

Abstract of Presentation for *inFIRE*

## **The Consultant and the Library**

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*The fire protection consultant is part negotiator, part researcher, part expert and part stargazer. It is the "part researcher" role that is of most interest to the inFIRE group.*

*Fire protection consultants are frequently called into situations in which the client has limited technical and documentary knowledge of the issues that must be defined and resolved to provide solutions for operational, managerial and planning challenges. The key to success for both consultant and client is the ability to access the latest information in an expeditious manner and to be able to turn that information around in the shortest possible time.*

*The research needs for consultants range from technical information on fire apparatus, fire equipment and fire protection systems to the codes, standards and legislation of multiple jurisdictions. Few consultants are able to maintain adequate reference sources in their personal libraries.*

*At the same time, fire libraries serve a diverse customer group that is contained within a small, specialized field. The customer may be an entry level firefighter, a newly promoted officer, a fire service instructor, a fire academy or fire college student, a consultant, an engineer or a researcher. Beyond fire protection disciplines, the general public, from citizen to new reporter, occasionally has a need for the service of a fire library.*