



2007 Annual Report





Fun Facts

The average cost of a book in the Minnesota State Law Library is \$113.68.

The staff has 197 collective years of service at the Library.

The Library still uses its first PC, a Texas Instruments computer purchased in 1983, to print special book labels.

From May 1996 through December 2007, the State Law Library has archived 18,348 appellate court

opinions on the web at <http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/archive/>.

The Minnesota State Law Library is the oldest continuing library in the state of Minnesota and also one of the state's oldest institutions. The Library and the Territory of Minnesota were created by the same act of Congress on March 3, 1849. Section 17 of the act provided a \$5,000 appropriation to establish a library to be located at the seat of government. The Library was set up in the summer of 1849 in a small candlelit room on the second floor of St. Paul's "Central House," a tavern that also functioned as the home of the new territorial government.

The territorial (later state) Library's original mission centered on the collection of materials of general interest to the government and citizens of Minnesota. During the 1870s, the Supreme Court assumed responsibility for the Library and began to assemble a collection emphasizing law and legal theory. Today, although the Library's primary responsibility is support of the research activities of the Judiciary, we continue to provide a wide variety of information services to the Executive and Legislative branches of State Government, to bar members statewide, and to the public.

We welcome you to the Library, both physically and virtually, and take seriously our commitment to be the *"First Rung on the Ladder of Justice."*

Barbara L. Golden
State Law Librarian

Profile

The Library has seventeen staff (14.95 FTE). In addition, the Library welcomes volunteers and interns from the community and local educational institutions.

The Library collection numbers 309,157 volumes in print and audio-visual formats, 11 online database subscriptions, and 77,225 microfiche volume equivalents. In compliance with our [Collection Development Plan](#),

the Library collects primary legal materials of the federal government, its territories, and the states; secondary materials on a wide variety of legal subjects; Minnesota law on a comprehensive level; and federal and state government documents selected through depository programs.

On an average day, the staff fields dozens of requests, simple to complex, from our many patrons, including judges, law clerks, attorneys, self-represented litigants, students, and other members of the public.

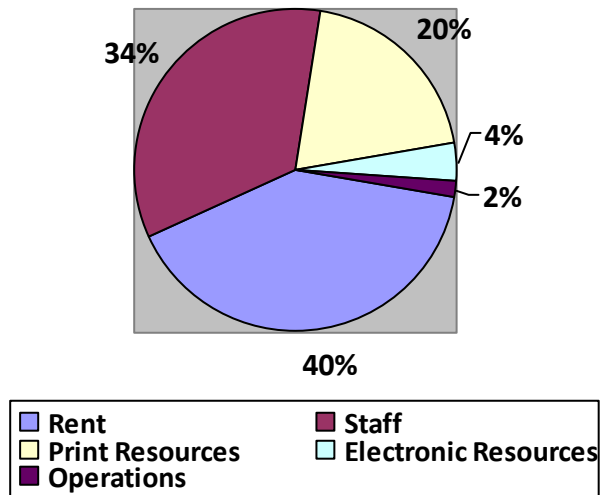
Staff Milestones

Daniel Lunde, Head of Outreach Services, 25 years
Dennis Skrade, Head of Technical Services, 20 years
Cathy Knoke, Technical Services Assistant, 20 years
Robin Horowitz, Cataloger, 5 years
Anna Cherry, Public Services Librarian, 5 years

Moving on:

Laurel Steibler, Government Documents guru, 20 years
Dia Lor, student intern extraordinary, 5 years

