CHAIR’S COLUMN
By Clare Cholik, SD
LRL Chairperson

The summer season is rapidly approaching, and it is once again time to turn our attention toward the NCSL Annual Meeting. The preliminary agenda of staff section activities is included in this edition. Due to this year’s abbreviated schedule and the many program options available, deciding how to fill our time was difficult. It is my hope, however, that we have settled on programs and activities that will be beneficial and enjoyable to all who attend. If you are able to attend (and I hope MANY of you are), please let one of the other officers or me know of your intentions. This helps us immensely with planning.

The Annual Meeting officially adjourns on Wednesday, July 31 at noon. However, if any of you are planning to spend the remainder of that day in St. Louis, I hope you will join us for a tour of the library at the St. Louis Botanical Gardens. I have heard many wonderful comments with regard to the Gardens, and it sounds like a great way to bring this year’s event to a close.

It is with regret that I note the departure of Chris Pattarozzi from the NCSL Staff, and thus from our staff section. Downsizing is often necessary, but never easy. I miss Chris, and I know all of you join me in wishing her all the best.

Jo Anne Bourquard and Rita Thaemert of NCSL’s Legislative Information Services Program are now lending their support to our staff section. I want to offer them a hearty welcome. They both “stepped up to the plate” and started assisting with our activities right away.

This is the last column I will write as chair of the LRL Staff Section. I want to thank you all for giving me the privilege to serve in this role. I especially want to offer my appreciation to the other LRL officers. They are not only great cohorts, but friends. Throughout my tenure, I turned to many of you for guidance and for assistance with staff section projects. Without exception, you responded positively and with enthusiasm. To me, this speaks volumes as to the type of people you all are and the importance you place on our staff section. May it remain this way for years to come!

See you in St. Louis!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE OF CONTENTS</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair’s Column</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development Seminar</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCSL Response to Survey on On-Line Access</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinators’ Corner</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News From the States</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting Position in Botswana, Africa</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Indexers</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCSL Publications</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Section Regional Coordinators</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 1996 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

**Monday, July 29**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:15 - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>LRL Business Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Reception sponsored by The Michie Company</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tuesday, July 30**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30 - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Tour of Mercantile Library, downtown St. Louis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 noon - 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Staff Lunch sponsored by West Publishing Company Speaker, West Publishing Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>LEGISNET on the Internet and the Old Nets NCSL staff-Bob Frohling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wednesday, July 31**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 10:00 am</td>
<td>Creating Legislative Web Sites (Co-sponsored with NALIT and other staff sections)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 - 11:00 am</td>
<td>New Technologies in Document Preservation Staff from Missouri State Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Optional tour of St. Louis Botanical Gardens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

This year’s professional development seminar will be held in Washington, D.C., from October 17-19. On the preliminary agenda are:

- Visit and briefing about electronic services and sources at Congressional Research Service
- Visit and briefing about the electronic services and sources at the Government Printing Office
- Discussion of state legislatures’ uses of the Internet and other electronic sources
- Discussion of legislative libraries contributions to the legislative process

- Visit and briefing at the Annapolis, Maryland Legislative Library & Information Services

*Watch for the brochure and registration forms in the mail this summer and more details in the next NEWSLINE!*

## LEGISLATIVE STAFF COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Clare Cholik, SD

NCSL’s Executive Committee and Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC) met in Anchorage, AK on May 25-26, 1996. Staff Section members in attendance were Executive Committee member, Sally Reynolds (TX), and Clare Cholik (SD).

The full LSCC Committee met on Saturday morning, May 25. NCSL’s Executive Director, Bill Pound, discussed the organization’s FY 97 budget. Since revenues have failed to meet projections in recent years, the budget reflects certain long-term reductions. Some of them have already taken place and others are forthcoming. The Public Affairs Program, formerly located in Washington, D.C., will be reduced in size and moved to the Denver office. Another program, the Economic Development Program, has been eliminated. Economic development issues are now covered by the Fiscal Affairs Program. Also, there has been a small reduction in FTE’s in both the Denver and Washington, D.C. offices. Mr. Pound stressed that he feels confident the changes will not affect the services NCSL provides to its constituents.

The LSCC adopted a proposal from the Professional Development Task Force establishing a Legislative Staff Achievement Award. The first awards will be presented at the 1997 Annual Meeting. Nominations for the awards will come from the nine staff sections and the staff chair of the Assembly on State Issues. The awards will be given to individuals, teams or legislative offices that have demonstrated excellence in supporting the work of a state legislature or strengthening the legislative institution.

