CHAIR'S COLUMN
By Marilyn Cathcart, MN
LRL Chairperson

Spring is in the air in Minnesota which means that many of you are enjoying warm and sunny weather. I hope all our colleagues on the East Coast have a perfect spring and summer to make up for the horrendous winter which, hopefully, has just passed!

With spring comes the harried peak of the legislative session. I wonder if you remember, as I do, the promise of the 1970s: shorter workweeks and more leisure time. Technology was going to liberate us from the mundane. What happened? Does it seem to you that the more we embrace technology, the busier we become?

As the officers have discussed programs for Annual Meeting and the Professional Development Seminar, we have tried to balance the need for more information and guidance in handling technology against the ongoing interest section members have expressed in more philosophical topics, such as "change" or "the library's role in the legislature." The programs are beginning to shape up quite nicely and promise to be educational, challenging and fun. All the officers hope that you'll keep the dates in mind for both Annual Meeting (July 25-28 in New Orleans) and the Professional Development Seminar (November 3-5 in Denver). YOU are what makes the meetings great!

I hope, too, as we all struggle to learn new technologies and find a place for them in our workplaces, that we always remember: It's people who make our jobs the most fun!

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DAN MULHOLLAN BECOMES NEW DIRECTOR AT CRS

Dan Mulhollan, formerly Acting Deputy Librarian, became Director of the Congressional Research Service effective January 24. His predecessor, Joseph E. Ross, retired in December.

Mulhollan will direct over 800 employees in 10 offices and divisions of CRS as well as assisting with matters of policy and administration of the Library of Congress. According to the Library of Congress Information Bulletin, he has also been directed to streamline operations at CRS with the goal of improving services to Congress, "particularly through greater use of technology, and increasing diversity in positions of responsibility throughout CRS."
He has worked at the Library of Congress since 1969 when he began as an Analyst in American National Government under a division of the Legislative Reference Service. The Service then became CRS the following year. He became Assistant Chief of the Government Division in 1981 and was named Chief in 1991, the same year in which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. Mulhollan has long been a friend to the Legislative Research Librarians staff section and has attended numerous NCSL Annual Meetings. We look forward to working with him in his new capacity. Congratulations, Dan!

CLINTON TAPS MEAD EXEC
(From the Dayton Daily News, February 4, 1994)

Robert S. Willard, a Mead Data Central executive, was picked by President Clinton to be a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, an independent agency which assesses the library and informational needs of the nation.

Willard is the Director of Government Marketing for Mead Data, the electronic publishing arm of Dayton's Mead Corp. Prior to that he was a vice president at Information Industry Association, a lobbying arm of large information services companies.

LRL STAFF SECTION
1994 NCSL ANNUAL MEETING
PROGRAMS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
July 24 - 28, 1994
Preliminary Agenda

**SUNDAY, JULY 24**
(No LRL meetings currently scheduled)

**MONDAY, JULY 25**
8:00 - 9:15 a.m.
Staff Section Breakfast

9:30 - 11:15 a.m.
Plenary Session

11:30 - 1:00 p.m.
Legislative Staff Luncheon
(Speaker to be announced)

1:15 - 2:00 p.m.
Presentation by Roslyn Membrey,
Western Australia Parliamentary Librarian

2:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Roundtable: Role of the Library Within the Legislature

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
LRL Business Meeting

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Opening Reception: Mardi Gras in the Superdome

**TUESDAY, JULY 25**
12:15 - 1:45 p.m.
Plenary Luncheon
(Speaker to be announced)

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Access to Information
(Speaker to be announced)

3:45 - 5:00 p.m.
Electronic Data Collection and Research
(Speaker to be announced)

7:00 p.m.
Staff Section Dinner

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 27**
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tour of Louisiana Legislative Research Library and state capitol.
Lunch at LaFitte's Landing
(Speaker to be announced)

**THURSDAY, JULY 28**
8:00 - 9:15 a.m.
Protocol
(Speaker to be announced)

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Plenary Luncheon

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
NCSL Jazzfest

IDENTIFYING ARTICLES WITH "SICI"
By Julia C. Blixtrud, Chair
SISAC Document Delivery Task Force and Program Officer, Council on Library Resources
(Reprinted by permission from UnCover Update, Winter 1994)

As electronic document delivery becomes more commonplace, a familiar refrain occurs: How can articles be identified efficiently and uniquely? Whether trying to distinguish among items collected from several online searches, eliminating duplicate entries on a bibliography, or comparing article receipts with invoices, there is often an expressed need for some sort of identifier that can speed or at least ease the activity. As articles become more and more available on the Internet, either through document delivery services or as contributions posted to journal listservs, the necessity for unique and concise identification becomes more critical.

