CHAIR'S COLUMN
By Marilyn Cathcart, MN  
LRL Chairperson

How quickly my term as chair has passed! Since this is likely the last Chair's Column I will write before the officers change, I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as Staff Section Chair for the past several months.

This has truly been a fascinating experience. I have particularly enjoyed meeting so many new and interesting colleagues, renewing acquaintances with many friends, and learning about the fine work of NCSL staff. One aspect of my term which has been especially valuable has been participation in the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee meetings.

Of course, it has been lots of fun: to travel to Austin and Wilmington; to share hotels and experiences with Debbie Tavenner who also attended the LSCC meetings; to learn about NCSL's "inner workings" and to have the chance to meet many NCSL staff. But the best part of LSCC has been raising the profile of our staff section among our legislative colleagues from around the country. Debbie and I have both had the opportunity to tell members of other staff sections what fine work their librarians accomplish. We have been able to answer questions about the capabilities of librarians, to point out that many librarians are technology leaders within legislatures, to demonstrate that finding good information for lawmaking is what we are all about.

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Thanks for letting me represent all of you. Keep the profile high by speaking out, taking risks, following new paths toward providing excellent services and by not doubting that librarians are necessary professionals within the legislative setting.

See you at Annual Meeting!

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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: Marilyn Cathcart, Director, Legislative Reference Library, Minnesota  
NCSL Staff: Chris Pattarozzii
ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

This year's Annual Meeting agenda is packed with great programs and activities! We get right down to business on Monday with a session on the roles our library's fulfill within each of our legislatures — how they differ and what we can or should do about it. We have dynamite speakers like Barbara Quint, from Searcher magazine; we have the opportunity to network with Roslynn Membrey, Parliamentary Librarian from Western Australia; and we can tune in to what's happening in our field with Beth Paskoff, Library Science professor from LSU. Hope to see you in New Orleans!

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
LIBRARIANS STAFF SECTION
1994 NCSL ANNUAL MEETING
PROGRAMS
New Orleans, Louisiana — July 24 - 28, 1994
Preliminary Agenda

** SUNDAY, JULY 24 **

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
LEGISNET Training and Demonstration

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Cosponsored by: American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries; Leadership, Research and Committee and Legal Services Staff Sections

2:00 - 3:15 p.m.
Internet for State Legislatures—Why?
Panelists will discuss what led them to use the Internet as a vehicle for providing public access for information and as a potential legislative research tool.

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Internet for State Legislatures—How?
States will share their experiences in administering and managing their Internet connections.

** MONDAY, JULY 25 **

8:00 - 9:15 a.m.
Staff Section Breakfast and Overview of the Week's Agenda.
The Westin Canal Place, 100 Rue Iberville, 12th Floor, overlooking the Mississippi River.
Sponsored by the Michie Company.
*ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

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

11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
Legislative Staff Luncheon

1:15 - 2:00 p.m.
Counterparts Across the Globe—The Western Australia Parliamentary Library
Speaker: Roslynn Membrey, Parliamentary Librarian, Western Australia

2:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Role of the Library Within the Legislature:
Roundtable
Moderator: Debbie Tavenner, Legislative Service Commission, OH
Speakers: Marilyn Gutstrom, Legislative Council Library, ND
Marian Rogers, Legislative Reference Bureau Library, WI

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
LRJ Business Meeting
Presiding: Marilyn Cathcart, Legislative Reference Library, MN

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

** TUESDAY, JULY 26 **

12:15 - 1:45 p.m.
Plenary Luncheon
Federal Efforts to Combat Crime

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Cosponsored by Communications and Information Policy Committee, Communications Committee, Research and Committee Staff Section, Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section
National Information Highway--Freeway or Tollroad?
Moderator: Sen. Daryl Jones, FL
Speakers: Douglas G. Brown, Director, Office of Legislative Legal Services, CO
Steven J. Metalitz, VP and General Counsel, Information Industry Association, D.C.
Betty Turock, President Elect, American Library Association, Chicago, IL
3:45 - 5:00 p.m.
Electronic Research: The Answer's Out There
Moderator: Larry Barish, Director of Reference and Library Services, Legislative Reference Bureau, WI
Barbara Quint, Editor, Searcher Magazine, Santa Monica, CA
Joe Ryan, Research Associate, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

7:00 p.m.
Dinner for staff section members, spouses and friends (Dutch Treat) at:
Olde N'awlins Cookery, 729 Conti Street, French Quarter.
Special assistance from Mead Data Central
*ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

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** WEDNESDAY, JULY 27 **

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tour of Louisiana Legislative Research Library and State Capitol in Baton Rouge.
Lunch at Lafitte's Landing, Donaldsonville.

Speaker: Beth Paskoff, Professor of Library and Information Science, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
"A Patchwork of Perennial Problems and Some Solutions"

Sponsored by West Publishing Company
*ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR TRIP AND LUNCHEON

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** THURSDAY, JULY 28 **

8:00 - 9:15 a.m.
Co-sponsored by LSCC International Task Force, American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section, National Legislative Services and Security Association, and Research and Committee Staff Section.
Hosting International Visitors
Moderator: James Melton, Senate Sergeant at Arms, SC
Speakers: Ambassador John G. Weinmann, Former U.S. Chief of Protocol, LA
Carvel Payne, Department of Legislative Research, MD

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Concurrent Sessions
11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Plenary Luncheon
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
NCSL Jazz Fest at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, including a sampling of the best foods of the region.

** NCSSL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OPENINGS **
by Marilyn Cathcart, MN

As part of raising the profile of legislative librarians within NCSSL governance, I would like to encourage staff section members to run for the Executive Committee. Elections will be held at Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

This post is a one-year commitment with the possibility of re-election for a maximum of three terms. Positions for staff are open in the following states: Colorado, Kentucky, Michigan, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

Requirements are straightforward. A letter of interest describing your experience within the legislative setting and with NCSSL and a resume should be sent to Bill Russell, Chair of the Nominating Committee, in care of the Denver NCSSL office.

The Nominating Committee will review the letters and select nominees, schedule interviews, and announce their selections at Annual Meeting.

It is a good idea to obtain approval from legislative leadership since serving on the Executive Committee requires attendance at three committee meetings and Annual Meeting during each year of service. A letter to the Nominating Committee from your leadership as well as from other supporters is also beneficial.

