In This Issue

DttP

Documents to the People

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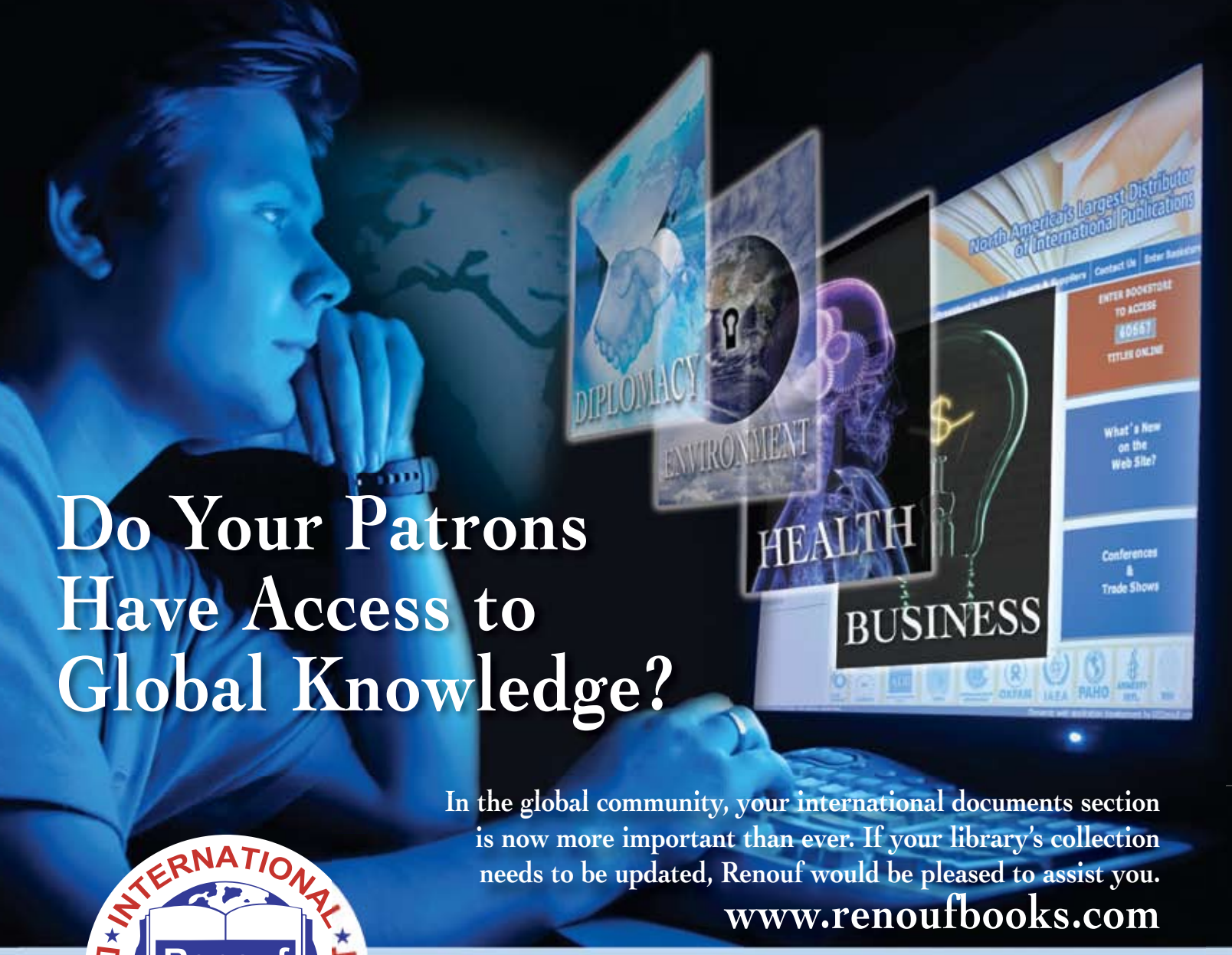

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Columns

Articles

'Round the Table

About the Cover: The winner of our third cover contest is Elizabeth Hernandez. She photographed her bicycle along with the following document: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, and U.S. Department of Transportation, *Bikeability Checklist: How Bikeable is Your Community?* (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 2002), purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS22586, SuDoc: TD 1.2:B48.

Editor's Corner

On The Must Read List for 2009

Andrea Sevetson

Each year, in December, the *Washington Post* puts out a "best books of the year" section. For the past few years I've been reviewing this and creating my own list of books to read as time permits. In December 2007 one of the books on the list was *Takeover: The Return of the Imperial Presidency and the Subversion of American Democracy* by Charlie Savage (New York: Little, Brown, 2007). I don't remember what in the description caught my eye, but I purchased the book in September and read it as I traveled in the fall.

I'm not one to do a whole lot of reading on work-related topics (though I love biographies of spies and the various books about the Supreme Court), but I would put this book on the list of books for all government information librarians to read. Savage puts together a lot of the themes we've heard about in the *Washington Report* column and in *DttP* articles such as "The Unitary Executive and Presidential Signing Statements" by Rebecca Byrum and Cheryl Truesdell (36:3, Fall 2008, pages 28–33) and he provides the broader, scarier context of controlling information from the executive branch.

Savage traces the history of the quest for presidential power back to Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt (remember the Panama Canal?), Wilson, Truman, and Franklin Roosevelt. Presidents Reagan and Clinton get recent credit for expanding the power of the presidency with signing statements. However, the thrust of the book centers around the executive branch power play of the George W. Bush administration, and Savage credits Vice President Dick Cheney as the brains behind this (and of course, Cheney's work on this began twenty years earlier in the Reagan administration). Starting on page 95, various incidents regarding the push from the executive branch to retain control of information are chronicled. Pages 301–4 detail the change in the policies of the executive branch concerning science—many of which I was already aware, but not all.

For me, chapter 11, "'To Say What Law Is': The Supreme Court" is probably the most difficult. The chapter details why each of George W. Bush's Supreme Court appointees was nominated, including the failed nomination of Harriet Miers. I had always held out hope that the Supreme Court would restore the balance of power; however, Savage argues convincingly that each of Bush's nominees was "marinated" in the issues surrounding executive powers and the unitary executive theory. Each also had either a ruling in favor of presidential powers or had worked within the executive branch on issues in that area.

As I read this book I kept thinking "oh, I'll have to note this in my column." However, there were so many different issues brought up that if I had done that, this column would be many times its normal length. For those who love checking footnotes, the book is well-documented, and if you kept a list of all of the issues and documents you were interested in, it would give you a reading list that would take you well into the Obama administration. My further reading on this topic includes the hearing *Presidential Signing Statements under the Bush Administration: A Threat to Checks and Balances and the Rule of Law* and the Congressional Research Service report *Presidential Signing Statements: Constitutional and Institutional Implications*.[1]

This book should be on the reading list of every government documents/government information librarian. This is how power, how government, actually works. It isn't pretty and it can work this way on either side of the political aisle. *Takeover* makes a convincing argument that, once exercised, it's hard to restrain executive power.

In this Issue

The concept for this issue is documents management in an era of (electronic) transition. Looking at the articles we have, it's interesting to me how broadly that concept can be applied. While Laura Sare's article on weeding (p. 37) wasn't submitted to be a part of this, weeding is definitely a part of the overall management (and one of the less glamorous aspects) of a depository. We're grateful to the three respondents to the GPO (draft) regional plan for being willing to put their thoughts out for everyone to see and to think about, and we're appreciative to the librarians at the University of Florida (p. 26) for taking the time to think about times past, present, and future to show us how both the librarians and the institution have been, and are continuously, changing. Finally, thanks to Lou Malcomb for telling us how several libraries in Indiana are working together to create change there (p. 32).

And as always (though I don't always thank them), thanks to our columnists for doing their usual thoughtful job with their content. Having a regular column is a blessing and curse. You have to meet deadlines, but it's a wonderful opportunity to talk about things you care about, and our columnists do a great job.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the advertisers who continue to use us to communicate with GODORT members (see the index, p. 30). I can honestly say that without them there would be no *DttP*—or at the least it would be a shadow of itself. So, readers, when you see them, tell them you saw the ad in *DttP*!

Upcoming for *DttP*

DttP is moving its web presence to the wiki for ease of posting, so keep your eyes on wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/DttP for content related to *DttP*.

Most importantly, I'm delighted to announce that the next lead editors for *DttP* will be Beth Clausen and Valerie Glenn. They take over the reins with issue number 3 this year.

In order to better serve our readers and to improve *DttP*, we would appreciate your participation in a brief online survey. The survey will be linked from the GODORT wiki (wikis.ala.org/godort).

On the Cover

The winner of the third cover contest is Elizabeth Hernandez and her entry graces this cover. See the *DttP* wiki (wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/DttP) for all of the wonderful entries. Both this year and last year the library school candidates at the Pratt Institute have contributed many entries as part of an assignment. Special thanks to all of them for their creativity, and thanks to Debbie Rabina (assistant professor at Pratt Institute and teacher of "Government Information Sources") for creating an assignment that allows me to breathe easily knowing I'll have some entries! The contest guidelines for next year are posted at: wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/DttP_Cover_Contest_Guidelines.

Enjoy your issue of *DttP*!

Reference

1. House Committee on the Judiciary, *Presidential Signing Statements under the Bush Administration: A Threat to Checks and Balances and the Rule of Law,* 110th Cong., 1st sess., January 31, 2007, purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS84283; T. J. Halstead, *Presidential Signing Statements: Constitutional and Institutional Implications* (Congressional Research Service, order code RL33667, updated September 17, 2007).

DttP Student Papers Issue

The student papers issue of *DttP* is designed to showcase the talents and interests of current library school students. Papers should focus on substantive issues in government information at all levels of government (local, state, federal, or international) librarianship, including:

- contemporary or historical problems related to government information access, dissemination, or preservation;
- challenges to providing reference and instructional services in public, academic, school, or government libraries;
- bibliographic control of government information;
- government efforts to promote and/or restrict access to information;
- development of specific government programs that promote access to information (e.g. DOE Information Bridge); or
- government/private sector partnerships providing access to information.

Papers must be nominated and forwarded by a faculty member.
Required length: 2,000–3,000 words
Please see our style guidelines at: wikis.ala.org/godort/images/b/b8/Instructionsforauthors.pdf
DttP is a professional journal. Class papers which do not conform to editorial guidelines should be reformatted to receive consideration.
All papers must be submitted by August 1, 2009.
Selected papers will be printed in *DttP* in spring 2010 (vol. 38, no. 1).
If you are teaching a government documents course, or know someone who is, please contact:

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From the Chair

Thoughts from Midpoint in the Association Year

Cass Hartnett

Funny things happen when you notice book dust and red rot under your fingernails as you sit down to write an essay about digital government documents. You start thinking about where we really are as a government documents community. Lots of federal depository libraries are shoring up, if not drastically downsizing, their tangible collections. To their credit, most comply fully with their regional federal depository library (FDL) and with GPO guidelines, and are also retaining unique items from state and local governments. Larger libraries, frequently in the same geographic area as the smaller selectives in question, tend to take these discards, as is the case with my library. This means that many of us in large selectives or regional depositories are in the position of checking thousands of discarded items against local holdings, and it is dirty work. So as I inhale gov docs dust while I try to follow the latest Web 2.0 trends, my thoughts have wandered a bit. Here are some of the things I see, and I need someone else to tell me if I am on track.

First, it is interesting to see libraries adopt next generation online catalog systems such as WorldCat Local to provide a new interface to their holdings (basically using a local version of OCLC WorldCat to provide access to your own materials).[1] This happened at our shop, and it opened up all our collections, including government resources, in ways we could not have foreseen.[2] If your institution takes such a step, be forewarned: librarians and veteran library users may be reluctant to embrace this platform. But a vast majority of users will take to it right away and love it. Google Books is interoperable with WorldCat.org through Google's "Find this book in a library" feature, and then WorldCat.org in turn is a direct connection to most libraries' online catalogs and user-initiated request/interlibrary loan (ILL) operations. All of a sudden, the digital can become the tangible. People identify a book they want via the Internet (WorldCat or Google or GPO or anywhere else), and there are now fewer and fewer clicks required to obtain the book from a library or download, print, or purchase it. Isn't this the moment we've been waiting for with government information? Have you checked your library's ILL statistics lately? Many ILL departments are booming—some need to add more staff to keep up with the demand for service. Books and journals and DVDs and CDs get described online and at least some people want to hold the real artifact in their hands. In the government information realm, the lending library is probably an FDL, but the user will not know this or need to know it. Most Americans use some form of government information every day but don't think of the act as consciously as we do. I have no doubt that the GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) might one day be seamlessly interoperable with systems like WorldCat or Google Books. Why not? And print on demand is actually becoming much more of a real option, especially for those lucky devils at the University of Michigan Library with their Espresso Book machine (www.lib.umich.edu/ebm). Theoretically, federal documents, with mostly copyright-free status, have been perfect candidates for print on demand all along.

If our WorldCat Local experience has led me to many mini-epiphanies, I have also experienced some light bulb moments around basic web interface and usability issues. Recently I viewed a video of usability testing from our own ITS department. We were trying to figure out why so few people were clicking on our Reference Tools link. We pay big bucks for online encyclopedias and the like; why were these high-end tools getting low use? As I viewed each of the subjects performing the usability task, two things became clear: (1) online users rarely start their basic information searches from a library's webpage (no big surprise there), and (2) if they do, they have no idea what Reference Tools might mean. Just nine minutes of that in-house video cut through hours of presentations about user trends, analysis of metrics, and so on. It was as if I finally got it—terms like "reference," "periodicals," or "monthly catalog" mean absolutely zilch to most people. I've still got a little mourning to do: I wanted to fix the "incorrect" user behavior and lecture the participants about the grand history of Reference Tools. But those days are gone. We don't have to mourn: today's users are aggressive and frequent searchers, and they're trainable. We documents librarians are trainable too, and right now we have to train ourselves to see that the vast, vast majority of users want government information online. They are counting on us to have the expertise to help them contextualize the information, and to know where they can obtain variant editions, earlier issues of materials, and more. But they're mostly going to want to do it themselves, and we have to help them by positioning resources (and ourselves) where they can find and make sense of them. And as the users' advocates, we will do everything we can to make sure government resources are free and permanently available, for all levels of government.