The Serial Item and Contribution Identifier (SICI) was developed in response to this need. It is an American national standard, ANSI/NISO Z39.56-1991, and provides for the unique identification of serial items and the contributions (e.g., articles, letters) contained in them. The standard was developed under the auspices of the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) by a subcommittee of the Serials Industry Systems Advisory Committee (SISAC). Since 1982, SISAC has provided a forum for those in the serials industry to address common concerns.
Of early critical importance to SISAC membership was the development of a standard identifier that could be incorporated into several applications.

The SICI is easy to construct and can be created by person or computer. No special database is required. All the information needed is present in a typical item citation (the ISSN of the journal, volume, issue, page number—or screen location—and article or contribution title) and readily available to a publisher, librarian, library supplier, and even a library patron. The standard can be applied to both paper-based and electronic serials.

The SICI standard defines the data elements for the unique identification of serial items and contributions, but it does not prescribe what the specific applications will be.

All articles entered into the UnCover database since December 1993 carry SICI codes. UnCover plans to use SICI codes in its planned E-mail table of contents delivery system. Codes will allow a precise method for users to request articles by reply mail. For more information on the SICI standard, contact Julia C. Blixrud at 202/483-7474; Internet address jблиx@cnii.org.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Julie McCown (TN) whose husband passed away in January and also to Hank Ilnicki (NY) who recently lost his father.

VERMONT LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE
By Michael Chernick, VT

In the Vermont Legislative, drafting, legal, research and clerical support services are centralized in the nonpartisan staff of the Vermont Legislative Council. The Council, as provided for in the Vermont Statutes, is charged with providing the legislature with professional and secretarial staff services.

A Legislative Reference Bureau was established under Act No. 9 in 1910. The bureau was headed by a gubernatorially appointed legislative reference librarian and administratively attached to the state library. The legislative reference bureau was legally required to develop and maintain a reference collection and provide ready reference services for legislators, state officials and the public. A concurrent responsibility was the indexing and retention of Vermont legislative documentation including journals and bills.

Shortly after creating the Legislative Reference Bureau, the board of legislative draftsmen was established in Act No. 14 in 1912. The board, without any deference to gender equality, was to consist of "two men of legal training and practice." The board's duties consisted of drafting bills, resolutions, and amendments, and it was specifically prohibited from urging the defeat or passage of any legislation. The legislative librarian was designated as a third board member when required.

This statutory arrangement continued until the passage of Act No. 81 in 1965, establishing the Legislative Council, a bipartisan committee comprised of legislators, including leadership. Under its jurisdiction were placed newly established legislative research and drafting divisions. The director of the state library could be designated as director of the drafting division. One of the statutorily stated purposes of the new Council was "to maintain adequate legislative reference and library services."

In 1971, the Council's staff structure was merged into a unified support agency and the separate divisions were eliminated. While eliminating the option of employing the state librarian in a legislative support capacity, the statutory requirement to maintain and establish a reference library was retained.

The current reference library consists of federal and state statutory and case law and interpretive legal materials, Vermont legislative documentation dating in some instances from 1900, and a limited collection of legal and legislative periodicals and treatises. Indexing is restricted to a LEGISNET subject heading online catalog for periodicals and monographs and a second informally designed topical system for selected internally created research files.

Since the mid-1980s, legislative history data, statutes and current session bills have been entered into the in-house computer system. More recently, this data has been made publicly available through the Vermont Automated Library System network or VALS.

As Research Counsel, my duties entail both research and legal responsibilities. Given the bibliographic limitations of the Council's library, my primary reliance for research materials and services, including OCLC and interlibrary loan, is the reference and law division at the Vermont Department of State Libraries. However, I conduct Lexis, Nexis, LEGISNET, Internet and VALS searches from the Council's offices.

Research assignments range from quick reference requests to locate statutes or legislative documentation from other jurisdictions or newspapers, to online searches for legal and special coverage publications. An important element of my
research role is to continue the working relationship with both the Vermont Department of State Libraries and the Vermont State Archives. A related duty is serving as an information resource for the public and other state legislatures.