Why do it? Participation on the Executive Committee gives insight into the management of NCSSL, provides opportunities for professional involvement in NCSSL activities, and continues to keep librarians on the cutting edge of leadership in this professional organization.
Chris Pattarozi at NCSL can provide additional background or information. Call her with questions at 303/830-2200.

NCSL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND LSCC MEET IN WILMINGTON, DE
by Debbie Tavenner, OH

LSCC and the Executive Committee met May 19-21 in Wilmington, DE and continued discussion of changes to State Federal Assembly (SFA) and Assembly on the Legislature (AOL) committee structures. SFA reduced the number of committees from twelve to nine and will review how this works again in two years. Committees merging include: International Trade with Agriculture and Forestry, Labor with Education and Job Training, Communications with Commerce, and Energy with Transportation. Left unchanged are: Environment, Federal Budget and Taxation, Health, Human Services, and Law and Justice.

AOL will meet in New Orleans to reevaluate its decision not to make structural changes.

The Program Oversight Subcommittee reported it will recommend, after one last consultation with SFA and AOL, that the names be changed to "Committees on Federal Issues" and "Committees on State Issues." The Subcommittee also reported that many people did not like the two sets of committees meeting jointly, as was done in May in Washington, DC. There is no requirement that the two groups meet together, but each will now have one less meeting each year.

An NCSL special committee on dues recommended that the fixed portion of dues be increased by 4 percent in FY96 and 3.5 percent in FY97. This recommendation was approved. The committee also recommended a $50 increase in legislative registration fees for the Annual Meeting in FY96, as well as fee increases for other attendees. Approval was delayed until a special subcommittee of the Annual Meeting Subcommittee reviews and recommends the changes.

The Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC) reported plans are underway to get a speaker from MIT who can address technology for the staff luncheon at Annual Meeting. The Professional Development Task Force recommended that certain sessions at Annual Meeting be videotaped. They also recommended that teleconferencing be used as a supplement to regular meetings and seminars.

A Professional Code of Conduct draft is to be circulated no later than June 10 and it is hoped that action can be taken when the full LSCC meets in New Orleans.

The Civic Education Task Force reported it continues to work with the National Center for Civic Education to develop its Project Citizen focusing on state government information at the middle-school level and to have input on its project to develop national standards for civics and government. The task force will also work with the Close-up Foundation to involve NCSL in its state-level programs.

The previously discussed legislative fellowship program received a favorable response from an executive with MCI. MCI already endows a congressional fellows program. They did not agree to fund the fellowship, but there's a chance some funding may be available to add to that from the Foundation for State Legislatures.

The book contract has been signed so that NCSL staffer Tommy Neal can begin work on the government text book he will write.

The International Task Force continues to work on its mission statement.

The International Technology Task Force refined plans for the pre-conference seminar, "Legislative Information Technology in the 1990s." The task force is also planning to sponsor a concurrent session on artificial intelligence applications in legislatures as well as a meeting on electronic research sponsored by several committees and staff sections.

ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

This year's professional development seminar will be held in Denver from November 3-5. On the preliminary agenda are:

- Rebecca Lenzini, President of CARL Systems, Inc.
- Internet class, taught by James Hodson of the Bibliographic Center for Research and Highlighting sources of government information on the Net
- Presentations by NCSL staff
• A look at Colorado's ACLIN, the Access Colorado Libraries and Information Network
• Tour of the Colorado Capitol and Legislative Library
• Tour of The Tattered Cover Book Store
• Kathy Christy, Education Commission of the States
• Management Update: Dealing With Difficult People
• LEGISNET TRAINING

Look for a brochure including registration forms in the mail in August and more details in the next NEWSLINE!

**QUESTION**

Nan Bowers, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau library, would like to know...

"How do you handle certification of legislative documents? Do you use a stamp or a form or handle certification some other way?"

She uses a stamp that works fine most of the time, but would like to see forms in use by other libraries. Please respond to Chris Pattarozzi at NCSL (answers will be published) or send a copy or comments directly to Nan in Nevada.

**A PERSONAL NOTE**

Debbie Bernau is resting comfortably at home after undergoing surgical procedures in late May. She thanks all those who have called or written and plans to be back at work July 1.

**DIRECTOR OF FLORIDA'S LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY SERVICES RETIRES**

(Reprinted in part from the Florida House Connection)

B. Gene Baker leaves the Legislature when this fiscal year ends June 30...after 30 years of legislative service.

Gene began working for the Legislature as librarian for the Legislative Reference Bureau, which was created in 1949 to serve as central staff for both House and Senate. When the bureau was abolished in 1971, its library function continued as an operating division of the Joint Legislative Management Committee under Director David Kerns. When Kerns left in 1973, Gene took over his duties. Kerns, who's now retired, still works for the Legislature on an ad hoc basis and is Special Master for the Senate.

The library was designed as a combination law and public administration library and much of the printed legislative history resides in this facility, along with numbers of other resources. Gene has overseen a lot of library changes over the years and has continued to serve as editor of the Summary of General Legislation, published annually, since 1955. He feels that technology has been one of the pervasive change agents on the legislative scene, beginning with the widespread introduction of the Xerox 914 in 1959 and the adaptation of the computer to the production of the history of legislation (a.k.a. citator) for each session beginning in the mid-1960s.

The Library now has over 21,000 title cards, most of the books in the library, catalogued on the local library computer system. There is a wide selection of online services now available to legislative staff. CD-ROM user-friendly database programs—such as all the telephone directories for the United States—are not accessible on the library terminals. In the future, Gene would like to see a computerized clipping service in place with specific search capabilities, i.e., by word, subject, proper name for the clippings in the electronic data base. The Library and the Data Center could design the clipping service so that all the news clippings on file would be saved.

Gene grew up in Palatka, was salutatorian of his high school graduating class and attended the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science. He later went on to earn an M.A. in political science and an M.S. in Library Science at FSU. He also served in the Army for several years.

It shouldn't surprise you that Gene's hobbies include reading and adding to his private library. After retiring, his plans are to sleep late in the morning and do a bit of traveling. He and his wife Kay plan to visit his Canadian relatives, the Biltmore Estate, Old Colonial Williamsburg, Savannah, and perhaps, make a return visit to Scotland.
LIBRARIANS HELPING LIBRARIANS
by Marilyn Cathcart

Within the Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section lie various areas and levels of expertise and experience. How can we capitalize on the skills that exist among our legislative library colleagues?

