DttP

Documents to the People

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DttP

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About the cover: The cover photo is of the 2004 GODORT Award Recipients. Back row (left to right) are Dr. Kristin R. Eschenfelder, Mark Phillips, and Robert A. Walter. Front row (left to right) are Melody S. Kelly and Rosalie Lack. See http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/GODORT/awards/awards2004.html for details.

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Editor's Corner
Andrea Sevetson

As I pull together an issue of *DttP* it sometimes hits me— what am I ever going to write about? This issue I've had in my mind that there are several noteworthy retirements. One that is well known in a smaller circle is the retirement of Barbara Sloan in the Washington Office of the Delegation of the Commission of the European Union. Barbara headed up the European Union Depository Program in the United States and was an wonderful resource for EU Deps in the United States. Those of us who worked with her knew what a great memory she had, as well as incredible files and a wonderful staff. And, oh my, could she and her colleagues throw a good conference! In the U.S. documents community we learned of the June retirements of Carol Coon from San Francisco Public Library, and Carolyn Kohler from the University of Iowa, and of Karen Nordgren from Emporia State University this spring. I know that many of you will join me in both missing them in our professional lives and in wishing them all the best in their retirements. Finally, the *DttP* editorial team would also like thank ALA production editor Ellie Barta-Moran, and wish her the best as she leaves ALA and enters another chapter of her life. She was very patient in teaching us the ropes, and we appreciate it.

In this issue we have a new column, "Geospatial News," covering another area of interest to the government documents community. We've also got the second article on libraries leaving the FDLP, and we've got a panel discussion from the 2000 Federal Depository Library Conference about new roles and models for the "post-depository era." And we're looking to Canada this issue, with the topic of Canadian government information in the digital age. Looking at how other countries are handling the trend towards e-government and what that means for formerly paper-based programs can provide an interesting comparison for readers.

We're working on several other ideas for upcoming issues. In the meantime, enjoy your issue of *DttP*! ▊

From the Chair
John A. Stevenson

"This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it." – Ralph Waldo Emerson.[1]

I am honored to be writing this column for our revitalized professional journal, *DttP: Documents to the People.* The transformation of *DttP* under the current editorial team demonstrates that our members are very capable. Running for this office, I wrote about things that GODORT should do to remain viable. We need to recognize that we live in a time of change and to act to make change work for us.

For those who don't know me, I have served as the coordinator of government documents and maps processing at the University of Delaware since 1990. Changes should not terrify us if we can work with them. Although I started my documents career in reference, library-wide reorganization offered me the opportunity to automate depository processing in my library as a technical services librarian. Throughout my career, GODORT members and programs have proven to be wonderful sources of specialized knowledge applicable to my work.

Just as our members' professional responsibilities are evolving, so is GODORT. Libraries have experienced tremendous changes over the past decade. New technology and people's responses to it have changed the way we access and collect information. Fiscal and organizational factors result in many librarians experiencing changes in the reporting structure of their work places and in the work that they are called upon to do. The proposed shift in duties of the GODORT Web administrator is an example of a small change intended to make things work better. As described elsewhere in this issue, the proposed bylaws change will appear on the GODORT Web site and be put to a vote at the Midwinter business meeting in Boston. Details change, but the mission needs to be fulfilled. Recent changes in the library world do not diminish the need for our round table.

> The purposes of the Government Documents Round Table are: (a) to provide a forum for discussion of problems and concerns, and for the exchange of ideas by librarians working with government documents; (b) to provide a force for initiating and supporting programs to increase availability, use and bibliographic control of documents; (c) to increase communication between documents librarians and other librarians; (d) to contribute to the extension and improvement of education and training of documents librarians.[2]

Given our four-part purpose, GODORT members should be encouraged that our interests are increasingly part of mainstream librarianship. While many libraries are recombining units in new ways, government information remains an important part of libraries' collections and services. In the current climate, we should look at our colleagues as potential "documents librarians" since access to information via the Internet is making the distinctions between specializations less clear. While all librarians know some sources produced by governmental bodies, our colleagues look to us for help finding the government information that can easily elude them.