The legal component of my duties entails legislative and memorandum drafting and providing legal assistance to committees. In an unusual occurrence, I appeared as junior counsel in superior court in a successful effort to enforce a legislative investigatory committee’s subpoena.

CHANGE OF STAFF

The staff section sends congratulations and best wishes to Anne Adams, Legislative Analyst with Alabama’s Legislative Reference Service who is retiring April 1. She has been with Legislative Reference for 20 years, running the library for much of that time.

She attended Annual Meetings every year from 1985 to the present and served as Secretary of the staff section during 1990-91. Anne states that she will remember the staff section as a great group of people who were very helpful to her over the years.

Originally from southeast Alabama, Anne will return to Eufaula to restore a house built before the turn of the century. She has also been asked to serve as Probate Judge in Barbour County.

Anne’s position will be filled by Helen Hanby, a graduate of Auburn who has worked with the Reference Service for 11 years.

As second-in-command of the Legislative Reference Service data management system for the Legislature, Helen has worked closely with staff attorneys in the department’s annual code revision process, and also has been instrumentally involved in bill indexing and preparing the Index to the Acts of Alabama that is published by the department following each legislative session.

CALL GOES OUT FOR STATE DOCUMENTS

Enclosed with this newsletter is a brochure describing the State Information Network. The network is a continuation of the “Interstate Document Exchange” idea that has been around for a long time, but in the crush of daily activities is easily overlooked.

The purpose of the network is to make all relevant state publications available to the states and territories for research or reference. To make this possible, the network needs two copies of substantive works forwarded to both NCSL and CSG. Acquisitions lists, bibliographies or publications lists should also be provided. See the enclosed brochure for details. Questions may be directed to CSG’s States Information Center or NCSL’s LEGISNET.

LOUISIANA READING
By Marilyn Catheart

Although this is not related to our work at all, I thought it might be fun to develop a short reading list of books set in or about New Orleans or Louisiana in case anyone has time to really get into the Annual Meeting mood by reading something fun. I started a list on the NCSL Bulletin Board (Message #652) to which anyone can append suggestions. Or, if the BBS is unavailable to you, send any ideas to me by June 1 and I’ll put them together in a final list for the preconference NEWSLINE in June.

LEGISLATIVE STAFF

MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
JULY 5-16, 1994
By Debbie Tavenner, OH

Applications are available for the Legislative Staff Management Institute, a professional development program, offered by the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, and NCSL. The purpose is to help senior level staff develop their abilities in a wide range of management skills necessary to operate in the legislative environment. The Institute is open to staff of the U.S. state and territorial legislatures. In its first four years over 100 people have participated.

Using a variety of instruction methods, the Institute’s experienced faculty will hold sessions on managing conflict, managing people, motivation and leadership, strategic planning, and managing and using computers. Some of the case study sessions will be based on actual problems confronting staff members.

The fee for the Institute is $1,950 covering tuition, lodging, breakfast and lunch, and all instructional materials. Transportation to and from the Institute is not included in the fee. A grant from the John C. Stennis Center enables some partial scholarships to be awarded, but the scholarship is not to cover transportation. The deadline for applications is April 15. Staff selected will be notified of their acceptance by May 1.

Please consider taking advantage of this professional development opportunity. If you did not receive an application and brochure, contact Karl Kurtz’s office, NCSL Denver, 303/830-2200 x119.
NOMINATIONS FOR NCSL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In May John Turcotte, NCSL’s Staff Chair, will announce the formation of the staff nominating committee to consider candidates for membership on NCSL’s Executive Committee for 1994-95.

The announcement will solicit nominations of candidates and request that they be submitted to the chair of the nominating committee at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. It will also describe current and recent membership of the Executive Committee and explain the nominating process.

Candidates are encouraged to submit their own names for consideration. Accompanying resumes are helpful, as are letters of endorsement from legislative leadership or staff management. The committee seeks people who have taken part in various NCSL activities and who can represent the leadership and top management of the state’s legislatures before the public, Congress, and the Administration.

Watch for the committee’s announcement in May; call Chris Patiarozzi or Karl Kurtz at NCSL if you have questions.

LSCC/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Debbie Tavenner, OH

Marilyn Cathcart and Debbie Tavenner attended the two-day Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee meeting in Austin, February 11-12. John Turcotte, NCSL Staff Chair, announced that for the first time ever all staff sections were represented at the LSCC meeting. The four current LSCC Committees are: International Activities Task Force, Professional Development Task Force, Civic Education Task Force, and Information Technology Task Force. Marilyn is a member of the International Task Force; Debbie is on Information Technology. The major activities of each Task Force are summarized below.