A proposal has surfaced among the staff section officers that we develop a "skills bank" listing staff section members and their experience, training and library-related talents that could be tapped as needed by other legislative librarians as they face challenges and problems that need the wisdom and advice of colleagues. Staff section members could be surveyed and asked to indicate their individual expertise. A registry could be developed and used by NCSL staff to connect those needing technical assistance with those able to provide it. It is also possible that a skills bank such as has been proposed could be utilized by NCSL staff in providing assistance to legislatures in developing or democratizing countries.

Many of our staff section colleagues are in small, often single-librarian, libraries. Sometimes the wisdom and perspective of legislative library colleagues would mean the difference between solving a problem or postponing a resolution. Frequently, one quick conference call could go a long way toward helping a colleague think through an issue.

The officers and Chris Pattarozzi would appreciate any thoughts that you have on this proposal. Would you be willing to participate? Are there areas in which we should concentrate? What do you think it would take to make this work? We will talk about this at the Annual Meeting staff section business meeting. For those who cannot attend Annual Meeting, feel free to contact any of the officers or Chris on the bulletin board system or by phone.

Thanks for your thoughts!

CALL FOR INDEXERS
by Marilyn Guttromson, ND

Seven of your counterparts need you to join them in the online indexing project. Vacancies exist for indexing "Ways and Means" and "Government Finance Review". Now is your opportunity to join the ranks of the few, the proud, the indexers.

Contact Marilyn Guttromson in North Dakota for the details. Recruitment begins immediately--tour of duty requires vigilance, commitment, and most likely a lifetime assignment. Members of the LRL Staff Section thank you in advance for your participation in expanding the LEGISNET database.

COORDINATORS' CORNER...

Much of the news in the NEWSLINE is collected by a dedicated team of coordinators who call and fax to libraries and librarians in their regions to gather the latest news or ask pre-assigned questions of interest to all of us. This section will highlight responses to the question, "How do you market your library services to the legislative constituency? What special publications or training do you provide?" (Information of a more "newsy" nature appears under the heading "News From the States.")

Coordinator Jennifer Bernier, CT, reports:

The Connecticut Legislative Library is included in the new legislator and the new employee orientation programs; the library is a component in the intern program, "teaching" research skills/sources in conjunction with the state library staff; the Office of Legislative Research, in its OLR Reporter, sometimes highlights recent library acquisitions and OLR reports; library staff also provide library tours for interested legislative staff members; Librarian Susan Southworth says they are currently looking into the possibility of putting their holdings onto their LAN and wonders if anyone else has had a similar experience? Please contact Susan with suggestions.

The Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library has prepared a brochure describing their resources and services and how to use them. They give this brochure to new legislators when they come to the library during new member orientation. In the past, they have been given an hour to give new members a tour of the library and tell them how library staff can assist them.
However, Lynn Randall says they've been told there is just too much for new legislators to take in during orientation, so they may explore ways to help members learn about the library as they gain more experience during the session. A subcommittee of the Legislative TOM Committee will explore this further. The Legislator's Handbook also includes information about the library.

Pam Schofield of the Massachusetts State Library says the library 1) is always part of the orientation for a new legislators' seminar every two years; 2) in the past, the library has held workshops for legislative history staff on the library, on doing legislative history, on their state/federal document holdings, etc. (these are videotaped); 3) offers tours on a regular basis; 4) offers checklist to legislators; 5) in the past, has sent Leaders Guides—notice a particular holding or service; 6) brochure; 7) bibliographies sent out to all legislators; 8) recent CD-ROM brochure.

In New Hampshire, the State Library puts out a bimonthly newsletter, "Issues and Trends" dealing with state issues and also does orientations. The Office of Legislative Services does a new member orientation once every two years after the elections and a brochure about services.

The New York Legislative Library provides training to interns and employees about four times a year on how to do research. The New York Information Center does occasional newsletters, team and individual tours, and is included in legislative training sessions for new staff. Henry Ilnicky, New York State Library, says the library does seminars, a brochure, and bookmarks with hours of service at the Legislative Office Building Service Point. A letter from the Commissioner of Education regarding library services is sent to each member annually. Follow-up letters are sent if necessary, e.g. new members, orientation meetings. Members are asked to submit a list of research staff and to indicate staff/office/committee research interests.

Coordinator Jonetta Douglas, IA, reports:

The Iowa Legislative Service Bureau Library currently does not have any specific marketing techniques. Generally they tell people that the library can either take care of it in-house or will be in touch with the appropriate source to get the information that is needed. This interim the library is planning a library orientation, first for the drafters and then possibly for legislators and other support staff.

Most of the marketing for the Nebraska Legislative Reference Library is done one on one, kind of by the word of mouth process. They do an orientation of the library and library services for new personnel, bringing them in and explaining to them what is available through the library and trying to get a feel for what they need done for them. Twice a year they send out a current awareness profile for the staff to fill out to keep current on where their interests are headed and what subjects the library needs to be looking for. They do an acquisitions list monthly and an annotated periodical list twice a year.

The Minnesota Legislative Reference Library markets its services in a variety of ways. (See separate article, MINNESOTA LIBRARY MARKETS SERVICES IN NUMEROUS WAYS.)

Coordinator Elizabeth Caulfield Felt, LA, reports:

Helen Hanby took over as head librarian in Alabama when Anne Adams retired March 31. Helen says that the library does not do a lot to market its services. It is a very "in-house, self-contained" operation. Helen maintains the collection for the twenty analysts who use it to do their research. She has trained some of the analysts on the use of LEXIS, but usually does the searches for them.

The Florida Legislative Library does not market its services aggressively, but they do have certain in-house services to let staff in on the latest happenings. Pamela Bagby has created and edits "From the Stacks...", an online newsletter that is sent to each committee and district office via E-mail. The newsletter lists new reference materials, highlights a serial that the librarians feel is useful, highlights new services, and periodically lists all library staff and what they can do for legislative staff. This is published on an irregular basis, depending on what information the library has.

The library also distributes a checklist of recent acquisitions to staff and district offices to keep them abreast of new items in the library. This generates quite a bit of traffic and circulation. There is also a "Resource Guide" (also created and edited by Pam Bagby) that is sent to all staff
and is included in new employee or intern orientations. This guide lists all materials of a legal nature that the Library has and that are not currently cataloged. The guide also lists all online databases, CD-ROM databases and microform collections available to staff. A current listing of all periodicals and newspapers received in the Library is also listed.

