CHAIR'S COLUMN
by
Marilyn Cathcart, Minnesota, Chairperson

Happy New Year! I hope that the turn of the calendar from the chaos of the holidays to January has brought a brief respite before busy schedules prevail again.

Planning has begun for Annual Meeting and the Professional Development Seminar. Many program ideas have surfaced already, but please let us know your thoughts as well. All suggestions are welcome. Send them via the NCSL BBS or call/write one of the officers to share your wisdom!

Planning for the Professional Development Seminar is in Debbie Tavenner's capable hands. Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 24-28 in New Orleans; the Professional Development Seminar is scheduled for November 3-5, in Denver.

Use of the NCSL Bulletin Board System continues to grow. I would like to encourage everyone to become part of this very valuable network. Many library colleagues already use the BBS to seek and to share information. Acquisitions lists from several states are uploaded routinely. A listing of articles containing 50-state information is posted on the BBS and is available for all to use. The BBS is a simple-to-use, quick way to keep up!

If you haven't done so already, please take a few minutes to respond to the recent NCSL survey on library administration. Chris Pattarozzi and Cathy Martin worked hard to structure this survey so that it will provide useful information for all of us. We need your data, too.

Finally, I would like to say a quick personal "thank you" to all of you for placing your trust in me as Chair for this year. It promises to be an exciting challenge as we seek to increase Library Staff Section participation in the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee, work on establishing a book exchange program, and plan both the Annual Meeting and Professional Development Seminar. The challenge is made fun by the opportunity to include your ideas and to meet your needs.
LEGISNET Update
by Bob Frohling, NCSL

The "construction zone" barriers are still up around the "New LEGISNET," but that doesn't mean you can't access the LEGISNET data bases. It just means that you will have to use the current search techniques that you have been using for years, while the "New LEGISNET" is still under construction. During the transition to the new system, you will have a six-month window to either continue searching using the current software or to learn the new search system as it becomes available. For updates and status reports on the new system, contact me at (303) 830-2200.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AT '93 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR IN AUSTIN
(This article was contributed to by numerous seminar attendees)

Our annual seminar held in Austin last November was a great success. We had a record number of attendees (42) and yet the group was small enough that we could communicate easily with each other and learn about new developments in each others' states and libraries.

The seminar evaluation sheets returned to NCSL indicated attendees valued the meeting for the opportunity to network with other librarians; learn how other libraries perform legislative histories; improve their understanding of optical scanning systems, LEGISNET and other online resources; and become more familiar with the LRL staff section.

Logistics for the seminar were wonderful. Our hotel was conveniently close to the temporary quarters of the Texas Legislative Reference Library and the new Capitol Extension. (Although finding the first morning meeting at the Capitol Extension was an adventure complete with maps!)

We rode Austin's trolley system, the Armadillo (locally known as the 'dilla) to a fabulous luncheon sponsored by Butterworth Legal Publishers at The Shoreline, one of Austin's premier restaurants. And we vanpooled in style to our staff section dinner and evening in San Antonio. Sally Reynolds, Brenda Olds, Nancy Moreno, and the rest of the Texas library staff truly showered us all with old-fashioned Southern hospitality.

Newspapers and Legislative Libraries

The first session on newspapers and legislative libraries was as entertaining as it was informative. Dave McNeely, Political Editor of the Austin-American Statesman, and Paul Burka, Executive Editor of Texas Monthly magazine shared their insight into the legislative process. They related numerous examples of the political process in action.

The two have known each other for many years and had much to say about their experiences in researching legislative news as well as the uniquely "Texan" style of legislating in that great state. An extended question and answer period followed.

Newspaper Scanning Technology

The seminar included a demonstration by Sally Reynolds, Director of the Texas Legislative Reference Library, of their new optical scanning system. This system was installed and became operational late summer of 1991. Since that time they have acquired an additional dual-sided scanner and more retrieval stations.
The primary use for this system is retrieval of the newspaper clipping file and the legislative bill file. Clippings that have been added to the collection since August 1991 are online and retrievable by subject number, date, columnist or newspaper. All other clippings (approximately 300,000) have been scanned and are currently being indexed. They should be totally accessible by spring of 1994.