Gloria Borger, Assistant Managing Editor of *U.S. News and World Report*, will be the featured speaker for the staff luncheon at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, July 30. She is a popular political pundit who will provide some humorous insight into the 1996 elections.
Also at the Annual Meeting, a concurrent session will be held on Monday, July 29 involving all the staff sections. The first portion of the session will consist of a discussion on a mock piece of legislation. Representatives from each of the staff sections will discuss the roles they would play as the legislation works its way through the legislative process. The second portion will be devoted to individual roundtable discussions involving the entire audience. It is the hope that participants will learn about the roles of legislative employees in other states and other staff sections.

There will be a staff table set up in the registration area at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 27 from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Members of the staff sections and the LSCC will be at the table to answer questions any of the registrants may have regarding the staff sections and the programs each will sponsor during the meeting. It will be a service primarily aimed at those who have not previously attended an Annual Meeting.

Lastly, Alfred “Butch” Speer, NCSL’s Staff Chair, announced that the staff nominating committee will meet at the Annual Meeting to nominate candidates for Staff Vice Chair and the Executive Committee for the 1996-97 term. There will be seven vacancies for legislative staff on the Executive Committee. Of those seven seats, four of them are currently being filled by people appointed by Mr. Speer to fill vacancies during the course of the year. If you are interested in running for a seat on the Executive Committee, send a letter of interest to Mr. Speer in care of NCSL’s Denver office. The letter should describe your involvement in the legislative arena and in NCSL. Including a resume or letters of support from legislative leadership or staff management may also be beneficial. If you have any questions, contact Karl Kurz at NCSL.

The next meeting of the LSCC will be held on Saturday, July 27 when the LSCC Task Forces will conclude their work for the year.

**NCSL Responds to Survey on On-Line Access**

By Clare Cholik, SD

NCSL’s recent response to the LRL survey gives the librarians a hint of the major changes forthcoming in their online information services. The staff members who compiled the responses are Jo Anne Bourquard, Bob Frohling, Pam Greenberg, Janet Randolph, and Doug Sacarto. While they are committed to making the current services as useful as possible for the time being, their primary focus is on the future. NCSL’s ultimate goal is to integrate all the online services into a single system that is accessible by telephone using a dial-up modem or through the Internet via telnet or the World Wide Web. It is a goal of high priority. Their hope is that once the new integrated system is in place, many of the problems that users are currently experiencing will be alleviated. The LRL Staff Section supports NCSL in this endeavor and is willing to assist in this project in any way possible.

Among the staff section’s activities at this year’s Annual Meeting is a session on this topic. It is scheduled for Tuesday, July 30 at 3:30 p.m. During the session, Bob Frohling plans to update attendees on NCSL’s project to integrate their online services. He will also discuss some other Internet sites of interest to legislative employees and will answer any questions staff section members may have concerning LEGISNET or any of the other online information services available through NCSL.

**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 and ask preassigned questions of interest to all of us. This section will highlight response to two questions.

State Coordinators asked LRL members for suggestions for the location of future LRL professional development meetings and about the acquisition, circulation, and retention period for NCSL Annual Meeting tapes.

JENNIFER BERNIER, CT, reports responses from Massachusetts, Maine, and New York.

Pamela Schofield, MA, State Library finds holding the Professional Development Seminar in the Northeast to be the best location for her personally. The library does not purchase NCSL Annual Meeting audio tapes.

Lynn Randall, ME, Law and Legislative Reference Library, hesitates to recommend a site because travel is difficult. Lynn posed the question: could the
presentations be compiled and published similarly to workbooks that are used in conjunction with continuing legal education seminars? The Library purchases a complete set of NCSL Annual Meetings tapes. The collection starts in 1991 and all have been retained. At some point in time, the staff will likely try to recycle the tapes. The tapes are circulated using a manual card system. Because the tapes arrive so late after the meeting, a high priority is placed on publicizing their availability, especially those that may count towards continuing legal education credits. Lynn makes the suggestion that a program brochure be mailed with the tapes because they have to "beg" for a copy from someone who attended.

Hank Ilnicki, NY, State Library, Reference Services, suggests Wisconsin, Kansas, Arkansas or a western state as possible sites for the LRL Professional Development Seminar.