The library gives WESTLAW and LEXIS training workshops every year. Every December they also have an open house. They serve "goodies" to attract people and use the opportunity to show staff the library resources. December is a good time for this because new legislators and staff are there for committee meetings.

In Louisiana, new legislators are given orientation packets that include the booklet, "Guide to Library Services." During formal orientation for legislators, Library Director Suzy Hughes discusses the library and its services. After the last legislative election, new legislators were invited to a reception in the library where they met the library staff and were introduced to the facilities.

New legislative assistants are also introduced to the library during an orientation. Pat Stewart and Berlene Morgan are the library contacts for legislative assistants who call with questions from constituents. Because they talk so frequently, good relations have developed between them. Just before the start of each year's legislative session, letters are sent out to all legislators and their assistants, reminding them of the resources available in the library.

Once a month, Senior Librarian Val Richardson publishes a checklist of new monographs. This checklist is sent to legislative staff members and legislator's offices, along with information about how to get a copy of the material. Librarian Suzie Carroll participated in legislative staff meetings to familiarize her researchers with new library materials relevant to their subject areas. Senior Librarian Kate Lemon showcased the role of the library at a recent round table that discussed the various behind-the-scenes processes of the legislature.

Whenever material is sent to a legislator or staff member, the librarian who organizes it also sends a note on library stationery. This lets the person know where the research was done and who they need to contact for more information.

The library also maintains the PULS (Public Update Legislative Service) line. This is a toll-free number Louisiana citizens can call to find out bill numbers, bill status, committee agendas, and other current legislative information.

The Mississippi Legislative Reference Bureau has put together a manual which is given to newly elected legislators describing the Reference Bureau and the resources available there. Casey Pace, the bureau's director, attends the "orientation" session for new legislators and discusses the bureau and what it can do for them.

In Tennessee, new legislators attend a general orientation which is put on by the Clerk's office. During this program, the library and its services are described to the legislators.

Coordinator Johanne Holmes Greer, MD, reports:

Susan Sternberg, New Jersey Office of Legislative Services Library, said the library participates in orientation and training sessions for district office and partisan staffs. They circulate their Newspaper Clipping Service, Table of Contents and Checklist of New Acquisitions to all they serve. They have an excellent reputation for quick and accurate responses to inquiries with the district offices, who seem to spread word of their services amongst themselves.

Susan also responded to two questions previously asked. To the first question, "Is your library open to the public?" Susan said they are not open to the public. They are a staff of five and are only open to the staff of the Office of Legislative Services, the four partisan staffs and the 120 legislators and their district offices. They do not charge members or their staffs for services and there is no limit on the amount of work or time they will spend on a project. There are some practical limits on the type of work they do: for instance, they will not do legislators' children's homework.

Regarding access to Internet, Susan reported they do not have access to Internet nor any of the other online databases directly. They have statutes online, their library catalog, Bill Tracking System, State Data Center statistics and LEGISNET and ISIS. They have access to all of the online services available at the New Jersey State Library, which is located 2 blocks away. They use state library services only in cases of extreme emergency.
Robert L. Bland responded for the New Jersey State Library. He said they market their services to legislators through direct mailings of information packets that describe their services. They mail the district office the new books list each month and the offices are tied into the library's automated catalog by computer access with a modem. The library also participates in general training sessions for legislators staff.

While the library would like to increase their marketing of services, the staff situation has restricted their ability to introduce new services and to expand existing activities. (See article NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY...)

Cathy Martin, in the North Carolina Legislative Library, said the library does not market its services, but library staff participate in the orientation program for new members. Their presentation is very simple and includes a tour of the library. An acquisition list is distributed to members on an irregular basis.

Grace Holmes, Virginia Legislative Reference Library, said she has plans to develop a brochure on their services. They participate in the overall orientation program for new members of the legislature which they discuss the resources available in the library including their online services, the library's procedures for checking books out and photocopying restrictions. They also give examples of the types of questions they handle.

Mary Del Cont, West Virginia Legislative Library, said they are in the process of updating their brochure on the library. It should be ready in January. They do participate in an orientation program in which they discuss their services including online searches, and discuss what resources are available. They emphasize that they work closely with other library agencies in the complex, which "makes their small library seem much larger".

Coordinator Nan Bowers, NV, reports:

Frances Enos submitted an overview of the Hawaii Legislative Reference Bureau Library's marketing activities and said they plan to expand further in future. (See separate article MARKETING ACTIVITIES AT THE HAWAII LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH BUREAU LIBRARY)

Nevada's library mans two tables during the legislative pre-session orientation. One table contains NCESL and CSG materials. the other contains their own library resources. Staff are at the tables to answer questions and take requests. Nan Bower speaks to legislators that are part of the tour that highlights legislative staff services. Library staff provides training for legislative interns during the first week of the session. Training covers library materials, catalogs, electronic bill tracking system, and compiling legislative histories.

Coordinator Susan Gilley, OK, reports:

Delorees Lanier and Karen Stewart, Colorado Legislative Library, say they've never found a need to "market" their library services. Word of mouth from satisfied clientele has proven very effective. They do explain library services and offer a tour for new staff.

Oklahoma has used a variety of marketing techniques. Most of these have been targeted to legislative staff, rather than legislators themselves. They are currently unable to do all of the activities listed below, but each has proved useful.

- Published brochures describing library services and resources;
- Led orientation tours for new legislative staff;
- Presented workshops on specific electronic databases, inviting state library law and general reference librarians to present LEXIS and DIALOG resources they provide;
- Hosted pre-session receptions for House and Senate research, legal and fiscal staff, displaying typical resources and soliciting (via chalkboard brainstorming) anticipated session "hot topics" for library alerting/routing and acquisition;
- Provided a written summary of library function, services and resources for inclusion in legislative secretary's handbook;
- Interviewed legislative staff for subject focus for routing/alerting purposes;
- "Mingled" with staff (since they are geographically separated) to maintain contact;
- Conducted customer satisfaction survey.

The Texas Legislative Reference Library does not actively "market" their services. They do, however, provide all members at the beginning of each legislative session, with a brochure on the library and the type of services provided,
hours, and the general nature of the collection. The library also participates in Freshman Orientation sponsored by the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, which is held every November of even numbered years, for all newly elected members of the legislature as well as incumbents if they choose to come. At that time, an in-depth presentation on the library is given and any questions asked by the members are answered. The library also participates in the orientation that the House and Senate give at the beginning of every session for members of the legislative staff and committees. They also encourage the legislative offices to arrange for new employees to come to the library for a personal tour.

