

# Notable State Documents 2006

Each year state agencies develop informative and attention-getting publications. Our *Notable Documents* lists of just a few years ago highlighted mostly print publications – these days most everything is available efficiently online. These suggested resources from librarians who work with government documents would be interesting for library users from students to adults.

## Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

John Heintz from the University of St. Thomas recommended the website of the [Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board](http://www.cfboard.state.mn.us/), noting that it is “not a particularly visually attractive site, just timely, well-organized information for candidates, committees, and the public.” Carol Blackburn at the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library noted that they publish many informative “quick reference guides,” such as the [Public Officials Quick Reference Guide](#), the [Lobbyist Quick Reference Guide](#), and the [Political Committee and Political Fund Quick Reference Guide](#). These can be found in the publications part of the agency website.

URL: <http://www.cfboard.state.mn.us/>

## Minnesota State Demographic Center

Because immigration statistics are hard to get, Amy West from the University of Minnesota nominated *Immigrants to Minnesota by Region and Selected Country of Birth, 2005*. Note that this is a data set, not a report. Barbara Ronningen of the Demographic Center does an exceptionally good job of getting hold of elusive statistics from the Office of Immigration Statistics and using them, Census data, and other administrative data to create state-specific analysis and data.

URL: Immigrant data set: <http://www.demography.state.mn.us/resource.html?Id=18679>

URL: Immigrant reports: <http://www.demography.state.mn.us/a2z.html#Immigration>

URL: State Demographic Center: <http://www.demography.state.mn.us/index.html>

## Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

Pat Fenton from the Department of Employment and Economic Development Library polled her colleagues for their ideas of important and interesting information for citizens. Suggestions included the

[Minnesota-China Connection: Students Exploring, Sharing, Learning](http://www.minnesota-china.com/StudentsExploringSharingLearning) website. The site was created when seven “Student Ambassadors” traveled with Governor Tim Pawlenty on a historic trade mission to Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong in 2005.

URL: <http://www.minnesota-china.com/Education/index.htm>



Employee benefits are an important concern for individuals and businesses. Which benefits are offered by private firms in Minnesota? Responses from over 3,000 firms are included in the [\*Minnesota Employee Benefits Survey, Spring 2005\*](#).

URL: <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/publications/benefits/2005.htm>

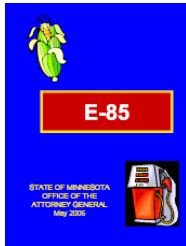
DEED gathers information on Minnesota's JOBZ rural economic development stimulus program. JOBZ provides substantial tax relief to companies that start up or expand in targeted areas of Greater Minnesota. You can find details about the program, where the properties are located, and even fill out an [online tax benefit calculator](#), to see if your business would benefit from location in a JOBZ site.

URL: <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/bizdev/jobz.htm>

## Office of the Attorney General

Anita Anderson, Librarian at the Attorney General Library, noted recent publications on the Attorney General's website. Several facts sheets on consumer issues are released as a monthly column, [\*Your Legal Rights\*](#). Recent ones include "[Minnesota's Identity Theft Freeze Law](#)," "[Credit Cards vs Debit Cards](#)," and "[The Real Deal on Auto Leases](#)."

URL: <http://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/ylr/default.htm>



A report titled simply [E-85](#) reviewed ethanol and E85 pricing in the fall of 2005, after consumers and small E85 wholesalers raised questions about why E85 prices had risen so sharply.

URL: <http://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/PDF/E85Report.pdf>

The Attorney General's site includes cautionary information for teens and parents about MySpace and other social networking Web sites, including tips for online safety and a Powerpoint presentation for kids. You'll want to see the pictures that accompany the slides "Think you know that cute boy you've been instant messaging for hours?" and "He may be lying about who he is."