Sometimes librarians get overwhelmed when thinking about how to best keep up with trends and developments in the library world; this might be one reason we meet too frequently (oops, some true editorializing there). How do we stay educated, current, and conversant about things? We might look to a sister association for some clues. I mentioned in my first column that I had a great experience at the Medical Library Association (MLA) conference in 2006, which came during my two-year, self-imposed hiatus from ALA conferencing. As it turns out, MLA librarians had heard about GODORT's "Demystifying Government Sources: Government Information for the Rest of Us" preconference (ALA Annual Conference, Chicago 2005), and they were wondering if we could adapt any of it to a continuing education class for an MLA conference (www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/godort/godortcommittees/godortprogram/2005preconf.cfm).

Eric Forte and I jumped at the opportunity to reach out to an organization with which GODORT has little regular contact. I used it as a mission to investigate this association known for efficiency, focus, and superior education of its members. Medical librarians sometimes list the initials "AHIP" after their names. This stands for the Academy of Health Information Professionals. Medical librarians attend continuing education classes constantly, and if the classes are MLA-certified, the librarians gain credit toward their ever-accruing Academy total. It takes fifty credits accrued over the past five years to be considered a member of AHIP. MLA is a smaller association (about 4,000 members compared to ALA's 65,000), and I may be looking at it through rose-colored glasses. Medical librarians don't seem to get as bogged down in process as we do, and they don't seem to overmeet. Medical librarians understood decades ago that the future of critical information dissemination would occur online. As a group, they moved forward into online expertise carefully, but without too much wringing of hands, and they did not look back.

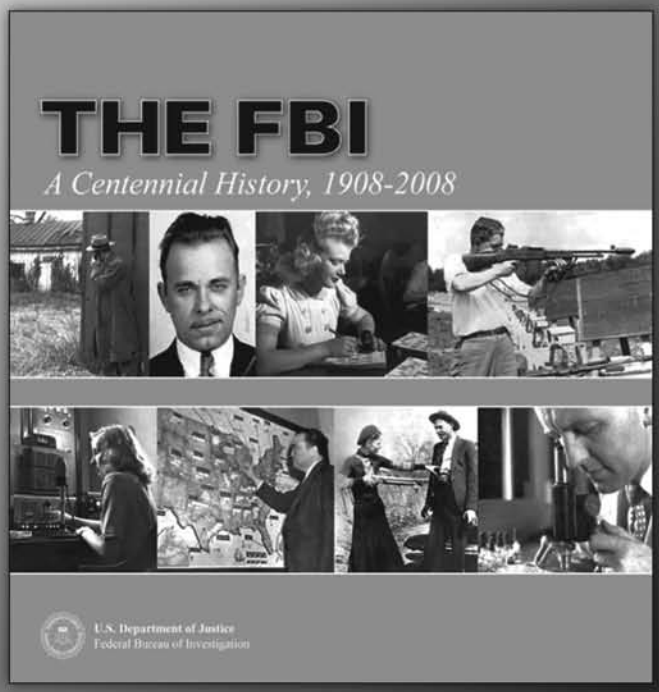
I have my own theories about why this is so, including the use of successful models from medicine and professional medical associations, the existence of a National Library of Medicine to coordinate the central bibliography (Index Medicus, online as PubMed), a history of corporate sponsorship from well-to-do medical companies, and a profession in which the quick, accurate transmission of information can save lives. But the bottom line is that this institution, four times the size of GODORT, has a sound structure, and we can learn from it. If you have never ventured to www.mlanet.org, take a look. See how their sections and special interest groups are organized, and learn about the academy at www.mlanet.org/academy/acadfaq.html. This may give us some totally new ideas for our strategic planning process.

I close this column with thanks to you, our members, so many of whom are in active service to GODORT right now. Truly, the simplest tasks we all carry out daily have a cumulative effect in this community. I personally thank you for your efforts, and I would like to hear about your "light bulb" moments, too.

References

1. OCLC, "WorldCat Local: Easier Discovery of Your Materials Locally and Globally," www.oclc.org/worldcatlocal/default.htm.
2. Jennifer L. Ward, Steve Shadle, and Pam Mofjeld, "WorldCat Local at the University of Washington Libraries," *Library Technology Reports* 44, no. 6 (2008).

Protecting the People, Defending a Nation: 100 Years of FBI History



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08/08

Washington Report

Kirsten Clark

While Washington executive politics are on the forefront of the world's mind following the election of Barack Obama, the legislative front has been less exciting as everybody waits for the new Congress to begin its work. Yet, after this historic election, we are at the crossroads of a new hope regarding governmental openness in sharing information with the American public. This transition provides an opportunity to look at the political arena of the recent past and to anticipate what will be coming in the next four years.

In my library, a documents display provides a visual representation of this transition. Since the November 4 election, the exhibit case has been filled with a display entitled "Highlights of the Bush Administration, 2001–2008." With the help of colleagues through a question posted on Twitter (www.twitter.com), the display includes documents related to:

- 9/11 and global terrorism;
- No Child Left Behind;
- the economy;
- Hurricane Katrina and Rita response;
- Iraq War; and
- classified information.

The first thing that colleagues and patrons alike comment on is the use of the word "highlights." Depending on your political leanings, these highlights are high points or a misuse of the term. However, according to *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*, highlight means "something (as an event or detail) that is of major significance or special interest" (www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/highlight). I think most can agree the items listed above are major events.

The display is not all Bush-related. One corner focuses on the transition to the Obama administration and illustrates the new administration by showing the text of Obama's acceptance speech from November 4 and screenshots from his transition website, Change.gov (www.change.gov).

As we move closer to the inauguration, the juxtaposition between the two parts of my display is playing itself out in our everyday lives as seen through two websites, the Change.gov site mentioned above and the White House website, specifically the Bush Record site (www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/bushrecord). Here you can find the traditional highlights of accomplishments and results as seen by the administration itself in the document *Highlights of Accomplishments and Results of the Administration of George W. Bush* (www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/bushrecord/documents/legacybooklet.pdf). Key areas discuss how the Bush administration:

- "Kept America Safe and Promoted Liberty Abroad" (9/11, global terrorism, Iraqi War, classified information) (p. 2)
- "Lowered Taxes and Instituted Pro-growth Policies" (economy) (p. 16)
- "Reformed Government to Better Serve Americans" (No Child Left Behind) (p. 19).

So my display documents do tie into the highlights!

Let's jump to the new administration's transition, where its site Change.gov has a very different feel from the Bush White House website. Change.gov allows citizens to have a front seat in how the new administration is evolving. A telling sign is the Open Government link on the homepage. While there have always been avenues to comment on our government, the Your Seat at the Table section (change.gov/open_government/yourseatatthetable) allows anyone to be part of the conversation by providing access to ALL the comments made and documents provided by groups and individuals, as well as the opportunity to leave comments. The use of social networking to bring the American citizen directly to the development of an administration is unparalleled in American history or with any other government. ALA has participated in this and provided its transition document, *Opening the Window to a Larger World: Libraries' Role in Changing America* (www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/ala-report-to-transition-team1.pdf).

Looking through the Obama administration agendas shows several places where openness in government information is at the forefront. In particular, the Agenda * Technology section (change.gov/agenda/technology_agenda) points out the need to create a transparent and connected democracy to:

- **Open Up Government to its Citizens:** Use cutting-edge technologies to create a new level of transparency, accountability, and participation for America's citizens.
- **Bring Government into the 21st Century:** Use technology to reform government and improve the exchange of information between the federal government and citizens while ensuring the security of our networks. Appoint the nation's first chief technology officer (CTO) to ensure the safety of our networks and lead an interagency effort, working with chief technology and chief information officers of each of the federal agencies, to ensure that they use best-in-class technologies and share best practices.

During the Bush administration, GODORT worked to be part of its highlights by bringing forward resolutions to

acknowledge and change how the administration addressed library-related issues. A full list of the resolutions passed during the Bush administration is available at the GODORT Legislation Committee wiki page (wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/Legislation).

Key areas covered are:

- improvement in public access to government information;
- presidential records;
- government information classification and withdrawing of government information already in the public domain;
- whistleblower protection;
- Environmental Protection Agency and other federal libraries' closings;
- e-government; and
- immigration rights.

With a new president in place by the time this column goes to print, the library community and especially GODORT have an incredible opportunity not only to educate the new administrators coming into Washington, but also to offer support of those measures that move forward our basic premises. The *Key Principles of Government Information* (www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/woissues/governmentinfo/keyprins.cfm) are a great place to start as this administration moves into its first one hundred days and beyond to the next four years. I look forward to what my government documents display on the "Highlights of the Obama Administration, 2009–2012 (or 2016?)" will look like, especially when we all have the opportunity to help in its design.

By the Numbers

What Everyone Should Know About ILO Statistics

Stephen Woods

The late eighteenth century was marked by several abortive attempts to organize international labor policy by bringing together governments, workers, and employers. It was not until the end of World War I that conditions were ripe for the creation of an organization capable of coordinating these efforts. The creation of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles and its association with the League of Nations is an intriguing and complicated story of political and economic posturing between nations, unions, and employer organizations. Unlike the League, the ILO survived the postwar negotiations and eventually gained the support and membership of the United States in 1934 through the efforts of Franklin Roosevelt.[1]

By 1946, the ILO had proven itself as a viable international organization, and consequently, it was one of the first agencies to be invited to join the United Nations. The organization reaffirmed the following set of core commitments in a conference in Philadelphia: labor is not a commodity; support for human rights; elimination of poverty; and collaboration between governments, workers, and employers. After the Soviet Union and other socialist states joined the organization in 1954, the ILO became enmeshed in Cold War politics eventually leading to United States withdrawal from the ILO between 1977 and 1980. A further development worth noting during this period of time was the dramatic rise in membership from newly decolonized states in Africa and Asia, a trend that ultimately increased the membership from 52 to 182 member countries.

Publishing Statistics

The Bureau of Statistics is the office that has principal responsibility for collecting surveys from member nations and disseminating ILO statistics. The bureau first began publishing labor statistics in 1921 in the *International Labour Review.* This included price statistics and unemployment. Eventually, other statistics were included such as employment, wages and hours of work, industrial disputes, and collective agreements. In response to the need for time-series data, the ILO started publishing the *Yearbook of Labour Statistics* on various topics such as cost of living and retail prices, family budgets, international migration, industrial accidents, production and wholesale prices, exchange rates, and occupation. Initially it provided comparisons for 50 countries and that has now grown to 194. In response to having more timely comparative data, the bureau began publishing in 1965 the *Bulletin of Labour Statistics* to provide quarterly updates.

In 1988, emerging information technology along with administrative and financial support of the United Nations allowed the ILO to design new means for disseminating its statistics.[2] The resource christened LABORSTA contained a set of online statistical databases featuring time series data from 1969 forward for subjects such as total and economically active populations, employment, unemployment, wages, hours of work, labor cost, consumer price indices, occupational injuries, and strikes and lockouts.[3] LABORSTA provides detailed information about definitions and collection methods. It also contains source information that can be extremely useful in finding the

names and contact information of relevant national statistical agencies that work with ILO.

Promoting Labor Policy

ILO statistics are policy driven. One of the principle missions of the ILO is to set international labor standards that are agreed upon by representatives from governments, employers, and employees. The governing structure of the ILO is unique, comprised of representatives from each member country and two additional delegates representing each member country's employer and employee organizations.[4] These representatives meet yearly to pass legislation called conventions and recommendations. Conventions are intended to provide a legal instrument for regulation and require ratification by the member states; recommendations provide guidelines and do not require ratification.[5]

Who decides on the initial benchmarks, classifications, and standards? The governing body of the ILO ultimately decides, but sponsors the International Conference of Labour Statisticians to help in the decision making process. This conference brings together experts to discuss the standards and classification of data collection issues of the ILO and has met roughly every five years since 1923. The proceedings contain a wealth of information. For example, the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians convened at the end of 2008 to discuss and adopt international statistical standards on child labor and working time. Parameters were also discussed for future efforts in defining measurement of decent work, indicators of labor underutilization, and statistics on volunteer work.

Comparability and Final Thoughts

ILO statistics are primarily collected to assist the legislative process of the governing body of ILO. This legislative body is considering an amalgamation of issues and concerns of representatives from worker and employer organizations as well as national governments. This is complicated further by the fact that it is not unusual to have a convention that is agreed upon the governing body and not ratified by individual countries. For example, the United Kingdom ratified Convention 56, which addresses sickness insurance; the United States has not ratified that particular convention.[6] In sum, it may be useful for the user to be aware of whether or not a country has ratified a particular convention related to a particular standard or classification before making conclusions.

Several industrialized nations collected some forms of labor statistics before 1921, but users must be aware of the limitations of comparing cross-national labor statistics. For example, unemployment in one nation may have been defined as being out of work for *five* days in one country but out of work for *ten* days in another country. One of the important contributions of the ILO was the standardization of definitions and collection methods. However, it is equally important to remember that these standard definitions have been developed and changed by the ILO over time.

Finally, it is useful to keep in mind that by joining the United Nations the ILO became part of an integrated collection of international statistical agencies. The ILO gave up its sovereignty and is now coordinated by UN Statistical Commission and the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities. This may have some consequences on the collection, classification, and definition of variables before and after 1946.

Notes and References

1. Antony Alcock, *History of the International Labor Organization* (New York: Octagon Books, 1971).
2. Patrick Cornu and Sophia Lawrence, ILO dissemination of international labour statistics on Internet (Bureau of Statistics: International Labour Office Geneva, 2000). Available at www.ilo.org/global/What_we_do/Statistics/lang--en/docName--WCMS_087925/index.htm.
3. LABORSTA is available at laborsta.ilo.org. Other ILO statistical data sources available at www.ilo.org/global/What_we_do/Statistics/lang--en/index.htm.
4. The United States sends a representative who shares responsibility from the Department of State and Department of Labor. The AFL/CIO represents the worker, and the U.S. Council for International Business represents the employers.
5. A complete list of historical recommendations and conventions can be viewed at www.ilo.org/public/english/comp/civil/standards/ilodcr.htm.
6. A complete list of conventions and recommendations can be viewed by country using ILOLEX at www.ilo.org/ilolex/index.htm.

Geospatial News

FEMA Flood Map Modernization Project

Marcy M. Bidney

In recent years flooding has caused billions of dollars in damage across the United States, from Hurricane Katrina to the flooding in the Midwest in the summer of 2008. In light of

these events, now seems like a good time to review what the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is doing in the realm of flood insurance rate mapping.

