



The CONNector

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2001

Volume 3 Number 2

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This newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July, November. Your contribution and comments are welcome. The deadline for contributions is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Please send them to Editor, CSL, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford CT 06106-1537 or email [Bonnie Delaney](#).

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The State Librarian's Column

Kendall F. Wiggin
Connecticut State Librarian



Preservation of the human record is probably not something the average library user thinks about when visiting a library. Yet it is a value central to librarianship and one of the most challenging issues facing the profession at the beginning of this new century. To quote from the American Librarian Association's (ALA) draft statement on Core Values, "the cultural memory of humankind and its many families, its stories, its expertise, its history, and its wisdom must be preserved from the past so it illuminates the present and makes the future possible". Or, as *Harper's Magazine* Editor Lewis H. Lapham said, "libraries defend the future against the past."

Our libraries, archives, historical societies, town halls, and other repositories are challenged with making sure that the documents and books that make up our past are there for future generations. As new media for conveying information emerge the preservation issues become more complex. Not only do we need to deal with crumbling acidic wood pulp paper, now we must also deal with the bits and bytes that emerge every day as we computerize government and business operations and post more information on the Internet. While great efforts have been made to deal with print resources, strategies are just developing to make sure that important "electronic" documents will be available for future generations.



The landmark Historic Documents Preservation Account that was created by the Legislature last year will provide funds to allow towns and city clerks to make major progress in understanding and dealing with local records preservation issues. The first grants under the program will be awarded in July 2001. In another area of records management, the Office of the Public Records Administrator has just issued the state's first standards for the use of imaging technology for the storage, retrieval, and disposition of public records.

Much remains to be done. Eleven years after the recommendations of the Preservation Task Force, funding for preservation activities in libraries, historical societies, and other repositories has not been forthcoming. This year the Legislature is considering legislation (SB 1257) that would begin a preservation grant program.

Connecticut is rightfully proud of its past. Cultural tourism is a large component of our tourism industry. Without financial support for the preservation efforts of the library and archives communities, access to the raw material of our cultural heritage will be lost.

Connecticut State Library
Established 1854

State Library Board Notes

The State Library Board held their regular meeting on January 22, 2001. Chair Ann Clark announced that Robert Gallucci has formally resigned from the State Library Board. She thanked him for his dedication and service and extended best wishes to him in his future endeavors.

The board was brought up to date on the proceedings of the American Library Association's (ALA) Mid-Winter meeting. The implications of the filtering requirements passed as part of the federal budget are still unclear. However it appears that what is being referred to as the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) limits "technological protection measures" to graphic images. This measure will be very problematic for libraries. There will be no immediate effect on LSTA grants or funds.

The Connecticut Heritage Foundation reported that the new public service announcement promoting the State Library and Museum of Connecticut History and featuring Geno Auriemma is completed. It is being marketed to Connecticut television stations. Future fundraising plans are underway which include Mr. Auriemma, who is a strong supporter of libraries and friend of the State Library. Ms. Clark commented on the progress of the Connecticut Heritage Foundation in support of the State Library and the Museum of Connecticut History and complimented Chairman Fred Petersen.

Hilary Frye and Carol Trinchitella of the Division of Information Services presented a very informative report on the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA), a proposed state contract law developed to regulate transactions in intangible goods such as computer software, online databases and other information products in digital form. Publishers and large software producers are the primary supporters of UCITA Libraries. Consumer protection groups and a number of businesses have been among those opposing it. UCITA has been passed by several states starting in 1999. This law pre-empts other laws in effect such as consumer protection and federal copyright laws.

The board was advised that on January 11, Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Secretary Marc Ryan issued a memo putting forth a hiring freeze, effective immediately. This has an immediate impact in three areas:

- Filling two vacancies in the Connecticut Newspaper Project, one of which is a librarian position. This project is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The statutes allow the State Library to fill librarian positions, which are unclassified, without OPM approval.
- Another position affected is a Library Technical Assistant (a Reader Advisor) for the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH). The position is federally funded and is urgently needed.
- The other major problem is completing the hiring of staff for the Library's new extended hours.