URL: [http://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/PR/PR\\_060217OnlineWarnings.htm](http://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/PR/PR_060217OnlineWarnings.htm)

## The Minnesota Historical Society

New technology can enhance our access to history. Kathryn Otto from the Minnesota Historical Society Library recommends the [History Topics](#) page on the

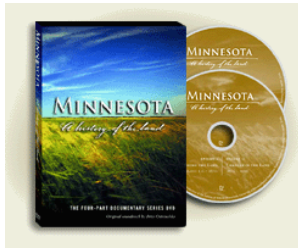


[Historical Society](#) website. Although it was designed for students, librarians at the Historical Society have found that a lot of adults use it too. Besides suggestions for paper topics, there are lists of secondary and primary resources, including multimedia. For example, you can watch a [film clip](#) of Hubert Humphrey's address to the 1948 National Democratic Convention.

URL: [http://www.mnhs.org/library/tips/history\\_topics/librarytopics.html](http://www.mnhs.org/library/tips/history_topics/librarytopics.html)

## And Finally – Our Beautiful State

Marlys McGuire from the University of Minnesota nominated *Minnesota: A History of the Land*, a four-part video documentary on the people and landscapes of Minnesota from the retreat of the last ice sheets to the growth of today's suburbs. The 2 DVD set is a production of the College of Natural Resources (at the University of Minnesota) and Twin Cities Public Television. It's not exactly a state document, but made it to our list



because of its great production value – and staff at the Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Department of Resources also contributed to the production. *A History of the Land* was chosen by the American Library Association/Government Documents Round Table Division as a 2005 Notable Government Document, and mentioned in *Library Journal* in June, 2006.

Ordering information at: <http://www.historyoftheland.org/>

### State Documents on Important Public Policy Issues

Librarians at the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library (LRL) noted a number of reports on public policy topics that may be of interest to public and academic libraries. The reports have all been cataloged by LRL, making them easy to add to the collections of other libraries.

[A Report on Genetic Information and How it is Currently Treated under Minnesota Law.](#) Minnesota Dept. of Administration, 2006. The Legislature asked the Commissioner of Administration to assess how genetic information is currently protected in state agencies and offer any recommendations for legislative action.

URL: <http://www.ipad.state.mn.us/reports/2006/geneticsinfo.pdf>

[2005 Permit to Carry Report.](#) Dept. of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, 2006. Part of the Personal Protection Act passed by the Legislature in 2003 required detailed annual reporting on the number of permits applied for, issued, suspended, revoked, and denied, further categorized by age, sex and zip code of the applicant or permit holder.

URL: <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/bca/CJIS/Documents/CarryPermit/2005%20PTS%20Report.pdf>

*Delivery of Special Education to Non-public School Students by Public School Districts.*

Task Force on Delivery of Special Education to Non-Public School Students by Public School Districts, Minnesota Dept. of Education, 2006. The report includes background, statistics, discussion of issues, and recommendations of the task force. URL:

<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/static/Delivery%20of%20Special%20Education%20to%20Non-Public%20School%20Students%20by%20Public%20School%20Districts.pdf>

*Fiscal Review, 2006 Session.* Senate Counsel, Research, and Fiscal Analysis, Minnesota State Senate, 2006. This annual publication reviews the significant fiscal and policy actions of the past regular session. The broad subject categories include tables that display legislative changes from the previous budget. The *Fiscal Review* was named a Notable Document by the National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section in 2006.

URL: <http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/departments/scr/freview/2006/freview.pdf>

*Minnesota e-Health: Progress Report to the Minnesota Legislature.* Minnesota Dept. of Health, 2006. The Minnesota E-Health Initiative, a public-private initiative begun in 2004, notes that barriers and challenges remain to achieve statewide adoption and effective use of interconnected electronic health record systems.

URL: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/legrpt2006.pdf>

*Child Support Enforcement.* Office of the Legislative Auditor, 2006. Although Minnesota's child support enforcement efforts rank well on national measures, improvements are needed. To strengthen program accountability, recommendations for the Legislature and Department of Human Services are included.

URL: <http://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/ped/pedrep/child%5Fsup.pdf>

*Minnesota Family Assistance: A Guide to Public Programs Providing Assistance to Minnesota Families.* House Research, Minnesota House of Representatives, 2006. The report describes the federal and state programs that provide assistance to families in the form of income, health care, food purchasing, and housing.

URL: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/famasst.pdf>

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