The library also gives tours and presentations to classes from the University of Texas, Austin Community College and to various state agencies upon request. The Capitol Press Corps always requests an informal presentation at the beginning of every legislative session. Library Staff have found that the more informed patrons are in relation to the Library, the easier their work becomes.

Coordinator Anne Rottmann, MO, reports:

The Kentucky Legislative Library distributes to new employees an orientation packet that contains a map of the city, a map of the location of state government buildings, a pamphlet that lists all databases the library subscribes to and an explanation on how to do legislative history in Kentucky. They also advertise sources available at the state library and the state law library. The library also E-Mails to staff a quarterly bibliography of new materials received.

Missouri's Legislative Library has a monthly checklist of new materials that is circulated to the staff and interested legislators. We also enclose one of our promotional cards into each freshman legislator's "information packet" that they receive at the beginning of the freshman orientation program. Any new research analyst that is hired is introduced to the library and the services that are offered. They also speak to new secretaries and interns hired for the session about available services.

The Ohio Legislative Service Commission Library utilizes several different techniques to market their services to legislators, legislative staff, and commission staff. Legislators receive notices of new NCSL videos, a subject listing of NCSL Annual Meeting cassette tapes, monthly lists of reports and publications required to be submitted to the General Assembly that are received and cataloged by the Library, and a short annotated bibliography of recent periodical articles of timely topics.

To reach legislative staff the Library is an "official" part of a two-day orientation program for new employees. Staff are given a brochure detailing services, a tour of the library, and introduced to library staff.

The library emphasizes use of the vertical file to find information for background reports and news columns. Commission employees receive a monthly newsletter, acquisitions list, and the bibliography of recent periodical articles. New Commission employees have a more thorough session in the library during orientation than other legislative employees. In addition to the previously maintained services, instruction is given on using an in-house legal memo database (IN MAGIC software), CD-ROM databases, and other electronic services, like LEXIS. The library is also moving toward an online catalog using IN MAGIC that can be eventually offered on the office-wide network. It is hoped this will encourage more frequent users.

MARKETING ACTIVITIES AT THE HAWAII LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH BUREAU LIBRARY

by Frances Enos

The marketing strategy of the Hawaii LRB Library has been directed at developing marketing "tools" and at increasing staff training through demonstrations of specific resources and "Resource Reviews." The two efforts naturally overlap. For example, a key element of our tools' development is our newsletter, First Reading (not to be confused with the publication of the same name published by the Legislative Research Unit of the Illinois General Assembly).

With First Reading, now in its fifth year, we have the kind of vehicle we want both to inform the legislature about library training and resources and to enhance their image as professional providers of legislative research support.

Typically, the January issue distributed in the first year of a new legislature provides an overview of the library that includes its mission and a description of our collection and services. We have paid more attention to electronic resources than print ones (they're sexier),
emphasisizing the kinds of information we can provide--on short notice--particularly federal and state statutes and bills. Other articles have described the CARL System and services, specific Dialog files, and our own government research libraries online catalog. The August 1994 issue will feature Legi-Slate congressional services, Uncover enhancements, full-text availability of magazine articles online and using the Internet.

We have standardized the appearance of our Selected Recent Acquisitions, List of New Articles, Serials Lists, and Newspaper Clipping File List of Subject Terms to match the logo and general appearance of First Reading. We developed personalized 3x3/4" x 6" note paper bearing the name and title of the Research Librarian or Technician at the top and identifying the library at the bottom; and a stamp that reads: "Provided to You by the Library, Legislative Reference Bureau, Contact name_ 587-0690." All printouts and photocopied material leaving the library bear this stamp.

Training, also developed both to educate our users and to enhance our role, has included CD-ROM demos (ERIC, Marcive's GPO/CATPAC, and CIS's Statistical Masterfile). These have been "live" demos, followed by hands-on training. Last November we held the first annual Resource Review--a workshop covering print and electronic sources of legal material designed to update seasoned researchers and initiate novice ones. We are currently developing a similar workshop at the request of the head of the Senate Majority Research Office to be held this fall. Other ideas for Reviews include "Who's on Reference?"--a session covering basic reference tools and how to use them, and another on serials, including online access to full-text.

Some of these efforts grew out of a Library Focus Group meeting held two years ago to which we invited the heads of the partisan research offices and the service agencies. This was a "mediated" session, (I was present only to provide information or answer questions if necessary, not as a participant), moderated by a trained professional who handled each topic, and solicited and summarized input. It was very exciting.

Since 1984 we have been holding week-long classes to train legislators and staff in using our online catalog (called CARD), a network catalog of four government research libraries in the Capitol District.

Finally, beginning this interim, we will be conducting interim studies--primarily resource evaluations--which we will publish with our standard logo. For example, one will be an evaluation of the differences in search capability and results between ERIC (Silver Platter) and Marcive's GPO/CAT PAC and their generic counterparts available through CARL. The ever present budget ax motivates this one.

Incidentally, all of our marketing material is produced in-house using Microsoft Word for the Mac. I would be happy to share any of our marketing tools or ideas with the wonderful LRL Staff Section. I wish like heck I could attend the Annual Meeting, but it doesn't appear to be in the cards. Aloha from myself, Claire, Kate and Karen.

MINNESOTA LIBRARY MARKETS SERVICES IN NUMEROUS WAYS
by Marilyn Cathcart

At the beginning of each biennial session, following elections, the House and Senate hold orientation sessions for new members. The Library participates fully in these sessions by providing organized tours of the library. Several years ago, we noticed that new members were a bit overwhelmed by the amount of material presented at the orientation sessions, so we decided to visit personally with every newly-elected member. In January following elections the reference staff members and I divide up the new members and schedule personal sessions with every one. In those meetings we discuss library services, sign members up for services that are relevant, discuss the issues or concerns to the members, and, generally, begin to establish personal relationships with each new member. This approach has paid off handsomely. In the first few years, library staff noticed an almost exact correlation between the visits and legislators who use the library's services.