The legislative bill files for our 1989 session are scanned and online. The 1991 session has been scanned and is being produced on CD-ROM. Everything in the system can be printed in letter or legal format.

At present, the Library has six terminals that can retrieve clippings and bill files. Three terminals are for use by the general public and three are designated for internal use. When the Library moves back into the Capitol Building in late spring, two more will be added for the general public.

There was a great deal of interest in the scanning system and Larry Barish has begun investigating such a system for the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau. Sally Reynolds welcomes inquiries regarding the system, its costs and benefits.

Reference Use of Internet

The session on use of the Internet was taught by Mary Lynn Rice-Lively, Library and Information Systems Librarian from the University of Texas. She gave a general overview of internet's history and development, characterized its present uses and indicated the potential for its future.

She was assisted by Robbie LaFleur, Deputy Director of the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library, who grounded Internet theory in practical use. Robbie alerted the packed audience to the high frustration level common in learning to use Internet. She also passed out some pragmatic handouts geared to walk a beginner through the process of using Internet.

Legislative Histories Roundtable

Voted by many as the most useful session of the seminar, this roundtable was well attended and had a high level of participation by attendants. Brenda Olds, Documents Librarian from the Texas Legislative Reference Library, moderated the session and summarized the results to date of a 50-state survey.

Because of the complexity of developing a survey covering the myriad ways that states do legislative histories, Brenda stressed that she was still fine-tuning the survey and the information gathered. She discovered there was some confusion between the terms "legislative history" and "legislative intent." Definitions agreed on by participants clarified legislative histories as the recorded chronology and legislative intent as research illuminating the purpose of the legislation.

Preliminary results of the survey and discussion by those attending the session indicate that many states have experienced an increase in requests for legislative intent research. Responsibility for such research varies greatly from one state legislative library to another. Several states maintain a list of people outside the legislative library who will do the research for clients; one state trains researchers and keeps their names on file.

Colette Knisely, who has her own company researching legislative intent, was also present as a resource and guest speaker. She described the work her firm does and how clients are selected. Among the topics she touched on was the need for certification. There were several librarians in the audience who had been deposed or subpoenaed after certifying legislative histories.
Connecting with NCSL Nationally and Internationally

We were very fortunate to have in attendance, both as a participant in the seminar and as a speaker, Mr. John Turcotte, Director of Mississippi's Joint Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review and Staff Chair of NCSL.

John has been active in NCSL for many years and gave a sweeping review of NCSL's structure and goals, specific committees and their activities, and means of participating in those activities. His comparison of NCSL to similar organizations was especially useful to seminar participants who were less familiar with the staff section and NCSL in general.

We also enjoyed hearing from Ms. Tembi Mtine, Parliamentary Librarian from Zambia, who is in the United States for a year studying Public Administration as a Fellow at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. She described the status of legislative research in Zambia's parliament, and many in the audience were surprised to learn that individual legislators there have no personal staff.

Members of the Parliament bring all requests for information to the Parliamentary Library, where Ms. Mtine assigns the requests to staff with the most relevant experience. She noted, too, that occasions sometimes arose where results of the research might not be well accepted by a legislator, creating some very sensitive situations for staff.

Ms. Mtine will be in the U.S. until late summer and hopes to visit as many legislative libraries as possible during her stay. If you or your library would be interested in hosting her on a one-day visit, please contact Chris Patarozzi at NCSL to discuss details.

Tour of LBJ Library and Museum

Sally and Brenda had arranged for seminar participants to tour the LBJ Library and Museum on the campus of the University of Texas. We viewed exhibits following the life of LBJ from childhood through his presidency. One highlight was seeing a replica of the Oval Office as it was when he was president and hearing him offer his observations on the presidency.

Librarian Olive Forbes showed us through the library with emphasis on its computerization and the state-of-the-art teleconferencing center available to students. She also spoke briefly about the possible demise of the depository library system as a result of new Congressional legislation, urging us to contact our senators and congressmen to express our professional opinions regarding the proposal.