RONA MERTINK, TX, reports for Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and her home state.

Carolyn Atwater, AZ, Senate Research Office, Deloris Lanier, CO, Legislative Council Bureau, and Marc Galbraith, Kansas State Library, report their libraries do not attend the Professional Development Seminars and do not purchase Annual Meeting audio tapes.

Tracy Kimball, NM, Legislative Council Service, plans to attend her first Professional Development Seminar this fall; she has no specific suggestion for a location. The Library purchases Annual Meetings audio tapes and the tapes circulate like a book.

Susan Gilley, OK, Legislative Reference Division, Dept. of Libraries, served on last year's site selection committee that made recommendations for future LRL Professional Development Seminar locations. She reports that anywhere is fine with her. "There hasn't been one dud among the bunch." Her Library has purchased full tape sets only once or twice. Typically purchases are made based on staff recommendations, but for several years no tapes have been purchased. Susan has used a variety of methods to publicize the tapes, mostly to staff, not legislators.

Sally Reynolds, TX, Legislative Reference Library suggests visiting some western states like Arizona, New Mexico, or California for the next Professional Development Seminar. The Texas Legislative Reference library purchases all the NCSL Annual Meeting tapes. The retention period is indefinite. Library staff catalogs the tapes and the records are part of the on-line catalog. Right after the Annual Meeting a list of the available tapes is sent to legislators who may request tapes by returning the list to the library with their choices circled. The Library arranges to have the tapes copied and sent to the member's office. In January following the meeting, the tapes are circulated like a book.

JANET LANIGAN, FL, reports for her state and Louisiana.

Janet, FL, Division of Legislative Library Services, reports she and her staff have no concrete suggestions for sites for the LRL profession development seminar. The "travel and training budget for the upcoming fiscal year is pretty lean." At the Speaker's request the Library made its first purchase of tapes from the Milwaukee Annual Meeting. The tapes were cataloged, advertised in an internal newsletter, and checked out to patrons with the automated circulation system. Interest trailed off as session resumed. Tapes from other meetings were acquired when a House of Representatives Office was reorganized out of existence. To date the tapes do not present a space problem, so a retention schedule has not been considered.

Valerie Richardson, LA, House of Representatives, Legislative Research Library, reports she and others in the library have no suggestions for the seminar location. She also reports that no tapes from Annual Meeting sessions have been purchased for several years because legislators and staff are not expressing an interest. Previously tapes were purchased upon request but now the library does not solicit requests partly because the tapes are expensive and the hassles of getting them back home. When the tapes were purchased, the tapes were on the "checklist" circulated to staff, but there was little demand.

Jane Peterson, UT, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, reports holding the Professional Development Seminar in November makes it difficult for her to attend because it is so close to the beginning of the legislative session. The Office purchases selected Annual Meeting tapes which circulate like books. Jane reports there is very little left to the "physical" library. She relies heavily on electronic resources, including the Internet.
Because of a lack of space for a central location of information materials, most specialized materials are placed in staff members' offices. The online catalog tracks the location of the materials by noting that the item is in John Doe's office. The Library contains Utah law books and some general periodicals.

JOHANNE HOLMES GREER, MD, reports for Pennsylvania, Delaware, South Carolina, West Virginia, North Carolina, Virginia, and her home state.

Ruth Ann Melson, DE, Legislative Council, recommends cities with conference facilities that are not necessarily state capitals. She mentioned Ocean City, Mackinac Island, or Biloxi. The Legislative Council Library purchases Annual Meeting tapes when legislators make a request. The policies for book weeding and circulation apply to the tapes. The tapes are added to the new titles list circulated to all legislators.

Lynda Davis, MD, Legislative Library, suggests various cities: Richmond, VA because of its historic nature, Atlanta because it is as easy travel destination since it is a hub city for the South, or Charleston, SC, because of its strong focus on historic preservation.

Lynda Cunningham, Acquisition Librarian, reports that Annual Meeting tapes are purchased at the request of legislators and everything that has been purchased has been kept. As space becomes scarce, however, the policy might change and perhaps the tapes no longer may reused for other purposes.

Cathy Martin, NC, Legislative Library, suggests holding the Professional Development seminar in the following places: Asheville, NC, Maine, Seattle, or other Pacific Northwest site, or Charleston, SC, or other coastal city. Cathy purchased the Annual Meeting tapes once and had a hard time controlling them. Once checked out, the tapes seemed to get misplaced or ruined. She advertised them on e-mail and word of mouth.