Since the flood insurance rate map (FIRM) program began in 1973 more than 100,000 FIRMs have been produced. In the face of changing technology and the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, FEMA initiated a program to produce digital flood insurance rate maps. This program officially began in 1997 when James Lee Witt, then director of FEMA, issued the Flood Map Modernization Initiative as a seven-year strategic plan for the flood-mapping program. The plan called for all 100,000-plus paper FIRMs to be digital by 2007. Providing digital flood rate insurance maps (DFIRM) was beneficial to FEMA for a number of reasons. The program would allow easier and faster updating of the FIRMs, which historically have been slowly updated. It would also allow easier access to the maps as they would be provided free of charge via the Internet for communities, individuals, insurance companies, and so on. Providing access to maps in digital formats would save FEMA the cost of printing and distributing hundreds of thousands of maps and at the same time allow communities in high-risk areas the ability to create more efficient and effective hazard response plans with the implementation and use of geographic information systems.

In the past, production of the FIRMs typically relied heavily on local information produced by local governments, and when the move toward digital production of the FIRMs was announced many communities voiced concern. Communities were worried that in the effort to modernize the flood map system FEMA would be conducting flood hazard studies that would locate new regions in flood prone areas. This would likely increase the amount of federal flood insurance required and possibly jeopardize flood insurance coverage. Communities were also concerned about the lack of technology infrastructure and the lack of training in digital data production and collection as well as digital mapping. In 2001 FEMA, in response to community concerns, announced that private contractors would be assisting communities with their flood mapping needs, including conducting flood hazard surveys. States in high flood areas along the eastern seaboard, major rivers, and the Gulf Coast have instituted statewide initiatives for flood hazard mapping outside of FEMA's jurisdiction. They also often have highly developed spatial data sharing programs, which makes hazard mapping more affordable for communities who cannot afford to collect and share the data on their own. FEMA seeks to partner with some of the states that have developed spatial data collection and sharing systems with the possibility of setting up reciprocal relationships. Under the terms of such relationships, states would provide the data necessary for flood mapping to FEMA and in return FEMA would produce the flood insurance rate maps or possibly provide states with disaster response training.

The reorganization of some agencies, including FEMA, after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, put the existence of FEMA in question, thus jeopardizing the map modernization project. FEMA survived the reorganization and was able to continue the project; however, in more recent years FEMA has come under serious criticism for failures in response to major disasters. Due to many of these setbacks, FEMA projected the map modernization to be complete by the end of 2008.

In October 2008, FEMA announced in the Federal Register that, as of October 1, 2009, general distribution of flood insurance rate maps in paper would be discontinued. FEMA will continue to distribute one paper copy to communities when the map is updated—otherwise distribution will be through digital means. Individuals who still would like to have paper FIRMs can contact FEMA at (800) 358-9616; otherwise digital FIRMs are available in the following formats:

- **FIRM Scan:** FIRM Scan maps are digital images of paper FIRMs. They can be downloaded from the FEMA flood insurance rate map website or they can be requested from FEMA on CD-ROM. If full-size paper maps are to be printed a large format printer is necessary, but FEMA provides software that makes the printing of small portions of the map possible.
- **FIRMette:** FIRMettes are what they sound like—mini FIRMs. They are available online and show small sections of the original FIRMs. FIRMettes can be printed directly from a user's computer or saved for later use.
- **Mapviewer–Web:** The Mapviewer, also available via the FIRM website, allows for more detailed mapping for users. Users are able to select flood hazard data they would like to have displayed on the map and create custom maps and reports. A Mapviewer is also available for download to PCs for viewing DFIRM data stored on user computers.
- **DFIRM Data:** Data available for use by organizations or individuals with geographic information system capabilities. DFIRM data are available typically for highest-risk flood areas and are available at the community and county levels and can be downloaded or requested on CD-ROM.

Many libraries are opting to remove the paper copies of flood rate insurance maps in lieu of the online and CD-ROM products available from FEMA. If you are interested in doing this in your library, contact FEMA and they will work with

you. And while FEMA has struggled in the past to get this program up and running on schedule, users are finally seeing the benefits from the hard work FEMA has put into this program. Communities susceptible to flood hazards will find the distribution of data in these formats will make their disaster planning easier and more effective, ensuring the safety of residents for years to come.

International Documents Roundup

Why International Documents?

Jim Church

This is the last international documents column I will be writing for GODORT, an organization to which I have belonged for twelve years. In my view GODORT is among the most active and dynamic groups in ALA. The commitment of GODORT members to government information issues always inspires me: as a colleague of mine once said (without irony) "you people actually DO things!" Yet as an international documents specialist in a group composed mostly of federal documents librarians, one sometimes feels isolated. At every conference I meet a colleague who confesses to me "I know nothing about international documents." If you fall into this category, this column is for you. What, after all, is the big deal about international organizations? Why do government information librarians choose to specialize in this field? And most importantly, what kinds of information can be obtained from sources provided by international government organizations (IGOs) that cannot be found elsewhere?

International Standards

Not many librarians write about government standards, and for good reason: almost no one is interested. But the global economy would flounder without international standards. Since we do not all speak the same language, internationally recognized codes are vital to global transport, communication and trade. The United Nations (UN) and other international organizations like the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the World Maritime Organization (WMO) have crafted volumes of international standards that enable the modern world to function. Most librarians know about the North American Industry Classification System, a numerical hierarchy used to classify business and industrial establishments for the North American Free Trade Agreement, a multilateral treaty between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. But the UN and other IGOs have created many other international classifications useful for reference. Chief among these are the UN Statistics Division's Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), and the World Customs Organization's Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS). The ISIC classifies industries, while the SITC and HS classify products and commodities. With all the changes in the world economy these codes undergo continual revision: the current ISIC is Revision 4, the current HS is 2007 (preceded by 2002 and 1996), and the last SITC code was Revision 3. You cannot work with labor data from the International Labour Organization or industry statistics from the UN Industrial Development Organization without understanding the ISIC; likewise you cannot use international commodity trade statistics without the SITC or HS. Less useful for reference, but no less important for the global economy, are standards used by the international technological organizations, including recommendations from the ITU Standardization Sector, standards from the ICAO Air Navigation Bureau (SARPS) and meteorological standards from the World Maritime Organization (WMO).[1]

International Law

What is international law? A simple answer to this question is difficult, but in brief public international law is a system of agreements that bind nation-states together. It includes charters, resolutions, dispute settlements, cases, and most importantly, treaties. Documents librarians know that U.S. treaties are ratified by the Senate, and that citations for current U.S. treaties can be found in the U.S. State Department publication *Treaties in Force* (www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/treaties/2007/index.htm). But what about UN and other multilateral treaties? Where are they recorded, and how are they created? Space does not permit a full discussion of this; for a more exhaustive answer see the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library international law research guide (www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/specil.htm). But a quick answer to the first question is that basic information about significant multilateral treaties from the UN can be found in UN publication *Status of Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General*, online and in print. The text of the treaties can be found on the UN Treaty Collection website (www.treaties.un.org), and in the voluminous print *UN Treaty Series* (*UNTS*). The creative process for a multilateral treaty can be complex: sometimes treaties originate in the UN International Law Commission or other UN commissions,

sometimes they are done by the UN General Assembly or during international conferences (this does not include all the international economic treaties, European Union treaties, and so on). There are many excellent international treaty guides on the web (the EISIL website at www.eisil.org is among the best) but in my experience using *Status of Multilateral Treaties* and the UN Treaty database is sufficient for the majority of multilateral treaty questions.

International Organizations and Development

During the drafting of the UN Charter, countries from the developing world pressed rigorously for the creation and empowerment of an Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the UN body charged with international economic, social, cultural, educational, and health issues, as well as human rights.[2] The success of ECOSOC has been mixed: the average citizen has never heard of ECOSOC, and global inequality, human rights abuses, and poverty remain rampant. But the fact that economic and social cooperation was put into the UN Charter was revolutionary.[3] Out of this effort has sprung some of the UN's most successful agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, and many others. Conservative U.S. administrations have long disliked these organizations and regarded them with suspicion. The Bush administration, for example, withheld the $34 million allocated by the Congress for the UNFPA since 2002. But a librarian's first concern is for bibliographic value. These agencies publish an astonishing number of books, reports, and statistics: the UNDP's *Human Development Reports* (hdr.undp.org/en/reports), UNICEF's *State of the World's Children* (www.unicef.org/sowc), and the UNFPA's *State of the World Population* (www.unfpa.org/swp) are standard reference works that are all free online, not to mention the wealth of statistics produced by the UN Statistics Division (unstats.un.org/unsd), including the UN *Statistical Yearbook*, the *Demographic Yearbook*, and many others.

International Organizations and Human Rights

At times UN efforts in the area of human rights seem little more than a joke; at worst they are tragically incompetent and outrageous. The common accusation is that the previous Commission on Human Rights (since replaced by the new Human Rights Council) functioned as nothing more than a hypocritical talk shop, staffed by ineffectual well-paid bureaucrats.[4] Yet the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights (un.org/Overview/rights.html) stands as one of the most important documents of the twentieth century, upon which all the work of subsequent human rights groups has been founded. As Paul Kennedy notes, the Universal Declaration is "the Magna Carta of mankind" and has been translated into virtually every written language.[5] Human rights have become a topic that will not go away: whether it is outrage over US torture of prisoners at Guantánamo or indignation over the Chinese treatment of Tibet (both the U.S. and China are permanent members of the Security Council) the subject remains a perpetual media topic and a pillar of the international civil society movement. While the UN has proved ineffectual at enforcing its manifold human rights resolutions, conventions, declarations, and treaties (note that neither the General Assembly nor the ECOSOC has the power to authorize the use of force, only the Security Council) it is virtually impossible for repressive governments to transgress international human rights law without the global community knowing about it and raising a fuss. If you are interested in reading reports from the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies, see the UN Treaty Body Database (tb.ohchr.org/default.aspx). Select convention "CAT" (for "Committee Against Torture"—you need to know the acronyms) and choose either China or the United States. See the committee's "concluding observations." Neither of the world's two most powerful countries escapes unscathed.

International Organizations and Aid

The exaggerated generosity of the American government has become a cliché in our media: the U.S. supposedly supplies the overwhelming majority of Official Development Assistance (ODA) only to be reviled abroad and attacked at home. In fact, the U.S. ranks almost last of all rich countries in ODA, contributing 0.18 percent of its gross national income (GNI)—this is twenty-second out of the twenty-three OECD Development Assistance Committee member countries.[6] Jeffrey Sachs, director of the UN Millennium Project (www.unmillenniumproject.org), notes that if all developed countries were to meet their Millennium Development commitment to contribute 0.7 percent of GNI to international aid (less than a cent of every dollar) the world would end extreme poverty by 2025. As Sachs notes drily, this would be "enough perhaps to buy a Dixie cup, but not enough to fill it with water."[7]

In spite of this callousness, the UN continues to make the effort. While the world remains a grim place in terms of poverty, hunger, illness, and other humanitarian crises, imagine a world with no UN. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has helped an estimated fifty million people over five decades, and currently works in 110 countries assist-

ing 32.9 million people. Or UN Habitat, the UN Human Settlements agency, devoted to promoting sustainable towns and cities for the world's estimated one billion slum dwellers. Or the World Food Programme (WFP), the food assistance agency of the UN that fed 86.1 million people in eighty countries in 2007. Much is made of the UN failures in combating humanitarian ills, but less mention is made of its success stories. Some of these include the World Health Organization's (WHO) Campaign to Eradicate Smallpox (smallpox claimed two million lives in 1967 and was eradicated by 1980) and its drastic reductions of polio and African river blindness; the UNICEF Campaign for Child Survival in the 1980s, estimated to have saved more than twelve million lives; and the UNFPA's role in coordinating global family planning, resulting in fertility declines of 5.0 children in 1950 to 2.8 children in 2000. If you are interested in reference titles from these organizations, here are a few. The UNHCR has ceased print distribution but publishes extensively online; see especially the statistics section (www.who.int/globalatlas/default.asp) as well as its flagship publication *The State of the World's Refugees* (www.unhcr.org/publ/3f098b4d4.html). The UN Habitat flagship publication is *The State of the World's Cities* (www.unhabitat.org), available directly from the agency or from commercial publishers. Even the WFP, the UN agency with the least overhead now publishes volumes in its World Hunger Series and others (see the publications section of the WFP site at www.wfp.org/english).

International Organizations and Children

I leave this category for last because it is one of the most important and underrated. One thing that shames me as a US citizen is that we still have not ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (www.unicef.org/magic/briefing/uncorc.html). For some reason I still struggle to convince colleagues that UNICEF and the other agencies devoted to the rights of children are relevant for research libraries. Part of this is the UN's fault: like other UN publication categories UNICEF is excluded from the UN depository program. But I am concerned that we may be adopting the errant ways of our masters. UNICEF is one of the UN's greatest success stories, and in addition to UNICEF there are many other bodies in the UN system devoted exclusively to victimized and underprivileged groups; for example indigenous peoples (UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues), persons with disabilities (Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), victims of landmines (United Nations Mine Action Service), and others. There is an entire UN program on the family, numerous agencies devoted to women, and countless agencies devoted to working for the poor. When I take a look at my own government I see nothing comparable. I sometimes like to imagine, in my more idealistic moments, what the U.S. government might be like if we were to consider adopting some of the words in the preamble of the UN Charter (www.un.org/aboutun/charter/preamble.shtml). I leave you with these:

- to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind;
- to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small;
- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained; and
- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

Notes and References

1. There are also Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS) and Regional Supplementary Procedures (SUPPS); in case you are interested, see www.icao.int. There are more than 3,000 ITU recommendations in force, ranging from telegraph transmission guidelines to broadband network configurations. The ITU sells a compilation of these on DVD and online and some are freely available; see www.itu.int/ITU-T/publications/recs.html.
2. It is astonishing how few good books there are on UN history. Most tend to be specialized or focused on UN failures. A notable exception is *The Parliament of Man: the Past, Present, and Future of the United Nations* by Paul Kennedy (New York: Random House, 2006) which contains an eye-opening account of the creation of ECOSOC.
3. Revolutionary, but practical. The Allied Powers, in particular the Roosevelt administration, recognized that civil unrest and the massive unemployment during the Great Depression were major causes of World War II.
4. Originally set up under the auspices of ECOSOC, with the famous and now defunct E/CN.4 document symbol, the new Human Rights Council reports to the General Assembly with the new A/HRC document symbol (if you want to get really wonkish, the old "Sub-Committee on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights," with the E/CN.4/Sub.2 symbol has likewise been replaced by the new and improved "Advisory Committee"—but what's in a name).

