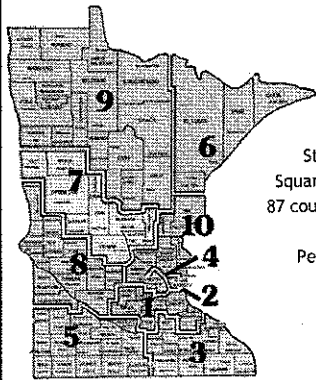
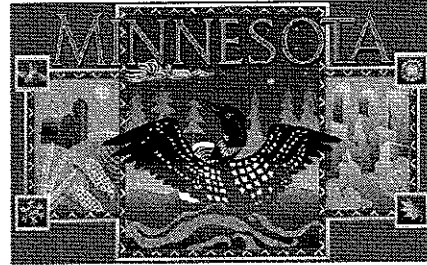


Partnerships: Law Libraries and Pro Se Litigants

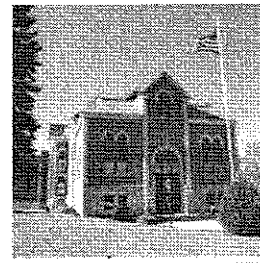
May of 2008

Hon. John R. Rodenberg



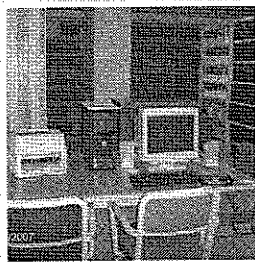
Minnesota

State Capital: St. Paul, MN
Square Miles: 86,938 including
87 counties, 10 judicial districts
Population: 5,167,100
Per Capita Income: \$37,300



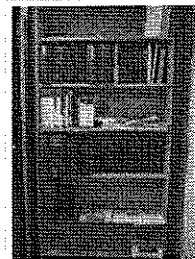
BROWN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

-County Seat: New Ulm, MN
-610 square miles
-Population: 29,911
-Per Capita Income: \$21,900
-Built in 1891

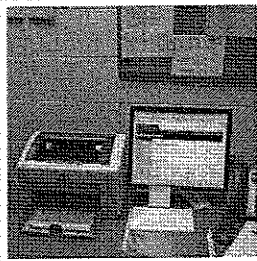


BROWN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY (FORMER)

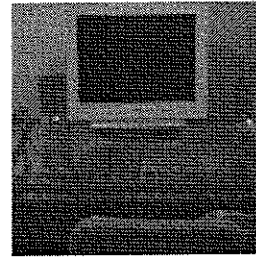
-Income: \$18,343
-Expenditures: \$17,899
-Staff: A Law Clerk is
responsible for library
maintenance only



PRINT RESOURCES (CURRENT) SELF-HELP MATERIALS

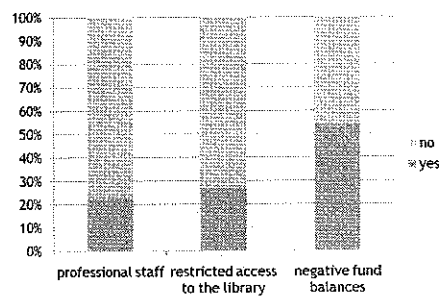


SELF-HELP
COMPUTER - LINKED
TO MINNEAPOLIS
COUNTY SELF-HELP
CENTER



WESTLAW
COMPUTER
(SEPARATE FROM
SELF-HELP
TERMINAL)

SELECTED SURVEY RESULTS



ESSENTIAL POINTS OF THE ORIGINAL 5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROJECT

- Innovation Grant awarded
 - Project Starts September 2001
- Use of joint powers agreement
 - Law and public libraries/SW State
 - All must buy in
- Vendor contract
 - 3 year contract with WESTLAW
 - Extensive content coverage
- Circuit riding librarian

MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT

- 15 counties in Southwest MN
 - At least 2 subscriber locations per county
 - All fees paid by the law library
 - Online costs divided equally among locations
 - Circuit riding librarian costs
 - Use weighted caseload sliding scale

SELLING POINTS OF THE PROJECT

- Contract to electronic resources offers more content than paper resources
- Currency of information
 - Does not require staff to update
- Saves physical space in the library
- Provides for 2 (or more) access points to the information
 - Staff
 - Expanded hours

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES OF CIRCUIT RIDING LIBRARIAN

- Assist in the vendor contract negotiations
- Trouble shooting systems issues
 - Phone support
 - Visit member libraries as needed
- Training
 - Coordinate training with Westlaw
 - Coordinate training with the MN State Law Library
- Record keeping
 - Keep project statistics
 - Help create, file and store project records (including annual reports)
 - Help resolve billing issues between counties, WESTLAW, and the project
- Communications
 - Attend public library and county law library meetings as requested

DEVELOPING THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE LAW LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP

- New and expanding ideas with a common goal to better serve the pro se patron



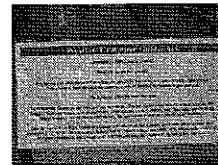
WHY HAVE LEGAL MATERIALS IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY



- Access
 - Less intimidating than the courthouse
 - Open more days/hours
 - Available staff

BENEFITS TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Free computer with priority status to legal research
 - Replacement computer bought with law library funds
- Expanded law/pro se legal paper resources
 - Purchased with law library funds



UNEXPECTED BENEFITS



- Resources available to small firms & solo practitioners.
- Law firms can refer clients to library for pro se research

PARTNERSHIPS AND PERSONNEL

- Why Law Libraries and Public Libraries
 - Hours
 - Public library known entity
 - Facility issues
 - Anonymity of the Public Library
- Circuit-riding law librarian critical
- Having representatives of each constituency critical to successful partnership

LEGAL SERVICES

- Services geared towards pro se litigants
 - Self help books - pro se litigants are increasingly in need of law library services
 - Court self-help web pages
 - Sample Pro se programs
 - Hennepin (self help center) will offer statewide services starting this year
 - Dakota, Ramsey, Washington, Anoka, etc (volunteer attorney programs)
 - Stearns (hiring of attorney to help in library)

MINIMUM STANDARDS & BEST PRACTICES FOR MN COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

- Law Library/Self-Help Workgroup developed and published best practices
- Three tiered approach by library size

RECOMMENDED PRINT PURCHASES FOR MN COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

- Three tiered approach by size
 - Reference collection
 - Self-help materials
 - Practitioners Treatises
 - Periodicals
 - Forms
 - Directories
 - Statutes/Regulations
 - Case law & finding aides
 - MN CLE Materials
 - Misc.

PARTNERSHIPS AND POLITICS

- County law libraries & public libraries
- County law libraries across the state
- Role of Southwest State University
- Legal Services and county law libraries
- Multi-district cooperation
- Role of State Law Library
- Role of State Court Administration
- MN Judicial Council direction & oversight