Evelyn Andrews, PA, Senate Library, believes the Professional Development Seminar should be held in state capitals, and in Washington, D.C. or Denver every five years. She volunteers to host a meeting in Harrisburg. The Senate Library has not acquired any NCSL Annual Meeting audio tapes. Other audio tapes in the collection are kept forever and circulate as a book.

Susan Zavacky, PA, Legislative Reference Bureau, believes Harrisburg to an excellent location for a Professional Development Seminar meeting, as would other capitol cities. She also recommended looking at cities other than Washington, D.C. or Denver, such as those with major library vendors that would be willing to participate in the meeting. Her library does not purchase Annual Meeting tapes.

Videau Simmons, SC, Legislative Council, thinks Denver and Washington, D.C. are good locations, but added that Hawaii would be a nice location, or somewhere in the center of the country. She offered to host a meeting after renovation is complete. Her library is very small and does not have equipment for using audio tapes. She said they are available at the State Library where she has access to them whenever she has the need.

Grace Holmes, VA, Legislative Reference Library, indicates that East Coast locations are best for her because of the tight travel budgets. If travel money exists, she would find California or the West Coast to be interesting sites for the Professional Development Seminar. Her library purchases Annual Meeting tapes at the request of legislators. The tapes are loaned, but frequently are never returned. Those that are returned are kept forever. Staff and members are notified of the availability of the tapes by office e-mail.

Mary Del Cont, WV, Legislative Reference Library, believes Maryland, so close to Washington, D.C., would be a good seminar location. Her library does not purchase Annual Meeting audio tapes because of the limited space.

MARIAN ROGERS, WI, reports for Missouri, Ohio, and her home state.

Anne Rottmann, MO, Legislative Library, reports she served on the site selection committee last year and at that time recommended Sante Fe for geographic considerations since the 1996 Professional Development Seminar is in Washington, D.C. The Legislative Library does not purchase Annual Meeting audio tapes.

Debbie Tavenner, OH, Legislative Service Commission, reports that she appreciates going to state capitol cities and moving it to various areas of the country in hopes of attracting attendees. There seems to be a core of librarians that are able to come no matter the location, but I believe from talking to
people throughout the country, the cost of travel, not lack of interest in the meetings, is the primary obstacle to attendance. Each year selected Annual Meeting tapes are purchased based on recommendations of staff. A subject list is prepared and circulated to members and staff. Tapes circulate just as books. A staff person regularly calls to find out if members are finished and can return the tapes (or books!). After the subject list is circulated, there is typically a waiting list for "hot topic" tapes, so we have to stay on top of their whereabouts more vigilantly. After about three months, there is little interest in the tapes. Each tape used to be cataloged separately, but now there is just an open record for Annual Meeting tapes and the subject guide is shelved with the tapes so users can see if there is a tape of interest. All tapes have been kept so far, but we are questioning the value of doing so.

Marian Rogers, WI, Legislative Reference Bureau, recommends holding the Professional Development Seminar in Honolulu or Tallahassee or any other state leading the way in providing legislative information on the Web. The library retains audio-visual materials indefinitely. Currently, the Annual Meeting tapes are not cataloged as part of our circulating library collection and the tapes must be used in the library. Audio/video cassettes that are cataloged are featured in Selective List of Recent Acquisitions and are checked like other items in the circulating collection.

NAN BOWERS, NV, reports for her state.

Nan, Legislative Counsel Bureau, writes that moving the Professional Development Seminar to a Western state makes sense after two years in the East. The Library occasionally buys Annual Meeting audio tapes upon request of a legislator or staff member. The listing of available tapes is distributed to members, but she says there is not much interest. All tapes purchased are kept.

JEANNE BURKE, NE, reports for Iowa, Montana, and her home state.

Jonetta Douglas, IA, Legislative Service Bureau, indicates she has no specific suggestions for a location for the Professional Development Seminar. Because of the work that can be involved, she thinks that whenever possible we should go where someone volunteers to host. She thinks we should try to move it around geographically, however, as much as possible: "Conditions and the way different things are handled can vary sometimes depending on the part of the country that you are talking about, and each time we move to a different part of the area I think it lends itself to a different perspective." The Legislative Service Bureau purchases Annual Meeting audio tapes. A list of proposed tapes for purchase is circulated to legislators and staff to solicit additional requests. When the tapes arrive, order forms are sent to patrons who may purchase a copy of the tape for $1.00 or borrow a copy, which has been dubbed onto an erased tape, and return it to the library later. Most tapes are kept indefinitely, but in rare instances if the tape is deemed to have no future use, the content of the audiocassette is erased and used to record something else.

