

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 114 of 2009
Section 916
Electronic Law Library Study

Sec. 916. The department shall conduct a feasibility study focusing on the budgetary impact of converting the law library collections at correctional facilities to an electronic medium. The department shall report its findings to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on corrections, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director by April 1, 2010.

In an effort to conduct this study, Michigan Department of Corrections' staff reviewed the expenditure history for each of its facility's prison library to establish a base line of expense. The next step was to determine if other States converted their prisoner law library collections into electronic formats. Two States were identified – the state of Ohio and the state of Pennsylvania.

From that information, the following analysis was conducted:

1. Obtain a cost based on these state's prisoner law library to maintain their electronic law libraries.
2. Compare the approximate cost to the MDOC to maintain each of its law libraries currently.
3. Obtain an estimated cost to convert each law library from print into electronic format.
4. Obtain how many of the Ohio and Pennsylvania's Correctional Facilities currently have an electronic law library versus how many continue to maintain a print collection.
5. Obtain an estimated cost to convert each law library from print into electronic version.

Michigan Department of Corrections

Currently each of the facilities within the department maintains their own prisoner law library collection governed by Policy Directive 05.03.115, "*Law Libraries*" and MCL 791.201. All required items listed on PD 05.03.115 Attachment A are billed to the state's appropriation. The Prisoner Benefit Fund (PBF) may be used to purchase additional law library items consistent with PD 04.02.110 "*Prisoner Benefit Fund*". Annual cost: \$1,792,753.

Ohio Department of Corrections - Electronic Law Library

Ohio established its electronic law library system for its 30 facilities by contracting with Thomson West. The contract period is 6/16/2008 to 5/13/2013. Thomson West charges the state of Ohio per terminal use. The cost per year is a flat amount \$250,000. The cost to maintain the Ohio electronic law library print collection is approximately \$30,000 per facility. Ohio's super maximum correctional facility does not use the electronic law library at this time. Annual cost: \$30,000/facility @ 30 facilities - \$900,000; Flat fee for terminal use - \$250,000; Total yearly cost - \$1,150,000.

Suggestions from Ohio Department of Corrections

- Pilot Program is essential. Phase the electronic law library into the prison system.

- End all hard print material advance sheets and updates. Ohio kept the original hard print legal material. They did suspend all pocket parts and advance sheets once the pilot program was complete.
- CD-ROM or portable HD (Hard Drives) was initially the plan of action. However, Ohio's IT department recommended a terminal use system that is in use today. Initially there were some security hurdles but between the vendor Thomson West and Ohio's IT Department, enough firewalls were built so their system is now secure.

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections - Electronic Law Library

The State of Pennsylvania established their electronic law library system on December 23, 2008 for their 28 correctional facilities. The contract includes both Law Books and Law CD-ROMS and expires January 31, 2011. The pricing for this system has been broken down into print and electronic costs on a monthly charge. Per month, Thomson West is charging Pennsylvania \$16,957 for their print collection. Per month, Thomson West is charging Pennsylvania \$86,755 for their CD-ROM electronic databases. Annual cost: \$1,258,788.

The monthly cost does increase in the sequential years:

Monthly print cost for January 2010 to January 2011 updates is \$18,144.

CD-ROM cost for January 2010 to January 2011 stayed the same \$86,755.

Michigan's Next Steps

The Michigan Department of Corrections will be submitting a Request for Information (Horizon) seeking potential vendors interested in providing electronic law library services to determine if this proves to be cost effective for the state of Michigan. The department will also work with the Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB) as the managed LAN system the state utilizes, user fees and associated technology costs will need to be taken into consideration when determining the cost effectiveness of an electronic law library collection. If based on the RFI-Horizon and DTMB costs of technology it is determined an electronic law library is cost beneficial to MDOC, a RFP will be issued to procure an electronic law library system.