



Minnesota Legislative Reference Library

321 Capitol & 3238 Minnesota Senate Building

The Legislative Reference Library was established in 1969 in Minnesota Statute 3.302. The Library serves the Legislature and the citizens of Minnesota by ensuring access to essential information resources that support the legislative process and effective public policy development. The Library has 16 staff in 14 FTE positions.

Library staff maintain an unduplicated collection.

- Collect state public policy reports, studies, periodicals, and statistics published by commercial publishers, the federal government, NCSL, other organizations, and nonprofits.
- Track, acquire, and electronically archive state documents, providing a crucial record of how the state operates over time. The collection includes all reports required by the Legislature.
- Maximize access to public policy magazines and newsletters with custom alerting services for legislators and staff.
- Acquire and archive legislative history materials, including committee minute books and audio and video from legislative proceedings.

Librarians answer both quick and in-depth research questions.

- Provide confidential, timely, and nonpartisan research and information services for legislators and legislative staff, using a broad range of print and electronic resources. LRL librarians answer over 6,000 questions each year.
- Help state agency staff and citizens access legislative and public policy information in the Library and through the website.

The Library pays for key electronic resources for legislative users.

- Legislators and staff have access to online magazine indexes, hundreds of full-text journals, and other subscription services such as Bloomberg Tax Library and Westlaw.
- The Library provides legislators and staff access to hundreds of local, regional, and national newspapers, as well as password access to the *Star Tribune*, *New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.

The Library provides services to keep legislative users up-to-date.

- The Library's popular customized alerting services, *Inside Issues* and *Contents Pages*, keep legislators and staff up to date on topics and journals important to them. These services maximize the use of the Library's magazine subscriptions.
- The number of articles requested through the services have risen steadily in the last few years--over 11,000 magazine article requests in 2024.

The Library collaborates with other legislative offices.

- The Library's programmer works closely with other offices to maintain the integrity and cohesiveness of the Legislature's website.
- An LRL librarian participates in MN-IT Office of Accessibility's workgroup as accessibility coordinator for the legislative websites.

Library accomplishments in 2023-2024.

- Digitized significant portions of the Library's collection to reduce the footprint of the collection by 12 percent.
- Moved the Library collection from the State Office Building to 321 Capitol plus three storage rooms in the basement of the Capitol.
- Completed a multi-year project to digitize House and Senate Journals from 1973-1995.
- Digitized a variety of materials useful for staff researchers including: Writs of Special Election; House Rules and Senate Rules; newspaper clippings on individual legislators for the years 2000-2009; and newspaper clippings on state agencies and task forces for the years 1969-2024.
- Hosted an art exhibit of *Star Tribune* photographer, Glen Stubbe, in the Library's Senate location.
- Began developing a House and Senate photography archive.

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