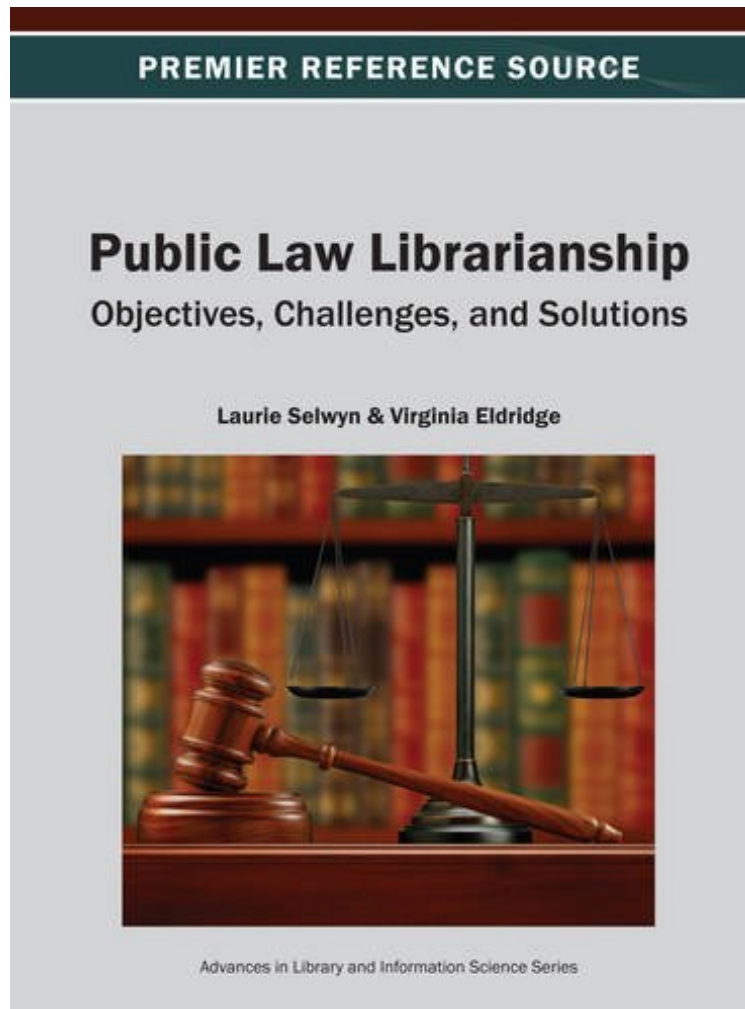


# Public Law Librarianship: Objectives, Challenges, and Solutions

Laurie Selwyn

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**Laurie Selwyn : Public Law Librarianship: Objectives, Challenges, and Solutions** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Public Law Librarianship: Objectives, Challenges, and Solutions:

While there are common misconceptions regarding the definition of a public law library, it can be defined as a government mandated library which provides the public with access to legal resources. Largely, public law libraries are instituted by state or federal law. Public Law Librarianship: Objectives, Challenges, and Solutions aims to introduce firsthand knowledge on the funding, organizational structures, and governance related to the public law library. This book includes comprehensive research for current and future public law librarians to provide

administrative guidance and professional sources essential for running a public law library.

Selwyn and Eldridge, like mentors, offer readers great information and insight on public law librarianship, and provide guidance on how to best manage these special libraries. *Public Law Librarianship* is a thorough work, and at only 319 pages it is well organized and readable, with clean pages and graphics. This book will certainly be useful for public law librarians. It would also be a welcome addition to any law library, and it can serve as a reference tool for law library managers and law librarians who serve the public in some capacity. Finally, *Public Law Librarianship* would be a great asset in the libraries of library and information science programs. --Benjamin T. Almoite, Librarian, Virginia State Law Library, Supreme Court of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia. *Law Library Journal*, Vol. 105:4 [2013-29]

*Public Law Librarianship: Objectives, Challenges, and Solutions* by Laurie Selwyn and Virginia Eldridge is an educational and insightful compendium of information for all types of law librarians who work as public servants. Through primarily experiential and anecdotal evidence of public law library operations, supplemented with data extracted from listservs, informal surveys, and industry news, the authors reaffirm the continuing validity of public law libraries as necessary venues for the provision of legal reference and research to a growing service population that includes private and public lawyers, judges, government officials, students, professors, inmates, members of the public, and pro se litigants. --Kathleen M. Dugan, Esq. is the head librarian of the Cleveland Law Library Association/Cuyahoga County Law Library Resources Board (American Associate for Law Libraries). The extensive research and references within this book are impressive. The authors draw research from a range of sources, including quantitative and qualitative data gleaned from surveys conducted by Selwyn and Eldridge; these surveys and responses are included as appendices. This book is recommended for those working in law libraries and would also be useful to students and graduates interested in working in law libraries. --Anne Sara, *Australian Library Journal*, Vol. 63, No. 3

**About the Author** Laurie Selwyn, received her M.L.S. from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. After working in a number of public and academic libraries from 1980-2002, Selwyn accepted the position of County Law Librarian with the Grayson County District Attorney's Office. Here she spear-headed the revival of the badly neglected and outdated library, updated the collection and established policies and procedures encouraging library use as well as input concerning library needs. A frequent reviewer for "Library Journal", Selwyn has also reviewed for *Legal Information Alert* and *Law Library Journal* as well as contributed to such professional resources as *A Day in the Life: Career Options in Library and Information Science* (Priscilla Shontz and Richard Murray. 2007. Libraries Unlimited), *How to Thrive as a Solo Librarian* (Carol Smallwood and Melissa Clapp. 2012. Scarecrow Press) and coauthored "The Public Law Library: A Place in Today's World?" in *Legal Information Alert*, 29(3), 1,3 with Virginia Eldridge. Virginia L. Eldridge received her M.L.S. from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN in 1985 and is currently Law Librarian for Grayson County, Texas. She began in this solo librarian position in 2007 following co-author Laurie Selwyn. She has presented papers at Computers in Libraries Conferences, Texas Library Association District 5 and the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries. Previously, Eldridge was Head of Library Systems at Vanderbilt University, Automation Assistant at Bryn Mawr College Tri-College Consortium and before that she taught public school. She recently contributed a chapter in *How to Thrive as a Solo Librarian* (Carol Smallwood and Melissa Clapp. 2012. Scarecrow Press) and co-authored "The Public Law Library: A Place in Today's World?" in *Legal Information Alert*, 29(3), 1,3 with Laurie Selwyn.