International Activities: Publish a mission statement, make NCSL a clearinghouse for information on international activities and sponsor an Annual Meeting program about protocol as it relates to international visits.

Civic Education: Enter into a joint project with the Center for Civic Education to develop a "learning program" centered around state and local government for use in schools; develop a scholar-in-residence program.

Professional Development: Surveyed and released results about in-house training and professional development programs.

Information Technology: Publish a guide to legislation information technology, conduct NCSL strategic plan survey, prepare technology concurrent and pre-conference seminars for this summer’s Annual Meeting; continue to evaluate IPA bill-status system.

Indianapolis was selected as the site for Annual Meeting in 1999. Puerto Rico is interested in hosting it in 2001. San Antonio would like to host in 2000, but no final decision has been made on that year’s site yet.

The full Executive Committee approved all parts presented to them of the ”Strengthening NCSL” report.

Robert Owens, West Publishing, is now on the NCSL Foundation Board, replacing Larry Culligan who retired.

BBS ADDS INTERNET E-MAIL

By Doug Sacarto, NCSL

By the middle of April, NCSL’s BBS will add Internet E-mail service, making it possible to dial into the BBS to send and receive private E-mail messages over the Internet.

Your address will be firstname.lastname@NCSL.org (first name and last name as registered on the BBS). When available, instructions will come up on the screen as you log on. NCSL will be looking at adding newsgroups to the system and would appreciate your suggestions via BBS regarding those you would find useful.

NCSL PUBLICATIONS

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

Books

Issues Outlook 1994 (Item 9355)
Financing State Government in the 1990’s (Item 5320)
The State of Workers’ Compensation (Item 3302)
The Election Results Directory 1994 (Item 9357)
Strengthening State Legislatures (Item 9361)
Investing in People: Reinventing Education (Item 3122)
1994 Directory of Legislative Leaders (Item 7136)
Eight Ways to Finance Transit: A Policymaker's Guide (Item 9362)
Campaign Finance Legislation 1993 (Item 9363)

LegisBriefs
Federal Empowerment Zones (Item 9000-0209)
Comparative Risk (Item 9000-0210)
Civil Service Reform: Pay-for-Performance (Item 9000-0211)
Opting Out of Federal Transportation Mandates (Item 9000-0212)
The National Service Trust Act (Item 9000-0213)
Alternative Fuels (Item 9000-0214)
Health-Care Reform (Item 9000-0215)
Worker's Compensation Managed Care Part II (Item 9000-0216)

Legislative Finance Papers (LFP)
State Fiscal Outlook for 1994 (Item 5105-90)
The Performance Budget Revisited (Item 5102-91)
State-Local Tax Levels: Fiscal Year 1992 (Item 5102-92)
State Budget Update: March 1994 (Item 5101-93)

State Federal Issue Brief
Earned Income Tax Credit (Item 8500-0601)

State Legislative Reports (SLR)
The Lucas Case and Modern Takings Theory (Item 7302-1809)
Home Energy Ratings System (7302-1810)
Clean Air and Energy Efficiency Linked by Federal Legislation (Item 7302-1811c)
Community Living For The Developmentally Disabled (Item 7302-1812)
Transax '92: Emergency Response For Radioactive Waste Transportation Incidents (Item 7302-1813)
What State Legislators Need to Know About the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (Item 7302-1901)
Hazardous Material Transport: Closing the Information Gap (Item 7302-1902)
Comprehensive State Groundwater Protection Programs (Item 7302-1903)

Videos
Hard Lessons in Ethics (Item 9136)

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

ALABAMA — The Alabama legislature does not currently have access to Internet, and Legislative Analyst Anne Adams doesn't see it in the works for the near future.

ARKANSAS — Meldia Rose is the sole librarian at the Arkansas legislative library. She does not presently have a modem on her computer and doesn't think she'll be getting one any time soon. For online information, she goes to the state library, which serves as her backup.