Director of Information Services Lynne Newell proposed a revised fee schedule that includes newly available color photocopies. In the past the library has offered only black and white photocopies to patrons. The fees will go to a designated revolving fund. The photocopy machines are leased. The State Library pays for paper, ink, etc. The revised fee schedule was passed unanimously.

The State Library Board extended their heartfelt thanks and deepest appreciation to Louise Blalock, Chief Librarian for the Hartford Public Library, who has been selected Librarian of the Year by the *Library Journal*, for her service to the residents of Hartford and the citizens of Connecticut.

On March 26 the State Library Board held their regularly scheduled meeting in Cromwell, Connecticut where the inauguration of iCONN, the new digital library took place. The Board approved:

- A resolution for Robert Gallucci who assumed many important responsibilities while on the Board
- The State Grant Program for Public Library Construction: Timetable and Guidelines 2001-2002
- The Loan of Firearm to the Connecticut River Museum
- The FY 2001 LSTA Budget of \$1,899,637. \$219,208 is available for sub grants to libraries

Connecticut High School Summer Reading Lists - A Study

Linda Williams, Children's Services Librarian

While all of Connecticut focuses on early reading success, what is happening in reading for Connecticut's high school students? A request to our children's librarians' listserv was made. "Send in your High School Summer Reading Lists!" (HSSRL's). Librarians from 55 towns answered the call. All titles reported were included in a database of titles that students going into 9th-12th grades were requested or required to read. There was vast variation in the way these lists were compiled and delivered. Some were slick, graphically attractive handouts. Some were typewritten lists run off on a copier. Some were compiled by committees and some by English Department chairs. One school had selections from every department including the math department.

Factors considered in the assessment follow.

- **Did the list include titles published in the last ten years?**
The average percentage of recent titles on a HSSRL was 34%. The lists ranged, however, from lists that included nothing published in the 90s (current), to lists that were 67% current titles.
- **Were biographies and nonfiction titles included as choices for summer reading?**
Lists ranged from 42% fiction to 92% fiction, with an average percentage of listed titles at 65% fiction.
- **Were young adult (YA) titles included on HSSRLs? Young adult literature is a relatively new body of literature written for teens.**
Only ten of the towns surveyed included more than 24% of YA titles on their lists. One town included only adult books. Three school lists were comprised of more than half young adult titles.
- **What was the author's gender? We would like to have surveyed cultural inclusiveness but the task was too daunting. There were over two thousand authors to consider.**
On the average list, male authors wrote 63% of titles. Sixteen towns included 50% and 62% male authors. Two towns had lists where the majority of authors (59%, 53%) were female. In the remaining lists, seven were less than 30% female.
- **Are high schools including ALA's Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) Best Books on their summer reading lists?**
The average percentage of listed titles that *ever* made YALSA Best Book (YBB) lists, was 19% with a low of 2%. Six schools included 30-60% YBB titles.



Top Ten Connecticut High School Reading List Titles

1. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer (21 lists)
2. *My Antonia* by Willa Cather (20 lists)
3. *Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Ann Burns (18 lists)
4. (tie) *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
The Chosen by Chaim Potok (16 lists)
5. (tie) *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger
The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan (15 lists)
6. (tie) *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
The Color of Water by James McBride. (14 lists)

Mary Engels

"Outstanding Librarian for 2001"

Connecticut Library Association Award



Sharon Brettschneider, Director of Library Development and Mary Engels, Director of Middletown Library Service Center

Mary Engels, Director of the Middletown Library Service Center at the Connecticut State Library, has been named "Outstanding Librarian for 2001" by the Connecticut Library Association (CLA). She was recognized at the Awards Luncheon during the CLA Annual Conference for her many contributions to libraries in Connecticut.