5. Paul Kennedy, *The Parliament of Man: the Past, Present, and Future of the United Nations* (New York: Random House, 2006), 180.
6. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *OECD Factbook* (Paris: OECD, 2008), 221. Sweden is the most generous, contributing 1.02 percent of its income.
7. Jeffrey Sachs, *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time* (New York: Penguin, 2006), 267.

GODORT Preconference and Program at the 2009 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago

GODORT Preconference

All Government Information is Local: Building on a Century of Local and Regional information in Libraries

Friday, July 10, 2009
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Optional tour of Frank Lloyd Wright works in the afternoon

A spirited panel discussion about the history and future of local government information resources/services in the library. Learn from experts and practitioners in urban studies who suggest specific ways to cooperate with local governments that serve the library's community in order to get important public information, set up engaged citizen forums to discuss critical issues involving local education, environment, employment, and social policies.

Provisional List of Speakers: John A. Shuler, bibliographer for urban planning, University of Illinois at Chicago; Charlie Hoch, professor of urban planning, University of Illinois at Chicago; Rana Hutchinson Salzmann, librarian, Merriam Center Library, American Planning Association; Joseph Schwieterman, director of the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development and professor of public service management at DePaul University; Davis Schneiderman, co-director, Virtual Burnham Initiative.

GODORT Program

Gov Docs Kids Group: Learn and Have Fun with Government Resources

Monday, July 13, 2009
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This program will help participants promote government information while engaging K–12 students in learning about history, culture, science, and government. Games, interactive activities, teaching aids, and lesson plans will be highlighted, along with exciting tools to enhance student learning. We will provide librarians with a collection of free government resources to advance their reference skills and aid in collection development decisions. We will focus on resources available at the Gov Docs Kids Group website, which includes primary source materials and links to U.S. government websites for kids.

Speakers: Mary Burtzloff, archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, Central Plains Region; Arlene Wiler, Johnson County Library; Tom Adamich, head of metadata services, Muskingum College Library; Cherie Bronkar, head of user services, Muskingum College Library.

FEATURING

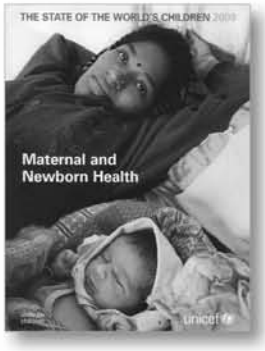
UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS

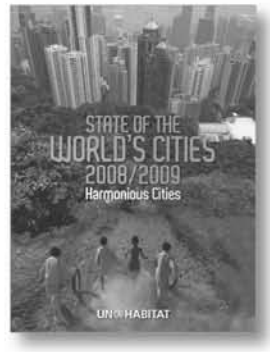
Public Goods for Economic Development

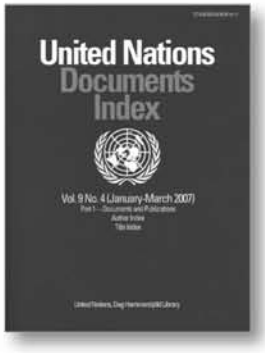
This publication addresses factors that promote or inhibit successful provision of the four key international public goods: financial stability, international trade regime, international diffusion of technological knowledge and global environment. Without these goods, developing countries are unable to compete, prosper or attract capital from abroad. The need for public goods provision is also recognized by the Millennium Development Goals, internationally agreed goals and targets for knowledge, health, governance and environmental public goods. The Report addresses the nature of required policies and institutions using the modern principles of collective action.

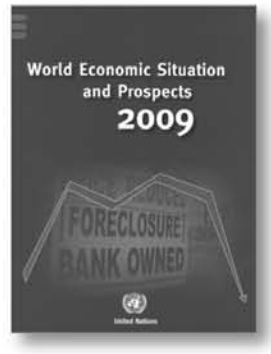
Publishing Agency: United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Sales Number: E.08.II.B.36 ISBN: 13: 9789211064445 Pages: 194 Price: $50.00









Crisis Prevention and Recovery Report 2008: Post-Conflict Economic Recovery - Enabling Local Ingenuity

Publishing Agency: United Nations Development Programme

Sales Number: E. 08.III.B.10 ISBN: 13: 9789211262179
Pages: 260 Price: $29.95

Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2007-2008: Macroeconomic Policy and Volatility

Publishing Agency: United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Sales Number: E. 08.II.G.2 ISBN: 13: 9789211216776
Pages: 148 Price: $75.00

The State of the World's Children 2009: Maternal and Newborn Health

Publishing Agency: United Nations Children's Fund

Sales Number: E. 09.XX.1 ISBN: 13: 9789280643183
Pages: 164 Price: $25.00

State of the World's Cities 2008-2009: Harmonious Cities

Publishing Agency: United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Sales Number: E. 08.III.Q.1 ISBN: 13: 9781844076963
Pages: 280 Price: $40.00

United Nations Documents Index, January-March 2007

Publishing Agency: United Nations

Sales Number: E. 08.I.5 ISBN: 13: 9789211011593
Pages: 2176 Price: $95.00

World Economic Situation and Prospects 2009

Publishing Agency: United Nations

Sales Number: E. 09.II.C.2 ISBN: 13: 9789211091588
Pages: 184 Price: $30.00

Order now at 1-800-253-9646 or publications@un.org Online at http://unp.un.org

Introduction: Responses to Regionals Report

In September 2007, the GPO asked its congressional oversight committee, the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP), to allow the University of Kansas and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to collaborate as a shared regional library. The Kansas/Nebraska proposal, if approved, would have expanded the concept of the regional depository library as defined in Title 44. The JCP did not approve the request, but acknowledged the motivation behind it, and in spring 2008 directed GPO to conduct a study of whether conditions in regional depository libraries negatively affected public access to government information.

GPO's draft report, *Regional Depository Libraries in the 21st Century: A Time for Change? A Report to the Joint Committee on Printing* (www.fdlp.gov/home/about/209-studyofregionals), was released in June 2008. The *DttP* editorial team asked three GODORT members—Daniel O'Mahony, Jennie Burroughs, and Arlene Weible—to provide their perspectives on the draft report. (Their responses were written before the final report was released in January 2009.)

We chose these three for various reasons. Dan is a long-time GODORT member with experience on GODORT's Legislation Committee and ALA's Committee on Legislation. He served as the chair of the Inter-Association Working Group on Government Information Policy that led the last charge for Title 44 reform in the mid-1990s. He also has the notable distinction of working in a selective depository whose regional is in a neighboring state. Jennie brings the valuable perspective not only of a regional librarian but also of someone relatively new to GODORT and to being a documents librarian. Arlene has served as GODORT chair and has also worked in depository libraries both large and small, including as a regional librarian. She brings a wealth of knowledge of various kinds of depository operations to the table.

We appreciate their willingness to share their opinions and we invite *DttP* readers to do the same on the *DttP* wiki (wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/DttP).

Déjà Vu All Over Again?

Daniel P. O'Mahony

"I might say further that this business of a regional depository has given me a good bit of trouble in my thinking because it seems to me a rather unwieldy thing. After considerable discussion when the bill was drafted, it was put in mainly to try to use it as a platform on which to evolve some kind of a workable solution. I personally happen to believe that it is not workable. But there are two things that I had in mind, and that the staff had in mind. One was to get some way to permit some of these smaller libraries to get rid of some of this material that they did not any longer want, and the second was to have some place where, in case an emergency arose, if they needed it 20 or 30 years later it would be somewhere where they could go and find it without going clear to Washington."—*Comments of Representative Wayne L. Hays (D-OH-18), chairman of the House Committee on House Administration's Special Subcommittee to Study Federal Printing and Paperwork (84th*

and 85th Congresses) and original sponsor of the bill that would become the Depository Act of 1962*, during a hearing on the bill held October 10, 1957, in San Francisco, California.*[1]

At the time of its passage, the *Depository Act of 1962* was heralded as a major step toward modernizing the structure of distributing federal government publications to libraries, and through them, to the American public. One of the desires of the bill's sponsor was "to bring some 1962 thinking to this outmoded statute" that had remained basically unchanged for almost one hundred years.[2]

Forty-six years later, we find ourselves wanting to bring some twenty-first-century thinking to a structure that was designed for a very different information landscape—trying to move a system built exclusively for print-on-paper publications into a world where digital dissemination and access are predominant.

GPO's report to the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP), *Regional Depository Libraries in the 21st Century: A Time for Change?* (draft June 2008), does a commendable job in describing the lay of the land with respect to regional depository libraries at this point in time (especially true given the short window of time allowed to conduct the study). Where the report falls short, in my judgment, is with the recommendations it offers to improve the current state of affairs. These recommendations (and much of the comments throughout the report) focus too much on only one aspect of the regional depositories' support of public access to government publications through the FDLP, namely, the issues surrounding the storage and disposition of print collections. While this may be understandable given the impetus for the study (the JCP's denial of the Kansas/Nebraska shared regional proposal), it is shortsighted nonetheless.

Specifically, the report recommends "Revising Chapter 19 of Title 44 to allow a more flexible structure within the parameters of the, already library community-accepted, *Guidelines for Establishing Shared Regional Depository Libraries*" and "approving the Kansas/Nebraska shared regional proposal."[3]

The first of these represents a targeted approach to revising Title 44. Given the past difficulties in revising the law, this is a reasonable desire, trying a surgical fix to a specific provision of the statute relating to regional depositories only. The timing and ultimate success of such an approach has been (and will continue to be) debated, but the idea is not without merit. The second of these recommendations confuses me, however. It either assumes passage of the revisions desired in the first recommendation (no small feat), or essentially is asking the JCP for a "do over" (to reconsider its original denial of the Kansas/Nebraska proposal).

More troubling is that these recommendations miss the bigger picture altogether. As one commenter put it: "Permanent, long-term access to these [digital] documents, I believe, is a greater and more pressing issue regarding public access than having enough [paper] copies available."[4] The unique, fundamental role that regional depository libraries fulfill within the FDLP is to ensure permanent public access to federal government publications for current and future users. Adapting this role to the digital age should be the primary focus of our attention and any attempt at reforming Title 44.

This is not to dismiss the very real and pressing challenges that regional (and other) libraries face with respect to managing their aging and voluminous print collections. But most of the concerns outlined in the study and commented on by the community in the survey have solutions within the existing statutory and administrative framework. It should be possible, for example, to develop a tool that facilitates the disposition process by linking the item selection profiles or holdings of depository libraries with needs and offers profiles of regional and other depository libraries. And it is well within the current FDLP guidelines for regional depositories to work with their selectives to develop state plans that more equitably share the responsibilities for housing permanent collections.

Is it necessary to have regional depositories in every state? From 1895 until the 1920s, all 418 depository libraries acted as de facto regionals in that they were required to retain all depository documents permanently. Beginning in 1923, the option of selecting categories of government publications was introduced, and all but forty-eight depositories chose that route. So by 1923, whether by design or not, it was accepted that only forty-eight, and not four hundred-plus, complete collections were sufficient to maintain permanent public access to depository materials throughout the United States. In this regard, the 1962 law codified practices that had begun forty years earlier. Since then, the number of regionals has grown a bit, but it begs the question: In an era of nationwide interlibrary cooperation and increasingly ubiquitous access to digital copies of government publications, what is the appropriate number of complete collections required to ensure permanent public access for current and future users? Fifty-two geographically dispersed and independently controlled collections of tangible publications is probably more redundancy than is necessary. Essentially one government-controlled collection of fundamental electronic information (GPO Access) doesn't even come close.

Which brings us back to the core issue: that a fundamental aspect of the FDLP to ensure permanent public access to federal government publications for current and future users, a role traditionally provided primarily through a system of

regional depository libraries, does not work in the digital age. As others have suggested, it is high time that some kind of pilot be established to test the feasibility of distributing digital files to depository libraries. More than half of the regional depository libraries—and 38 percent of selectives—have expressed a willingness to receive FDLP digital files on deposit.[5]

On the matter of whether Title 44 of the U.S. Code needs to be revised: hmmm, let's see . . .

- In **1979**, a young documents specialist from the Detroit Public Library, Francis J. Buckley Jr., in testimony before the House Committee on House Administration, stated, "The nation has been served well by Title 44 for nearly a century, but events have overtaken its ability to retain the flexibility required during a period of rapidly changing technology and citizens' expectation."[6]
- In **1985**, Sandra Faull, the regional depository librarian at the New Mexico State Library, wrote that "many librarians affiliated with regional depositories are concerned about the ability of their libraries to receive, process, store, and service all the titles and series available on deposit from the Government Printing Office. Some of them have even questioned whether their library can maintain regional status and fulfill all the service elements specified in the *Guidelines for the Depository Library System.*"[7]
- In **1991**, researchers Peter Hernon and David Heisser elaborated on the concerns identified by Faull as "an attempt to defuse a time bomb that, if exploded, would severely hamper the effectiveness and efficiency of the depository library program in providing the general public with access to government publications." They observed that "the library community and the GPO are attempting to confront the issues that Faull raised, but they operate within a gray area concerning the provisions of 44 U.S.C. 1912. Unless the statutory law is revised, they have no choice, and that time bomb could explode."[8]
- In **1993**, the influential "Librarians' *Manifesto*," commenting on the regional depository system, concluded that "any restructuring of the DLP will not only require the support and assistance of the depository library community, but will also be dependent upon the revision of Title 44."[9] This was followed by a succession of activities by groups such as the Dupont Circle Group, the Chicago Conference on the Future of Federal Government Information, and the Inter-Association Working Group on Government Information Policy, that outlined various models, principles, and recommendations for reforming the FDLP and revising Title 44.
- In **1998**, Senator John Warner (R-VA), chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, introduced S. 2288, the *Wendell H. Ford Government Publications Reform Act of 1998*, a bill that the Public Printer at that time described as "the first bill to propose a comprehensive revision of the public printing and documents statutes of Title 44 in more than a generation, and these statutes clearly are in need of revision."[10]

Has the government information environment changed in the last ten, fifteen, thirty, forty-six years to render the need for legislative revision unnecessary? Hardly. So it's not a matter of *whether* Title 44 needs to be revised, but what is the most likely strategy to achieve the reforms desired by the library community?

