I am amazed at how quickly time flies! Although it seems to me I just returned from seeing (or missing) you at either the 1990 Annual Meeting or the LRL seminar, it is now time to plan 1991 programming. We are eager to provide what you want and need; but we await your definition of that. Many of you have responded with your ideas for programs and speakers. To you, I extend a sincere thank you. To you who have not yet shared your ideas, I earnestly request your input. Don't be shy or procrastinate. We are waiting to hear from you.

I am encouraged by the attendance and participation of staff section members at our second annual Professional Development Seminar. It was a wonderful experience for those of us lucky enough to attend. It contained solid programming, numerous chances to interact with other professionals in our own or related fields, and excellent food and accommodations. (Those who know me will be amazed that I mentioned food last!) Barbara Laughon, Debbie Tavenner, and Barbara Coleman of the Ohio Legislative Service Commission and Judy Russell of Mead Data Central were perfect hostesses and local arrangements facilitators. Their contributions made possible the opportunity for a successful seminar. You who attended made it successful by seizing this opportunity and using it to learn, grow and share. A big THANKS to each of you who had a part in this seminar.

I am excited that many projects "in the works" are nearing completion. You should be seeing results from several of these in the immediate future. Automation survey results are being tabulated, a core list will appear, the manual is being organized and readied for use, and the newest version of the ever-essential staff section directory will soon be completed. My personal choice for most "core" reference item is the LRL Directory. It is crucial. Combined with the willing assistance from those listed between its covers, it is THE resource most useful as I attempt to serve my legislature.

It's again a new year. For some, it brings a new session and new legislators; for others, more of the same; for each of us, new opportunities. I know it is a busy season for all of us. In the midst of your daily routines, may you reap benefits from friends and resources available through our staff section.
SUMMARY OF
PROGRAMS AT 1990 LRL PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR
by
Valerie Richardson (LA); Julie McCown (TN);
Marcia Hoak (OR); Peggy King (KY); Beth
Furbush (MT); Helen Whipple (MN); Anne
Rottmann (MO); Pat Ilnicki (NY); and Evelyn
Andrews (PA)

The second annual staff section Professional
Development Seminar was held November 29 -
December 1, 1990, in Columbus, Ohio. The 2-1/2
day meeting on the role of online information in
legislative libraries featured nine programs on
library software programs, commercial information
systems in the U. S. and abroad, and library
networks. The 1990 seminar was attended by 23
librarians representing 17 states and two foreign
countries.

Thursday, November 29
The Ohio Link for Library & Information Network
(OhioLINK)
Speaker: Mr. Len Simutis, Interim
Executive Director of OhioLINK

Simutis gave an enthusiastic description of
Ohio's statewide network--OhioLINK, a major
project initiated in 1988 by the Ohio Board of
Regents. It will make possible statewide, place-
indepedent access to bibliographic resources and
full-text databases. Although it now involves just
17 academic libraries, the hope is that it will
eventually supply information to industry and the
general public as well as the Ohio academic
community. The overarching goal is to enhance
research capabilities at all levels.

Mr. Simutis' presentation was very forward
looking. He emphasized cooperative circulation
policies and delivery systems that supply full-text
copies of material to the user within 48 hours. He
also outlined a number of developments that could
transform the way information is used, moved and
generated. These developments include cellular
television technology and the convergence of
television and video technology, which allows
Television and data to be transmitted over
telephone lines and greatly increases computer
capacity.
A Review of Software Products for Library Applications: DataTrek

Speaker: Don Bogart, Software Marketing Manager, Inc., Columbus, Ohio

Mr. Bogart's presentation provided a good introduction to the DataTrek collection of integrated library systems software. Mr. Bogart had worked as a marketing executive with OCLC, and was very familiar with library applications. He demonstrated the DataTrek catalog, circulation and serials modules, and explained how they can either be used alone or tied together to form an integrated system. They are designed to be user friendly for librarians and to use standard library terminology and formats.

Tour of the Ohio Legislative Service Commission and Library

Barbara Laughon and Debbie Tavenner graciously welcomed us to their library located on the eighth floor of the Vern Riffe Building for a tour of their facilities and a quick orientation to Ohio legislative life.