At the Middletown Library Service Center, Mary assists many librarians with collections, consulting, and professional reference and does so with good humor and professionalism. She has been called a "librarian's librarian". After many years in state service, she is absolutely in tune with the practical needs of libraries. Mary has developed training programs on personnel policy, long range planning, and managing for excellence and many will remember her excellent series of workshops on weeding, filing, reference. Every week

librarians benefit from the training held at the Technology Training Lab that Mary designed to meet their growing need for technology education.

She co-chaired the very successful 2000 CLA Annual Conference and works with Patricia LaTerza of North Haven Public Library on the 2001 Publicity Committee. Together they designed a comprehensive collection of state library photographs that is on exhibit at the Connecticut Legislative Office Building during National Library Month. In addition, Mary chaired the subcommittee for the Award for Excellence in Public Library Service, organizing the application process, recruiting out-of-state judges, and facilitating the selection process.

Mary is also responsible for the development of the Friends of Connecticut Libraries. She provides administrative support for the organization, helps public libraries start Friends groups and assists with the Friends program at the CLA conference and is an encouraging and constant friend to the Friends.

CPTV's Family Science Expo



The Connecticut State Library and the Museum of Connecticut History exhibited at this year's Family Science Expo sponsored by Connecticut Public Television. The Expo was held on March 22-25, at Trinity College in Hartford. Thousands of students, teachers and families from throughout the state attended and toured the exhibit. The theme this year was "The Science of Communication". The State Library's exhibit featured various communications devices manufactured in Connecticut.

Dear Governor O'Neill

By Barbara Austen, Project Archivist

"Dear Governor O'Neill." That is how most of the letters begin. Then follows an appeal for help, an expression of frustration with state bureaucracy, an opinion or a suggestion on how the "state" could do things more effectively, a request for information from the Federal government. These are a few examples of the types of correspondence found in the records of former Governor William A. O'Neill.

By statute, all governors' records are transferred to the State Archives at the Connecticut State Library. O'Neill's staff transferred files annually, resulting in the same subject files (such as "Environment" or "Transportation") appearing ten times, one in each year of his administration. To make research easier, State Library staff have gathered together those subject files and arranged them chronologically.

Project Archivist Barbara Austen and Archival Assistant Edward Gutierrez have spent the last year processing O'Neill's records. Their work is part of a joint project between Central Connecticut State University's Center for the Study of Practical Politics and Public Policy and the Connecticut State Library. The next step is to prepare the



Governor O'Neill with Noella Chhom Prom, Southern New England Pre-Teen

materials for microfilming so copies of the film can be deposited at Central Connecticut State University and at other state records depositories.

Lieutenant Governor William Atchison O'Neill of East Hampton assumed the office of Governor on December 31, 1980, upon the resignation of an ailing Ella Grasso. For two years O'Neill maintained the status quo, simply trying to fill out Grasso's term. When he was elected in his own right in 1982, and again in 1986, he felt free to formulate new policies and initiatives.

Governor O'Neill oversaw the reorganization of the Higher Education system and the Veterans Home and Hospital. He maintained social programs in the wake of massive federal budget cuts. He formulated an extensive infrastructure renewal program to rebuild state roads and bridges. He proposed legislation that raised teacher salaries and standards. He instituted programs to aid the elderly, people with disabilities and mental retardation. He earned a reputation as a "regular guy," an honest and honorable man who listened to his constituents. This reputation is still true today.

Constituent letters form the bulk of the Governor's records. A third grade class from West Hartford appealed to the Governor in March 1987 when they were denied a tour of the Capitol (policy dictated that fourth grade students and above could receive tours). Katharine Rasmus wrote, "I was wondering why third graders can't go to the capitol? Is it because you think we are going to ran (sic) around and touck (sic) things? All we want to do...is learn new things." Aaron Kimble made his case this way: "I think all 3rd graders should be abell [sic] to go to the State Capital [sic]. If you ask me, I think 4th graders are wild and crazy. And you wouldn't know but they are really mean to 3rd graders." Governor O'Neill forwarded these and 18 other letters to the Joint Committee on Legislative Management. Today third graders are permitted to tour the Capitol but only when the legislature is not in session.

