

Summary of LLSDC Legislative-SIS Survey Results – January 2015

Are you still creating hardbound legislative histories in print at your library?

Of 33 respondents, only FIVE responded YES. Four of the five reported creating 1-5 histories each year. One respondent said that 6-10 histories are created each year.

Do you keep print histories in your collection on site or in storage?

Of 33 respondents, TWENTY-SEVEN said that print histories are kept on site.

Are you creating any electronic legislative histories at your library?

Of 33 respondents, NINETEEN said YES. Of those, ELEVEN said they are creating online web access histories (links to PDF/Word docs on a website); several others create using shared network folder histories (containing PDF/Word documents) and one creates on a hard-drive.

How does creating e-histories affect your lending (internally and/or ILL) or other practices?

INTERNALLY:

- It does not seem to be a problem. Patrons like that they can access info on their desktops.
- In addition to being environmentally friendly, it saves time and is easier to search and find.

EXTERNAL/ILL:

- Unable to lend parts of our electronic histories to those outside the firm since everything is on our intranet - but we do let others use our print histories on site.
- We are only able to e-mail the component parts of the history.
- These histories aren't actually in our catalog and they're not in OCLC's listings either. So no one really knows we have them. That said, when people request specific documents over the list-serv, we are more than willing to share PDFs.
- Reducing (almost eliminating) need for ILL of federal materials. We probably only borrow 2-3 items a year.

What specific practices are in place at your library to offer patrons access to legislative histories in print or online?

- Internally-created electronic legislative histories are available to patrons via our intranet; however, most patrons seek the custom histories we compile upon request.
- As a tool for attorneys, we created intranet federal legislative history pages for each practice group, and link to major legislative histories available online from Hein, DOJ, DOC, LLSDC, etc.
- We have Hein for some legislative history, but we create our own related to agency content; Some of our print histories have been digitized, but we keep the hard copy.
- Our attorneys can access our legislative histories via links on our intranet page. We keep hard copies on the shelves, as some are more comfortable reading or browsing hard copies.
- All histories are now created in e-format. Even pre-electronic documents are being scanned & OCR'd. No retrospective plan in place for scanning existing paper histories, but it is done on ad hoc basis. Hate giving patrons something they cannot search--even if only control-f.
- No change. We continue to compile histories on an as-needed basis and maintain patron access in whatever format.

- If a history is small enough we make it electronic as a compiled PDF with a table of contents and bookmarks. Would like to move these to SharePoint in the future.
- We subscribe to Proquest Legislative Insight. We still receive committee reports, and some hearings, from GPO in hard copy. We still have our collection of print histories onsite, but have digitized the chronology/table of contents for most. Some recent histories are in PDF portfolios.
- Histories not contained in our print collection are accessed from the GAO LH collection on Westlaw or Hein.
- Library-created legislative histories are listed in our catalog.
- We are creating born digital legislative histories by downloading PDF's from FDsys, etc. and putting them in Document Management System.

What do you think are the most important and/or interesting legislative research and legislative history trends?

- Born-digital documents. Ability to use Congress.Gov to obtain (recent) histories on the fly.
- Associates now prefer histories in electronic format. Still have to explain how to use...Need to encourage to read key portions of reports, etc. and not rely solely on search. What I am hoping for in the future is more automation, perhaps through Congress.gov -- in the future there could be a history feature with links to the PL, reports (grouped together like a traditional LH TOC).
- Proquest Legislative Insight has been huge in terms of our users, who are basically frightened of print. It is not completely built out yet. I think the unwillingness to look at print is part of a growing trend in the decline of the quality of legal research being done. For the future, I would like to see some kind of content management/database software designed so I could quickly link to pdf files and Congress.gov info, using data from that to make e-histories in-house.
- Electronic, full OCR-searchable documents. Federal is well covered, BUT we need similar effort with state-level materials, including converting audio and video to text-searchable format.
- Trend to digital/searchable histories (both for current materials and older histories, due to space issues).
- Managing hearings in video format.
- I think it is remarkable how many states still do not have decent legislative history available!
- By-passing the committees for major bills.
- Definitely the switch to online access and compilation.