Staff Section Business Meeting

Minutes of the staff section business meeting held in Austin are available separately in the LRL files section of the bulletin board. Meeting topics included: reports from the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee, Interstate Document Exchange Committee, and the International Book Shipping Project.

Discussion centered on receipt or availability of publications from NCSL, CSG, and NGA; how to elicit more news from individual libraries for NEWSLINE, surveys soon to be mailed, and potential for publishing results of our legislative histories project. Site possibilities for the 1994 Professional Development Seminar were solicited and changes to bylaws moving officer turnover up to September will be readied for a vote at New Orleans Annual Meeting in July 1994.
Texas Capitol Under Construction

On Saturday, Dealey Hearndon, Executive Director of the State Preservation Board, took all interested parties on a "hard hat" tour of the Texas capitol. It is being restored from the ground up and is currently closed to the public, so we felt very fortunate to see the work in progress.

Dealey showed us the chambers, staff and public areas, and the almost-completed quarters of the Texas Legislative Reference Library. She pointed out where "modernization" had vastly changed the character of the capitol over time. Dealey was a knowledgeable and enthusiastic guide making the tour both informative and enjoyable.

1994 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR
by Chris Pattarozzi

The site for the 1994 seminar has been selected and it is . . . . Denver! NCSL will host the seminar. We hope attendance will be as good as it was in Austin; in fact, we hope the program and everything else will be as good as it was in Austin.

Debbie Tavenner and I will be planning the seminar and would love to hear your suggestions. Mark you calendars now and plan to attend.

THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
by Marcia Hoak

In October, when I was in Prague, I visited Dr. Karel Sosna in the Parliamentary Library of the Czech Republic. Our visit was short since Dr. Sosna had to catch the Friday afternoon commute bus to his family's house in the country. We sat in his office and chatted and afterwards he took us on a quick tour of the Library.

Calling to make the appointment was an experience. We were staying in a private flat where the landlady spoke no English. Luckily, her daughter did speak a little and since no one speaking English was available when I called the Library, she assisted by making the appointment for me.

Dr. Sosna, who was very pleasant, spoke English well so we had no problem communicating. The main impression that I carried away was how similar his library's problems were to ours, in spite of the obvious differences.

As we heard from Mary Nell Bryant at the NCSL Annual Meeting, before the revolutions in the Eastern European countries there was no need for factual information, so the libraries were inadequate and had terribly outdated and limited information. So it was with the Parliamentary Library in Prague. Dr. Sosna was hired around 1990 and doubled the staff to ten people. It seemed like a fairly large operation, compared to our state legislative libraries.

The Library is located on three floors of a Parliamentary staff office building several miles away and across the Vltava River from the Parliament. This office building is near the famous Wenceslas Square where the "Velvet Revolution" started. The Library has a "station" in the Parliament and soon I will be moving the majority of the Library's operation to the Parliament Building. The Parliament is an attractive but "unofficial-looking" building which we walked by but were unable to visit. There was a solitary guard walking back and forth and no one else in sight. (However, the pictures in the brochure looked beautiful!)
Dr. Sosna had just purchased state-of-the-art British library software for all the Library's functions, but it was not yet up and running. They also use CD-ROM technology and Internet, but apparently not much in the way of online databases, since the telecommunications systems are bad. However, that should be improving soon as joint Czech-foreign telecommunications companies install new systems.

LIBRARY SERVICES FOR THE HALL OF THE STATES
by Earl Graybeal, State Services Organization Library.

The Hall of the States was established to enhance the individual and collective state presence in Washington, D.C., and enable the states to play their full role as the linchpin of the federal system. The National conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the Council of State Governments (CSG) and The National Governors' Association (NGA) worked for many years to strengthen the state presence in Washington. In June 1975, the development of the Hall of the States was authorized. The building was to be a common facility for offices of both states and associations of state officials, which then were scattered throughout Washington. The major advantages were to be improved communication among offices, increased effectiveness in Washington and reduced costs for central services through the creation of the State Services Organization (SSO).