COLORADO — The legislative library does not use Internet, but they search CARL as often as 4-5 times a day since the Denver Public Library, the Auraria Libraries, Government Documents, and ERIC are online. (Denver Public Library is only 2 blocks away and Auraria is within walking distance.) Delores Lanier reports they also use the UnCover databases frequently to check on the availability of articles. If the articles are available at Denver Public Library, they go over and copy; otherwise, they borrow on interlibrary loan. They have not ordered anything faxed directly from UnCover. They also use it to search any and all library holdings online in order to borrow on interlibrary loan.

The only other system they use with any regularity is NCSL's LEGISNET. Since NCSL is also across the street, they are able to get the documents quickly.

Delores reports also that they no longer have a library assistant. There are now only two staff in the legislative library, both professional librarians. There are no plans to replace the library assistant.

CONNECTICUT — Connecticut legislative histories and legislative archives are maintained and serviced by the Connecticut State Library. Due to budget cutbacks, individuals/firms conducting legal research should note the State Library is now open one hour later than previously. The NEW hours are 9:30 to 5:00 p.m.

FLORIDA — The Florida legislative library has just recently begun using the Internet, which they access through Tallahassee Free Net. Jo An Mahaffey does the cataloging for the library and she has used Internet to help. She calls up Library of Congress and other library catalogs, to see what classification and cataloging information they have used. Some of the Florida librarians have also started using Internet for E-mail.
As a beginner, Jo An says she doesn't have a lot of pointers to offer others, but she warns, "When you access a new database, be sure to read how to sign off! This command varies from database to database. Also, the first few screens may tell you about special keystrokes and other important commands".

In addition to Internet, the legislative library has access to Florida's university online system including the nine state universities, as well as some community colleges. Jo An uses this system to assist with cataloging too.

GEORGIA -- House of Representatives Policy Analyst Terry Minvielle says he uses Internet constantly in his legislative research. He goes into federal databases for information and statistics. He also noted that more state legislatures are loading data onto the Internet. California legislative information is available on the Internet, and he believes that Texas is, or will be on soon. Georgia is planning to have its legislative database on the Internet sometime this year.

Terry says one drawback regarding Internet information is the time constraint. There is little historical information, and it takes time for new information to be added. (For example, a bill from '92 would not be on, and one from '94 would not be on yet.) It is also difficult to tell how recently the information was uploaded to the Internet. Terry believes a protocol should be developed using a header that shows the publication date.

Georgia has a lot of networking available to its citizens. There is currently free public access for everyone through an Internet gopher system. Although callers do not have an E-mail address, they can dial one of several local phone banks and access a gopher interface with an Internet connection. From there they can gopher to information all over the world. The state has just received a grant to offer E-mail addresses, for a fee, as well. These would be run throughout the state by libraries, which would receive funding for computers and computer administrators. Already in operation is Peachnet, an information network developed by the state universities that have been pushing for a new model of public access. (Terry Minvielle is writing an article for NCSSL about Georgia's networking systems and Internet access.)

HAWAII -- Kate Jonsson reports she uses the Internet regularly for E-mail and searching for sources of information. She receives messages through the "govdocs-1", a government documents list (lists refer to electronic mailing lists, which are group discussions or interest groups) that point to excellent sources. One source is an extensive subject listing for resources available over the Internet compiled by Blake Gumprecht. Kate has used this source to find which states have their statutes or bills available online. She reports she has searched bills in the Utah, Minnesota, and Texas databases through the Internet. The Gumprecht compilation covers many subjects and gives directions for the specific paths to the sources. She recommends searching the Rice University gopher. (A gopher is an application on the Internet that allows smooth passage into other computers where you can browse and search documents.) Kate reports she uses CARL to search for articles in UnCover and orders articles not available to her locally. The service faxes the articles for a set fee.

IOWA -- Jonetta Douglas reports that the Iowa legislative library is continuing their scanning project, scanning bill books onto disk. Jonetta does recommend reading an article on the Internet that appeared in the Jan./Feb. issue of Link-Up, a news magazine for users of online services. The article is the first in a series of two covering the basics of Internet.

LOUISIANA -- The Louisiana legislature does not use the Internet yet, but they may be getting access soon. The most recent rumor is that the legislature will become a node on the Internet sometime after the 1994 Regular Session.

State universities have recently developed a network called LOUIS (Louisiana Online University Information System). This system connects the catalogs of six university libraries and will be adding five more this year. LOUIS is also working to provide at least one terminal in a public library in every parish of the state, and a terminal will be installed in 18 K-12 public schools, not yet chosen. These terminals will be able to access the network although their own collections will not be included.