GODORT faces a number of challenges. In the year ahead we should build our membership, share expertise, demonstrate the continuing value of government information, and become more fiscally responsible.

Building Membership

GODORT isn't just a "Federal Depository Library Program Round Table" and one need not work in a federal depository library to participate. Our purpose transcends international, federal, state, and local depository programs to include the full range of government information that should be available the public. While changes to the FDLP are of continuing interest and GODORT has a task force dedicated to federal documents, we care about permanent access to all public government information.

I want to thank the many GODORT members whose current duties distance them from the daily tasks of documents workers but who retain their membership to keep up with current issues. Many of them serve as mentors and role models. We also need to encourage membership among those whose professional lives are not (yet) centered on documents, but for whom an increased knowledge of government information would be useful, and involve them in interesting projects.

Sharing Expertise

We need to encourage the development of programs that serve not only GODORT members but appeal to everyone with a professional interest in government information. We should be encouraging librarians who work with any kind of government information to join us at our round table. The integration of public service desks offers some members the opportunity to demonstrate specialized reference skills. In library technical services, the shift to online resources gives a similar opportunity to those familiar with the new fields becoming common on our catalogs. Our annual programs and preconferences should broadcast the importance of documents to all librarians, not merely our members.

Members unable to attend this year's ALA Annual Conference in Orlando missed some great examples of expertise shared by GODORT members. The State and Local Documents Task Force presented a lively and informative program titled "Potholes on the Information Highway: Improving Access to Local Government Information." Selected materials from that program will appear in GODORT Web pages. In addition, some materials from our Cataloging Committee's preconference, "Make the Most of What You've Got: Improving Access to Government Information in Your Online Catalog," will also be posted online. More programming is in the pipeline for next year!

Demonstrating the Continuing Value of Government Information

Members of the public are interested in government information but usually don't think of it as a category. Government information has been commonplace in recent news reports, and not just because it's an election year. When even non-librarians talk about whether *Patterns of Global Terrorism* reports statistics accurately and when parts of the *Taguba Report* are read on the evening news, we know that government documents are of vital interest. For more than thirty years, GODORT has served as a meeting ground for librarians interested in government information. Although details and formats change, there is no reason to think that government information is any less important in people's lives today.

Becoming More Fiscally Responsible

In recent years, GODORT may have paid more attention to the content of its programs than to what they cost. Economic conditions and other factors, such as ALA conference equipment charges, have made our reserve fund dwindle. GODORT will use less equipment and examine our costs to improve GODORT's financial picture. We have established a Development Committee to address fiscal issues and develop long-term solutions. The committee's efforts and the contributions of GODORT members in supporting the W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship through silent auction and personal donations are commendable. We are also fortunate to have GODORT treasurer Ann Miller guiding our budget.

In the course of the coming year, we will address these goals and work to lay the groundwork for a successful future. Be sure to visit GODORT's Web pages at http://sunsite. berkeley.edu/GODORT throughout the year to stay abreast of current government information issues. Nominating Committee pages also include links to volunteer forms for those who want to participate or seek an elected office. Please use them and keep in touch. I look forward to working with all GODORT members during my year as your chair. ∎

References

1. Suzy Platt, *Respectfully Quoted: A Dictionary of Quotations Requested from the Congressional Research Service* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1989), 342.
2. ALA GODORT Bylaws, updated May 1, 2003. http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/GODORT/GODORT_bylaws.html#2.

Washington Report

Patrice McDermott

Executive Branch

"Peer Review and Information Quality"

After receiving strong opposition for its peer review proposal from scientists, environmentalists, and public interest groups, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a significantly revised version of the guidance and sought public comment on the new version. Many of the changes are significant improvements over OMB's initial policy, in particular increased flexibility and control for the individual agencies engaging in scientific peer review of "influential scientific information." While OMB's revised policy still contains strict requirements for some peer reviews, it reduces the amount of information that would qualify for this stricter review. The new proposal also allows individual agencies to choose, on a case-by-case basis, among a wider range of peer review types.