The creation of a central staff reference library was among the highest priorities of the founders of the Hall of the States. A Library Task Force was appointed from staff employed by the first tenants of the new facility. The SSO Library Task Force contacted the D. C. Chapter of the Special Libraries Association that made recommendations for hiring a professional librarian and selecting core publications. An ad hoc Library Task Force was later called upon to make additional recommendations for acquiring on-line legislative tracking services.

Today the Hall of the States is home to the offices of 29 states and U.S. territories and 50 associations of state officials, employing over 650 individuals. It is this group that comprises the primary users of the State Services Organization Library. The Library remains open to the public as a reference resource but it limits borrowing privileges to offices located in the hall of the States. Libraries around the Washington area borrow through interlibrary loan and Library staff fills interlibrary loan requests from state government libraries throughout the country.

A unique aspect of the Library is the Hall of the States depository of publications. The depository contains reports, newsletters and journals issued by offices located in the Hall of the States. A large portion of the Library's resources is designed to track federal actions. Publications such as "Daily Report for Executives, Congressional Record, Federal Register, Congressional Monitor" and approximately 20 other titles are kept in a "HOT FILE" for quick referral.

The Library's reference collection includes core legal documents such as U. S. statutes dating back to 1957, U. S. Code, Code of Federal Regulations, Supreme Court Digest and U. S. Law Week. A ready reference collection is growing with an emphasis on directories of individuals and organizations and statistical resources.

In 1984 the SSO Library became a Census depository library that facilitates the acquisition of the Census Bureau's reference titles and state-level reports. Publications from the Bureau's Governments Division as well as documents issued by the U. S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations are among the most heavily used titles.

In 1992 a Long Range Planning Advisory Committee voted to keep the Hall of the States at its present location. With the execution of SSO's second long-term-lease came an extensive renovation project that included a motorized compact shelving system. A local area network, DataTrek's Professional Series library automation package and access to OCLC and the INTERNET were also acquired.
Library's service offering has grown dramatically since 1977 and includes:


A monthly acquisitions list of new books evolved to become the State-Federal Relations Index which is a selective dissemination of information service published weekly that includes citations to newly acquired book titles as well as newspaper and magazine articles.

Congressional Quarterly's Washington Alert, a commercial on-line legislative tracking service for the U. S. Congress was added. Other remote access data bases include Dialog, Lexis-Nexis, Datatimes and the Federal Assistance Programs Retrieval System (FAPRS).

Interlibrary loan services were expanded to include document delivery services such as UMI's Article Clearinghouse, Uncover through CARL and on-line versions of periodicals.

User education includes over 100 library orientation tours each year and on-line training in the use of new CD-ROM products and legislative tracking services.

The State Services Organization Library staff greets approximately 225 visitors each day. Circulation statistics show a steady increase over the past ten years with a growth rate of approximately 15% for the current fiscal year. Library staff expects to lend approximately 17,000 items in FY 1994. Current staff consists of the Head Librarian, a Catalog/Technical Services Librarian and a Library Assistant. Like most libraries with limited staff, the current challenge is to maintain a high level of user service while learning and implementing new technologies.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM

by Mary Redmond

Recent developments in the U.S. Government Printing Office Federal Document Depository Library Program, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1995, will have profound effects on both the program and on citizen access to Federal government information.

Pursuant to the publication of Vice President Albert Gore's National Performance Review recommendations, Representative Richard Gephardt introduced H.R. 3400, the Government Reform and Savings Act, on October 28, 1993. Among other provisions, Title XIV of the bill would have dismantled the Government Printing Office, empowered the director of the Office of Management and Budget to propose amendments to the Depository Library Law, made no provision for free distribution of government information to the public through depositories or otherwise, shift authority for acquisition of printing services to individual Federal agencies, eliminate the enforcement mechanism that requires Federal agencies to distribute publications through GPO, remove the statutory requirement that the Federal Register be printed and sold through GPO, and eliminate the waste-fraud-abuse-oversight powers of the Joint Committee on Printing over the Executive Branch (Source: "American Libraries," December 1993, p. 976). The bill was on a very fast track in the House.