In addition to personal visits with new members, I attempt to visit returning members to discuss their information/library needs. The library also strives to create strong relationships with legislative staff members. In the past several years, this effort has been focused on holding routine tours of the library every Friday
afternoon during the early months of session, planning and scheduling training sessions for legislative assistants and secretaries during which they "demystify" the library, holding training sessions for research staff on electronic resources available in the library, and generally spending time talking to staff to determine what their interests and needs are. They also produced a brochure on library services and several other products which are sent routinely to staff and members. These products include:

- **INTRODUCTIONS** - a listing of newly-received, non-Minnesota publications;
- **PAGE ONE** - the first page of INTRODUCTIONS always highlights library resources on a current topic or highlights a portion of the library's collection.
- **MINNESOTA RESOURCES** - a listing of newly-received Minnesota publications;
- **INSIDE ISSUES** - a current awareness service personalized to the interests of the recipient, pathfinders on topics of "hot" interest.

New areas into which the library is moving: establishing a Gopher and participating in the legislative planning group for gopher services; providing one-on-one Internet training sessions to highlight information resources on the Internet.

The primary philosophy of the library has been that personal contacts and the development of trusting relationships between library staff and legislative members and staff are the keys to successful library marketing. In addition, we constantly "tinker" with our products and services so that they meet the expressed needs of library clients.

Times are difficult in New Jersey. We have experienced a hiring freeze that has effectively blocked the addition of new staff since June of 1989. Since then we have lost about 20 full time and about 17 part-time staff, about 25% of our full time people. While we have discontinued many services, we still provide solid reference service and document delivery to state government, libraries and citizens, by focusing on priorities and constantly reorganizing staff.

Service to the public: We do provide a range of photocopy, computer searches and fax of material to citizens. It is almost all done on a pay basis. We charge for photocopy, computer searches, faxing and rush requests. In fact, the revenue generated from this activity funds most of the cost of a staff member.

Citizens, of course, can get access to information by the interlibrary network at no cost to them. We provide loan of books, photocopy of material and reference service to New Jersey libraries in the specialized areas of law, U.S. and New Jersey documents, Jerseyana, genealogy and foundation information.

We don't charge any state government unit for a "normal" search. If the search is exceptionally expensive, we will work out a debit and credit arrangement for payment.

Internet use: We do access Internet and use it for a variety of activities. E-mail and access to electronic news groups in reference and U.S. documents are examples. Staff finds that reference use is most often associated with the need for very current information such as latest government statistical information, current speeches or other news items.

Staff is constantly frustrated with the difficulty of use, the lack of ability to locate information, the changes in location of information and the lack of a usable directory.

We hope to use it as a gateway to commercial online services in the future. We also hope to put our automated catalog on the Internet. Access to our collection of New Jersey law material, New Jersey documents and Jerseyana information should be useful to many researchers.
SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC AT PENNSYLVANIA'S LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
by Susan Zavacky, PA

The Legislative Reference Bureau is one of eight legislative service agencies that directly serve the various needs of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. The LRB Library services the public when called upon to the extent of our enabling statute's mandate. The Library charges no one for any copies made from its collection. However, the Bureau, over the years, has tried to maintain a ten page duplicating limit. Arrangements are always made to accommodate the needs of the legislature and its staff. The public is often conducting in-depth legislative research, usually requiring extensive duplicating. We advise these patrons of the ten page limit, and we inform them of alternative facilities where their duplicating needs are more easily met.

HOT TOPICS IN 1994

Regional Coordinator Jennifer Bernier, CT, requested news from her region on the major or most interesting or controversial issues addressed in each state legislature this year. Those named were:

CT physician-assisted suicide and revisions to the assault weapons ban of '93 were controversial. Neither was passed into law, but the assault weapons issue will return in a special session called by the governor.

ME Native American casino gambling, pharmaceutical pricing, limited liability companies, emissions testing (passed at an earlier session, but now becoming a real issue in the media.)

MA welfare reform, campaign finance reform, term limits.

NH health care reform, workers' compensation, education funding, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

NY casino gambling, gun control, budget, fingerprinting of welfare recipients, death penalty, DWI.

LIBRARIAN NAMED TO NCSL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Members of the 1994 Nominating Committee have been designated by Staff Chair John Turcotte to review and select candidates for the Executive Committee for '94 - '95. Debbie Tavenner, Assistant Librarian from the Ohio Legislative Service Commission Library has been appointed as one of seven members serving on the committee.

The Committee will consider candidates' ability to travel, participation and attendance in previous NCSL positions, and demonstrated qualities of good judgment, integrity, and leadership.

TEXAS LIBRARIAN CONSULTS FOR LIBRARY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF COSTA RICA
by Nancy Moreno, TX

Nancy Moreno, from the Texas Legislative Reference Library, spent the month of March consulting for the Costa Rican legislative library located in the beautiful capitol city of San Jose. The library moved out of windowless basement rooms in an older legislative building to a new glass-enclosed four-story building located across the street. At the same time, the library acquired new computer equipment, was connected to a legislative local-area computer network (LAN), and acquired access to Internet. In addition, in the next few months the library will begin work on converting their manual card catalog to an online system, which will also be available over the legislative network. The Costa Rican library will also host the Parliamentary Librarians section meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) in August. They are expecting 50-60 parliamentary librarians to attend.

Then, in May, the Texas Legislative Library hosted a week-long visit from Ms. Virginia Vargas Ayales, Director of Reference Division, of the Costa Rican Library. In addition to the Legislative Library, Virginia visited several other libraries in Austin.

She was especially interested in using Internet, electronic databases, and CD-ROMs to provide legislative reference service. Virginia was especially impressed by the open stacks, the many self-sufficient users who do their own photocopying and research, and the wide variety of electronic information sources.
It was interesting to note that both the Texas and Costa Rican legislative libraries have experienced similar problems. Exchanging ideas and solutions to problems is always beneficial.

MAPPING THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY
by Dr. Marvin Cetron and Owen Davies
(Reprinted by permission from SLA’s SpecialList, May 1994)

For all we hear about the "information superhighway" these days, it is still hard to get a detailed picture of what everyone is talking about. Yet a lot is already clear.

Most of us will know the information superhighway as the new box on our TV that replaced the old cable-television tuner. The box will contain the equivalent of a fairly powerful home computer; in fact, it will probably take over most of the uses of today's PCs, as well as handling our transactions with the "Net," as the growing global data network has come to be nicknamed. A keyboard and microphone will allow typed and spoken communication, both to control the machine--call it an "information appliance"--and as a replacement for the telephone and other familiar services.