Like Representative Hays, we all have been given a good bit of trouble by the questions surrounding the regional depository library system, not only in our thinking, but in the way we strive to work within the FDLP to serve the government information needs of our users. I propose that it is within our reach to resolve the administrative and logistical issues necessary to facilitate selective depositories withdrawing materials from their collections (in Hays's words, "to get rid of some of this material that they did not any longer want") as well as many of the other local operational concerns that inhibit public access. The more fundamental issue is that of ensuring permanent public access programmatically to federal government publications for current and future users. On this front, it seems to me that time is of the essence. The digital record of our government continues to escape our control. Perhaps a new, technology-savvy presidential administration and a supportive Congress committed (at least in their rhetoric) to transparency, accountability, and citizen participation are just what are needed to help garner the support and attention necessary to secure the legislative foundations of the FDLP in the digital era.

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Response to Regionals Report

Arlene Weible

I believe that the recommendations offered by GPO in its report, *Regional Depository Libraries in the 21st Century*, provide a framework for the FDLP to enter a phase of innovative experimentation. The recommendations provide depository librarians encouragement to test new models for organizing the program and developing services for the public they serve.

I am probably most excited by the first recommendation, which reinforces the need for cataloging of pre-1976 depository publications. What would a world look like if we had a complete, cataloged, and universally accessible inventory of the FDLP legacy collection? Would the current model of one state, one regional be relevant? Could we see the end of those cumbersome disposal lists? Directing resources to a final push to fully catalog depository collections would create an environment that would allow the depository community to envision a whole new paradigm in which to organize itself.

GPO also recommends that the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) provide an exemption to the current law in order to implement the Kansas/Nebraska shared regional proposal. I believe this proposal provides the perfect opportunity to test the concept that state boundaries no longer serve as a definitive way to organize depository library service areas. The depository community should urge the JCP to approve this project with a requirement that it be assessed to prove that it can serve as an effective model. Without this kind of experimentation, how are we to find an organizational model that will serve future generations of government information users?

The recommendation that has probably provoked the most discussion is the one that suggests revising Title 44 with an eye for more flexibility within the FDLP structure. I have to admit that I have been disappointed by the depository community's discussion about this recommendation, which seems to be focused on the process and politics of revising the system. What is lacking in this discussion is a clear articulation of what needs to change within the law. I'm not sure we will know what needs to change until we experiment with new models and find new solutions for some of the thornier issues of providing government information services today.

I tend to view GPO's recommendation for Title 44 revision as more of a goal than a call to instant action. I believe we

should defer procedural discussions of Title 44 revision until we have gained practical experience with experimental structures and services and have assessed their effectiveness. The JCP should authorize exemptions to the current law to facilitate new projects like the Kansas/Nebraska proposal and promote an environment that encourages libraries to test new models for the FDLP.

This is not to say that a legal exemption is always needed. In Oregon, we were able to work within the current guidelines of the FDLP to identify a regional model that addressed the problems we were experiencing with the current regional structure. When Oregon's regional library was unable to fulfill its obligations, we were able to create a system for sharing the responsibilities of the FDLP regional collection and services among four partner libraries through a series of memoranda of understanding and housing agreements. As we designed this model, we particularly appreciated the support we received from GPO to think outside of the box. Depository librarians need more of this encouragement so we may not only solve our current problems, but also create our future.

I do view GPO's final recommendation, which calls for a continuing dialogue to identify "scenarios for a flexible future," as a call to action. If we can achieve even a partial consensus around a scenario we should have the ability to test its viability. This will require more flexibility in the program than the current JCP seems inclined to allow, but I am hopeful that the depository community can be inspired by GPO's recommendation to cultivate a spirit of innovation that will encourage the JCP to loosen its reins on the program.

While GPO's report recommends solutions to the current problems facing the regional structure within the FDLP, I think it can also be viewed as an entrée into an era of renewed interest in transforming the program. The community should seize this opportunity to design and push for implementation of projects that test some of the models that have been discussed over the last ten years. Let's not let this opportunity slip by because we are too busy talking about the problems of current program and the process for reform. I would rather put my energy toward testing new models that will create our future.

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Flexibility is the Future and Complete Cataloging is the Key

Jennie M. Burroughs

Given the huge changes in access to government information in recent years, the GPO study of regional depository libraries has provided a good opportunity to reassess the current structure of the depository library system. Overall, the draft report does a good job reflecting the pressures and benefits of regional depositories. Many depository libraries (not only regionals) are facing tighter budgets, reallocating space to meet new needs, and designating fewer staff to work exclusively with government information. However, biennial surveys indicate that depository collections are used, materials and services are being mainstreamed to increase visibility, many selective depositories are happy with regional service (based on comments incorporated into the draft report), and the depository community's desire to support and enhance access to government information remains strong. The regional depository call to create flexibility stems from this aspiration to better meet the needs of their users.

Responding to some of the recommendations from the report, I particularly appreciated GPO's emphasis on cataloging pre-1976 depository materials and developing a complete, searchable inventory for regional depositories. This is the most pressing, short-term need for depository libraries. So many service improvements and flexible solutions are dependent upon this information. Ideally, GPO will collaborate with many libraries to identify or create full records for historical materials, in lieu of relying on very brief records. A comprehensive

inventory (as provided by machine-readable cataloging) of regional depositories would facilitate collaborative collection development and help libraries identify legacy collection gaps. Complete cataloging would improve local patron access and expand interlibrary loan service, improving service to selective depositories and non-depository libraries. A complete catalog of regional holdings would provide the necessary framework for improving the needs and offers process, and speed up processing of selective depository disposal lists. A comprehensive inventory of depository materials also provides the beginning framework for identifying and tracking persistent, authentic digital copies of legacy materials.

Another of the draft report's recommendations, to make funds available to regional depositories for storage and preservation of legacy collections, has been met with appreciation but deep skepticism (about its probability) by depository librarians with whom I have spoken. The notion of funding specifically for regional depositories may not sit well with some, but it speaks to unique demands placed upon these libraries. While selective depositories may make use of the flexibility within the program to reshape their collections over time to meet local needs, to reallocate space within their libraries for new initiatives, and to focus their efforts on new ways of supporting research, regionals are more constrained by statutory mandates. Rather than becoming more virtual, regional depository collections are experiencing tangible growth through accepting materials others wish to discard. In some respects, it's a nice problem to have. There are countless gems in the historical depository collections. However, there's a lot of dross, and regionals must retain that as well. Program flexibility and funding to offset the costs of storage would free up resources that are currently devoted to collecting, retrospectively cataloging, and preserving hundreds of thousands of aging, tangible items. In my opinion, this is one of the key motivations for regional depository efforts to gain greater flexibility within the structure of the program. While the tangible collection is important, it's extremely difficult to find resources for future service when statutory requirements drive all attention to old models.

This fact points to a public access challenge not fully addressed in the draft report. With scanning of government reports happening on numerous (uncoordinated) fronts, we are moving away from a primary model of tangible redundancy as a means of access and toward a model of redundancy as a means of preservation. Within the next twenty years will we need fifty-two copies of an obscure report for access purposes, or would twenty-five copies, robust interlibrary loan, and redundant digital copies suffice? To plan for this model, the report could have included a recommendation to develop and fund a distributed digital system. We are not doing enough presently as a program to safeguard born-digital and converted-to-digital government information. This is something in which regional depositories should (and would like to) take part. A good regional catalog should include links to digital copies of legacy materials to improve access for the growing number of users who prefer web-based formats. By taking responsibility for portions of the whole, all depository libraries can provide a politically neutral preservation solution for the government information digital collection. The technological infrastructure does not yet exist, but the bureaucratic infrastructure of interconnected libraries and expertise does. Financial support for hardware and other preservation tools could be the "new deal" that depository libraries are seeking to replace the old deal of free (print) government publications.

That said, the draft report takes the correct first steps by placing emphasis on complete, machine-readable cataloging for regional collections. Having that inventory in place will open up many options for collaboration and greater program flexibility. This flexibility will, in turn, create room for new initiatives designed to better meet user needs and improve public access to government information.

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Electronic Transition at the University of Florida Libraries

Three Perspectives

Jan Swanbeck, Chelsea Dinsmore, and Judy Russell

The nineties heralded the era of electronic transition in the management of government documents collections. The electronic transition impacted workflow, access, and the format of government documents. This article presents the perspectives of three practitioners at the University of Florida who represent the past, present, and future of the dissemination of government information in the digital age. Jan Swanbeck, chair of the Documents Department at the University of Florida began her career in government documents in the early seventies. Her perspective covers the transition from mainframes to personal computers, the loading of bibliographic records into the online catalog, and adaptation to the web environment. Chelsea Dinsmore, the international and state documents librarian at the University of Florida, is new to the field of documents librarianship. She discusses the challenges involved in training staff and patrons to take advantage of the greater availability of government information on the Internet. Judy Russell, former Superintendent of Documents, presents her experiences transitioning from her position of oversight of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) to that of dean of the University of Florida Library that houses the federal regional depository for Florida and the Caribbean. She emphasizes the need for more flexibility on the part of the Government Printing Office (GPO) for regional depositories and reviews initiatives currently underway to move in this direction.

Past

As a documents librarian who assumed her first professional position in the early seventies, computers were not part of my working environment until my third job at Texas A&M University in the eighties. This was still the era of mainframes. The mainframe computer at Texas A&M ran the library's online catalog and stored census data that was used campus-wide. The processing of the federal documents, however, continued to be a manual workflow. Documents staff checked in material using our extensive shelf list. The *Monthly Catalog of United States Documents* provided the primary access to the collection.

My introduction to personal computers at Texas A&M was gradual and in retrospect quite fun. One personal computer was allocated to each department in the Sterling C. Evans Library. The documents computer sat in a central location in the processing area inviting us all to play with it. Because it had not yet become part of our workflow, its use was largely experimental.

Once trained in computer basics and the use of the word-processing software, we were on our own to find other uses for our new toy. One lesson that I learned the hard way was the importance of saving your work on a regular basis. Losing ten pages of an article was something that happened to me only once in my career. While we struggled to comprehend the potential of our personal computers, few of us moved beyond document creation.

It was during my time at Texas A&M that I met Judy Myers, the documents librarian at the University of Houston. Judy was a visionary and one of the few documents librarians in the country to recognize early on the importance of integrating cataloging information for government documents into the online catalog. This became possible when the GPO began cataloging the documents distributed to federal depository libraries in the summer of 1976 and adding the records to OCLC. This important development had little immediate impact on the workflow of most documents departments other than providing the availability of print cataloging records in the *Monthly Catalog* along with the use of standardized index terms.

Judy saw the potential for packaging these records created by GPO into a product that could be loaded into online catalogs across the country. Judy wrote a two-part grant pro-

posal involving Texas A&M University, Rice University, and Louisiana State University that called for the development of a product using the GPO cataloging records that could be loaded into an online catalog and a pilot project to test the feasibility of cataloging documents published before 1976. While the proposal received letters of support from dignitaries at the Library of Congress, numerous library directors, and documents specialists across the country, it was not funded. Judy was undaunted and sought another avenue of funding in the private sector. She approached the fledgling company MARCIVE, a retrospective cataloging company based in San Antonio, with her grant proposal. This company made up of systems specialists from Trinity University quickly recognized the potential of a product that could be marketed to more than 1,200 depository library libraries and agreed to work with us to develop a work plan to make the records usable. Working closely with MARCIVE, library staff at Texas A&M, Rice University, and Louisiana State University cleaned up the cataloging records created by GPO. The resulting product has since been loaded into countless libraries across the country and brought documents to the people.

It was not until I took my fourth and final job as a documents librarian at the University of Florida that I was able to see for myself the impact our project had on access to a documents collection. The MARCIVE records were loaded into our online catalog in 1989 amidst great fanfare including a visit from the Superintendent of Documents. None of us were prepared for the dramatic change in our workflows perpetuated by this event. Seemingly overnight the documents department at the University of Florida was transformed from a special collections repository to a thriving service area. Use of the collection increased an unbelievable 400 percent in one year. It is no wonder that documents departments are still trying to figure out how to get the remainder of their collections into the online catalog.

During my tenure at the University of Florida, computers have come to dominate activities in the government documents department. With the addition of our records to the online catalog came the transition to online check-in of our depository items and away went our shelf list. The documents department had the first computer offering access to LexisNexis outside the law library. This database offering full-text searching of newspapers, journals, and legal material became wildly popular with students and faculty, so popular that we had to institute a sign-up process. Print indexes were replaced by electronic indexes on CD-ROM. During this transitional period, staff attempted to master the search protocols for each database as it was introduced often involving training sessions and detailed handouts. Our efforts seem laughable now given the total transformation to online access.

Another important development during the nineties was the distribution of depository material in electronic format. The Census Bureau recognized early on the value of providing data in a format which allowed for the storage of vast amounts of data that could be downloaded and manipulated. The floppy discs distributed by the Census Bureau and other agencies were soon replaced by CDs and finally, before everything went online, by DVDs.

In closing, it is the Internet that has had the most profound impact on the documents department in the era of electronic transition. While the processing of our documents received from GPO has not changed dramatically over the years, everything else that we now do is geared toward providing access via the web. The web gave us the opportunity to develop a unique site, the Florida Electronic Federal Depository Library. This site provides federal, state, and local government information at the county level and provides an arena for the electronic posting of our disposition lists for our selective libraries in Florida and the Caribbean. But to get to the point of developing this webpage, the department had to import specialized skills. Thus I now hire staff with web development skills and rewrite job descriptions that place more emphasis on IT responsibilities than working with government documents. The state documents position morphed into a GIS librarian. The services of our GIS librarian are in such demand that a second position has been added to serve as a back-up GIS expert. And finally there is digitization. Because of the lack of copyright, our documents were early targets for digitization projects. This has provided an avenue for grant opportunities that have achieved worldwide access to our unique collections of aerial photographs as well as older maps and documents.

What will the future bring? I leave that in the capable hands of our growing number of junior librarians who have brought enthusiasm and skill sets to the university that will enable them to adapt to the changing technologies.

