

2024 Annual Report



The Wisconsin State Law Library exists to serve the legal information needs of the officers and employees of this state, attorneys and the public by providing the highest quality of professional expertise in the selection, maintenance and use of materials, information and technology in order to facilitate equal access to the law.

Wisconsin State Law Library
Madison, Wisconsin
wilawlibrary.gov

Welcome to the Library



Introduction

Statewide Reference

Courthouse Libraries

Outreach & Education

Collections

Partnerships



Over the past year, we have strengthened our commitment to serving people across Wisconsin through our outreach efforts, reference services, and expanded access to electronic resources. Our outreach initiatives included programs featuring the State Law Library's valuable services, en-

sureing government officials, attorneys, librarians, and state residents, regardless of location, have access to information they need about the law and the court system.

We take pride in providing high quality reference services, delivering expert research support, and providing court forms and legal information tailored to our diverse users' needs. Our library services continue to thrive in the state's two most populous counties, offering essential resources to *pro se* litigants and judges in the Dane and Milwaukee County courthouses.

Through our investment in user access, we have expanded our e-book offerings alongside a well-curated and comprehensive print collection. Whether visiting one of our libraries or accessing an electronic database remotely, the Wisconsin State Law Library is committed to providing individuals with the resources they need to learn about state and federal law.

The Library's main location was named in honor of Wisconsin's first woman lawyer, Lavinia Goodell, who overcame significant barriers and advocated for legislative changes that opened doors for generations of women. This report highlights the achievements of the past year and the impact of our services, demonstrating the State Law Library's ongoing commitment to equal access to justice.

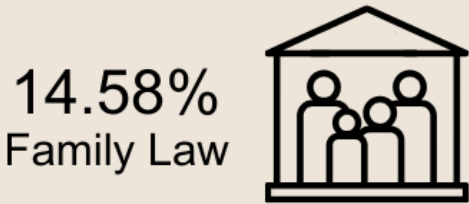
Statewide Reference

Our reference librarians help users from every county in Wisconsin - and beyond. Each question is unique and every answer is tailored to the specific needs of the individual user. Whether we are quickly locating a recent court decision or carefully poring over a legislative drafting file, it is our pleasure to connect people to the information they seek.

Popular Questions



16.36%
Tenant &
Landlord Law



14.58%
Family Law



12.52%
Library
Services &
Collections



7.10%
Court
Procedures



Users Reach Us By

Phone
48.88%

Email
45.33%

In-Library
5.79%

4,280

Reference Questions Answered

Brown, Dane, Milwaukee, and Outagamie County residents account for **35%** of all questions asked

Courthouse Libraries

The State Law Library operates two branch libraries, located in the Milwaukee and Dane County courthouses. These libraries support judges and court staff, local attorneys, and self-represented litigants in each county.

Courthouse libraries provide access to pre-printed legal form packets and instructions, alongside highly focused book collections, which help to streamline access to the law for many library visitors. Libraries also provide access to technology services: copiers for people filing at service windows, and computers and printers for creating and printing court paperwork.



Outreach & Continuing Education

Libraries are hubs for sharing knowledge, fostering professional development, and engaging with people through interactive programs.

The State Law Library's free CLE webinars offer a convenient and cost-effective way to learn how to access sources of information originating in the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of government. Other training programs offered by the library provide custom learning opportunities tailored to the audience.

Webinars & Training Programs

- Basic Knowledge for Legislative Research in Wisconsin Become a Super Sleuth, State Bar of Wisconsin - Legal Research Tools and Techniques
- Concept to Codification
- Diving Deeper into Legal Research Potential: Advanced Online Legal Research Concepts
- Federal Legislative History - Some methods in researching Acts of Congress
- Free Alternatives to Westlaw, Lexis and Other Paid Databases
- Introduction to Wisconsin Legislative History
- Online Legal Research and Resources
- Preparing Your Case with Free Sources, State Bar of Wisconsin - Legal Research Tools and Techniques
- Researching the Wisconsin Administrative Code
- Researching Lawyer Discipline: Wisconsin and Beyond
- Understanding the Risks, Rewards and Regulation of AI in the Legal Industry
- Westlaw Edge: Getting More from Westlaw
- Wisconsin Legislative History - Budget Bill Calamities

Conference Presentations

- Artificial Intelligence Everything Judges Should Know (in 30 Minutes or Less), Judicial Administrative District Meeting: District 5
- Clerk of Courts Institute
- Discovering Legal Resources, Culture Keepers Reconvening 2024
- Legal Reference: Sources and Strategies, Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference
- Library Services for Judges, New Judge Orientation
- Resources Available from the Wisconsin State Law Library, Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association Conference

Conference Presentations (continued)

- Resources for Judges, Judicial Administrative District Meetings: Districts 8 and 9
- Transform Your Staff Manual, Back in Circulation Conference
- Wisconsin Juvenile Circuit Court Access
- Wisconsin Judicial Conference

Publications

WSLL @ Your Service, the library's monthly newsletter, informs readers nationwide of new books and resources in the library's collection, helpful technology tips, upcoming classes, library news, and closes with snapshot images from around the state.