OMB also removed restrictions that would have made scientists employed, associated or funded by federal agencies ineligible for selection as peer reviewers for influential information, although OMB encourages agencies to think twice about a scientist who has a consulting or contractual arrangement with the agency conducting a peer review. Agency employees may act as peer reviewers for the more basic peer reviews as long as they do not possess a conflict of interest and comply with applicable federal ethics requirements. In general, OMB encourages agencies to consider using the panel selection criteria employed by the National Academy of Sciences (www.nationalacademies.org/about/sp_bias.html). Additionally, the new proposal permits agencies to decide on the level of public involvement called for in each peer review. While OMB gives agencies enormous leeway, the proposal warns agencies to "avoid open-ended comment periods, which may delay completion of peer reviews and complicate the completion of the final work product."

E-Government Act of 2002

The Interagency Committee on Government Information, set up by OMB to assist in the implementation of the E-Government Act, is moving forward with its responsibilities. The ALA Washington Office has been engaged in this work, commenting on draft documents and attending meetings as time permits.

The Working Group on Categorization of Government Information (www.gpoaccess.gov/cgiwg) has released a document, "Defining What Government Information Is To Be Categorized: Statement of Requirements" (www.gpoaccess.gov/cgiwg/pdf/cgiwgroup/revMay2004.pdf). The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has lead responsibility for work on electronic records management. The Working Group held several focus groups with interested stakeholders from federal agencies, public interest groups, and professional organizations, and held a public meeting on March 30, 2004. It has not, to date, issued any further reports. Its recommendations to the archivist and to OMB are due by the end of 2004.

The Web Content Standards Working Group released its final report to OMB, "Recommended Policies and Guidelines for Federal Public Websites" (www.cio.gov/documents/ICGI/ICGI-June9report.pdf).

The second working group, the Public Domain Directory of Federal Web Sites Working Group, has multiple tasks. Two of these are set out in the E-Government Act of 2002. The first is to build a government subject taxonomy by building on existing FirstGov.gov taxonomies to make it easy for visitors to federal Web sites to find federal government information services based on their needs, irrespective of their knowledge of the government's organizational structure. The second is to improve public access to information on the Internet by establishing an official public domain directory of federal public Web sites and a strategy for maintaining it. To date, it has not released any drafts or held any public meetings.

Critical Infrastructure Information

On February 20, 2004, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued an interim final rule for Critical Infrastructure Information Protection. The rule, although interim, went into effect immediately. The public comment period—on one specific provision of the rule—closed on May 20. No final rule has been issued to date.

Sensitive Homeland Security Information

Proposed Guidelines: As reported in the last issues, Title VIII of the Homeland Security Act, the "Homeland Security Information Sharing Act," authorizes the creation of a new and expansive system intended to facilitate the sharing of "sensitive homeland security information" (SHSI) among federal agencies, state and local governments, and law enforcement. No guidelines have been forthcoming.

The Transportation Security Agency has, however, begun a process of expanding its definitions of "sensitive security information." A rulemaking is in process to expand the definitions for maritime information. Congress has also weighed in.

Federal Geographic Data Committee

On May 3, 2004, the FGDC announced an opportunity for public review and comment on the "Guidelines for Providing Appropriate Access to Geospatial Data in Response to Security Concerns." The guidelines provide procedures to identify sensitive information content of geospatial data sets. Should such content be identified, the guidelines help organizations decide what access to provide to such data sets and still protect sensitive information content. The guidelines are available for downloading (www.fgdc.gov/fgdc/homeland) and follow the findings of the Rand report, "Mapping the Risks: Assessing the Homeland Security Implications of Publicly

Available Geospatial Information" (www.rand.org/publications/MG/MG142). ALA's comments on these guidelines are available at the Washington Office's Government Information Web site (www.ala.org/ala/washoff/WOissues/governmentinfo/governmentinformation.htm).

Legislative Branch

Sensitive Security Information

Sections 3029 and 4439 of the Senate version of in the "Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient (SAFE) Act of 2004" (HR 3550) (which authorizes funds for federal highways, highway safety programs and transit programs and, so, is quite likely to pass) expand the categories of information that can be excluded from public access. Section 3029 expands the definition of "Sensitive Security Information" (SSI) that can be withheld from public access through FOIA. Currently, SSI is defined as information that would:

❚ be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
❚ reveal a trade secret or privileged or confidential commercial or financial information; or
❚ be detrimental to the safety of passengers in transportation.