Beth Furubush, MT, Legislative Library, writes she has no suggestions for the location of the Professional Development Seminar. Her library purchases selected Annual Meeting audio tapes and catalogs them at a very general level. A discard policy has not been established and the tapes do not circulate with any frequency.

Jeanne, NE, favors holding the Professional Development Seminar in places that are progressive in the area of computer technology, like St. Paul, or library automation, like Tallahassee or Austin. Another trip to Denver and a visit to the Denver Public Library which is on the "cutting edge" would be valuable. She also reports the library has purchased some audio tapes from Annual Meetings and has no plans to remove any from the collection. Some of the tapes have been of questionable quality and somewhat ineffective, since no handouts or overhead materials are included. The tapes circulate in the same manner as the rest of the circulating collection.

NEWS FROM THE STATES...
(News notes contributed via LRL's regional coordinators and members of the staff section)

From Iowa, Jonetta Douglas sends us word that session ended May 1–16 days later than the scheduled date of adjournment!

From Montana, Beth Furubush wants to know if others are interested in the impact of federal plans for
a rapid transition to sole reliance on electronic publication or are experiencing challenges in the library’s appropriate relationship to technology planning for the office.

From Nebraska, Jeanne Burke, announces the legislative home page is up and running. It includes current bills, statutes, attorney general opinions, and more. Everyone is invited to take a look. The address is http://www.unicam1.lcs.state.ne.us.

From New York, Hank Ilnicki reports three news items. 1) The Talking Books and Braille Library, formerly the State Library's Library for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, is celebrating a century of service to the blind. The New York State Library was the first library to provide this kind of service. 2) The New York State Library gopher now contains county lists of newspapers on microfilm at the New York State Library courtesy of the New York State Newspapers Project. At the gopher main menu, click on "Full Texts of Publications of the New York State Library." There are 62 text files, one per county, and each is arranged alphabetically by city, then title. The entries include title, OCLC#, location code, and detailed holdings. At the end of each file the user will find instructions on how to read the information and how to obtain the material through interlibrary loan. Those persons coming in via a Web browser should enter: gopher://unix2.nysed.gov:70/11/nyspubs/nys.newspaper>. 3) The New York State Library's Service Point in the Legislative Office Building is staffed four hours daily, Monday through Friday. In the near future each legislative office will receive a key to the Service Point. This will allow legislative staff 24-hour access including Internet. State Library staff will be visiting legislative offices to introduce them to the services of the State Library.

From North Dakota, Marilyn Guttromson informs us that during the 1995-1996 interim the Legislative Council's Budget Committee on Government Services is studying the library system in North Dakota including the role of the State Library, cooperative library ventures, and on-line networks. To assist legislators, a statewide library planning committee is addressing issues by developing position and vision statements with regard to the structure and mission of the State Library, library cooperation (multitypes), and state wide access to various library databases.

CONSULTING POSITION IN BOTSWANA, AFRICA
By Johanne Holmes Greer, Legislative Librarian
Maryland Department of Legislative Reference

In September of 1994, I was selected to act as a library consultant to the Parliament of Botswana, Africa. They wanted new ideas on how to improve the Parliamentary library both in terms of internal procedures and services to the members. Arrangements were made through the United States Information Services (USIA) and the American Embassy stationed in Gaborone, Botswana for my travel and accommodations. When I arrived in the country, I really felt like a dignitary because an entourage from America and Botswana were waiting at the airport to welcome me. I was whisked into the VIP lounge where I waited for my luggage and immigration papers to be processed. I was told that I was sitting on the same sofa that Nelson Mandela sat on when he traveled to the country.

The library consisted of two small rooms with some bookcases and file cabinets. There had been brave attempts to organize the materials, but a lack of any library experience by the librarian was evident. There was a new, large card catalog that sat empty. Some periodicals were on the shelves but in no type of order. The books on the shelves were very old and had nothing to do with Botswana or the Parliamentary process. Most of them were discarded materials that libraries in England no longer wanted. Old newspapers were kept but there was no way to access any articles in them. There was no way to track legislation other than institutional memory, and a legislative history file was unheard of. But this was not as big a disaster as one might think since Botswana has only had its independence since 1965 and only about 26 bills are introduced each year.