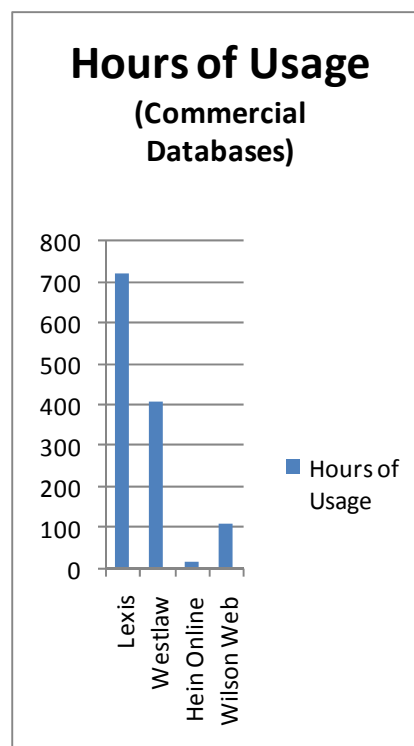
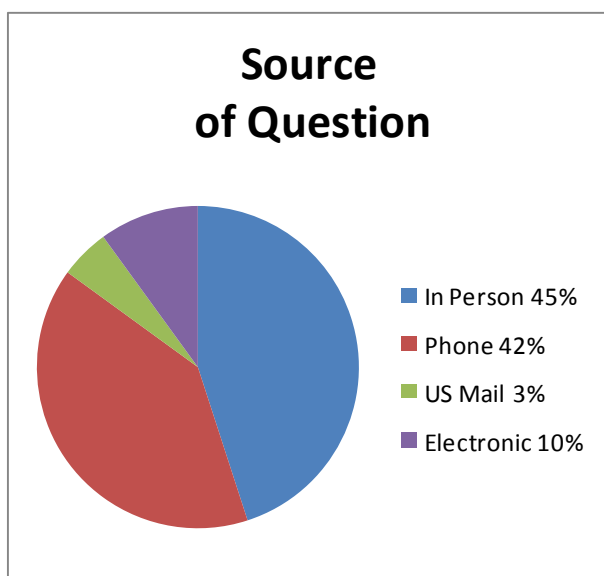
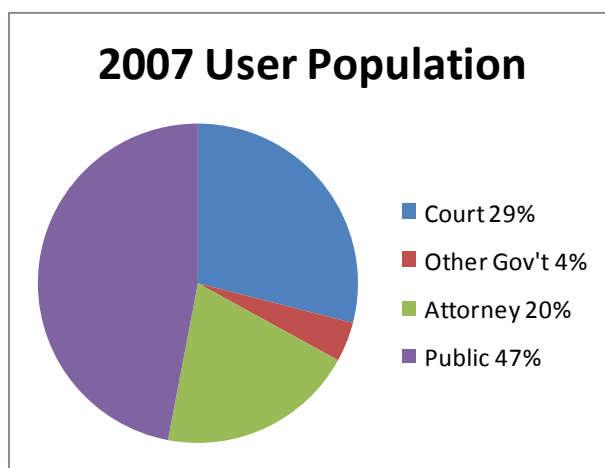
FY07 Expenditures



Public & Electronic Services

12,700 requests for information
 896 requests received and answered via email
 398 requests from jail inmates and state hospital patients
 1860 items scanned and emailed (as a result of a request)
 5166 pages of material copied and mailed (as a result of a request)
 2328 items circulated from the collection
 164 items circulated to interlibrary loan networks
 82 items borrowed by interlibrary loan for MJC staff

The Public Services Department is the “public face” of the Law Library, and circulation and reference statistics express our interactions with library users. Numbers alone do not convey the success or the tone of the interaction, but do help us to spot trends and respond to needs. Overall, our statistics confirm that we are busier than ever, that public interaction is on the rise, and that we are doing more for the courts than in years past. During 2007, staff worked with 23 groups, involving 670 individuals, to provide tours and orientations of library facilities and services; additionally 562 library introductions were emailed to new judicial branch employees.



www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us

1,553,684 hits on the Library website (4256 per day)
154,944 website search engine queries
296,016 Library catalog searches
126,980 visitors (102,024 unique / 24,956 repeat visitors)
11:41 average duration per visit in minutes.

The Library website continues to be a useful research tool for the public and judiciary. As a 24/7 operation, the website is available to users even when the Library is closed.