Debbie briefed attendees on Ohio's General Assembly—when they meet, numbers of members committees, sets of rules each house follows, Barbara described the library's user group—mainly the 85 members of the Legislative Service Commission and the Legislative Budget Staff—and the ways the library markets itself to this group. They conduct orientations for the Supreme Court Library and the Legislative Library, produce a brochure, circulate acquisitions lists and a newsletter, and route periodical contents pages and lists of audio-visual tapes.

The collection of the library includes Ohio and United States legal materials, a vertical file of current articles, periodicals, bill files, audio-visual materials and a number of online services.

The library is staffed from 8-5 Monday through Friday, but is accessible 24 hours a day to its primary users during session.

We were all envious and very impressed with their lovely view and spacious quarters.

Friday, November 30
Tour of Mead Data Central

After luncheon at Mead Data Central, meeting attendees were welcomed by the government service manager and embarked on a tour of their extensive facilities.

Building No. 1 (the first of six buildings constructed, with an additional one in the design stage) houses the central data processors. A video describing the computer operations, the types and amount of information stored, and the extensive security arrangements that protect the complex was followed by a brief tour of the central control room and the computer room.

The second stop on the tour was the customer service center where attendees were familiarized with Mead's arrangements for answering customer assistance calls. All calls are first received on what is known as the "frontline." Those requests requiring more specialized assistance are referred to staff in the legal, technical, or business/commerce sections. The tour included a description of the extensive training given those who work in this fast-paced environment.

At the final stop on the tour—the training room—attendees were given a chance to go online and try out the new bill tracking system and to do other types of searches.
Tour of OCLC

Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), located in Dublin, Ohio, is a nonprofit membership organization offering computer-based services to libraries and other educational organizations. It is the largest international library information network, with more than 10,000 libraries worldwide.

The staff section tour of OCLC's spacious facility began with a video presentation on its history, mission and future products. Inspection of the new Usability Laboratory was of particular interest to attendees. The lab consists of two adjacent rooms and resembles a television production studio. Here students and library users try to use new types of computer software while video cameras record their attempts, including facial expressions and keyboard action. The lab staff then analyzes the video recording to identify strengths and weaknesses of the new software.

The tour of OCLC also included the Computer Operations room, customer service, and card packaging—where six tons of catalog cards are processed each week. Demonstrations of EPIC and NAP were held in the library.

Saturday, December 1
Roundtable Discussion: Practical Applications of Library Software
Moderator: Marcia Hoak, Librarian, Legislative Library, Oregon

Panel members for this roundtable were Ann Bancroft (NM), Beth Furbush (MT) and Val Richardson (LA). Since it is always wise to seek out a user's perspective after listening to a vendor's promises, this discussion served as an excellent wrap-up to the seminar. Ann Bancroft and Beth Furbush commented on their experiences with IN MAGIC. Bancroft described IN MAGIC as a package that is easy to use since it does not require programming expertise. She pointed out the value of purchasing BIBLIO GUIDE, which contains report designs and database models for online catalogs, acquisitions, serials and loans. Bancroft also stressed that IN MAGIC is a multi-purpose program that can be used for nonlibrary functions as well. She cited several examples of such functions, including a file containing biographical information about New Mexico officials.

Furbush pointed out the usefulness of IN MAGIC's flexible fields. She mentioned that Search MAGIC makes the database easy for the patron to use. Furbush also mentioned several of IN MAGIC's disadvantages. It lacks an authority control feature, and it does not produce MARC records. Furbush also recommended purchasing IN MAGIC from a local vendor, who would be available for software support, rather than directly from the national company.

Val Richardson commented on her experience with DataTrek. She is in the process of setting up the library's database and has currently used DataTrek only for monograph cataloging. Richardson stressed the necessity of documenting the decisions that are made when setting up the database. She also mentioned several of DataTrek's positive features. It has an authority control feature and it comes with an excellent manual, which includes a cataloging tutorial.

