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Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.

Testimony for AB214

In 1861 the Territorial Council and House of Representatives passed a Concurrent Resolution "to collect as many of the old records connected with the early history" and file them in the archives of the Territory. The documents were sent to the Nevada Territorial Library and this became the Nevada State Library with Nevada Statehood, October 31, 1864. In 1865 the State Library was created in statute. Our role as the institutional memory and historical record keeper was established with our statehood. For 142 years we have played this role and continue to be committed to do so in the 21st century.

In 1971 the State Publications Distribution Center was established – NRS 378.150-210. The law states – "It is the intent of the legislature in enacting NRS 378.150 to 378.210, inclusive, that:

All state and local government publications be distributed to designated depository libraries for use by all inhabitants of the state; and

Designated depository libraries assume the responsibility for keeping such publications readily accessible for use and rendering assistance, without charge, to patrons using them.

The depository system provides several advantages for the state:

First of all by distributing the information statewide all citizens have access to the information within reasonable geographic distance, secondly by distributing the information to the different locations we have more than adequate protection that we will not lose valuable information as it is duplicated in several locations.

In 1983 legislation for the State Publications Distribution Center was strengthened and 12 copies of publications are now required to be delivered to the State Library for distribution. Each city, county and regional agency and every school district and special district are to send in 6 copies of their publications.

The distribution is as follows:

Nevada State Library and Archives	2 copies
Washoe County Library and Archives	2 copies
Clark County Library District	2 copies
Elko County Library and Archives	1 copy
Legislative Counsel Bureau	1 copy
University of Nevada Reno	1 copy
University of Nevada, Las Vegas	1 copy
Library of Congress	1 copy
California State Library	1 copy

The State Publications Distribution Center has been struggling with Electronic Publications for many years, essentially since the

development of the World Wide Web and the ability for self publishing became easy and quick. IN the most recent times we see more and more state agencies choosing to only publish in electronic form, and only leaving the information up for brief periods of time, so the State Depository System has been challenged in a number of ways:

Unlike when a document is printed by state printing and the requisite 12 copies are delivered to the State Publications Distribution Center when an agency publishes on the web we have no way of knowing about the document, to catalog and distribute it to the depository libraries.

A publication could be published in a variety of formats, for example while all would be in HTML (Hyper Text Mark-Up Language) there are several kinds of software to publish HTML like Microsoft FrontPage, Navigator Composer and dozens of others with less widespread acceptance, so the document could actually look and be different depending on the application used to develop it and the Web browser used to open it. Increasingly web publications have been done in a PDF Format, which does provide stability, but while the Adobe Acrobat Reader is free the software to publish, is not and the stability of the standard is dependent on a private company, which certainly makes librarians and archivists nervous.

With Internet Publishing the dissemination issue is immediately solved for everyone who has Internet access, the publication is available not only all over Nevada but all over the world, but what is

not solved is the second part of the depository program is that there are adequate provisions to keep the information secure and available, in order to do that with electronic publications we will need to mirror the website at more than the one location to protect the data, and adequate additional long -term preservation methods like microfilm will still need to be put in place.

This legislation represents what we believe to be good public policy because it will help solve the two largest problems presented the State Publications Distribution Center program, that of organizing and making available electronic publications, today, tomorrow and 100 years in the future.

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Nevada State Library and Archives