That box will be linked to a network of fiber-optic cables, known variously as the National Information Infrastructure or the National Research and Education Network (NREN). Over the next 10 years or so, the government will pour more than $1 billion into building that network; private industry will contribute far more. Eventually, it will unite virtually every home, office, school, hospital, and factory in the country with every other such facility--and with many of their counterparts around the world. If information is available online, and almost everything humanity knows eventually will be, then it will be accessible from your desk. If you need to communicate with someone, they will be as close as the "ENTER" key on your keyboard--or whatever replaces it.

The prototype for NREN, and the nucleus around which it will grow, is Internet. It was born in 1969 as an emergency communications system for the Defense Department, intended to keep military bases in touch with the Pentagon even during a nuclear war. It soon outgrew its original concept. Defense contractors and research centers joined the system. By the late 1970s, science-fiction readers had created an unofficial bulletin-board system within what then was called ARPANET. In the 1980s, scientists and scholars far outside the defense community joined. By early 1994, an estimated 2 million computers and 20 to 30 million users around the world were linked to Internet.

Most of those new users are ordinary citizens, using the Net for purposes its designers never conceived. Electronic mail now carries messages around the world, all but instantaneously, for much less than the cost of mail, fax, or phone call. More than 5,000 discussion groups and 2,500 electronic newsletters are available over Internet.

Until recently, only experienced "Net surfers" could find their way around this information universe. Now new software is easing the process of locating information. Just enter your request, and it will search through computer indices until it locates what you need.

That is just as well, because there is much more to come. After years of banning commercial users, Internet is opening itself for business. According to one industry observer, just six of the Net's thousands of possible uses will pay for the system's construction: home sales, the computer equivalent of the Home Shopping Network; online, interactive video games; gaming--primarily state lotteries accessible on the Net; video on demand; and online education. But in the long run, the Net will bring us music, medical records, news services, corporate purchase orders, the lectures at Oxford, and anything else you can think of.

Before this promise is realized, however, there are important questions still to be answered.

Who will wire up our homes and offices? Telephone companies, cable TV operators, and--unexpectedly--electric utilities are all vying for a piece of the business. In the end, they may all take a part of the market.

Who will manage the system? So far, Internet has been run by ANS, a nonprofit consortium of IBM and MCI, under contract to the National Science Foundation (NSF). But the NSF is withdrawing from the field, and ANS wants to begin selling communications services. It is not clear how this potential conflict of interest will be resolved.

Who will get access to the Net? So far, almost anyone with a computer can use Internet or
provide services on it. A commercial operator might charge steep access fees and ban services that might offend some users.

What about those who cannot afford Net access? Net access could soon be more necessary than a telephone. Should government subsidize Net charges for the poor?

And how do we protect sensitive data? No one wants their medical records open to everyone on the Net. And how might hackers misuse the networked computers that will soon control factory machines?

Those questions, and many others, will have to be answered quickly. The Net is almost here, and the services it promises are much too useful to be delayed by organizational problems.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION:
ON-RAMPS TO THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY
by Sandy Morton-Schwabl, Director, Government Relations (Reprinted by permission from SpeciaList, May 1994)

The information superhighway is exploding! There are a seemingly endless number of meetings and activities related to the "National Information Infrastructure," also known as the NII, which is being put forth by the Clinton/Gore Administration.

SLA staff and members are examining the role of the special librarian/information professional as the NII is being planned and implemented. In a press release SLA issued, following a speech Vice President Gore made to the entertainment community in Los Angeles in mid-January, we make it clear that the role of the information professional is an important one and must not be overlooked by policymakers. Special librarians, who are used to helping their clients retrieve information, will be educators in the new networked environment by helping end-users increase their awareness of what is available over the nets, working with them to improve their information retrieval skills as well as assisting (as they do now) in the analysis, packaging, and presentation of the material. Although clichés abound regarding the information highway—such as toll barriers, guardrails, etc., we need to keep reminding those who are building the highway (the private sector), guiding its construction (government) and those traveling on it (the public) that special librarians/information professionals can serve as on-ramps to it.

It is imperative that as the federal government looks at deregulating local phone providers and oversees the mergers between many of the private sector players (such as those in the phone, cable, and related utility businesses), safeguards must be considered to protect consumers. As we are all too aware, when Congress placed stronger regulations on the cable industry in 1992, many companies were able to circumvent the law and subsequent regulations and raise prices anyway. The ultimate loser was the consumer. This is a lesson from which the Congress and the Administration will hopefully learn.

The positive side of deregulating the information services industry is that it can lead to a universal delivery system which would be available to all consumers, who would have the ability to access libraries, database vendors, and information providers directly. This would also bring government closer to citizens by lowering barriers to the information, and could lead to a more "transparent" and eventually user-friendly government.

A National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council has been established, consisting of 27 individuals representing business, labor, academia, public interest groups, and state and local governments, who will advise government officials on how the superhighway should be formulated. We are pleased to note that a library educator and SLA member, Dr. Toni Carbo Bearman, was selected to be part of this council. Bearman, head of the Library School at the University of Pittsburgh, also headed the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for a number of years during the mid-1980s. She will be a strong voice for the library/information community. In addition, Bearman has agreed to serve as the facilitator for SLA's 1994 State-of-the-Art Institute, "A New Frontier: The National Information Infrastructure" to be held November 3-4 in Washington, D.C.

The library community, including SLA, the American Association of Law Libraries, Association of Research Libraries, American Library Association, and Medical Library Association, have joined forces with other public interest organizations to see that policymakers do not forget the needs of citizens in building the superhighway.

A telecommunications policy roundtable, which meets monthly, consists of individuals from organizations representing libraries, media,
consumers, minorities, and the physically challenged, to name a few. Last fall, the group formulated a set of principles for policy makers to consider. We called on the Administration and Congress to pursue a broad and public interest vision for the information infrastructure. These principles include:

- universal access;
- freedom to communicate;
- diverse and competitive marketplace; and
- democratic policymaking.

NEWS FROM THE STATES...

*(News notes contributed via LRL's Regional Coordinators)*

**FLORIDA** — Cataloger JoAn Mahaffey is no longer with the Legislative Library; she is now the Executive Director of the Franklin County Senior Citizens Council. B. Gene Baker, the library's Director, is retiring June 30 after 30 years of service.

**IOWA** — Jonetta Douglas, Legislative Service Bureau Library, conveys this news: Other state librarians may be interested in hearing that the Iowa Legislature passed legislation saying the state librarian may dispose of through sale, conveyance, or exchange, any library materials that may be obsolete or worn out, or that may no longer be needed or appropriate to the mission of the state library of Iowa.