Staff Section Business Meeting
Presiding: Susan Gilley, Chair

The following is a brief summary of topics covered.

Manual of Model Procedures for Legislative Libraries--Debby reported she received materials from ten states. The first part of the manual will be available on loan to staff section members by early 1991, and will include position descriptions and employee evaluation forms.

Periodicals Indexing Project--Marilyn Gut tromson (ND) reported there are now seven indexers and asked for additional staff section volunteers to participate in this project.

Automation Survey--only one library did not respond to the survey, and after clarification of some responses, results will be made available in early 1991.

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)--Debby now has a personal membership and will report on relevant activities in Newsline.

Staff Section 20th Anniversary--this will occur in 1992. Several suggestions were made as to how to mark this important event.
SPECIAL THANKS

The officers and members of the staff section express special appreciation to Mead Data Central, sponsors of several staff section activities at the 1990 Professional Development Seminar in Columbus.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY
by
Manuel Torres Tapia, Puerto Rico

The main center for reference, information and research service to legislators and staff in Puerto Rico is the Legislative Reference Library, created by Act 59 of June 19, 1964. Since then, it has developed as part of the Office of Legislative Services of Puerto Rico.

The library combines functions and collections which in many other places are provided by two different libraries—a state library and a legislative reference bureau. A single collection and a small staff of eleven persons serve both the legislative and the general public. Its location on second floor of the School of Tropical Medicine historic building in San Juan, capital of Puerto Rico, enables the staff to provide a highly efficient and comprehensive reference and research service to the legislature with frequent assistance to constituents.

The library includes the most complete collection of legislative documents of the island. Puerto Rico is one of the territories under the American flag that provides a complete transcript of its House and Senate debates. Publication of the Diario de Sesiones de la Asamblea Legislativa de Puerto Rico began in 1953 and continues today. Information about current bills and resolutions is provided in a daily report known as Tramite Legislativo (Legislative Transmittal), printed from the powerful computerized bill status system of the Office of Legislative Services, and the annual publication of Actas de la Camara de Representantes, Actas del Senado and the Prontuario de Legislacion. All publications are in Spanish only.

Background information, as well as biographical data on Puerto Rican legislators and other political and historical figures, comes from the vertical and newspaper clipping files, which library staff assemble from four local newspapers. The collection also includes an extensive selection of official documents published by Puerto Rican governmental agencies received on a depository basis. It also maintains a collection of basic legal resources for the United States--federal codes and statutes for all 50 states and U. S. territories, court reporters from all federal and state jurisdictions and selected digests and citators, legal periodicals and serials, executive rules and regulations, standard legal treatises and reporting services. The library is also a selective depository of state governmental documents and maintains a collection of microfilmed newspapers. In addition, the staff actively try to acquire legislative studies and other reported research on topics of current interest to legislators and to maintain a small collection of nonlegal books on selective subjects, including religion, philosophy, history, social sciences, political science, education, fine arts, literature and natural sciences, as well as general legal and nonlegal reference sources and Latin American materials. The total collection is approximately 60,000 volumes.

Many study reports, legal and nonlegal books, plus federal and state documents are fully cataloged using the AACR 2nd and the LC system of classification. The card catalog has not yet been automated. The reference staff can access WESTLAW and LEGISNET, as well as the LEGALTRAC index on CD-ROM. In the near future, the library will access information through COMPUCLERK and MICROJURIS, two Puerto Rican online statutory and court reporting services.

The statute creating the legislative library specifies that it shall also serve all state government agencies, the judiciary, and the citizens of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. To meet this broad responsibility, the library has comprehensive reference services available in person and by phone and mail, as well as interlibrary loan and circulation services. This library constitutes a great laboratory for making the laws of Puerto Rico and one of the best research libraries in the Caribbean Basin.
1991 STAFF SECTION REGIONAL COORDINATORS

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- Wisconsin

NEWS FROM THE STATES
Submitted by Regional Coordinators and Members of the Staff Section

Alabama
The Alabama Legislative Reference Service Library has obtained copies of state statutes from Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. According to library director Anne Adams, these recently shelved volumes are an invaluable research source for Legislative Reference Service staff analysts, and she anticipates the addition of other states' statutes to further broaden the ready availability of important research materials to her department's attorneys. Alabama's Legislative Reference Service Library, though used primarily by its staff, those of the House and Senate and the Legislative Fiscal Office analysts, also responds to other requests for access to the abundance of research material housed in the library.