The first project I started was the publication of the "Parliament Clipper," a collection of newspaper articles arranged by broad subjects. The first edition was published the first week of my arrival and was an immediate success with the members of Parliament. From that we established a newspaper clipping file that I think will become the most valuable resource the library has to offer. The clipping file will contain all articles relating to members of Parliament, their constituencies, their staff or anything else that might help members perform their jobs. With some effort, I was able to convince the librarian that the old newspapers should be discarded because they were useless. The library
should not be responsible for keeping newspaper articles that were not relevant to Parliamentary matters.

Since I was advised to keep any new projects as simple as possible, I decided to arrange the bills in files by year and title in alphabetical order. With only 26 bills introduced each year, and many bills having the same title year after year, I felt this was an easy way to keep track of the legislation. Any other pieces of information relevant to the bills were kept in the file, thus creating a legislative history.

One of the most important additions made to the library was getting the National Library Service to catalog all of the publications printed in Botswana about Botswana. This will help the library establish an up-to-date and usable collection of books. I tried to have the law for the country amended to include the Parliamentary library as a depository library for all books published about Botswana, just as the National Library and the University of Botswana library are. I also tried to establish a close working relationship with the National Library and the University Library, where special borrowing privileges would be allowed, but this was not accomplished. With the development of the Parliamentary library collection, with things such as the newspaper index, the clipper, and the legislative histories on bills, the library will be in a better position to bargain with the other libraries for special favors. It will have materials that are not available anywhere else in the country.

I established some internal procedures that we might take for granted, but made the library run more efficiently and professionally. Hanging file folders were put in file cabinets which made a big difference in the organization and usability of materials. Only library staff were permitted to answer the phone as opposed to anybody who happened to be in the library answering the phone, and a more professional greeting was implemented. I created a basic circulation system so that people could formally check out materials and the staff would have an official record rather than simply a mental record.

In conclusion, I felt that great strides were made, but more needed to be done. In my final report, I suggested that I, or someone else needed to come back to Botswana to follow-up on the programs that were put in place. I selected Marilyn Cathcart, from the Legislative Reference Library in Minnesota to do just that, and she will give her evaluation on the library in an upcoming issue of NEWSLINE.

LEGISLATIVE INDEXERS: LET’S GET ORGANIZED

By Maryann Corbett, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, Minnesota

Legislative indexers supply the finding aids that make other work possible. Their work is done in many different types of legislative offices. Senate and House may index their own journals and bills, code revision staff may produce statute indexes, rule compilers index rules and research librarians do classifying and cataloging. The possibilities are endless.

That scattering can make it difficult for indexers in different states to find one another and benefit from discussing their different methods. Memberships in organizations like the American Society of Indexers or the American Society for Information Science are helpful. But we need something else. We need a network that addresses itself specifically to the work of indexing bills, session laws, statutes and administrative rules.

NCSL can provide several possible options for creating this network. But first we need to find out if there is sufficient interest in the state legislatures. If you are an indexer who would like to have regular contact with your counterparts in other state legislatures, please speak up! Call me at (612) 297-2952 or send an e-mail to maryann.corbett@revisor.leg.state.mn.us. Or contact Brian Weberg at NCSL’s Denver office.

CHRIS

For the past four years, Chris Pattarozzi has served as NCSL’s staff contact for the Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section. In order to correct a structural deficit, NCSL recently was forced to downsize its staff. Unfortunately, Chris’ position was among several that were cut to balance the NCSL budget.

During her tenure as staff contact, Chris helped the staff section make tremendous progress in the use of electronic communication, the gathering of data on legislative libraries and in the development of LRL publications and meetings. We will miss her dedication to the legislative librarians, her
unrelenting pursuit of quality for LRL products and
vents, and her caring approach to handling the staff
section's affairs.