On a more serious note were letters from parents of mentally retarded citizens who abhorred the amicus brief the state filed in the U. S. Supreme Court case of *Youngberg v. Romeo*. The case considered the question whether the respondent (Romeo), who had been involuntarily confined to a Pennsylvania institution for persons with mental retardation, had a constitutional right to "decent care, reasonable protection from harm, freedom from prolonged and unnecessary custodial shackling, and minimally adequate habilitation."

"I was angry myself reading these parents' letters, until I read a statement by Carl Ajello, Connecticut's Attorney General"
Governor William O'Neill

The amici curiae brief submitted by Connecticut and other states argued that an appeals court erred in ruling that Romeo had a constitutional right to "adequate" treatment. The reason the state took its position was to force the courts, and the US Congress, to clearly codify the care every state had to give to persons with mental retardation.

The constituent letters are supplemented with reports from commissioners; records kept by O'Neill's legal counsel and special assistant, who often correspond directly with issues raised in the letters; and press office materials, and campaign memorabilia. His speech files also tie in with the letters, and with well over 1,000 photographs. Names and faces have been matched, with the help of many people outside the library, including diverse organizations such as the Red Cross, the Cystic Fibrosis Association, the Sons of Norway; churches such as St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Hartford; state departments including Environmental Protection and the Commissioners of Higher Education, and members of an Irish Pipe Band.

There is a striking similarity between issues from 20 years ago and current concerns. Governor O'Neill had to address traffic congestion, emissions testing, disposal of solid waste, high taxes, the need for an income tax, prescription drug costs, Lyme disease, alcohol and drug abuse, and overcrowded jails. The challenges of governing this state do not change. Letters sent to O'Neill along with a selection of photographs will be on display in the Museum of Connecticut History from March 1 to June 30 in an exhibition entitled "Who Writes to the Governor?" It is a tantalizing glimpse of a "man of the people".

New Historic Preservation Grant Program

Eunice G. DiBella, Public Records Administrator

On May 26, 2000, Governor John Rowland signed Public Act 00-146, "An Act Concerning Real Estate Filings and the Preservation of Historic Documents," into law. This legislation, which took effect July 1, 2000, establishes an "historic documents preservation account" for the "preservation and management of historic documents." The legislation charges the Public Records Administrator with the responsibility of administering a grant program to help municipalities to enhance or improve the preservation and management of historic documents.

This is the most significant piece of legislation that has been passed to support the preservation of the historic documents of the State of Connecticut and its citizens. It came about as a result of a great many individuals who worked towards this goal. We were fortunate to have two legislators, Former State Senator Thomas F. Upson and State Representative Steve Fontana, who were committed to seeing this bill passed. The effort and support of the Connecticut Society of Professional Genealogists, and Connecticut Town Clerks Association must also be acknowledged.

As part of this legislation, a fee of \$3.00 has been added to documents that are recorded on the land records. One dollar is retained by the town for preservation activities. Two dollars are sent to the State Library. The two dollars are divided into two accounts. Seventy percent of the money is allocated for a grant program for the preservation of local government records, and thirty percent of the money is retained by the State Library for the cost of administering the program and for preservation of the State Library's historical records.

Based upon projections, we estimate that a total of 1.2 million dollars will be in the fund at the end of this fiscal year. That means that about \$800,000 will be available for grants to municipalities. All monies collected by the State Library as part of this program go into a non-lapsing, interest bearing account.

The legislation directs the State Librarian to set up an advisory committee comprised of representatives of small, medium and large towns from all geographic regions of the state. The primary representation is from the town clerk community, but the State Librarian has asked key staff of the State Library, including the Public Records Administrator, to sit on the committee. The advisory committee meets on a bi-monthly basis. This committee has worked with the State Librarian and the Public Records Administrator to develop the grant criteria for the first year of the program. In the future, the committee will advise the State Librarian in adopting formal regulations to administer the program.

