

Municipal Research & Services Center

Fred Ward
Manager, Library & Information Services
MRSC
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Municipal Research & Services Center

- Not-for-profit funded by the 281 cities and towns and the 39 counties in the state of Washington
- Predecessor program began in 1934 at UW through a Rockefeller Foundation grant
- Provide information and advice on municipal law, finance, public works, planning, administration, management, personnel
- Research and library services available to officials and employees of Washington's local governments
- Website (mrsc.org) publicly accessible

MRSC Staff

- 27 total staff including 6 attorneys, 6 policy specialists, 6 library & information services, 2 research associates
- Services include: inquiry service, library reference, website, publications, e-government services, administration for statewide professional associations (WA municipal attorneys, city managers, etc.)
- Inquiry topics include: public records, public meetings, personnel issues, bid laws, annexation, land-use, comprehensive planning, forms of government, budgeting, etc.

Sample Inquiries

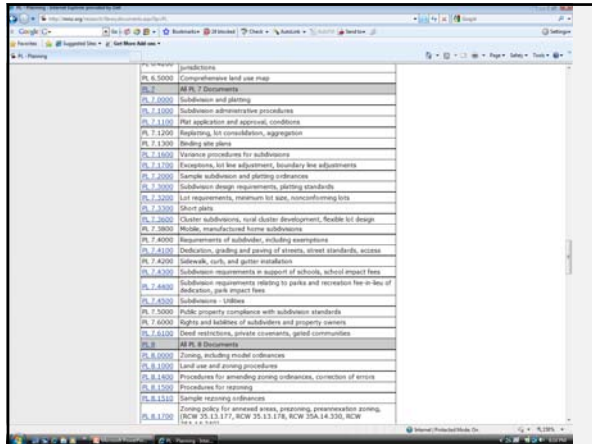
- [Are charter counties able to operate parking lots and collect parking fees, other than those outlined in RCW 36.01.080?](#)
- [If prevailing wage rates change during a public works project, what rates must be paid on the project?](#)
- [May the city council meet privately to review the progress in collective bargaining negotiations?](#)
- [If the city has a reduction in force and one of the employees who would be released is on military assignment, can his position be terminated under USERRA?](#)
- [Can a city or county spend hotel-motel tax funds to pay for police and public works overtime in conjunction with a festival?](#)

Other statewide organizations

- Municipal Technical Advisory Service (Tennessee) (www.mtas.tennessee.edu)
- CivicInfo BC (British Columbia) (<http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/>)
- Carol Vinson Institute of Government (Georgia) (<http://www.cviog.uga.edu/about/>)
- Virginia Institute of Government (<http://www.coopercenter.org/institute/>)

MRSC Library Classification Schedule

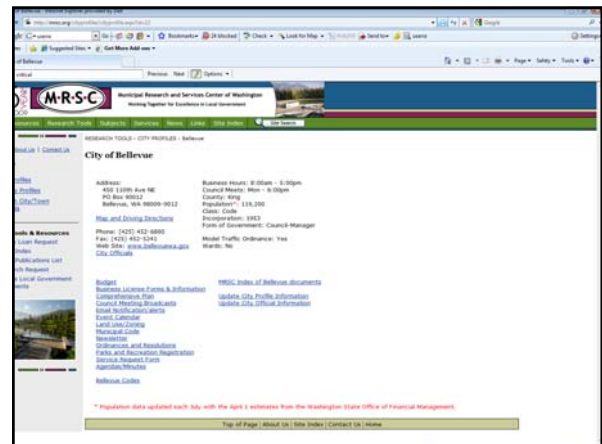
- Approximately 4000 subject codes organized by 25 primary categories (Environment, Finance, Planning, Public Works, etc.)
- Initial schedule developed in 1940's. Continues to evolve.
- Used for all paper and electronic documents, web pages, inquiries, blog entries, news feed items.
- LCS vs. web tags



- ## MRSC Index
- Web pages
 - Paper documents – loan request form
 - Electronic documents – download
 - MRSC Inquiries
 - Link into library catalog using LCS code
 - Coming soon:
 - Blog entries (press releases)
 - WSAMA Index (municipal attorney conference proceedings)
 - Del.icio.us entries
 - Links from subject pages into MRSC Index



- ## City and County Profiles
- We've distributed a paper directory of elected and appointed city officials since 1940's.
 - In 1996, put searchable directory online.
 - Over the years, we've added links to documents (MRSC Index by jurisdiction) and services.

