

Six state Virtual Government Information Conference

The Law and Research Library took a leadership role in organizing and implementing a regional conference on government information – the *Six-State Virtual Government Information Conference*. This conference focused on the states of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. This event is held biennially to provide continuing education on government information for librarians in depositories and any other library work.

The conference was scheduled with programs spread over 5 days. The conference was held virtually, so that all people wanting to attend could connect through their office or training room computers without the need for travel costs or adding to staffing shortages at participating libraries.

Registration was submitted for 126 individuals in the six states, as well as some out-of-state locations (Georgia, Montana, California, Washington, DC). Some individuals registered and shared their connection with several others in a classroom situation. The estimated number of attendees was at least 15 to 30 people higher than the numbers reflected in the registration. Attendance at each presentation averaged over 50-75 attendee connections.

The keynote presentation was given by the communications officer at the Washington, DC-based Sunlight Foundation. Experts from the six-state area presented several other programs. All presentations are archived on the U.S. Government Printing Office's site (www.fdlp.gov/outreach/onlinelearning) and the PowerPoints and handouts from the sessions are available on WebJunction for others to use and revise as needed for their own training needs (<http://www.webjunction.org/gi21-conferences-and-training>).

The experience of planning and presenting this conference, and suggestions for planning virtual conferences were shared with other librarians at the Federal Depository Conference in October (Arlington, VA) and the Arizona Library Association Annual Conference in November (Fountain Hills, AZ).