The Connecticut State Library, Office of the Public Records Administrator issued a pamphlet on February 1, 2001, that describes this program and includes a grant application. The pamphlet was distributed to town clerks and the administrative heads of the 169 municipalities in Connecticut. The law authorizes the chief executive officer of the municipality to serve as the applicant or to designate the town clerk of the municipality as the agent to make the application.

PA 00-146 authorizes two granting cycles per fiscal year. The first is on or before July thirty-first, and the second is on or before December thirty-first of each fiscal year in which payment is made. That means for the fiscal year of 2002, we will award grants in July and December of 2001. The first two grant cycles are targeted for paper preservation and preservation planning surveys. We have also put aside a portion of the money for emergency disaster recovery assistance. The pamphlet and application materials are also available [online](#).

For additional information about the Historic Documents Preservation Account contact [Eunice G. DiBella](#), Public Records Administrator, or see information [posted on the Internet](#).

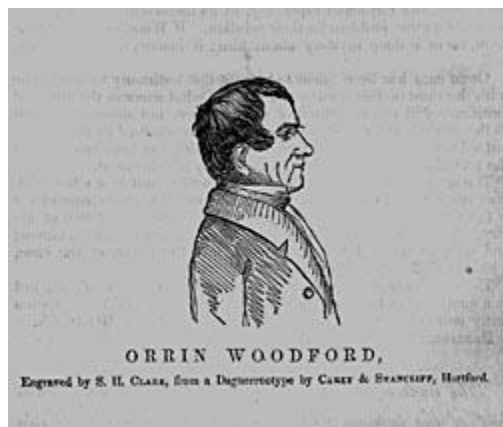
Murder and Mayhem Abound in the State Library's Law Collection

Denise Jernigan, Law/Legislative Reference Unit Head

Nineteenth-century readers may have had access to less information, but their fascination with the misdeeds of their fellow humans was no less intense. CSL's law collection has many accounts of murder trials which were reported in detail, even including maps and plans of murder sites, and lengthy, often gruesome descriptions of the crimes. The collection includes trial transcripts and court documents to aid the legal researcher or historian unravel some true-to-life murder mysteries.

Murder in the Manor

The Geer Company of Hartford published a detailed account of the trial of Orrin Woodford for the 1845 murder of his wife Diana in Avon, Connecticut. The account included the "arguments of counsel" accompanied by "plans of the house and premises, where the homicide was committed,



Three trials; no verdict

In March of 1856, Edward E. Bradley of Woodbury was accused of "wickedly, willfully, feloniously, deliberately and premeditatively" assaulting Lucius H. Foot with a wooden stick and a hammer, causing numerous mortal wounds. The attack was alleged to have occurred in the horse sheds attached to the Episcopal Church in Woodbury. Four separate physicians were called to testify to the extreme nature and extent of the injuries. Dr. Garwood H. Atwood actually brought the victim's skull into the courtroom to display and explain the location of the various wounds to the jury. Mr. Bradley was tried three times, with no verdict being reached. The State's Attorney was forced to give up further prosecution. One of Mr. Foot's colleagues remarked that the twelve jurors necessary to arrive at a guilty verdict were reached but, unfortunately for the State, they were scattered over the three separate panels.

The Real Arsenic and Old Lace Story

The famous case of Amy Archer Gilligan, inspiration for the play and the movie "*Arsenic and Old Lace*," aroused a huge amount of interest at the beginning of the twentieth century. Mrs. Gilligan was accused of poisoning residents of her old age home in Windsor with arsenic after collecting \$1000 from them for life care. According to one account, she did not keep the money for herself but donated it to a local church for its altar fund. The State Library has an extremely detailed volume of court documents leading up to the first opinion of the state Supreme Court in this case. It includes transcripts of the examination of the jurors (Connecticut's unique system of individual "voir dire" which continues even today) and of the direct and cross-examination of the many witnesses. The Supreme Court ultimately overturned the original guilty verdict, which sentenced Mrs. Gilligan to hanging, and sent the case back to the Superior Court for a new trial. This time the lower court handed down a sentence of life imprisonment. Mrs. Gilligan was sent to the state prison in Wethersfield, then to the state mental hospital in Middletown where she died in 1962.

