

Public Libraries and Access to Justice:
1. Introduction and Welcome



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Public Libraries and Access to Justice: Introduction

Slide 1

This slide show has been modified so that it can be used as the basis of a local or state presentation.

Host

- Welcome
- Initial Vision

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If a conference is being co-hosted with a legal aid program, we would encourage a welcome from that organization.

This, and the other introducers, can have an opportunity to share a vision of the kind expressed in the written introduction to the overall materials.

Foundation

- Perspective of Funder

A funder can share the funders vision.

Judge

- Welcome
- Experience of value of partnerships
- Importance to litigants of help from libraries

A local judge is a powerful source of legitimacy and of the importance of the issue.

It may be that the access to justice commission can provide a welcoming speaker.

Conference Organizer

- Thanks
- Grounded in vision
- Walk through Agenda
- Things to think about

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In this case, the person who pulled the conference together used this opportunity to underline the vision, and walk through the agenda.

It is useful to ask people what to be thinking about in the long term,

Agenda: Monday AM

- **Welcome and Introduction**
- **The Role of Public Libraries in Assisting Patrons in Locating and Using Legal Information and Tools**
- Morning Break - Snacks Available
- **What Public Librarians Can Do: Ethical and Legal Issues**
- **Online Legal Problem Solving: Using Varied Legal Information and Tools**

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This is the agenda from the Austin Conference.

Note that the planners felt that it was important to get into the ethical issues after the general giving of examples, but before the detailed working through of how to solve patrons problems.

Agenda: Monday PM

- **Lunch – Downstairs**
- **Team Meeting Time**
- **Technical and Privacy Issues in Public Library Legal Information Services**
- **Afternoon Break – Snacks Available**
- **The Roles of Public Libraries in the Access to Justice Movement**
- **Evening: Prepare Short Presentation**

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It is important to warn participants in advance if they are going to be expected to prepare/present, etc.

Agenda: Tuesday

- Full Breakfast on 18th Floor
- **Legal Aid, Law Library, and Court Collaborations for Public Libraries**
- **Workshop on Customizing the FAQ**
- Morning Break – Snacks Available
- **Role Playing of Teaching the Materials**
- **Planning for the Future and Closing**
- Lunch Downstairs – Boxes for Take Away Available

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Participants are often very concerned about logistics. Tell them about food, and when the conference will end!

Some Future Planning Questions to be Thinking About

What are the biggest barriers that you will be facing in this process?

What kinds of tools and materials would you like developed to assist in this process?

What kinds of gatherings would you find helpful in this process?

What kinds of networking would you find helpful in this process?

Is there anything that the Network can do to help you build state partnerships and beyond?

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These are the questions on which the closing session focused. This session turned out to be very successful, and it may be that the reason was that we asked participants to be thinking about these questions from the start.