Present

As a new documents librarian, I have no qualms about using Google to answer reference questions; however, many of my patrons are deeply disturbed to learn that not all questions can be answered with Google. The greater availability of government information on the Internet has created a service dichotomy for depository libraries. On the one hand, more people are using government materials now that they are available online. On the other hand, serious researchers pretty quickly come up against the limit of digitized material, and have to

find paper sources. Despite less paper coming onto the library shelves, and despite a drop in foot traffic through libraries, there is no decline in the need for documents librarians. More digital content means finding efficient and effective ways to provide ongoing access and regular technological migrations. When their research takes them beyond the relatively small percentage of government information that is actually online, researchers contact the library, which means an increase in telephone calls, e-mail inquiries, and sometimes even foot traffic.

In a large library system like ours, there are more than 150 people who staff various reference and circulation desks. Additional people staff online chat reference services and everybody answers their phone. Document librarians need to be certain that everybody working access points is at least aware of the document resources available in the library. It doesn't matter if the person doing reference knows how to use the material; they must know that it is available and that there are government documents specialists who take referrals. This means being proactive about giving regular staff training sessions. Encourage branch libraries and technical service departments to at least send representatives to such sessions to report back to their own groups. Include reminders to not forgo the reference interview entirely once staff hears the words "Senate hearings," or "census," but get enough information to make sure the patron actually wants government documents and not the Journalism Library.

Having trained the staff, it is time to train the researchers. Faculty in appropriate departments—a multidisciplinary group, to be sure—need to be aware of the availability of the specialized materials and the formats they take. This includes the large quantity of born-digital material that is available online. According to Brunvand and Pashkova-Balkenhol, "instruction strategies intended to improve the quality of student papers may actively discourage the use of online government information."[1] Because the Internet has become the best source of recent government material, faculty who set rules limiting or forbidding the use of website citations are denying the validity of accessible, primary government documents as a research category.

While we are busy convincing faculty to allow students to use the online government document materials, it is important to make students aware that not everything is online (yet). They need to know that some government information is not part of the depository program and may not be instantly available. They need to know that there are research tools other than Google. Often, document materials are left out of orientation and basic instruction programs due to time constraints and a fear on the part of instructors that government material is "too hard." Document librarians at many libraries are taking the initiative to rescript programs and include their materials among the examples. Making the effort to get into more classrooms on campus with specifically tailored modules so students can see the direct relevance of these materials to their research is a proven method.

One of the most trying aspects of the digital age is that more people than ever are actually using government documents. Studies show that people like using the web to reach agencies. But we aren't able to count those uses. Document librarians are finding it more difficult to justify their footprint in the libraries because it seems reasonable to assume that: (a) everything is online, (b) most of our users are online, and (c) lack of frequent use of materials must mean that they aren't useful or needed and can therefore be weeded. Clearly, in a regional depository, we can't just weed our collection. We need to find and use assessment tools that demonstrate our collections use rates. Citation studies have not been used extensively with depository materials. If government documents have been mentioned, it was often as an aside rather than as a defined information category. Recent studies are beginning to show that this may be an excellent metric for demonstrating the value of our collections. Several large-scale, and possibly long-term, citation studies could very well provide a big picture of depository material use; these results could in turn be used to further demonstrate the value that depository collections hold for researchers.

Future

As the former Superintendent of Documents, I came to the University of Florida well aware of the serious issues facing the FDLP and many of the initiatives to improve the program underway at the GPO and in depository libraries throughout the country. I knew that the George A. Smathers Libraries served as the regional depository library for forty-four selective depositories in Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The opportunity to address the challenges facing the FDLP as the dean of libraries at a regional depository was appealing to me.

At the University of Florida, the investment in the government documents and map collections are an important part of our commitment to serve our state and local communities. We are proud of the quality of our service and the strength of our collections. We dedicate a staff of five librarians and ten other employees, augmented by student assistants, and allocate nearly an entire floor in the Marston Science Library to our federal, state, and international document and maps collections. Yet we would be the first to acknowledge that we are constrained in our ability to support the selective depository libraries that

rely on us and to directly serve the public because a substantial percentage of our materials are not cataloged and not available online. Like many other depositories, we have acquired and loaded cataloging records for documents published since 1976, but we have more than 600,000 documents published prior to 1976 that are not yet cataloged.

We have begun working with the selective depository libraries in Florida to develop a statewide plan. This will be an action plan, focusing on collaborative efforts to improve the management of our collections and service to our users. Cataloging our collections was quickly identified as the minimum effort necessary to clearly identify our holdings to our selective depositories so they can better manage their own collections. That will also benefit users in Florida and elsewhere. However, we estimate that it may cost as much as $4 million to process our retrospective depository holdings. We are currently assessing the costs and establishing the procedures to process 300,000 of those documents that are already in our remote storage facility. We are sampling the documents to see how many cataloging records we can locate, and we are hopeful that GPO's project for digitization of its shelf list will make additional records available in the near future.

Historically, cataloging has resulted in substantial increases in use, but that is not enough today as our users seek to find materials through web searches more often than through online public access catalogs. Even while we plan to expand the cataloging of our holdings, we acknowledge that the best access will come through digitization of the historical collections so the materials can be identified through full-text searching and retrieved without the necessity to come to the campus. We have an excellent Digital Library Center here at the university and we have already digitized the USDA Soil Surveys for the state of Florida, using the GPO specifications. We have approximately three thousand federal maps digitized and available for public use, and we have identified other federal documents of high value to our users that we plan to digitize and make available to the public.

There are a lot of materials that have been digitized through the Google project and other consortial or individual projects. What we lack is an easy way to verify what has already been done or is in process so that we can avoid duplication of effort and make the results of these projects widely available. GPO's registry of digitization projects is helpful, but it describes projects and does not identify individual titles. What is really needed is the inclusion of links to the digitized content in the official cataloging records and ultimately in our own online public access catalogs. We also need a mechanism to aggregate the metadata, and perhaps the full text, of all of these materials so the public can readily identify them through web searches. GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) has the potential to do this if GPO is willing to incorporate content from a variety of sources, substituting authenticated content as it becomes available.

However, in a time of economic stress, government documents collections come under increasing scrutiny as libraries reassess their investments in staff and space looking for savings. Because the collections are not unique, they are often undervalued. Because the collections are not fully cataloged, they are often underutilized. What our documents collections need is investment to make them more accessible through improved cataloging and digitization, but that investment must be made strategically and collaboratively. We cannot afford to duplicate our efforts and we do not wish to duplicate them. The advantage of digital assets is that they can be shared, and everyone benefits from the results of individual initiatives. These efforts will be slowed by the current economic crisis, but they are essential to the future stability of the program in our state, so we must continue to pursue them to the best of our ability.

The University of Florida is participating in several collaborative efforts to improve access to government information. One of the projects with great potential for significant enhancement of our services to the documents community and our users is the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) Collaborative Federal Depository Program. This program seeks to improve collaboration among the 250 federal depository libraries in the ten southeastern states.

The regional depository libraries within ASERL are exploring ways to enhance cooperative training, outreach, service, and collection analysis and development activities to improve access to federal government information for the citizens in the region. A principle goal is "developing enhanced regional depository collections that include at least five 'centers of excellence' representing complete collections for each Federal agency" to ensure "an appropriate level of redundancy within the Southeast for both quick delivery and preservation."[2] These centers will build on the areas of interest and expertise in the participating depository libraries. They will also provide more reliable and predictable access to federal publications for all libraries and citizens in the southeastern states by specifying which libraries have the most complete holdings for each agency. This will be accomplished within the current requirements of the FDLP, so regional depository libraries will improve the comprehensiveness of their collections through deselection and transfer of materials from selective depository libraries throughout the region.

The program also includes an objective of increased training and education opportunities for both depository and non-

depository library staff in the Southeast, delivering the training either in person or digitally. Additional information is available at www.aserl.org under the heading ASERL's Collaborative Federal Depository Program.

The University of Florida is also supporting the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in its efforts to identify alternative, sustainable models for the future program as a contribution to GPO's strategic planning for the FDLP.[3] The summary of the ARL project states that "Libraries routinely engage in collaborative initiatives to share services and resources, enabled by standards for digital content and ubiquitous infrastructure. As a result, some elements and structure of the FDLP which are predicated on geographic and physical collection models are no longer applicable nor effective due to innovations in technology, service and practice." It goes on to note that the failure to update the legislation governing the FDLP "has resulted in increasing fiscal and space pressures on participating libraries, particularly regional federal depository libraries."

GPO's recently completed survey of regional depository libraries documents the high cost of maintaining the legacy print collections and the staff to maintain and service those collections.[4] The University of Florida is fortunate that its status as a regional depository library is not at risk, in spite of the economic downturn. However, GPO's survey did determine that at least ten of the remaining regional libraries are reconsidering their status.

Withdrawal of 10 to 20 percent of the regional depository libraries would force a dramatic change in the administration of the program. It is good that GPO and the depository community are working proactively to address the need for changes, rather than waiting to respond to problems that would arise from a precipitous change in status of a large number of regional libraries.

Our current environment of extensive digital assets available through the Internet enables us to reexamine the depository program in order to introduce more flexibility and respond more effectively to changing user expectations. The users of government information, like users of other information made available by and through our libraries, frequently prefer digital information and services. Most of my colleagues in regional and other large depository libraries share my strong commitment to the mission of the FDLP, but as a practical matter, we recognize that this is an unfunded mandate in each of our institutions. Increasing the percentage of our collections that are cataloged, providing improved access to our collections through digitization, and introducing more flexibility in the program are essential to maintaining a viable and vital program for the future.

Jan Swanbeck, Chair of the Government Documents Department, janswan@uflib.ufl.edu, **Chelsea Dinsmore**, International and State Documents Librarian, chedins@uflib.ufl.edu, and **Judy Russell**, Dean of University Libraries, judruss@uflib.ufl.edu, University of Florida.

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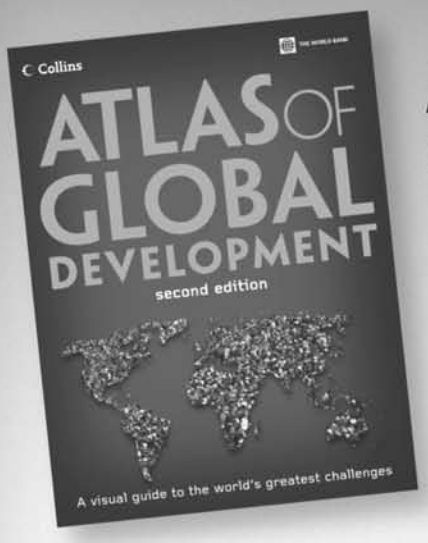

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The Indiana Light Archive for Federal Documents

Background and Status

Lou Malcomb

In a May 14, 2008, letter to Acting Superintendent of Documents Ric Davis, Ann T. Fessenden, president of the American Association of Law Librarians, wrote regarding the future of regional depositories, "One such approach is the model being developed in Indiana, where various depository libraries throughout the state are willing to share collection and service responsibilities based upon their expertise."[1] This model is the Indiana Light Archive for Federal Documents, a project to share responsibility for tangible resources of Indiana's depository libraries. Cheryl Truesdell, Katie Springer, and I talked about the Light Archive at FDLP in October 2007 in Washington, D.C., but as the transition to an electronic system of distribution for federal information continues, interest in the project has increased.[2] This article summarizes the principles of our discussions in Indiana, how the plan developed, and where we stand today. All Indiana depository librarians and their directors should be credited for the progress we've made. Their input on and enthusiasm for the future of public access to federal documents have been major forces in our success.

The Indiana Light Archive for Federal Documents is not a plan but an evolving approach to ensuring Indiana citizens the right to access federal documents. It is an outgrowth of state plans developed in the 1970s and 1980s. As early as November 1, 2002, discussions on updating these plans began at meetings of INDIGO, the Indiana Networking for Documents and Information of Government Organizations, in light of GPO reports of plans for the transition to an all-electronic depository system and the possibility of digitizing the legacy collection. Many other factors, such as variations in cataloging among state depositories and general space considerations, also prompted the discussion, but made many of us realize the challenge of planning on a statewide basis. Therefore, depository libraries within the Indiana University Library System began focusing on what might be accomplished within one university.

Indiana University (IU) Libraries contain seven selective depositories, plus those at the law libraries at both the Bloomington and Indianapolis campuses. IU-Bloomington (IUB) has collected at the 87 percent-plus level since 1881. The other campuses joined the program after 1950, with the law schools joining in 1978. The IU Libraries have shared an online catalog since 1993 and have relied on MARCIVE records since 1998, including retrospective tape loads for several of the libraries on various campuses. Because all were selective depositories, issues and questions that were considered during IU's initial planning are worth noting:

- Assuming that someday the legacy collections would be available electronically, at what level did each campus need to retain print legacy collections?
- Should prospective and retrospective collections be handled separately?
- If only one copy of print documents was retained, what should be our delivery standards, including feasibility of electronic delivery if an item was not available through any digital legacy collection? (The IU Libraries could always borrow from each other via interlibrary loan services but if they viewed the documents collection as one, the depository librarians wanted delivery services to be much faster. Indeed, such has happened within the past two years with "request delivery" services within our online catalog.)
- Were there cataloging standards that had to be met for the "shared" collection? Could we find ways to share cataloging responsibilities?
- What ramifications would a shared collection have on each depository's services, space, and staffing? Also, what contributions could each make? Would there be any economic impact that the directors would find attractive?

IU's document collection is not unique in that it includes many early materials due to faculty gifts, acquisitions of older documents, and acquisitions of commercial products in print or on microfiche. In fact, it was the size of the collection that helped inspire the development of IUB's Auxiliary Library Facility (ALF), which opened in late 2003. The ALF is a state-of-the-art offsite shelving and preservation facility. As more government documents become available electronically, use of print copies decreases but librarians and the academic community wanted—and this is critical for an academic research institution—a print, authenticated copy accessible through ALF delivery. Space at the main library on the Bloomington campus being the premium it was, 60 percent of the depository collection was identified as needing to be transferred to ALF. In addition to freeing up valuable room in the library, the move made economic sense as well. Once an item is in the ALF, it never moves again except for the scant number of times it is specifically requested. IU saves on stacks maintenance and document preservation costs. However, in order for items to be moved to the ALF, they had to be in the catalog. A retrospective cataloging project had been started in 1993, but even as of this writing, cataloging of older ceased serials remains incomplete.

