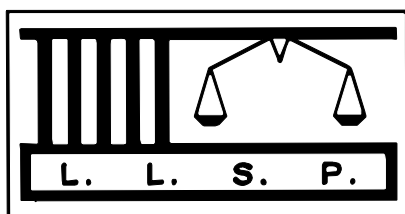


# LAW LIBRARY SERVICE TO PRISONERS

## 2001 ANNUAL REPORT



STATE LAW LIBRARY  
MINNESOTA JUDICIAL CENTER

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### Message from the State Law Librarian:

Long before collaboration became one of the buzzwords of the 90's, the Inter-Agency Agreement between the State Law Library and the Department of Corrections existed. Of all the factors that underlay this extraordinary intergovernmental partnership, the most important one is the trust between the employees of different agencies and a shared commitment to highest level of public service.

The association between the DOC and the State Law Library remains a hallmark in the annals of Minnesota's state government. The services provided by the dedicated LLSP staff are as crucial today as they have been over the past 17 years. This is reflected by this year's statistics that show a 26% increase in requests processed over the previous year.

This year will be my last as an active participant in the LLSP Annual Meeting as my retirement will take effect in 2002. I leave knowing that the program that I had a part in the creation of has achieved and exceeded the goals we established so many years ago. This has been one of the most important programs of the State Law Library. I will always value the opportunity the DOC has given us to serve Minnesota's inmates.

Marvin Roger Anderson  
Minnesota State Law Librarian

LLSP librarians visited the Minnesota Correctional Facilities at Faribault, Lino Lakes, Moose Lake, Oak Park Heights, Rush City, Shakopee, Saint Cloud, and Stillwater. Most visits to Moose Lake were conducted via interactive television and each inmate entering Shakopee received an introduction to the law library from the LLSP librarian. In addition, LLSP provided service to over 20 Minnesota prisoners housed out-of-state.

In 2001, LLSP hired Susan Trombley to fill the half-time position left open by the departure of Anne Tuveson earlier in the year. Susan visited MCF-Stillwater on a weekly basis in 2001. Mary Keller, a graduate student in the School of Library and Information Science at the College of Saint Catherine, filled the first internship offered by LLSP in several years. Mary, under the supervision of the LLSP librarians, helped to answer requests for law-related information from inmates and did a substantial portion of the work for a bibliography on inmate access to the courts.

MCF-Faribault, the only remaining prison with an evening visit, switched to a daytime visit in 2001. Like their counterparts at all other Minnesota Correctional Facilities, inmates at MCF-Faribault must now sign up in advance to see the LLSP librarian. Controlled access allows the LLSP librarian to see more inmates in a shorter amount of time and makes better use of resources.

The two-week strike by state employees in early October caused minimal disruption in service to the inmates of Minnesota Correctional Facilities. LLSP provided service during the strike via U.S. Mail and telephone instead of making in-person visits to the prisons. After the

**L**aw Library Service to Prisoners (LLSP) continued its long tradition of service in 2001 by providing over 1700 inmates incarcerated in Minnesota Correctional Facilities with assistance in finding and using law-related information.

strike was over, LLSP librarians immediately resumed their regular visitation schedules.

LLSP librarians continued to be involved in professional activities throughout 2001. Most notably, Stephanie Thorson co-authored and was the featured subject of an article appearing in the October 2001 issue of *Computers in Libraries*. Karen Westwood became President-Elect of the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries (MALL) and Timothy Baland is the Chair of the MALL Exchange Committee. Susan Trombley was the featured subject of a brief article appearing in the September 2001 *Prison*

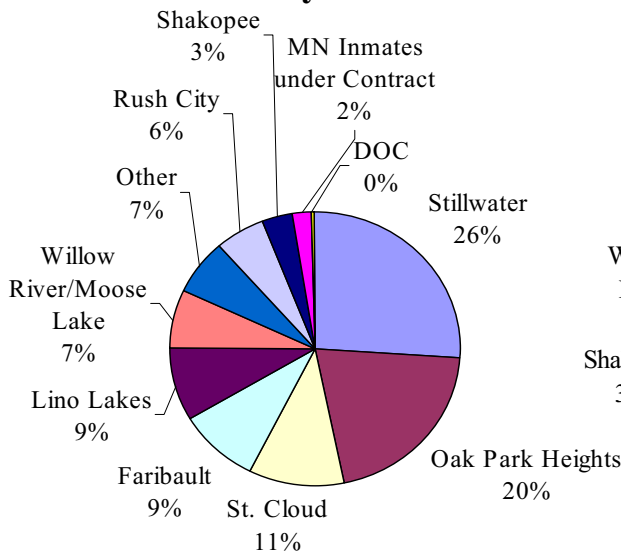
*Mirror* announcing that she was the new LLSP librarian for MCF-Stillwater. LLSP librarians all maintain individual memberships in one or more professional organizations, including the American Library Association, the American Association of Law Libraries, and the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries. LLSP librarians also attended one or more professional conferences in 2001, including the Annual Meetings of the American Association of Law Libraries, the Region IV Correctional Education Association, the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries, the Minnesota Library Association, and a forum on prison reform sponsored by the University of Saint Thomas.

**STATISTICAL SUMMARY:**

LLSP ACTIVITIES	1999	2000	2001	200-2001 CHANGE
Requests Processed	20581	24171	30546	+26%
On-site Meetings With Inmates	1678	1859	2315	+25%
Individuals Assisted	1287	1476	1721	+17%

*Requests Processed* quantifies the activities involved in providing law library service to prisoners. *On-site Meetings with Inmates* is the number of inmate reference interviews conducted in-person and by interactive television. *Individuals Assisted* is the total number of people we provide information to whether in-person, by telephone, or through the mail.

**Requests Processed By Institution 2001**



**Requests Processed By Institution 2000**