Feature articles highlight legal resources. 2024 articles focused on:

- Trail Law
- Gambling
- Electric Bicycles
- Estate Planning
- Municipal Ordinances
- WI Constitutional Amendments
- Patents & Trademarks
- Drunk & Impaired Driving

State law library staff authored three articles in the State Bar of Wisconsin's InsideTrack, as part of an initiative spearheaded by the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin.

- Legal Research 101: Selling a Small Business or Firm in Wisconsin
- Legal Research 101: Treatment Courts
- Legal Research 101: Wisconsin Recreation Laws

Collections & Borrowing

Our libraries maintain comprehensive collections of print and e-books to serve the legal research and practice needs of the Wisconsin Court System and people throughout the state.

The collections of the Dane County Law Library and the Milwaukee County Law Library focus on Wisconsin legal practice materials to best serve the needs of those involved in a court action. The Lavinia Goodell State Law Library collection focuses on Wisconsin and Federal law. At the main library, unique or rarer collections include superseded legal materials for historical research, Wisconsin appellate briefs, and archives for Wisconsin jury instruction and Wisconsin Judicial Council work.



233
New Library
Cards Issued



5,589
Total Library
Cardholders

1,716
Physical
Checkouts

1,851
Books Used
at the Library

893,650
Website
Page Views

354
Lexis eBook
Checkouts

Most Popular

Physical Books

1. Wisconsin Condominium Law Handbook
2. Appellate Practice and Procedure in Wisconsin
3. Consumer Arbitration Agreements

Lexis eBooks

1. Nichols on Eminent Domain
2. Collier on Bankruptcy
3. Corbin on Contracts
4. Moore's Federal Practice
5. Warren's Forms of Agreement

50,000
Different Titles

241,163
Items Accessed
Remotely via Database

222,943
Website Users

Partnerships

Dane County Jail Under a contract with the Dane County Sheriff's Office, the library responds to requests for legal materials from jail residents.

County Legal Clinics The branch libraries collaborate with clinics in both courthouses to provide excellent assistance to litigants. The Dane County Law Library helps to coordinate clinics and provides space for clinics to meet in the library. The Milwaukee County Law Library partners with the Milwaukee Justice Center to provide information to self-represented litigants. The State Law Library also maintains a directory of legal assistance clinics and resources for all 72 counties on its website.

Office of Judicial Education and Jury Instructions The Office of Judicial Education provides education for judges and Clerks of Court throughout Wisconsin. State Law Library staff regularly collaborate with the Office of Judicial Education to coordinate and share information on Wisconsin Jury Instructions. The Library hosts the Wisconsin Jury Instructions on its website, wilawlibrary.gov. Instructions are used to assist judges and lawyers in providing instructions to jurors who must reach verdicts during trials. Library staff work closely with the jury instruction reporter to load new releases and other updates to the website.

Madison Paralegal Program The Library has a long-standing partnership with the Madison College Paralegal Program. Librarians are part of the Program's Advisory Board and the Library's collection serves as a resource for faculty and staff. Libraries often host paralegal student interns fulfilling their practicum assignments.

Wisconsin Digital Archive The library participates in the Wisconsin Digital Archives collection, a cooperative project with state agency librarians to archive and catalog state government publications. Staff catalog publications relevant to the Wisconsin Court System, Wisconsin Department of Justice, and other materials beneficial to our researchers.

Wisconsin Judicial Council The library hosts and maintains the website for the Wisconsin Judicial Council, and stores records for the Council alongside its historical collection of Wisconsin Judicial Council minutes and archives.

Law for Learners The Wisconsin State Law Library promotes these legal services to users throughout the state and is a partner of the program. Lawyers for Learners' goal is to help people overcome legal obstacles, empowering them to move forward with their lives and achieve their educational and career goals.

Wisconsin Law Help Managed by Judicare, the State Law Library collaborates with other organizations to plan and promote WisLawHelp.org, an online directory of legal aid organizations and clinics throughout Wisconsin.

2024 Library Staff

Lavinia Goodell State Law Library

Amy Crowder, State Law Librarian
Nate Anderson, Reference & Electronic Services Librarian
Amy Fels, Cataloging & Metadata Librarian
Daphne Goldfinch, Reference & Electronic Services Librarian
Elspeth Gordon, Library Associate
Carol Hassler, Access Services Librarian
Jaden Henneman, Program Associate
Angela Humiston, Wisconsin Collections Librarian
Michael Keane, Reference & Instruction Librarian
Chris Schroeder, Library Assistant, Acquisitions & Collection Development Librarian
Keely Wrolstad, Cataloging & Metadata Librarian
Heidi Yelk, Deputy Law Librarian
Kari Zelinka, Acquisitions & Collection Development Librarian

LTE Staff

Patti Bishop, Library Assistant
Tor Swanson, Library Assistant

Milwaukee County Law Library

Jamie Neuendorf, Branch Librarian
Faymarie Pluskota, Library Associate

LTE Staff

Sheila Davis, Library Associate
Zari Ellzey, Library Associate
Victor Hoel, Library Associate
Hope Kramer, Library Associate
Holly Muskat, Library Associate

Dane County Law Library

Bob Lopez, Branch Librarian
Sara Andrews, Library Associate

Interns

Peter Banda, UW-Madison
Cole Dustin Cymbaluk, UW-Madison
John Doyle, Madison College
Maya Labiniski, Madison College
Abby E. Miller, UW-Madison