Even though GPO had talked of the complete digitization of the legacy collection since 2003, many of IU's librarians were skeptical that digitization of the legacy collection would occur at the national level. Space being tight everywhere (and not all libraries having the luxury of the ALF) combined with the unfounded assumption that every document would be digitized, there was concern that many depositories within Indiana would increase disposal of print documents. Indiana depository librarians thought, "Shouldn't somebody find a way to make sure there is at least one print copy of as many federal documents as possible within the state?" It was a simple idea encumbered by these realities:

- The disposal process was slow and costly because of cataloging backlogs among the depositories. Therefore, disposal list preparation and checking has been and remains a manual, time-consuming process.
- All depository documents had not been consistently marked as such by the federal government, so libraries didn't always know which to list. Libraries might discard an item totally unaware that it was a depository item.
- Smaller depositories within the state might *assume* that the regional or one of the other big depositories would retain the tangible item.
- Patrons have not been using the older documents. They want electronic resources.
- Library directors, librarians, and users wanted the space for newer types of services such as computer labs or presentation practice space.

Support for the development of a statewide plan came from the Academic Libraries of Indiana (ALI), an organization representing all academic libraries in accredited nonprofit institutions of higher education in Indiana. Library directors from ALI institutions were very much interested in how they could assure their constituencies of access to federal documents while reducing the size of their tangible holdings. Late in 2005, representatives from the Indiana State Library (Indiana's regional library) and the selective depositories at Indiana University, Purdue University, and the University of Notre Dame met to discuss how they might work together towards the concept of a light archive for federal documents and thus allow librarians to consider downsizing their tangible holdings, as appropriate to their institution. This group appointed a committee to draw up initial plans, including what would later be a memorandum of understanding for the project.

Thus the Indiana Light Archive for Federal Documents was conceived. It extended some of the framework developed at Indiana University (cataloging standards and delivery guidelines, for instance), but discussed numerous additional issues. It would involve all the depositories in Indiana. The winning aspect of the Indiana Light Archive for Federal Documents was that all Indiana depository libraries could retain the documents that they felt their constituencies needed, but not feel that history would be lost if they considered reducing their tangible holdings. While the regional would continue its role, the three large selectives would work with it towards the preservation and collecting of tangible documents by "stewarding" specific agencies.[3] Other depositories in the state could collaborate with one of the steward libraries to make sure holdings of an agencies' documents was complete. Cheryl Truesdell and Kirsten Leonard discussed additional aspects of the plan earlier this year in *Indiana Libraries*.[4]

The major immediate impact of the Light Archive was the revision of the disposal guidelines. It was assumed that surely between the libraries at the "big four" institutions—the Indiana State Library (ISL), Purdue University, Indiana University, and University of Notre Dame (UND)—Indiana would hold a copy of tangible depository documents distributed since 1976. Therefore, a new set of disposal guidelines was developed, submitted, and approved by GPO in fall 2006 that allowed Indiana selectives not to list items published after 1976 but that were more than five years old.[5] Any depository item received prior to 1976 still needed to be listed. Documents

could be listed on an offers list but it would not be required. This reduced the burden of selectives, permitting them to focus on pre-1976 and also on the transition to electronic documents currently being received.

Additionally we wanted to modify the concept of disposal to a "harvesting" model. The selective library preparing the discard list—rather than the regional—is responsible for verifying whether an item is in the Big Four's holdings. To facilitate this task, the Light Archive team asked OCLC to develop a segment catalog within WorldCat that pulls federal documents into a separate catalog. This includes only records that were cataloged as a federal document (fixed field), include an item number, include a086 field with SuDoc number, or were published by GPO. This should permit all depositories in the state to quickly search WorldCat to see the cataloged holdings of the steward libraries, as well as any overlap between the steward libraries. If an item is not found in a steward's holdings, then it would need to be listed for the regional to verify before it could be discarded. We are still analyzing the functionality of this approach.

Further, each of the stewards will compile "needs" lists of items published by their designated agencies that are not currently in the holdings of any of the steward libraries (or collectively in the Indiana Light Archive). Other selectives within the state can collaborate with one of the stewards by developing these needs lists. In addition to providing services and instruction, collaborating libraries serve a major collection responsibility for the Indiana Light Archive. While the collaborating library might not have to "house" the document, they can participate by overseeing a collection area of major concern for their specific library.

The division by SuDoc classification system between the four steward institutions was most difficult, but most interesting. Not all the institutions use SuDoc for cataloging or shelving their collections but, of course, the SuDoc class stem is just an agency designation so it could be viewed as selection by agency. Document selection has changed over time so current librarians had to study their collection before assuming they could "steward" a specific area. Simply because a library collects War Department documents now does not mean they always have. Likewise, a library that does not currently select Defense Department documents may only have ceased receiving them within the past five years. The stewardship list continues to evolve, requiring more and more specificity as each library chooses to take responsibility for a complete agency or only a subagency.[6]

Two aspects of the Light Archive concept remain most challenging. As one archive, located in four steward libraries, how do we clearly identify the piece as the "archive" copy within our cataloging records? We continue to look and explore options to resolve this challenge. With the OCLC Light Archive Catalog now in place, it is easier to determine if any of the collections have cataloged it, compare it to the SuDoc list for steward libraries, but it is not specifically marked as the "Light Archive" copy.

But without a doubt, the most difficult hurdle has been figuring out what *exactly* has been published and distributed through the depository program so we can measure the comprehensiveness of our holdings. If we had a list, mammoth though it might be, we could determine what items we had not yet cataloged or lacked in our collections so we could search for them in non-steward libraries.

Determinedly, the Indiana Light Archives for Federal Documents continues to work toward the time when we can rest comfortably knowing that a tangible copy has been identified for inclusion in the "light archive."[7] We have reached slow points in our discussions because of a number of factors:

- The legacy collection has not yet been digitized.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between the four institutions (ISL, Purdue, UND, and IU) has not been signed because of legal discussions.[8]
- The needs lists are not available because finding an electronic way to establish a comprehensive list from which to assess holdings has been challenging. The State Library is working with their information technology staff to establish this on their website.[9]
- Discussions at the national level regarding the concept of shared regionals shifted focus from our state approach back to national.

The approach taken by the Indiana Light Archive for Federal Documents successfully identified the issues, the challenges, and the motivations for such a program. On a positive note, we have learned a great deal about our collections, including how they were, were not, are, or are not cataloged, and the strengths between the identified four steward libraries. We discovered that we could trust each other and that libraries throughout the state trusted and relied on the depository libraries to provide oversight, informational services, training programs, delivery services, and collections of federal documents to their users. We anxiously await the day when we can concentrate our energies on filling in collection gaps, advocating for digitization by the national documents community, and—of great importance to Indiana libraries—the application of a similar plan for Indiana state documents. None of these

are easy tasks, but all are impossible if focus remains only on the tangible federal documents.

Lou Malcomb, Head, Government Information, Microforms and Statistical Services, Indiana University Bloomington Libraries, malcomb@indiana.edu.

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A Tale of Two Depositories

Weeding Federal Depository Collections

Laura Sare

Library weeding involves selecting materials to be withdrawn so that a high-quality collection is maintained while providing space for new materials. Weeding is especially important for depository libraries now that so many documents are available online; often tangible copies in print or microfiche have been replaced by online revised editions. The superseded copies need to be withdrawn so that the documents collection remains current. Weeding also frees shelf space for new items, and can save money by not housing or preserving outdated materials.

I have worked at two federal depository libraries. Both were selective depositories, meaning that the libraries chose specific item numbers that represented groupings of materials the libraries wanted to make available in their collections. By contrast, regional libraries must accept all items distributed by GPO.

West Texas A&M University

The first library I worked at, Cornette Library at West Texas A&M University, became a depository in 1928. It selected 50 to 60 percent of all the items available through the depository program. In 2001, the FDLP inspected Cornette Library and suggested that the print collection be weeded. Up to that time, only revised titles listed in the *Superseded List* (purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS22813) had been weeded on a limited basis.

I was familiar with the federal depository print collection because I had recently helped shift many sections of it after we installed additional shelving. Seeing areas with revised and obsolete documents while shifting made me wonder if they were still of value.

Before weeding could begin, parameters needed to be developed. One decision was to keep any publication with statistics, because those are used for historical purposes. Also, specialty areas determined by the Government Documents Department's collection development policy were not weeded. For example, items about Texas, or those supporting the university curriculum in agriculture and education were kept. Primary resources were also not weeded. The needs of public users were also considered—most of their questions were for legal or tax information. In some cases, items that were easier to use in print than in other formats were kept on the shelves. All of these considerations were in addition to the weeding guidelines outlined in the *FDLP Handbook* requiring that only items older than five years could be withdrawn from the collection, and items not superseded had to be offered to other depository libraries before withdrawing (purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS89341, Chapter 5.14).

After establishing what not to weed, criteria for items for removal were created. Because the collection for the most part had never been weeded, many revised editions had never been withdrawn. Most of them were annual informational pamphlets sent out by agencies to describe their services to the public. In most cases, only the most recent pamphlet was retained.

Other items involved a change in SuDoc numbers. Sometimes a revised edition is given a new SuDoc number, making it necessary to find and weed the old edition with the earlier SuDoc number. The best example of this is the *Medical Supply Catalog*. It has been under four different SuDoc stems: HE 1.64, HE 20.302:M 46, HE 20.5002:M 46, and HE 20.9002:M 46. I identified these titles when I was working on a government documents serials project updating holdings after the library's ILS migration. Sometimes the MARC records in the catalog or in WorldCat would show the earlier stems for serials, but often the information was not complete, so it was labor-intensive to follow the changes in SuDoc numbers and then to update the catalog records.

Time-sensitive or ephemeral materials, such as calendars, telephone directories more than five years old, or forms with expiration dates, were immediately pulled. Also targeted for withdrawal were manuals for internal agency use that were twenty years old or more. I chose the twenty-year threshold

because these manuals showed no usage statistics and they often discussed computer hardware and software technologies that were no longer in use.

Another criterion used was check-out status. From the mid-1980s, government documents that were checked out of Cornette Library were added to the online catalog. Starting in 1995, all government documents received were cataloged into the OPAC. A pre-1995 document that had not been checked out by 2001 was a likely candidate for weeding unless it had historical or statistical information. Following these criteria meant looking at each document, one shelf at a time. It was a slow process that only freed up an inch or two of space on each shelf, but it did give the collection some breathing room. On a positive note, this exercise was an excellent way to become acquainted with the historical print collection.

One issue developed with titles published in the 1980s and 1990s that had switched formats from paper to microfiche. This involved verifying if certain old print documents had a microfiche version. If the title had switched to a microfiche format, it was necessary to see if the latest edition was still in microfiche or was now online. This is a good project for student workers, who searched for the titles online for me, and it was a good training exercise for them as well. Out-of-date print editions continued on microfiche were withdrawn and current microfiche titles were pulled if they were available online.

The first area I chose to evaluate were items published by the Health and Human Services agency—recommended by the nursing liaison librarian. These items were chosen because the West Texas A&M Nursing Department wanted only current materials in the library collection due to accreditation standards. Many manuals from the 1960s and 1970s with outdated medical practices were removed, while documents with statistics were retained for their historical value.

Also evaluated were items published by the Internal Revenue Service. Access to all forms and instructions is now online. One consideration was whether the public would prefer to continue to have access to some forms in a paper format. Some paper forms were duplicated by other publications such as the *Reproducible Copies of Federal Tax Forms and Instructions* (SuDoc no.: T 22.57:1132 L). Duplicates could be weeded.

Other forms were superseded by an online edition, but no one had withdrawn the last edition of the print version, which often dated from the mid-1990s.

I also found other odds and ends, such as individual copies of executive orders of the president that were duplicated in either the *Code of Federal Regulations, Title 3, The President* (SuDoc no.: AE 2.106/3:3/) or the *Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States* (SuDoc no.: AE 2.114:). These individual sheets were weeded because of their poor condition—they were printed on old acidic paper and were literally falling apart. This discovery led to another criterion for withdrawing items. If the document was disintegrating, was the information in it necessary for the collection? If it was, a copy was made on acid-free paper for retention. The original was then withdrawn as photocopying usually destroyed it.

The next criterion for weeding focused on agency changes. For example, the Social Security Administration (SSA) used to be part of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW). Many of the HEW documents were superseded by SSA documents, but had never been weeded. Often the documents had the same internal agency assigned publication number, which made weeding easier. The same thing happened with the Coast Guard. It began under the Treasury Department, was moved to the Transportation Agency, and now resides under Homeland Security. The *Guide to U.S. Government Publications* was a useful tool in tracing these agency changes, making it possible to withdraw all of the previous editions not needed.[1]

These weeding criteria worked well and gave me a greater knowledge of older materials in the collection. But these methods only gained a few inches of space on each shelf. More growth room was required. In order to create more space, it was necessary to look at major print sets. One major print set evaluated was from the Census Bureau. Prior to the 1980 census, block-level statistics of all fifty states for several decades had been collected by Cornette Library. This in-depth level of statistics for states outside of the local five-state area was never used by patrons. By withdrawing the block-level items of the other forty-five states, several feet of free shelf space was created. The items were offered on the Needs & Offers (N&O) List (purl .access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS2045). The statistical booklets were highly coveted on the N&O list because many depository libraries needed to replace missing copies or wanted to add second copies of the states they collected. It was labor-intensive, but fortunately student workers were available to create the lists.

Another method to gain shelf space was to purchase microfiche to replace some print volumes of the *Congressional Record* (SuDoc no.: X 1.1:). The library had obtained many volumes of the *Congressional Record* before it became a depository. Even though they suffered a fire in 1914 and were damaged, the books were still kept, filling about fifty linear feet of shelf space. The deteriorating volumes were replaced with microfiche as soon as funds became available. Withdrawing these print volumes finally provided the growth space the department needed.

Texas A&M University

My current position is at the Sterling C. Evans Library at Texas A&M University. This federal depository had not been significantly weeded in several years, beyond withdrawing replaced editions on the *Superseded List*. This collection is much larger than Cornette's, with an 85 percent selection rate of FDLP materials. Yet both libraries required weeding in the areas of revised editions, SuDoc, and agency changes.