Under Section 3029, "transportation facilities or infrastructure, or transportation employees" would be added, significantly broadening the definition of SSI. The definition would become so broad as to potentially allow the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to declare virtually any record in its possession as "detrimental to the transportation infrastructure." The public would not be able to find out the reasons for any major action by the TSA or its field offices, such as the shut-downs of airports, highways, bridges, etc.—whether through a real or perceived threat.

Additionally, the bill would pre-empt state and local governments from releasing and, to some extent, utilizing information regarding the transportation infrastructure or facilities. Local communities, therefore, would have little ability to participate in their own protection because they would have no knowledge of any dangers on local roadways, airports, seaports, or other transportation facilities. It is not clear what the effect would be on information already public, and the bill fails to provide any guidelines as to when information might be appropriately released, either generally or in time of emergency.

Section 4439 creates a subset of SSI related only to hazardous material and states that TSA can reveal only information regarding the vulnerability of hazardous materials in very limited situations to a limited group of entities.

GPO

House Appropriators voted Wednesday, June 16, 2004, to freeze legislative branch appropriations for FY 2005 at $2.75 billion. The House bill—which does not include Senate operations funds—falls short of the $3.2 billion sought by the legislative branch agencies. Including the Senate's funds, the agencies had requested a combined $4.4 billion in FY 2005, a 12 percent increase over the current year. GPO would be provided a total of $121 million in discretionary funding—a decrease from $135 million in fiscal year 2004.

The House Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations has approved GPO's full request for Congressional Printing & Binding (CP&B) appropriation ($88.8 million), but reduced its Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents (S&E) appropriation request by $509,000 (to $32.5 million)—this reduction applies to changes in the costs of programs and services due to price increases (such as for supplies and materials, travel, rents, communications, utilities, printing and reproduction, etc.) All other aspects of the S&E appropriation request were approved. The subcommittee approved language amending 44 USC 1708 to eliminate the statutory 25% ceiling on discounts for volume purchasers of publications in the Sales Program; approved using $10,000 of the revolving fund support the activities of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission; approved new legislative branch-wide language providing authority for voluntary retirement incentive programs (buyouts, but not early outs); approved the Public Printer's representation fund at the current level ($5,000); reduced the GPO's FTE ceiling by 300 to 2,889 (current employment is below 2,500); did not approve the $25 million request for the revolving fund, separate funding for the IG (at $4.2 million), gift authority, and language authorizing the revolving fund for the building project. The Public Printer's "representation fund" covers expenses (subject to certain limitations) made on the certification of the Public Printer for "representing" the GPO—funding a reception, for example.

Chairman Kingston plans to introduce the proposal as an amendment when the full Appropriations Committee marks up the bill.

Congressional Research Service

The legislation introduced by Christopher Shays (HR 3630), which would "make available on the Internet, for purposes of access and retrieval by the public, certain information available through the Congressional Research Service Web site" has not moved. SR 360, "expressing the sense of the Senate that legislative information shall be publicly available through the Internet," was introduced on May 13, 2004, by Senators Corzine, McCain, Feingold, Cornyn, Leahy, Bingaman, and Lieberman.

Judicial Branch

The ten public interest organizations that submitted an *amici curiae* brief on March 11, 2004, in support of the Sierra Club and Judicial Watch, Inc. in the case of *Richard B. Cheney, Vice President of the United States, et. al., v. U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia* await the decision of the court. By all reports, the arguments before the Court did not go well for the public interest side. The brief can be found at www.ala.org/ala/washoff/gr/Cheneysuit.pdf. ❚

On the Range

Election 2004—You Can Make a Difference!

Brian W. Rossmann

This issue of *DttP* will be hitting your mailboxes about the time that U.S. election activity ramps up for the final home stretch and around the time school and college students will be heading back to classes.