The CSL Law Unit has recently made these and other law case background documents easier to locate and use. These "Record and Briefs" for a case on appeal usually include a series of motions, orders, and opinions from the lower court treatment of the case and arguments. The arguments, or briefs, are designed to provide

supporting precedent and logical reasoning which will lead the Court to rule in favor of the attorney's client. Complicated cases may include lengthy reply briefs, appendices, and additional papers submitted by third parties. These last submissions are known as "amicus curiae" briefs, meaning "friend of the court." The earliest records and briefs held by the State Library date to the 1830's; the collection encompasses cases of all types, not just notorious criminal matters.

Note to researchers:

The Connecticut State Library catalog is available [online](#); search by keyword or use subject headings "Trials Individual," "Trials Murder", or "Trials Homicide."

The Law Collection is non-circulating; items classified as "Special Collection" are subject to additional access restrictions.

From The State Archives

An excerpt of a letter to Mr. Hale from the Connecticut Credit Bureau, Hartford, July 16, 1927



Mr. Charles R. Hale
State Military Necrologist

Memorial Hall, 1935 swearing in of James Brewster as Assistant Librarian by Chief Justice William Maltbie.

Re: Case Lockwood & Brainard Claim - \$28.25

"You seem to pay no attention at all to our courteous efforts to adjust this account. If you suppose that by assuming an attitude of indifference the account will be forgotten or charged to charity **YOU ARE MISTAKEN!**

There are other ways to collect bills than by writing letters and perhaps the information already obtained will enable the enforcement of collection without further notice. We never like to make inquiries among neighbors or have a debtor called to a telephone, or ask the co-operation of an employer in collecting a bill, nor do we like to send telegrams or have representatives call at a debtors place of employment or business. But bills are collected by such methods as you know. And then when it reaches the point where attachment or summons to Court is necessary there is added expense for the debtor to pay in the form of writ fees of the sheriff and lawyer.

You have had your choice of adjusting this account on peaceful terms or of having forceful measures employed. We have offered you reasonable and easy payment terms and have done our best to prevent any inconvenience, annoyance or expense for you and we still stand ready to meet you more than half way on any reasonable

arrangements for settlement. But if our letters are treated with CONTEMPT are not FORCEFUL COLLECTION METHODS TO BE EMPLOYED?

Before the next step we shall wait a few days to see whether or not you have anything at all to say. And if we do not hear from you blame no one but yourself for what may happen towards the collection of this bill, and take notice that this is a FORMAL DEMAND for payment of the amount due. Bring or mail payment to this office."

Did Mr. Hale pay his debt? We do not know. However, since he is in the 1935 photograph above, can we conclude that the debt was settled amicably?

ICONN, the Connecticut Digital Library

Sharon Brettschneider, Director of the Division of Library Development

iCONN, the Connecticut Digital Library, has become a reality. On March 26th 600 librarians and teachers gathered in Cromwell to inaugurate the digital library and attend introductory training sessions. Valerie Lewis, Commissioner of the Department of Higher Education welcomed the attendees and Kendall Wiggin, State Librarian, delivered the keynote address, after which several training sessions were conducted on each of the databases. Lieutenant Governor M. Jodi Rell addressed the attendees during the luncheon.

iCONN will provide universal access to a core level of library and information resources for every resident of Connecticut through their public library, school, college and from home. Connecticut citizens will have [desktop access to eleven Gale databases via the Internet](#). The databases serve a variety of needs including student research and homework help, business research, professional development for teachers and school administrators, reader advisory, and consumer health research. Additionally, periodical databases for several different age ranges and needs are included, creating an exceptionally deep research portal. Additional databases will be added to the Digital Library collection over time.