Connecticut
Project reQuest (initiated in 1984) is a CD-ROM bibliographic data base providing public access to over two million titles in 130 lending libraries in Connecticut. This system was initially financed by the State Bond Commission and is now administered by the Connecticut State Library. With access to this system the Connecticut Legislative Library now generates interlibrary loan requests for items needed by the General Assembly.

Maine
The legislature is replacing two Wang VS 100 mainframes with a Wang 8470. Online information includes the Maine Revised Statutes with phrase searching capability, bill tracking for current legislation, as well as bills and actions for the earlier 112th, 113th and 114th sessions. It also upgrades word processing capabilities.

New Jersey
Susan Sternberg reports that she has recently begun to send everyone in the LRL Directory a copy of the Checklist of New Publications distributed by the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services Library. This list is prepared approximately once a month and includes all monographs, annual reports, executive agency reports, United States census documents, selected periodical articles, etc., received and catalogued by the library in the preceding month. They hope that
may be useful to you in your acquisitions efforts. Please note that they are unable to provide these documents to you (unless they are legislative documents); they must be obtained directly from the issuing agency or publisher. If you prefer not to receive this publication, please let Susan know and your name will be deleted from the mailing list.

She is interested in receiving equivalent documents from other libraries. The library staff finds them a big help not only in acquisitions, but also in keeping up with the hot topics in other states.

New York
The New York State Library will observe 100 years of service to the legislature in 1991. With the founding of the Sociology Division in 1891, the New York State Library became the first library in the nation to create a special information unit for the legislature. The innovation was the idea of State Librarian Melvil Dewey, best known as the creator of the Dewey Decimal Classification.

The New York State Library has been chosen as a site for the U. S. Department of Energy pilot project to provide enhanced electronic access to information. Pilot project participants will be able to search DOE online files for current and retrospective information. They will also be able to add DOE cataloging records to their own online catalogs. The project is one of four coordinated by the U. S. Government Printing Office to test the provision of electronic information to federal depository libraries.

Pennsylvania
Ms. Carol Himmelright, librarian with the Joint State Government Commission since June 1, 1986, resigned effective August 31, 1990. The new librarian is Mr. Yoga Adhola, formerly with Dauphin County Library System; he took over in October 1990.

Susan Zavacky reports that 1990 should be labeled "the year of the move." This past April culminated nine months of shopping and planning for the first major revamping and rearrangement of the Legislative Reference Bureau Library in more than 15 years. After a careful review process, they selected the Library Bureau as their primary furniture vendor. They discovered in their negotiations with the vendor that they would be able to "squeeze in" another full aisle of shelving as well as to provide for a private study area for the exclusive use of the reference bureau attorneys. It was almost as good as acquiring additional square footage! The result is a "new" library that looks very professional and uncluttered.

Vermont
Vermont's Department of Libraries, Reference and Law Division, is adding the holdings of local libraries to its online catalog. The enhancement will provide Vermont legislators and their staff with faster access to information on the holdings of libraries throughout the state.

1990-91 NCSL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
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MICRO-BASED LIBRARY AUTOMATION REVIEWED

The March-April and May-June 1990 issues of Library Technology Reports focus on a comprehensive review of about 29 microcomputer-based library systems. In addition to the reviews, information on the process of acquiring such a
m is included. LTR is published by the
Library and Information Technology Association,
5r E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611 (312/944-
6780).

REVIEW WHAT'S NEW

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

Bureau of National Affairs. Federal Information
in the Electronic Age: Policy Issues for the
'90s. 1990.

Council of State Governments. COGEL Blue

Council of State Governments with the National
Association of State Directors of
Administration and General Services. 1990

Puizos, Michael L. "Building the Information
Marketplace." Technology Review, Jan. 1991,
pp. 28-40.
[Discusses the structure and future of a
national information infrastructure.]