These materials may be sold by the state library directly or the library may sell the materials by consignment with an outside entity. A state library fund is created in the state treasury. Proceeds from the sale of the library materials are remitted to the treasurer of the state and credited to the state library fund and can be used for the purchase of books and other library materials. Any balance in the fund on June 30 of any fiscal year does not revert to the general fund.

"I don't know about other states, but for the state library system in Iowa this is a very progressive piece of legislation. It has been quite a process getting the understanding across that you could offset some of the cost of new materials in the library by not just weeding the collection and asking for more money, but by using the material you weeded out to generate funds for new materials".

**MAINE** — Principal Librarian for Public Services Stephanie Ralph is teaching an advanced reference class for the Maine Library Association. The class will meet for eight weeks.

**MINNESOTA** — Library staff changes:
Marion Matters is now Head of Technical Services and Helen Whipple is Information Analyst.

**MISSISSIPPI** — The Reference Bureau is in the process of purchasing In-Magic to put the library's catalog online.

**NEBRASKA** — As of July 1, Jo Budler will leave her position as Coordinator of Library Services at the Nebraska Legislative Reference Library and will take a position as Network Director at the Nebraska State Library Commission. She will, however, still be in touch with the staff section and still be answering questions from legislators. **CONGRATULATIONS, JO!**

**NEVADA** — Nan Bower passed along a note regarding a new reference title from Gale; the **Professional and Occupational Licensing Directory: A Descriptive Guide to State and Federal Licensing, Registration, and Certification Requirements**. She says it has been well received by Nevada's Research Division staff.

**NEW YORK** — The Ways and Means, Tax Study Commission, and Program and Counsel staff libraries merged into the Assembly Information Center, with a research staff of four: Deborah Priest, Robert Matthews, Denise Safranec and William Seyse. The Center serves the Assembly central staff. They are located in Agency Building #4, 14th Floor, Albany, NY 12248. Mary Redmond, Principal Librarian, Legislative and Governmental Services, New York State Library is the designated incoming Chair of ALA's Government Documents Roundtable.

**NEBRASKA** — As of July 1, Jo Budler will leave her position as Coordinator of Library Services at the Nebraska Legislative Reference Library and will take a position as Network Director at the Nebraska State Library Commission. She will, however, still be in touch with the staff section and still be answering questions from legislators. **CONGRATULATIONS, JO!**

**PENNSYLVANIA** — Since the spring edition of **NEWSLINES** the LRB Library has added a CD-ROM collection to their computer-based capabilities.
TEXAS — The Texas Legislative Reference Library will FINALLY be moving back to the Capitol on August 8. Nancy Moreno says they have recently seen their renovated space and it looks beautiful. They anticipate being closed effective August 1 and reopening August 19, so please mark your calendars accordingly. If you need anything during that time period they suggest you call the State Law Library at (512) 463-1722.

The Legislative Research Library also welcomes Alexandra Boldt to their reference staff. Rona Mertink reports they are delighted to have another full time person at the reference desk! Alexandra has previously worked for the Texas Workers' Compensation Research Center and for Austin Community College Library.

MEAD ON THE BLOCK - LEXIS AND NEXIS SERVICES ARE FOR SALE...
(Reprinted in part from INFORMATIONWEEK, May 30, 1994)

Lawyers and journalists may soon start logging on to online services with a new name. Mead Corporation announced on May 16 that it has begun looking for a buyer for its Mead Data Central (MDC) subsidiary. MDC produces the LEXIS and NEXIS online services.

Attorneys and legal scholars use LEXIS to search for court decisions and other legal writings. Journalists and some businesses tap into NEXIS to search for stories that appeared in print. Together the two databases serve 320,000 customers each month.

Mead acquired a small legal database in 1968 for $3 million. Last year the division had revenue of $551 million and a new profit of $50 million. The company says LEXIS and NEXIS are continuing to add customers at a fast clip.

Mead wants to find a technology company to buy MDC within 12 months. Tom Nolle, president of CIMI Corporation, a technology-assessment consultancy in Voorhees, NJ, believes the Bell operating companies or a large telecom firm may purchase Dayton, Ohio-based MDC. Other possible suitors reportedly include Dun & Bradstreet, International Thomson, and Reed Elsevier.

Wall Street and industry analysts estimate the business will fetch between $750 million and $2 billion. "Ironically, MDC is at its peak of both salability and uncertainty," say Nolle.

The proliferation of CD-ROM technology—and low-cost PCs that operate CD-ROMs—threatens MDC's business, Nolle says. Today, companies can use CD-ROMs, rather than online services, to conduct their legal or newspaper searches. Moreover, CD-ROMs can deliver photographic information more easily than online services.

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

Books
What Legislator's Need to Know About Managed Care (Item 6642)
Maternal and Child Health Legislation (Item 6648)
American Newcomer's: Community Relations and Ethnic Diversity (Item 9365)

LegisBriefs
Federal Initiatives to Fight School Violence (Item 9000-0217)
State Emergency Management Plans (Item 9000-0218)
In the Mainstream (Item 9000-0219)
What is Germane? (Item 9000-0220)
Mandate Relief for Local Governments (Item 9000-0221)
Fighting Family Violence (Item 9000-0222)
School Funding Alternatives (Item 9000-0223)
Interstate Banking and Branching (Item 9000-0224)

State Legislative Report
Developing Multipurpose Canister Systems for Spent Nuclear Fuel (Item 7302-1904)

LRL DIRECTORY
Minnesota Legislative Reference Library
Please add: Marion Matters
Head of Technical Services (612) 297-8891 and Helen Whipple, Information Analyst (612) 296-7897

Texas Legislative Reference Library
Please add: Alexandra Boldt, Librarian (512) 463-1252
Please correct under
Texas Legislative Reference Library:
Internet E-mail: reflib@ocs.dir.tex.gov

Please add the following Internet
E-Mail addresses:
Hawaii Legislative Reference Bureau:
enos@ununix,uhcc.hawaii.edu

Iowa Legislative Service Bureau Library:
jdougla@legis.ia.gov

Ohio Legislative Service Commission:
jcasey@freenet.columbus.oh.us, and
blaughon@freenet.columbus.oh.us

South Dakota Legislative
Research Council Library:
clarec@lrc.state.sd.us

NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSLINE
The deadline for the Fall edition of NEWSLINE
is September 9. 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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