

2008 State Law Library Collection

The State Law Library Collection (in the Law and Research Library Division) has managed through significant cutbacks during the past fiscal year, as a result of tightened budgets. The State Law Library collection is relying on an abridged version of Westlaw for use to the public and library staff through an interface called "Westlaw Patron Access." Most emphasis is on Arizona legal materials, although this database does **not** include all Arizona publications put out by the West Group. We are retaining older Arizona legal materials and older series of reporters and periodicals for retrospective searching.

In order to ensure that legal information is available to the people of Arizona, efforts have been made to communicate with other individuals, agencies and institutions within the state and reinforce our network of needs as well as resources.

The State Library has continued open communications with the other large public law libraries in the state – Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library, Pima County Law Library, Arizona State University Ross-Blakley Law Library, and the University of Arizona Daniel F. Cracchiolo Law Library. As funding has tightened, we discuss changes made to our collections and types of legal materials we are and are not purchasing. We have also reaffirmed our commitment to make the information available as quickly as possible through various delivery methods. The communications with this group of public law libraries should help to ensure that the majority of legal research can be undertaken in Arizona with access to supporting library materials.

During the fiscal year, we also met with representatives from the Attorney General's Office, Legislative Council, Juvenile Corrections, and Supreme Court to discuss our plans and identify any impacts of these cutbacks on their agencies. Discussion included talk of the possibility of the State Library purchasing sources that could be accessed and used by all of these agencies. The results of our meeting figured into further cuts taken at the beginning of the 2009 fiscal year.

Our efforts to spend acquisitions funds wisely, solicit input from others and share our plans with allied agencies and institutions will help in moving us through these times and should reduce unnecessary redundancy in state government purchasing.