The Connecticut Digital Library is a component of the Connecticut Education Network, which over time will provide high-speed telecommunications access to all schools, colleges and public libraries. The Digital Library is being administered by the Connecticut State Library in conjunction with the Department of Higher Education, under the auspices of the Commission for Education Technology.

Visit the [Connecticut Digital Library](#) for more information and to access the databases.

Final Round of Technology Grants

The U.S. Library Program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has accepted applications for the fourth and final round of technology grants from state library agencies in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin. Grants will be awarded and computers installed in libraries in each of these states from summer 2002 through fall 2003.

Browsable' Edition of Connecticut General Statutes Online

Denise Jernigan, Law/Legislative Reference Unit Head

The Connecticut State Library was one of the first institutions in the country to mount a complete browsable edition of state statutes on the Internet. After some extensive programming and reformatting of the publisher's tapes, the Webmaster mounted the 1997 edition of the statutes on the State Library's web site in the spring of 1997.

It immediately became the most-visited site on the CSL home page and has remained a top attraction even after the state legislature made more recent editions available in a searchable format. The ability to "browse," or scroll through successive statute sections or entire chapters, was a convenience users did not want to relinquish even though some of the information was becoming more outdated with each subsequent legislative session. The Library transmitted these concerns to the General Assembly, which took over the web hosting of statutes in 1999.

Recently, the Legislative Commissioner's Office (LCO) of the Connecticut General Assembly released a fully [browsable edition of the 2001 statutes](#). CSL can now retire its pioneer edition, freeing up some much-needed space on the web server for other useful information. Thanks, LCO!

Friends of Connecticut Libraries Unveil New Web Page

The Friends of Connecticut Libraries (FOCL) has a [new web site](#). FOCL is a non-profit organization consisting of local Friends groups, organizations, and individual members who believe that libraries are an essential resource for the citizens of our State. Designed by Joan Emmett of Durham and hosted by the Connecticut State Library, the site includes information on the programs, services, and publications of FOCL as well as links to other web pages and resources for Friends. The site also includes a directory of FOCL member Friends groups with links to their web pages and a calendar of their book sales. Please visit our site to find out more about the resources that are available to libraries and Friends.



Proposed Budget Cut for Information Resources

Lynne Newell, Director, Division of Information Resources

With all of the emphasis on the Internet, it is easy to forget that printed information resources are still the foundation of any library. This is one reason the Governor's proposed budget is so troubling. The Connecticut State Library has traditionally budgeted for information resources in two budget lines. Equipment - Law (008) funded resources for the Law & Legislative Reference Unit. The Library Materials line item (022) was used to acquire all the other books, serials, and other formats of information needed to support the various services of the State Library. The budget proposes combining both line items into one line (024), and then cuts the combined line by \$80,000 from the FY01 total. The actual decrease in the Library's purchasing power is much greater than \$80,000 because just staying even requires inflationary increases commensurate with the publishing industry's rate of increase. In addition to print and microform resources, the State Library acquires and

subscribes to many electronic information resources, but these also cost money and are paid for through the 008 and 022 accounts.

The average annual increase in the price of journals, law reporters, treatises, annual statistical reference volumes, newspapers, or other serial titles has been 9% over the past five years. Careful analysis of the library's currently received titles projects an overall increase of 8.75% for the FY02 year for a total cost of \$800,323 in FY02. The Governor's proposal of \$758,573 is **\$41,750** short of being able to maintain just these current serial titles. **At an average cost of \$141 per title, 296 titles will have to be cancelled.**

In the current fiscal year (FY01), the combined library materials budget of \$838,573 allows for purchase of \$102,644 worth of new titles in addition to maintaining \$735,929 of existing serial subscriptions. Under the Governor's proposed budget critically needed core serial **titles will be cancelled** and **no new titles** will be purchased for the Library at 231 Capitol Ave. or the Service Centers.

Maintenance of current titles and purchase of a modest amount of new titles would require an **additional \$198,000** to the proposed appropriation for an **FY02 total of \$956,573**. An **additional \$279,808** would be required in **FY03 for a total of \$1,038,381**.