The Louisiana legislature is working with LOUIS to bring Legiscribe, the legislature's database, onto the network. When this is online, citizens all over the state will be able to access bill history, as well as track bills for the current legislative session. They might even be able to do Boolean searches of the statutes.

MARYLAND -- Johanne Holmes Greer, Legislative Librarian from the Department of Legislative Reference states that they do charge the public for photocopying and set the limit at 35 pages. They do not do online research for the public, nor can the public check materials out of the library.

Johanne reports they do have access to Internet but none of the librarians feel proficient with it yet. They also use Dialog, Statenet, Washington Alert, Data Times, Compuserve, Cesar, NCSSL-BBS, Norton,
Victor/Carl Healthline, Seymour, NTIS Fedworld, and Westlaw.

**MINNESOTA** -- The Minnesota Legislature now has its own gopher on the Internet! The Legislative Reference Library has been busy creating part of it. To access the gopher directly, type gopher gopher.revisor.leg.state.mn.us 70. Or, you can go through menus to all the gophers in the world and work your way down to Minnesota.

Reference Librarian, Randi Madison reports that in their part of the gopher, they have access to the library's catalog, a description of the collections, and several pathfinders to materials in the collection relating to current issues. They plan eventually to put up lists of new Minnesota documents along with historical lists of constitutional officers, biographies of Speakers of the House, lists of minorities and women in the legislature, and, maybe someday, a database of all the legislators who have ever served.

The main part of the legislative gopher will eventually contain the statutes, the full text of proposed bills, and bill tracking. Some things are working now, and some are still experimental. They're very excited about the possibilities for their gopher, and they welcome suggestions for new materials.

**MISSOURI** -- Anne Rottmann is attending a two-day conference on the Internet. She sees the potential for some highly useful sources, but she wants to check them out first before recommending them.

**MONTANA** -- The Montana Legislative Library does have access to the Internet, but librarian Beth Furbush has not had the time to explore it yet. So far, they just use the E-mail. Beth says the library is starting an imaging project. They will be scanning their clippings collection, now in vertical files, onto disk.

**NEVADA** -- Nan Bowers uses the Internet for E-mail and belongs to the libref-1, a reference librarians list. Through that list she heard of a distance-learning course on using gophers. The tutorials, sent to her E-mail address, include explanations, directions, examples, and exercises to do on the Internet or through CARL. A favorite gopher is the one at the University of California at Santa Cruz, called "infoslug," Infoslug.ucsc.edu.

She has used the Internet to find information on federal bills through the Library of Congress connection. A useful Internet resource list, called "Special Internet Connections," is compiled by Scott Yanoff at yanoff@csd4.csd.uwm.edu. There are so many sources and so much to learn about Internet that it takes definite time set aside for learning.

All librarians she's talked to about the Internet are very enthusiastic, but lack the time to fully explore the possibilities.

**NEW YORK** -- The New York State Library has mounted a number of major documents on the Internet. Examples include the Governor's Message, the State of the State Message, and the "1992 Cumulated Checklist of Official Publications of the State of New York." These are available through the FTP Archive and the New York State Library gopher. The gopher also includes descriptions of New York State agencies, information about the New York State Library, and pointers to other resources.

**NORTH DAKOTA** -- Marilyn Guttmorgen, Research Librarian for the Legislative Council Library, reports they are working on getting access to Internet. Meanwhile, they are using the Bismarck Tribune index online for current and historical news. They have full text access and find it saves a lot of time.

They use Infomaster through Western Union's Easylink service to access National Newspaper Index, Legal Resource Index, Index to Legal Periodicals, Criminal Justice Periodicals Index and others. They can also access major North Dakota academics libraries and public and special libraries in Minnesota and South Dakota through ODIN.

Marilyn also noted that North Dakota is one of the few states that doesn't release a "blue book" on a regular basis. (Did she say, "decades pass between editions"?) Currently, however, a group of dedicated historians and librarians are working through the Secretary of State's office to draft a 1995 edition.

They are also looking forward to the release of a new publication sponsored by the North Dakota Consensus Council covering the history of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly.

**OHIO** -- The Ohio Legislative Service Commission Library has hired Jennifer Casey as a library assistant. She is a recent graduate of the University of Illinois School of Library and Informational Science and holds a B.A. in Philosophy from Catholic School of America.