Many of the same criteria developed at Cornette applied to Evans. For example, check-out status could be used to evaluate items. Evans began cataloging government documents in the online catalog back in the late 1980s. By applying the same rule, if an item had not been used or checked out in more than twenty-five years and contained no historical or statistical information, it was withdrawn.

There were some differences between the two collections. The Evans collection contained multiple copies of documents acquired either through multiple purchases for the various reference desks or as gifts. The new policy dictates that duplicate copies go on the N&O lists, because the library needs only one copy for historical purposes. These duplicates freed up a significant amount of space. For example, the library had a complete set of ERIC microfiche from the Department of Education, but also received some ERIC microfiche through the depository program. By withdrawing all of the depository fiche, an entire cabinet of microfiche was emptied. Another difference between the libraries affected the weeding of Evans. Texas A&M is a research institution; therefore, there are many more subject areas that require research-level collections to support the university curriculum, so these areas were weeded sparingly if at all.

The biggest difference in the libraries was that Evans needed to free more space than Cornette Library, but weeding was different because the collection was still primarily paper based. The main weeding criterion for this library was to rely on the online access to government information through the GPO Access website (www.gpoaccess.gov). Because current titles were available online, the item selection process for Evans was drastically changed from print to electronic versions. Now such titles as the *Federal Register* (purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS1756), *Public*

and Private Laws of the United States (purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS5052), and others are no longer received in print. This switch from print to online is sanctioned by the FDLP in the document *Substituting Electronic for Tangible Versions of Depository Publications* (www.fdlp.gov/collections/collection-maintenance/141-substitution-guidelines). Since most major titles in GPO Access are also archived online back to 1994 or 1995, current plans are to weed the print or microfiche back to their online start dates. Many of these documents are also available through vendor databases the library subscribes to or through other federal government sites such as the Library of Congress legislative website Thomas (thomas.loc.gov).

Recommendations

To begin a weeding project, choose a few agencies as a small project and shelf-read those sections. Learn about the documents the agency produces and how publications change over the years. Then start to weed revised editions, duplicate copies, and outdated materials. When in doubt, keep it. Make a list of questionable documents and monitor their use for a specified time. After the period of time determined has passed, go back and decide if the documents need to go or stay, based on whether they were used in the trial period.

When weeding begins, let patrons and library staff members know what was weeded so they are aware of the changes. For example, they will need to know the different SuDoc numbers for some new editions. If there are alternative formats, such as the online titles at GPO Access, a training session, newsletter, or e-mail is helpful to library staff to know where to lead patrons to the new formats. Also, make sure the technical services staff have the time and space to work on the withdrawn items, especially if they will have to change holding and item records in the online catalog. Items may have to be withdrawn in stages.

Weeding a depository collection can be intimidating. First, consider what types of documents and information patrons are using in the collection. Working a reference desk can help librarians get a feel for what is often needed and what is never requested. Also, ask other reference desk staff for their opinions. Often they know of areas that can be weeded.

If the library does not have one, develop a solid collection development plan for government documents. It is the best place to state the criteria and parameters clearly, and to provide background information on the decisions that led to them. This will also be very helpful to the next documents librarian who will have background information about changes that have been made in the collection.

Weeding is especially important now that so many revised documents are available in an online format. Superseded tangible copies in print or microfiche need to be withdrawn so that the collection is not dated. Weeding frees up space necessary for new items, and can save money by not housing or preserving unneeded items. This satisfies library directors' priorities, and makes reference staff confident that they are providing the most current information to patrons. Finally, weeding is one factor in ensuring that the collection continues to be of the highest quality.

Laura Sare, Government Information Librarian, Texas A&M University, lsare@tamu.edu.

References

1. Donna Batten, ed., *Guide to U.S. Government Publications, 2009* (Detroit: Gale, 2009).

Give to the Rozkuszka Scholarship

The W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship provides financial assistance to an individual who is currently working with government documents in a library and is trying to complete a master's degree in library science. This award, established in 1994, is named after W. David Rozkuszka, former documents librarian at Stanford University. The award winner receives $3,000.

If you would like to assist in raising the amount of money in the endowment fund, please make your check out to ALA/GODORT. In the memo field please note: Rozkuszka Endowment.

Send your check to GODORT treasurer: Jill Moriearty, General Reference, Marriott Library, University of Utah, 295 South 1500 East, 1738A, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-0860

More information about the scholarship and past recipients is at the GODORT Awards Committee website (wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/Awards).

GODORT 2009 Midwinter Meeting Highlights

Denver, January 23–26, 2009

Anyone arriving early in Denver for the January 2009 American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting might be forgiven for thinking perhaps they ended up in the wrong place. After all, the balmy weather was ideal for exploring downtown or eating an early dinner at an outside patio or deck, hardly, as many ALA members know, the norm. However, by Thursday night and certainly by Friday morning the location proved to be typical for an ALA Midwinter—cold and dark with heavy snow predicted for the next several days!

Happily, GODORT presented a full agenda to keep our members busy, starting with the first **Steering Committee** meeting on Friday morning. GODORT Chair Cass Hartnett began that meeting in a productive method, engaging in a team-building exercise that resulted in members of Steering coming to recognize some of the hidden skills of their colleagues. The result of this exercise will be posted on the GODORT wiki (wikis.ala.org/godort). Treasurer Jill Moriearty presented the budget while Conference Committee Chair Carol Hanan reviewed the challenges presented in finding a location for the annual GODORT reception. ALA has offered a location at the convention center in Chicago but it is only available on Friday of Annual. After some discussion it was agreed that this would be the best option, particularly as it was pointed out that by holding the event earlier in the Annual Conference, award recipients would have more time to celebrate with their colleagues.

Friday afternoon included meetings with the **Awards Committee**, led by Jim Church. The award recipients were presented and approved at the second Steering Committee meeting on Monday. Recipients are: James Bennett Childs Award—Andrea Sevetson; LexisNexis/Documents to the People Award—Daniel Cornwall, Alaska State Library; Bernardine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award—Eleanor Chase, University of Washington; Catharine J. Reynolds Research Grant—Aimee Quinn, University of New Mexico; and W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship—Justin Joque, University of Michigan.

The **Membership Committee** discussed a variety of ideas for promotional items at the Annual Conference Round Table Pavilion. **Strategic Planning** reviewed the progress to date on assembling their report and planned for Monday's second meeting (and final forum). The **Conference Committee** discussed catering for the Annual Conference reception. Due to the high cost of catering (projected at $50 per person) the Committee discussed having a fruit, cheese, and dessert reception. The **Bylaws and Organization Committee** reviewed proposed changes to the PPM and identified several inconsistencies that would be presented at the general membership meeting. **Legislation Committee** met that afternoon for the first of four meetings. The session conflicted with the opening of the ALA Legislation Assembly and several members of the committee participated in that session. Afterwards the group discussed the key areas covered in the Assembly. Kirsten Clark provided background for the joint meeting with COL-GIS and the agenda was discussed. Work started on the tribute resolution for Gil Baldwin. The **Program Committee** reviewed the work underway for Annual 2009 and initial proposals for 2010. The day concluded with an excellent happy hour event organized by the Membership Committee and held at Pike's Pub.

On Saturday, GODORT got underway at 8 a.m. with the International Documents Task Force meeting in the convention center. This was followed by a very informative **GODORT Update** that focused on NGO resources, and the value of collecting this material. A spirited joint **Legislation Committee and ALA Council on Legislation/GIS** meeting was held Saturday afternoon. At this meeting ALA Washington Office staff provided an update on H.R. 35—*Presidential Records Act*. The rest of the meeting centered on plans for the government information forum to be held at Annual 2009 that will include representation from all units of ALA. Gladys Ann Wells gave an overview of the current political and economic climate, then she and Kirsten Clark led a discussion that covered the proposed government information forum scheduled for ALA Annual 2009. In the afternoon, the **Federal Documents Task Force** met with Ric Davis, Acting Superintendent of Documents, GPO. He gave an overview of current activities. Migration of content from GPO Access to the Federal Digital System (FDsys) continues. GPO requests volunteers to test the system and provide feedback. GPO recently developed a values-in-participating resource for libraries on fdlp.gov. Ben's Guide will be refreshed, based on survey responses. GPO requests volunteers to test the beta

version. The theme for the spring 2009 Depository Library Council Meeting will be "Future of the FDLP."

On Sunday the **Legislation Committee** finished the resolution for Gil Baldwin. Chair Kirsten Clark read the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) resolution and the group moved that it be brought to the GODORT membership. The committee then discussed the previous day's joint meeting and defined more details of the upcoming meeting such as use of examples for the introductory information provided to each unit and other potential questions. **Membership Committee** discussed ideas for outreach and promotion of GODORT that came out of a previous brainstorming session and recommended that GODORT undertake a GODORT "buddy program" for the upcoming Annual Conference. The idea is to pair an active GODORT member with someone who would like to become involved in or learn more about our round table. The goal of the program will be to provide a more personal introduction to GODORT. At the **Publications Committee** meeting chair James Jacobs led a review of the Occasional Papers project, the GODORT Oral History effort, and completed the process for selecting the next editorial team for *DttP*. The new team, led by Valerie Glenn and Beth Clausen, was approved at the Second Steering Committee Meeting held on Monday. The **Rare and Endangered Government Publications**, chaired by Sara Ereckson, reviewed current projects including the survey of "New Deal" publications. The **Cataloging Committee** discussed cataloging records available from the U.S. Department of Energy OSTI for publications on the Information Bridge, and heard reports from liaisons. Linda Resler, GPO, gave an update of cataloging activities, including the policy on creation of separate records for each format.

The **Government Information Technology Committee** (**GITCO**) hosted a briefing and online demonstration on the public beta of FDsys. The committee discussed the status of the online e-competencies toolkit and the feasibility of forming a GITCO subgroup to address numeric data issues. The group addressed a proposal to reexamine the role of GITCO within GODORT with the intent to provide recommendations to the GODORT strategic planning committee relating to access, provision, and distribution of electronic government information. Toward this end, GITCO will hold three virtual forums between now and Annual 2009. The **Education Committee** held a discussion session on library schools and government information. A summary will be posted on the GODORT wiki. The committee and guests discussed partnering with the Literacy Assembly to create toolboxes related to government literacy. There was a spirited discussion of the government information competencies project; volunteers will draft tiered competencies with a focus on overarching skills and knowledge that pertain to all types of government information. The committee intends to have draft documents available for review and comment by ALA Annual.

Monday morning the final meeting of the **Nominating Committee** was held and the slate was presented and accepted at the Steering Committee meeting that afternoon. The slate consisted of: *GODORT Assistant-Chair/Chair-Elect*: James Jacobs, Geoffrey Swindells; *Secretary*: Susan White; *Treasurer*: John Hernandez; *Federal Documents Task Force Assistant Coordinator/Coordinator-Elect:* Stephanie Braunstein; *Federal Documents Task Force Secretary:* Antoinette Satterfield; *International Documents Task Force Assistant Coordinator/Coordinator-Elect:* Annelise Sklar; *International Documents Task Force Secretary:* Edward Kownslar; *State And Local Documents Task Force Assistant Coordinator/Coordinator-Elect:* Jennie Gerke; *State and Local Documents Task Force Secretary:* Rebecca Blakeley, Alexandra Simons; *Awards Committee:* John Phillips, Mark Scott, Andrea Sevetson; *Bylaws And Organization Committee:* Judith Downie, Leigh Jones, Paula Webb, Yvonne Wilson; *Nominating Committee:* Jill Vassilakos-Long and Jill Moriearty; *Publications Committee Chair:* Jim Church.

Program Committee (second meeting) reviewed all program proposals for 2010, selecting a preconference, "Technology and the New Civic Engagement," and one program, "Archivists & Librarians: Together We Can Save Congress." Early morning proved to be a tough time for the **Strategic Planning Committee** to hold its final forum; however, the participants that did make it provided valuable insight based on their experience with GODORT. Following those, the GODORT (general) **Membership** meeting was held and heard from the two candidates for ALA President, reviewed the work of the various committees and discussed the impact of the change in the reception schedule. The **Second Steering Committee** meeting approved the awards mentioned previously, the slate of candidates for the next ALA election, and began a discussion on a proposed blog and the role of the GODORT councilor.—*Bill Sleeman, GODORT Past-Chair*

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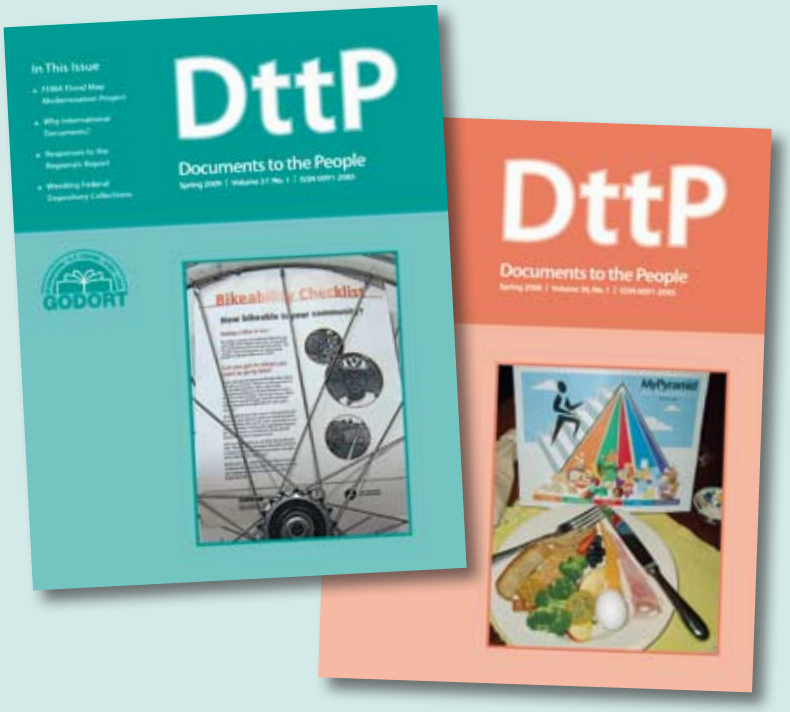

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Details:

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Please submit all images to the Co-Lead Editors of *DttP* by December 1, 2009. The winning photo will be on the cover of the spring 2010 issue. All submitted photos will be posted on the GODORT wiki.

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