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

BOOKS
Principles of a Sound State School Finance System
(Item 3132)
Alternative Fuels: A Case Study (Item 4116)
Watershed Management: toward Local Initiative in
Solving Water Problems (Item 4343)
Guideline to Evaluate State Solid Waste
Management Policies & Programs (Item 4651)
Solid Waste Papers:
SWP #1: Gov't, Industry & Consumer Roles (Item
4652)
SWP #2: Environmental Considerations (Item 4653)
SWP #3: Recycling, Reduction & Diversion (Item
4654)
SWP #4: Markets for Recycled Materials (Item
4655)
SWP #5: Packaging
1995-1996 Directory of Key Health Legislators &
Legislative Staff (Item 6653)
Medicaid Survival Kit (Item 6654)
1995 Maternal & Child Health Legislation (Item
6655)
Adolescent Health Legislation: State Actions 1995
(Item 6656)
1996 Directory of Legislative Leaders (Item 7145)
Lawmaking & the Legislative Process (Item 0160)

LEGISBRIEFS
Electric Utility Competition: Quality Issues (Item
9000-0419)
Expenditures & Student Achievement: Does Money
Matter After All? (Item 9000-0420)
The Changing Face of State Tribal Relations (Item
9000-0421)
Funding School to Work Programs for At Risk
Students (Item 9000-0422)
Interstate Bank Branching: Half Time Score 20:1 29
States Left to Respond (Item 9000-0423)
Chain Gang Revival (Item 9000-0424)
Litigation & Environmental Policy (Item 9000-0425)
The Minimum Wage (Item 9000-0426)
Solid Waste Management: Pay-as-you-Throw (Item 9000-
0427)
Discouraging Youthful Drunk Driving (Item 9000-
0428)
The Quest for Cleaner Air (Item 9000-0429)
Charter School Update (Item 9000-0430)

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT
Retail Wheeling (Item 7302-2023)
A Primer on Radiation (Item 7302-2024)
Legislatures and the Protection of Coastal Waters:
Governance Options Under the Nat'l Estuary
Program (Item 7302-2025)
Older People with Developmental Disabilities
(Item 7302-2101)
Galveston Bay: Legislatures & the Nat'l Estuary
Program (Item 7302-2102)
Solar Power: Coming of Age at Last (Item 7302-
2103)
Radon & Real Estate (Item 7302-2104)
National Accreditation of Teacher Education (Item
7302-2105)

Transportation Series
Intelligent Transportation in America: Prospects and
Perils (Item 4200-0101)
High Speed Trains for the United States? History &
Options (Item 4200-0102)
The States Role in Spent Fuel Transportation Safety
(Item 4200-0103)

NOTES
With NEWSLINE we have enclosed a revised
version of the LRL Directory. It replaces the darker,
maroon-covered directory sent in late April.

The LRL automation survey will be sent to staff
section members later in June. Results will be
compiled and available at the Professional
Development Seminar in October.

NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSLINE
The deadline for the Summer edition of NEWSLINE
is August 15, 1996. Send news about your library or
significant legislative events in your state to your
regional coordinator or Rita Thaemert at NCSL,
Denver.

Thanks to the many staff section members who
submitted information for this issue. NEWSLINE is
published four times a year by the Legislative
Research Librarians Staff Section of NCSL, and is
edited by Rita Thaemert and formatted by Darlene
Johnson (NCSL, Denver).
STAFF SECTION REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section

COORD. JENNIFER BERNIER (CT)
(203) 240-8888   (203) 240-8881 Fax
Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New York
Rhode Island
Vermont

COORD. JEANNE M. BURKE (NE)
(402) 471-0075   (402) 471-2126 Fax
Iowa
Minnesota
Montana
Nebraska
North Dakota
South Dakota
Wyoming

COORD. JANET LANIGAN (FL)
(904) 488-2812   (904) 488-9879 Fax
Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Georgia
Louisiana
Mississippi
Tennessee

COORD. MARIAN ROGERS (WI)
(608) 266-2824   (608) 266-5648 Fax
Illinois
Indiana
Kentucky
Michigan
Missouri
Ohio
Wisconsin

COORD. RONA MERTINK (TX)
(512) 463-1252   (512) 475-4626 Fax
Arizona
Colorado
Kansas
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas
Utah

COORD. JOHANNE GREER (MD)
(410) 841-3810   (410) 841-3850 Fax
Delaware
Maryland
New Jersey
North Carolina
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Virginia
West Virginia

COORD. NAN BOWERS (NV)
(702) 687-6827   (702) 687-3048 Fax
Alaska
California
Hawaii
Idaho
Nevada
Oregon
Washington