Although our reference staff fields an amazing variety of questions daily, family law and court procedures are the top two subject areas for frequently asked questions. Brief answers to our most popular questions are posted online in [Frequently Asked Questions](#), and are available to all. A popular addition to this list in 2007 was an old question, but one of current interest because of the economy. It concerns a justice of the peace case related to mortgage foreclosure. *First National Bank of Montgomery vs. Jerome Daly* (1968), sometimes called the [Credit River](#) case, ruled against a bank foreclosure and, although the mortgagee did not ultimately prevail and the case itself has no value as precedent, it is still cited by those who practice "[law on the edge](#)". In cooperation with Scott County court administration, the scanned documents from this case are now available on our website.

The *Credit River* documents were loaded on August 22, 2007, and received 4,741 hits by the end of the year.

Our website was highlighted during the Library's celebration of [National Library Week](#) in April. Fun facts, quotes, and a quiz for a prize generated many positive comments.

"Your quiz did exactly what I think you intended, which was to demonstrate how much is available. I had no idea so much was conveniently assembled through your website!"

Law Clerk
Hibbing

A few more website additions:

A major addition was the posting of selected briefs in accordance with the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch (which specifies no posting of appendices, along with data privacy protections). The individual briefs are linked from the pages listing the legal issues in the briefs. You can find these pages on the [citation list](#).

Using Flickr, an online photo management and sharing application, we added a [virtual library tour](#).

We started adding subject lists of opinions issued by former Supreme Court Justices to the website. These are linked from the Docket "[Biographies of Justices and Judges of the Minnesota Appellate Courts](#)."

Outreach Services

Law Library Service to Prisoners (LLSP)

9270 DOC prisoners (as of 1-1-08)
89 prison visits
7,580 miles traveled
1,120 inmate interviews
1,799 individual inmates assisted
25,429 items delivered

The mission of LLSP is to provide law library service to inmates incarcerated in Minnesota. Circuit-riding prison law librarians conduct monthly visits to eight adult correctional facilities to meet with inmates. Questions that cannot be answered on-site using the prison collections of core legal materials are researched at the Minnesota State Law Library. Inmates can also write or call LLSP for assistance with their legal research.

The number of inmates requesting services in 2007 increased by 7.6% over 2006. For more information, read the separate [LLSP 2007 Annual Report](#).

County Law Library Program (CLLP)

The Minnesota State Law Library is required by law to advise and assist development of county law libraries throughout the state. The Program Coordinator makes on-site visits to the libraries and submits recommendations for solving problems or addressing issues confronting the boards of trustees. The Coordinator also provides training in law library management and helps develop cooperative programs; such as the Minnesota Law Libraries Self-Help Network.

County Law Library Program (CLLP) staff distributed Minnesota primary legal resources: *Minnesota Statutes*, *Minnesota Rules*, and *2007 Session Laws* to Minnesota County Law Libraries as required. Staff provided onsite consultations to five county law libraries (Steele, Becker, Mille Lacs, Isanti, and Chippewa counties) to help resolve space and content issues. Additionally, numerous other consultations were provided by phone and email covering similar issues, as well as questions regarding filing fees, legal vendor questions, and questions regarding the appropriate use of law library funds.



Rock County Law Library

Minnesota Law Libraries Self-Help Network

The *Statewide Law Library/Self-Help Center Project Advisory Workgroup* held its final meeting on January 17, 2007. Its [report](#) was presented to the Judicial District Administrators and SCAO Directors Group in February and to the Judicial Council in June. It recommends several roles for the State Law Library, including expanding the [Fifth Judicial District Law Library Project](#) statewide. This initiative is called the “Minnesota Law Libraries Self-Help Network;” it offers Westlaw access at both the law library and a public library in the county, as well as the services of a circuit-riding librarian. Mara Wiggins, who has been the Fifth District Circuit-Riding Librarian for more than six years, joined the Library staff in November to help in this endeavor. The Library reached an agreement with Thomson West on a favorable Westlaw contract for county law libraries. The Westlaw package was developed for public patrons, self-represented litigants in particular, and features an easy-to-use interface the Library helped design. Read more about the program in the September *Briefly... News From Your State Law Library* at <http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/newsletter/0710.html>.