As documents librarians, it's probably safe to assume that most of us have a keen interest in elections. Not only do elections directly result in presidential administrations and the composition of congresses that produce the material we specifically work with on a daily basis, but librarians—and I suspect government documents librarians in particular—share a keen civic interest in being active and informed citizens.

This is not true of the population at large. Sadly, only about 50 percent of the American voting age population participated in the 2000 election.[1] Moreover, according to a report released late last year by the Alliance for Representative Democracy, American youth are even less likely to cast a vote than any other segment of the population: "Only 66 percent of this younger generation [15 to 26 year-olds] believe it's necessary to vote in order to be a good citizen, compared with 83 percent of Americans over age 26."[2] For many of us, particularly those who work in public, school, or academic libraries, youth comprise a significant portion of our patrons. As government information librarians, I would like to suggest that we have a unique responsibility to promote good citizenship to this younger generation, and that the months leading up to a presidential election are a time ripe with opportunities for us to do so.

Many libraries create displays just before an election that will help to better educate citizens, and this is a prime opportunity to feature government publications. There are currently three such examples of displays available on elections and voting at the Government Documents Display Clearinghouse (sponsored by GODORT's Education Committee and hosted Minnesota State University at Mankato, www.lib.mnsu.edu/lib/govdoc/proj/tutorials/finalfront2.html); by looking at the examples you will find there you might be inspired to create something similar for your own library. If you do so, please share your display with the rest of us!

Constructing election-related Web pages is another activity that often falls to documents librarians. These can be tailored to your unique patrons and community. An example of a documents department that has done just this is Iowa State University. You can find its Election 2004 Selected Resources at www.lib.iastate.edu/collections/eresourc/govelection.html.

During reference interactions or library instruction sessions (particularly if you have the opportunity to develop assignments that students must complete), make every effort to use election-related government information as examples and promote the importance of the taking part in the election. By simply showing an interest in the election and the importance of voting you will be modeling good citizenship, and even this small effort might be beneficial in encouraging a student who otherwise might sit out this election to reconsider casting a vote.

One example of a government resource that would work well in a library instruction setting is the legislative information available at the Library of Congress' Web site Thomas (http://thomas.loc.gov), in particular the Role Call Votes. Imagine an exercise in which students were encouraged to perform some research on their current congressional representative or senator (especially if they are running for re-election); after reviewing an incumbent candidate's election platform it is sometimes fascinating and enlightening to learn how they have actually voted on particular issues!

Alternatively, if you encounter a library patron at the reference desk seeking information on a candidate, in addition to referring him or her to the political party or candidate's Web site (where all they will find is propaganda promoting the candidate), showing them how to look up how an incumbent candidate's voting record on issues that are important to the patron might be very helpful.

Besides teaching our patrons how to learn more about their candidates, some people may need or be interested in general information about how the election works (such as the Electoral College), absentee voting, registering to vote, etc. These are also good topics to address in instruction sessions. A good place to begin in finding this information is the Federal Election Commission Web site (www.fec.gov). Prominently featuring links to government sites such as this on library Web pages as the election draws near will help to connect citizens with quality government information and assist them in making an informed decision when they vote.

Finally, in addition to making use of information produced by the government, there are many non-government sources for quality information on the election and candidates that government information specialists should be familiar with. One example is the Project Vote Smart (PVS) Web site at www.vote-smart.org. I don't suggest this organization because it's located in my home state of Montana, but rather because it is one of the few organizations where one can find truly accurate and unbiased information on all candidates, from those running to be president of the United States right on down to candidates running for state offices, and everybody in between. Founded in 1992 by forty national leaders, including former presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, it acts as a clearinghouse of objective and trustworthy information gathered by its own independent researchers.

As a government information specialist you have the opportunity to make a special contribution to this and every election by promoting and modeling participatory citizenship, particularly to your young patrons. By using your knowledge of government information you can make an impact, and perhaps a citizen may participate in this election

who otherwise would not. Every citizen who is a better-informed voter—or chooses to cast a vote—as a result of a librarian's efforts will represent a small victory not only for our profession, but also for democracy. ∎

References

1. State-by-state and national voter participation statistics for the 2000 Election (and previous elections) can be found at the Federal Election Commission's Web site, www.fec.gov/elections.html.
2. Nicole Moore,"Whatever Happened to Civics? Today's Young People Are Way Too Disengaged from the Political Process, According to a Survey by the Alliance for Representative Democracy," *State Legislatures* 29 (Dec. 2003): 32.

