policy Abstracts. 1991. (Special release--$39 for legislatures)

What Legislators Need to Know about Alcohol and Drug Abuse. 1991.

State Legislative Reports

"Erosion Boot Camps: Policy Considerations and Options" (Vol. 16, No. 1)
(Vol. 16, No. 2 not yet available)
"State Cutback Management: Proposals for Fiscal Year 1991 and Fiscal Year 1992" (Vol. 16, No. 3)

State-Federal Issue Brief

"101st Congress in Review. The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990" (Vol. 4, No. 1)

RECENT HALL OF THE STATES PUBLICATIONS


State Mental Health Systems Research Conducted by NASMHPD. National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. 1990.


NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSLINE

The deadline for submission of information for the July 1991 issue of Newsline is June 15, 1991. Please send information on developments in your library, legislature or state to Debby Bernau at NCSL, or to your regional coordinator, by that date.

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

CHANGES TO THE 1991 LRL DIRECTORY

Connecticut
Change: Telefax - (203)240-8307 to:
(203)240-8881

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Maryland
Change: Telefax to:
(301)858-3850 or (301)841-3850

New York
Delete: Frances Murray, Information Systems Librarian

Oklahoma
Change: Susan McVey, Legislative Services Librarian to:
Susan McVey, Administrator, Cartwright Library

Add: Allan Goode, Legislative Services Librarian

Pennsylvania
Add: Yoga Adhola, Librarian
Joint State Government Commission
Room G-16, Finance Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717)787-6803

Virginia
Change: Linsay L. Van Sicklen to:
(Vacant)

Change: Telefax to:
(804)371-0169

Council of State Governments
Change: (606)231-1830 to:
(606)231-1838

Change: Kathleen Pratt to:
Renee Stanford

UPCOMING NCSL CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

May

May 1-4       LPES Spring Training Meeting
              Austin, Texas

May 2         Energy Policy
              Washington, D.C.

May 2         The 1990s: A Taxing Time for State Budgets?
              Washington, D.C.

May 2         Modern Issues in Higher Education Accountability
              Washington, D.C.

May 2-4       State-Federal Assembly (SFA)
              Washington, D.C.
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 30-June 1</td>
<td>Environmental Summit</td>
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<td>Mystic, Connecticut</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<td>June 7-8</td>
<td>NCSL Executive Committee</td>
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<td>Bar Harbor, Maine</td>
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<td>June 13-15</td>
<td>Community Development</td>
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<td>Baltimore, Maryland</td>
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<td>June 27-29</td>
<td>Workers' Compensation: Healthy Workers/Healthy Workplaces</td>
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<td>Vail, Colorado</td>
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<td>July</td>
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<td>July 7-10</td>
<td>Skills Development Seminar</td>
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<td>Breckenridge, Colorado</td>
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<td>July 7-19</td>
<td>Legislative Staff Management Institute</td>
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<td>Minneapolis, Minnesota</td>
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<td>August</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 10-15</td>
<td>NCSL Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>Orlando, Florida</td>
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<td>September</td>
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<td>September 5-7</td>
<td>Senior Fiscal Analysts Seminar</td>
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<td>Princeton, New Jersey</td>
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<td>September 11-14</td>
<td>Leadership Staff Section Annual Training Seminar</td>
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<td>Minneapolis, Minnesota</td>
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<td>September 26-28</td>
<td>Assembly on the Legislature (AOL)</td>
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<td>Portland, Maine</td>
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<td>September 28-October 4</td>
<td>National Legislative Services &amp; Security Association (NLSSA)</td>
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<td>Burlington, Vermont</td>
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*Newsline* is published four times a year by the Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section of NCSL. *Newsline* is edited by Debby Bernau (NCSL Denver).