**OKLAHOMA** -- The Legislative Library in Oklahoma does not yet use Internet. Susan Gilley says they hope to have state government access in the near future. The only networking-type system they use with regularity is NCISL's BBS. They have found it useful when researchers are fishing for obscure things and have no lead on particular states who might have experience in the area. It is also a great way to keep in touch with other staff section members.
The Legislative Library uses Datatimes and LEGISNET fairly frequently. The Law Division has Lexis and Nexis but no funds to search. They are heavy users of OLIS (Oklahoma Legislative Information System), which includes statutory text retrieval and bill status.

Cartwright Library (composed of both Legislative Reference and Law) recently installed three new pc's. They now have five shared terminals with modems, but only two phone lines. They also have two terminals which have CD-Rom drives. The CD-Rom products currently available to them are Oklahoma Decisions, USCA, Federal Register, and OLTN, (Oklahoma Library Technology Network). OLTN was developed in 1991. The first phase was a statewide CD-Rom bibliographic catalog (OLTNcat). It currently consists of the holdings of approximately 700 library outlets in schools, communities, institutions and private and public organizations and includes more than 7,000,000 records of books and materials. An estimated 400 more libraries are readying themselves to join. In January 1994, another phase was added: the Information and Materials Exchange program. About 100 libraries, including Cartwright, have modem transmission nodes and will provide electronic transmission of interlibrary loan requests and replies. Other sites will initially use mail or FAX to participate. This system has proven to significantly decrease the time for ILL. The next phase will be state telecommunications.

OREGON -- Marcia Hoak says the Legislative Library recently acquired a CD-Rom disk drive and they now have the Oregonian (newspaper), Oregon Revised Statutes, Administrative Rules and a few other titles on CD. She has recently obtained access to Internet, but hasn't had time to explore it much. Also, the library is spearheading a project by the Legislative Committee Office to publish a current awareness type of newsletter for legislators. It will include summaries or quotes from relevant periodical articles.

PENNSYLVANIA -- Susan Zavacky, Librarian, Legislative Reference Bureau, responded to her coordinator's questions about serving the public by saying they do not charge for service to them. They do "FedEx" information to law firms at the firm's expense and allow select members of the public to check books out of the library.

The Senate Library does not presently have database access but hopes to get Westlaw, Lexis, LEGISNET, Isis and CD-Rom capabilities.

TEXAS -- The Texas Legislative Reference Library has not found Internet to be a reference tool used on a day-to-day basis. The type of research that they do does not require its use. It is helpful to know, however, that anyone who has Internet is accessible electronically. The Library uses Lexis, Westlaw and Datatimes almost daily.

The Library is very excited that they have been asked to participate in a project with the Center for Democracy in Costa Rica. Nancy Moreno is currently in San Jose helping the Costa Rican government set up their Legislative Library. She left on February 27 and will return to Texas on March 27. She is staying with the family of a library employee. The library has just recently moved to new quarters and is very interested in a serious reorganization of their services and developing a long-range plan. Nancy is excited about the opportunity for all the obvious reasons, but her father's family is from Costa Rica, so she was looking forward to doing a little family history.

The Texas library's move back to the Capitol Building is "creeping along at a snail's pace," but they are now scheduled for moving in late June. Fortunately, they are not in session this year, so they will have time to get organized and well situated before prefiling starts in November.

VERMONT -- The Vermont Department of Libraries Reference and Law Services has an Internet connection for dial-in users to enter various library catalogs. For example, a gopher is used to access the Library of Congress catalog. In addition, a number of administrative board decisions on topics such as environmental law are not available online. The Vermont Supreme Court slip decisions are added as issued and the latest bound volume of decisions was also added to the database. Scheduled Vermont public hearings and full text of selected documents, such as the National Health Security Act, are available online.

WISCONSIN -- Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau currently has access to the Internet through a single workstation which is connected via the University of Wisconsin. They plan to provide wider access over the Legislature's local area network, but security questions need to be resolved before this occurs.
DIRECTORY CHANGES
Please add under Vermont Legislative Council:
   Michael Chernick, Research Counsel
   (same phone and fax numbers)

Please change under Nebraska Legislative Reference Library:
   Jo Budler, Coordinator of Library Services
   INTERNET E-MAIL
   jbudler@ndc.unel.edu

Please add under Ohio Legislative Service Commission
   Jennifer Casey, Library Assistant
   614/466-2242

NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSLINE
The deadline for the Summer edition of NEWSLINE is June 8. 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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