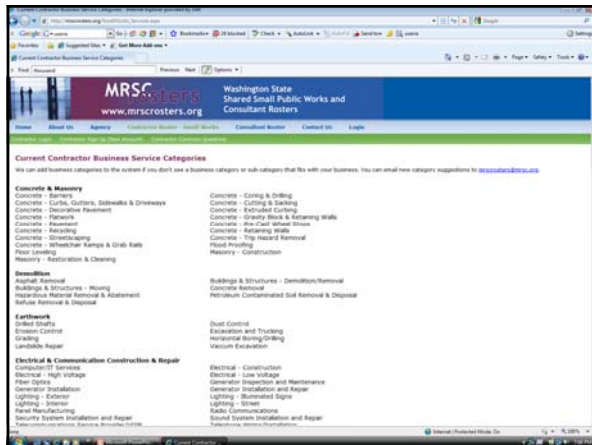


E-government services

- MRSC Rosters
- Citizen Help Desk (service request tracking)

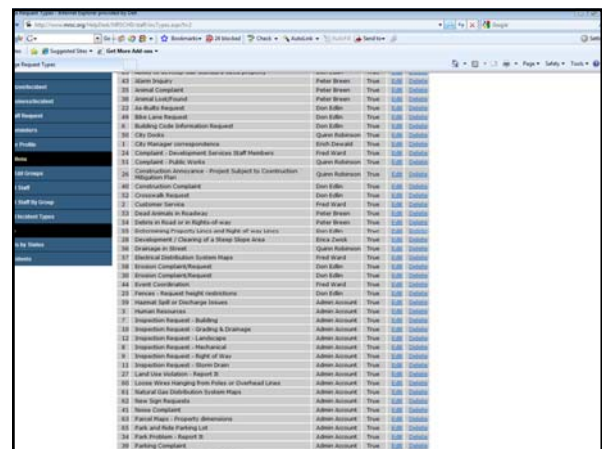
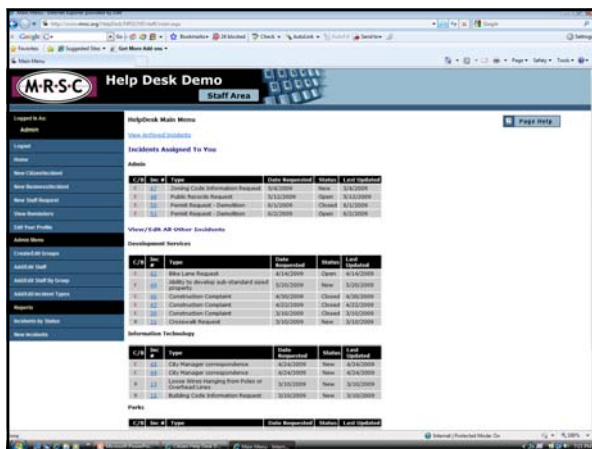
Mrscrosters.org

- Shared public works contractor and consultant roster
- Available to all Washington local governments
- For projects less than \$200,000
- Contractors and consultants can register for one or more rosters



Citizen Help Desk

- MRSC hosts and updates the system for an annual fee based on population served.
- Record, assign and track service requests and responses from citizens and businesses.
- Maintain centralized log of requests received via email, telephone or in-person.
- Assign tasks to city/county staff. Review status of requests.
- Generate weekly, monthly or annual reports of the number of service requests.



Contact Information

Fred Ward

Manager, Library & Information Services

Municipal Research & Services Center

206-625-1300

fward@mrsc.org