The amended version of H.R. 3400, which did pass the House prior to the fall recess, removed some of the more radical provisions of the original. It provides that the Depository Library Program will remain under the Superintendent of Documents but moves the SuDocs position out of GPO and into the Library of Congress. Undoubtedly there will be more controversy and discussion in the Senate during the January Congressional session.
Independently of but at the same time as these events, Federal depository librarians were taking a look at the program from the viewpoint of themselves and their clients. The Chicago Conference on the Future of Federal Government Information met from October 29-31, 1993. The report of that conference, "Reinventing Access to Federal Government Information," was published in the December 1993 issue of "Documents to the People" (the official journal of the American Library Association's Government Documents Round Table).

The report recommends the establishment of a Federal Information Dissemination and Access Program (FIDAP) to provide free and equal access to government information in usable and multiple forms for the people of the United States of America. The FIDAP is seen as a cooperative network among agencies, a central coordinating government authority, libraries, librarians, and the public. While the current program is heavily oriented toward print and microform, the redesigned program should stress the electronic formats available now and in the future. The report will be discussed and debated at the Midwinter Conference of the American Library Association and similar meetings of other professional organizations including the Special Libraries Association and the American Association of Law Libraries.

CRB ACCESSIBLE via INTERNET

John Jewell, assistant Director for Information Services at the State Library's California Research Bureau, reports that they have developed the first phase of the INTERNET node. State Librarian Gary Strong's e-mail address is GStrong@library.ca.gov and his is JJewell@library.ca.gov. Within the next couple of months, they hope to bring up accounts for the bureau's staff as well as 60 or more staff at the state library.

John also related that the California Research Bureau was featured in the "California State Library Foundation Bulletin," no. 45 (Oct. 1993). Included in the article was an abbreviated version of his presentation made to the staff section at the NCSL meeting last July in San Diego.

DIRECTORY OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES NOW AVAILABLE

The world directory of parliamentary libraries was published in 1993 and has been distributed to legislative libraries as a result of their response to the IFLA survey in 1992. It contains 398 entries of Parliaments or Chambers of 389 territories which are either member states of federation or autonomous regions of unitary states or dependent territories.

For anyone who is interested in obtaining copies the complete citation follows:

WALII LIBRARY STAFF CHANGE
in Hawaii LRB Library's "First Reading," Nov. 93).

The Library lost its greatest repository of information when Jean Imamoto retired August 31, after 23 years at LRB. Best known as the compiler of LRB's annual best-seller, the "Directory of State, County, and Federal Officials," Jean's wide-ranging interests in politics, sports, mysteries, movies and travel made her a walking almanac and last resort for many a patron and stumped fellow librarians. A parade of patrons, colleagues, and friends came to bid Jean a bittersweet farewell. Aloha, Jean!

On September 1, the Library welcomes Karen Nakayama to the staff. Karen graduated from the UH Manoa School of Library and Information Studies in 1992. With her talent for detail, Karen will succeed Jean as compiler of the "Directory." Welcome, Karen!

NEW LRL DIRECTORY FOR '94

The new '94 directory is almost ready for the printer and will go into the mail mid-February. This year's edition includes Internet E-mail addresses where available as well as phone and fax numbers. We will continue to print changes or corrections to the directory in NEWSLINE, so more E-mail addresses can be published throughout the year. Send us yours if you'd like it added.

Special thanks to:
Marilyn Cathcart
Debbie Tavener
    1 Bancroft
    Budler

the LRL officers for helping to update the directory and verifying the listings.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE FOR NEWSLINE

Following are the deadlines for news and the publication schedule for '94 issues of NEWSLINE.

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NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSLINE

The deadline for the Spring 1994 edition of NEWSLINE is March 15, 1994. 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.

NEWSLINE is published four times a year by the Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section of NCSL. NEWSLINE is edited by Chris Pattarozzi (NCSL Denver).