A program concerning this initiative, entitled “Partnerships, Public Libraries, & the Pro Se Litigant: Expanding County Law Library Services,” was presented at the American Association of Law Libraries annual meeting in July.

Judicial History

Library staff finished up projects directed by the *Minnesota Juvenile Court Centenary Planning Committee* and became involved in statehood sesquicentennial activities on behalf of the court.

Information on the Juvenile Court Centenary was posted on the Court website at <http://www.mncourts.gov/?page=1840>, including the final report of the committee, the script for a *In re Gault* re-enactment, and an announcement on a traveling storyboard exhibit. A symposium DVD of “Emerging and Innovative Ideas in Juvenile Law: Celebrating 100 Years of Juvenile Courts in Minnesota” was completed. Copies were given to the National Center for State Courts, National Judicial College and other appropriate organizations, and other copies made available for sale.

The State Law Library was involved with the creation of a Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society, spearheaded by former Justice Sam Hanson and Justice Paul Anderson. The Library is most heavily involved with the Society’s first publication – a book of memorials for deceased Minnesota Supreme Court Justices, to be published in May 2008 in time for the State Sesquicentennial celebration. We have compiled considerable interesting information in support of this project.

Special Events

The Library hosted seven **Showcases**, as well as a tea to commemorate a new book added to the Library's Special Collections Room. Judge Thomas G. McCarthy, Minnesota District Court Judge in Sibley County, donated to the Library a signed copy of *There When We Needed Him: Wiley Austin Branton, Civil Rights Warrior*, a new biography on the prominent attorney and civil rights activist. Hubert Humphrey was among the many people that Wiley Branton worked closely with. Special signatures in our copy of the book include the author, three of Branton's six children, and Mrs. Thurgood Marshall. Richard Branton attended the presentation and regaled us with stories of his father. The event was reported in the December 14, 2007, issue of [Minnesota Lawyer](#).



The State Law Library hosted an **art exhibit** by Stillwater Correctional Facility inmates in June. Following the exhibit, most of the art was auctioned off to support educational programs for inmates. (Once artwork leaves the prison, it cannot be returned to the inmate because contraband, such as drugs or weapons, might be hidden on or in the art. Therefore, the prisoner either donated his artwork or made arrangements for friends or family to retrieve it.)



Marvin R. Anderson, Executive Director
Everybody Wins! - Minnesota

The first [Everybody Wins](#) program in Minnesota is still going strong. This program has been coordinated by State Law Library staff since the beginning. We celebrated our tenth anniversary in 2007. It pairs judicial staff and other volunteers with students at the Benjamin E. Mays International Magnet School for reading aloud one-to-one during a lunch period each week. The Everybody Wins mission is to reach children while they are young, stimulate their interest in reading and writing, and encourage them to believe that they, too, can be successful.

Technical Services

5,847 print items added
10, 861 microfiche added
348 electronic records added to online catalog
1748 briefs processed
2,214 transcripts processed
6,847 federal government depository documents added
43,663 online catalog edits

The Library expanded its resources in 2007 with materials from a variety of vendors. Thomson Reuters (West Group) continues to command the largest, most significant part of our materials budget for primary materials. Acquisitions support the goals of the judiciary, including effective management, resources for self-represented litigants, and problem-solving courts. We are a partial federal depository for the GPO (Government Printing Office) and actively collect state documents. Technical Services staff received training on acquisitions, the final component of “Aleph,” our integrated library system, to be implemented. This module allows us to track books and other materials from ordering through addition to the collection and provides better internal control of payments and budget reporting beyond what MAPS (State Finance) provides.



