

“DCLRC Past, Present, Future”
“Law and...” series
December 2005
Dane County Legal Resource Center



A Recent History Lesson

January 1999: The Dane County Law Library (DCLL) became a branch of the Wisconsin State Law Library through a contractual agreement with Dane County. In addition, DCLL continued a cooperative arrangement with the Dane County Sheriff’s Office to provide legal information to the inmates of the Dane County jails.

October 2002: In the 2003 county budget, funding for DCLL was eliminated. After fundraising efforts by members of the Dane County Bar Association and the public, enough funding was secured to reopen. The library was closed December 28, 2002-January 12, 2003. In the 2004 county budget, management of DCLRC transferred from a contract with WSL to the Clerk of Courts, using a transferred position from the Dane County Library Service. In the end, the contract was restored and service was not interrupted.

September 2003: DCLL changed its name to the Dane County Legal Resource Center (DCLRC) to more accurately reflect its transition away from offering traditional library services and more toward gathering and distributing legal resources for the public. The DCLRC also offers services to users who need assistance with photocopying materials. The outreach program of the DCLRC was greatly expanded to include basic legal research classes for the public (offered at area libraries and community centers), courthouse tours, more brochures and booklets, as well as programming designed for courthouse staff. A newsletter and used book sale were also added in 2003.

May 2004: In recognition of the efforts of librarian Paula Seeger’s service to pro se litigants at DCLRC, the Dane County Bar Association awarded her with a special community service award. DCBA continues to support DCLRC with grant funding and cooperative ventures.

January 2006: The library is scheduled to move into the new courthouse at 215 South Hamilton Street, Room L1007.