Education Commission of the States. 1990 Survey
of College Savings and Guaranteed Tuition
Programs.

Government Research Service. Directory of
Political Newsletters. 1990.

Hannibal, Joseph T. "Capitol Geology." Earth
Science, Fall 1990, pp. 23-27.

National Clearinghouse on Election
Administration. Campaign Finance Law 90.

Rothstein, Samuel. "The Growth of Reference
Services and Special Librarianship and Its
Consequences for Legislatures." Special
Libraries, Fall 1990, pp. 309-316.

NCSL Publications
Copies of all NCSL publications listed below are
available from the Book Order Department
(312/830-2200) unless otherwise noted.

Adolescents and AIDS: Stopping the Time Bomb,
1990.

Americans with Developmental Disabilities:

Capitols and Communities That Work: State
Policy and Community Economic
Development. 1990.

Developing Recycling Markets and Industries.
1990.


Global Climate Change: State Policy
Development Amid Scientific Uncertainty.
1990.

Improving Children's Welfare: Learning from
Iowa. 1990.


Proposed Congressional Groundwater Legislation

Putting the Pieces Together: Survey of State

Responding to Human Needs: State Policy and
Community Economic Development. 1990.

Selected State Enactments 1990: A 50-State
Survey of Enacted Legislation on Priority


State Groundwater Protection Legislation: A
Proposed Comprehensive Policy Framework.
1990.


Women, Babies, and Drugs: Family-Centered
Treatment Options. 1990.

LRL Newsline, January 1991
Legislative Finance Papers

"Efforts to Collect Sales Tax on Interstate Mail-Order Sales" (LFP No. 73)

"State Budget and Tax Actions" (LFP No. 74)

"Recent Changes in State, Local and State-Local Tax Level" (LFP No. 75)

"The State Fiscal Outlook in 1991" (LFP No. 76)

State Legislative Reports

"Protecting Health Care Workers from HIV Infection" (Vol. 15, No. 11)

"Adolescents and AIDS: Stopping the Time Bomb" (Vol. 15, No. 12)

"Asbestos Disposal: A Legislative Primer" (Vol. 15, No. 13)

"Legislative-Judicial Relations: Seeking a New Partnership" (Vol. 15, No. 14)

"Suicide Applications: States Move to Limit Employer Liability for Groundwater Contamination" (Vol. 15, No. 15)

"Science Education in the States: A Survey" (Vol. 15, No. 16)

"Update on Low-Level Waste Compact Activities" (Vol. 15, No. 17)

"Monitored Retrievable Storage of High-Level Radioactive Waste: Routing Implications and Emergency Response to Transportation Accidents" (Vol. 15, No. 18)

State-Federal Issue Briefs

"Trade with Latin America: Opportunities for the States" (Vol. 3, No. 4)

"Summary of the 101st Congress Second Session" (Vol. 3, No. 5)

"The Augustus F. Hawkins Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1990" (Vol. 3, No. 6)

"101st Congress in Review: The Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act" (Vol. 3, No. 7)

"101st Congress in Review: Child Care: A Summary and Analysis of New Federal Programs and Tax Credits" (Vol. 3, No. 8)

Videos


NCSL Services. 1990.

RECENT HALL OF THE STATES PUBLICATIONS


NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSLINE

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

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

UPCOMING NCSL CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

February 22-24  NCSL Reapportionment Task Force
                Dallas, Texas

February 28-March 2 Developmental Disabilities
                Chicago, Illinois

March 8-9       NCSL Executive Committee
                San Francisco, California

March 13-15     Leader-to-Leader
                Washington, D.C.

March 15-17     American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS)
                Spring Meeting
                Salt Lake City, Utah

April 11        Property Tax
                Lincoln, Nebraska

April 11        Legalized Gambling
                Lincoln, Nebraska

April 11-13     Assembly on the Legislature (AOL)
                Lincoln, Nebraska

Newsline is published four times a year by the Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section of NCSL. Newsline is edited by Debby Bernau (NCSL Denver).