Sample additions to the Library Collection:

Access to Government in the Computer Age: Examination of State Public Records Laws (ABA)
Boys among Men: Trying and Sentencing Juveniles as Adults
Courtiers of the Marble Palace: the Rise and Influence of the Supreme Court Law Clerk
Fathers' Rights: the Best Interest of your Child includes You
First among Equals: How to Manage a Group of Professionals
Foreclosures: Defenses, Workouts, and Mortgage Servicing
Hurricane Katrina: a Nation Still Unprepared
It is so Ordered: a Constitution Unfolds by Warren Burger
Judging Children as Children: a Proposal for a Juvenile Justice System
Judging the Judges: Justice, Punishment, Resistance, & the Minnesota Courts during the Vietnam War
Most Democratic Branch: How the Courts Serve America
Presenting Archaeology in Court: Legal Strategies for Protecting Cultural Resources
Search & Seizure in the Public Schools
Successful Manager's Handbook
Teen Rights (and Responsibilities)
Terrorism and the Constitution: Sacrificing Civil Liberties in the Name of National Security
Type Talk at Work: How 16 Personality Types Determine Your Success on the Job

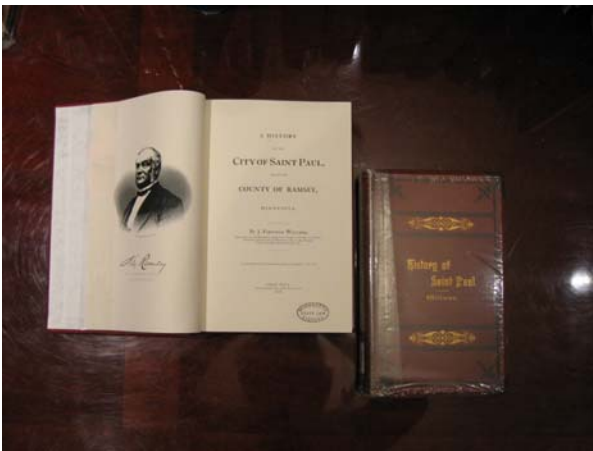
Collections - Preservation & Access

Library staff continuously evaluate our resources to ensure that our materials will be available to current and future generations.

For easier access, we copied to DVD format a series of Historical Society interviews with former Minnesota Supreme Court Justices taped in the early 1990s. Justices interviewed, in alphabetical order, are: C.J. Amdahl, J. Gardebring, C.J. Keith, J. Glenn Kelley, J. Fallon Kelly, J. Pirsig, J. Rogosheske, C.J. Sheran, J. Simonett, J. Todd, J. Tomljanovich, J. Wahl and J. Yetka.

The following books were in a damaged state and have been conservation bound to insure that they continue to be valuable resources for future generations of Minnesotans:

- **A Defence of the Constitutions of the United States of America**, against the attack of M. Turgot in his letter to Dr. Price, dated the twenty second day of March, 1778. By John Adams. 3 volumes. London, J. Stockdale, 1794.
- **An Historical and Political Discourse of the Laws and Government of England**, from the first times to the end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. By Nathaniel Bacon. London, D. Browne & A. Millar, 1760.
- **Acts Passed at the First Session of the Congress of the United States of America**, begun and held at the City of New York on Wednesday 4th of March in the year 1789 and the independence of the United States its thirteenth. Philadelphia, F. Childs, 1791.



The State Law Library is concerned about our valuable old resources that cannot be bound due to the fragile state of the paper. So we make two copies, one paper and one in digital format, and bind the paper copy. Four books were treated in this manner this year.

- **A History of the City of St. Paul and the County of Ramsey, Minnesota.** By John Williams. St. Paul, The Society, 1876.
- **Supplement Showing the Changes in the General Statutes of 1878.** St. Paul, West, 1883
- **A Report of Trials under a Special Commission for the County of Clare,** 1848, held at Ennis, January 1848. Dublin, Hodges & Smith, 1848.
- **A Report of Trials under a Special Commission for the County of Limerick,** 1848, held at Limerick, January, 1848. Dublin, Hodges & Smith, 1848.