By the Numbers
Primed and Ready for the 2002 Economic Census

Stephen Woods

Is the economy bouncing back, or are the reports from Washington merely a political smoke screen for an approaching presidential election? Many people have strong opinions on this issue, but few have the ability or interest to utilize economic theory and numbers to prove or disprove their hypotheses. As government information specialists it is important for us to know how this information is being used in order to provide our users with the best resources possible. This is especially true for government data and statistics.

For me, my lack of experience with economic theory recently became obvious during a reference interview with a researcher looking for economic time series data on evidence of entrepreneurship within the communications industry. Not fully conversant in the language of economics, I had to learn quickly about terms such as "enterprise statistics," "concentration ratios," "small business start up and failure," and why these were so important to the study of entrepreneurship. With its release scheduled for this fall, it seems appropriate to focus this issue's column on the United States 2002 Economic Census. This column will provide you with some ways to become primed and ready for questions about the Economic Census.

What Is the Economic Census?

The U.S. Economic Census is a systematic measurement of the nation's economy. Micarelli provides an interesting historical perspective of the Economic Census by looking at it as an evolutionary process.[1] It was not until 1939 that standard codes for classifying industry were agreed upon, allowing researchers to compare statistics and data from one Economic Census to another. Furthermore, the Economic Census did not become an integrated program until 1954 and was not taken on a regular, five-year cycle until 1967. Consequently, without regularity and standardization it is more accurate to talk about a plurality of Economic Censuses, rather than a singular cohesive integrated set of ongoing publications known as the Economic Census, until 1967.

How Is It Collected?

The Economic Census is essentially a collection of responses from over 5 million business establishments to questionnaires sent out by the U.S. Census Bureau. In 1967, there were over 440 different types of questionnaires sent out to businesses based on their identification with certain industrial classification codes. Furthermore, there are several general questionnaires sent out to all businesses regardless of industrial classifications to gather information about owners, expenditures, and outlying areas. For the 2002 Economic Census, the number of questionnaires increased to over 600, including measurements for Internet service providers, electronic shopping sites, and online auction sales.

Compared to the Census of Population and Housing, which uses only two questionnaires, (short and long), why does the Census Bureau need so many different types of questionnaires for the Economic Census? Different businesses have very different needs, concerns and activities. In order to address the variety of activities, the Census Bureau designed questionnaires based on the major economic sectors. These sectors are identified in the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code for Economic Censuses taken from 1939–1992 and the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code for the Economic Censuses taken in 1997–2002.

Why are the questionnaires so important? First, the questionnaires will help you get a better idea of the scope of each Economic Census. It is worthwhile to look at some of the facsimiles of questionnaires published in the procedural history of the earlier Economic Censuses to get an idea of the structure, methods, and changes in collection of economic information. For example, the *1967 Economic Censuses: Procedural History* indicates that the Census Bureau expanded the scope of the Economic Census by including separate questionnaires for law firms, architectural and engineering firms, and travel agencies.[2]

Second, the questionnaires' methods and procedures provide insight into the ways both obscure and common economic terms are defined and used in the survey. This is vitally important for researchers, but it can be equally valuable for those not conversant in economics. For example, a survey facsimile from the 1967 Economic Census for bus

carriers provides a succinct definition of capital expenditures for that survey that is useful for both novice and expert users of the Economic Census.

How Are Summary Statistics Reported?

Once data is collected, the Census Bureau publishes a voluminous number of reports filled with summary statistics that seem at first glance to have little or no organizational structure. Navigating through this menagerie of publications can be pretty tricky if you don't have a clear idea of how data from the Economic Census is used to create summary statistics to describe the U.S. economy. Mark Wallace in "Public and Private Sector Uses of Economic Census Data" provides an excellent overview of the "building blocks" or types of publications that are published.[3] He identifies three major groups: level of business activity, level of geographic detail, and type of industry.

