

## Break Out Session

### Funding and Outreach for County, Court and Government Law Libraries

County Law Libraries rely on a variety of funding structures – filing fees, general fund allocation, fine and penalty money, etc. Many of us are seeing our percentages getting cut or legislation aimed at completely restructuring Law Libraries. Brainstorm alternative ways County Law Libraries can generate revenue.

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According to the Worcester Telegram and Gazette's Friday October 17, 2007 edition, Mr. Eric A. Kriss (Mitt Romney's former Financial Secretary) called the Worcester Law Library, designed as part of the new courthouse, "a waste of space." Mr. Kriss's statement displays his ignorance about how a large courthouse functions and the absolute necessity for it to have a law library . . . The Worcester County Law Library has been an integral part of the Worcester courthouse since 1842. It is as essential to the functioning of the courts as the clerk's offices and the courtrooms. It serves the needs of the judges, who must often research the law before instructing a jury, rule on a point of evidence or decide a case. It likewise is invaluable to lawyers throughout Worcester Country who use its vast collection to research issues . . . Last year, 37,596 individuals visited the library;125 to 200 people visited it each day . . . Mr. Kriss ought to take the time to find out how essential the Worcester County Law Library is to all those who have business in the courts before making a statement about it being a "waste of space." <http://blogs.masslawyersweekly.com/news/2008/06/06/law-libraries-a-waste-of-space/>

How else are Law Libraries being misunderstood by powers that be? What can we do to change those viewpoints? Is there compromise to this situation? What can Librarians do to show our good faith effort to solving funding problems?

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"The Internet may be the world's greatest library, but let's face it - all the books are scattered on the floor." --D.C. Denison