The reports with summary statistics about business activity are called the "subject series." These reports are organized around broad subject categories that focus on information about companies as well as information about the individual establishments that comprise a company organization. Within a subject category they are subdivided into the various industrial classifications. The problem with this series is that each industrial classification has its own questionnaire and contains data that the designers determined were relevant for a particular industrial classification.

Reports also are published with summary statistics organized by geography at the national, state, county, and city or place levels. Included are summary statistics for zip codes and for metropolitan areas. These are further subdivided into industrial classifications. These reports can become increasingly troublesome as you look for summary statistics from the smaller geographies for a particular industry classification because the Census Bureau has to protect the confidentiality of data collected from individual establishments.

Finally, the Census Bureau publishes reports with summary statistics organized by the type of industry as defined by SIC or NAICS. These reports are useful especially for finding the summary statistics for questions that are unique to a particular industry and for allowing researchers to compare economic data over a period of time. The continuing shift in industrial classifications makes this a challenging endeavor.

What's New in 2002?

Although there are several new additions as well as omissions from the 2002 Economic Census, I would like to comment on three important changes: 2002 NAICS, the addition of micropolitan statistical areas, and the expansion of the Survey of Business Owners.[4]

Let the user beware that the 2002 Economic Census uses a very different flavor of NAICS to categorize businesses in the United States than it did in the 1997 Economic Census.[5] Although the changes were not as dramatic as when the Census Bureau changed from SIC to NAICS in 1997, at least

six of the twenty broad sectors of industry were affected. For example, construction was substantially changed to assist researchers in finding information about Internet service providers, Web search portals, Internet auctions, and other activities not included in the 1997 version.[6]

Also new to the 2002 Economic Census is the addition of summary statistics for a geographic area, known in census parlance as micropolitan statistical area.[7] There are a number of geographic terms used to describe various sizes of urban areas that cross state boundaries and do not fit neatly into a geographic hierarchy such as urbanized areas, metropolitan statistical areas, consolidated statistical areas, primary statistical areas and micropolitan statistical areas. Essentially the micropolitan statistical area allows researchers to identify counties with a smaller sized urban area.

Finally, as neatly as I have packed this primer on the 2002 Economic Census to focus on establishments and businesses, there are a number of reports published as part of the Economic Census that focus on descriptions of individuals in the *Survey of Business Owners and Self-Employed Persons* (SBO).[8] These include summary statistics on gender, race, and ethnicity of business owners. New in 2002 are questions about the owner's age, education, hours worked, disability, veteran status, home-based, family-owned, franchising, year started, and financing. It is important to remember that the OMB changed the method for reporting race by allowing individual owners to select multiple races. This makes it more difficult to compare race counts from the 1997 to 2002 Economic Censuses.

Conclusion

Fall is quickly approaching, and you probably have decided already on your choice for the president of the United States and are convinced that you know the status of the economy. Hopefully, this primer on the 2002 Economic Census has provided you with some new insights or at least reminded you of places you have been before. ▌

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Geospatial News
Who Is CUAC, and What Have They Done for You Lately?

Cynthia Jahns

Maps make up a significant portion of most depository library collections. Since 1978 the Cartographic Users Advisory Council (CUAC) has provided an opportunity for map librarians to meet annually with representatives of federal agencies that distribute and/or produce maps and at least one representative of GPO. Each spring CUAC representatives meet in or near Washington D.C., to discuss access to cartographic materials received through the FDLP and other mutual concerns. They provide the perspective of working map librarians, and hear plans of new products and services as well as changes to existing ones. CUAC representatives fill a role similar to that of members of the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer, which was established in 1972.

Who are the CUAC reps? The council is composed of twelve representatives, two from each of the following six organizations:

- ALA/Map and Geography Round Table (MAGERT);
- ALA/Government Documents Round Table (GODORT);
- Special Libraries Association/Geography and Map Division;
- Geoscience Information Society (GIS);
- Western Association of Map Libraries (WAML);
- North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS).

Representatives serve three-year terms and are designated as liaisons to specific agencies. David Deckelbaum, map librarian at UCLA and one of WAML's representatives, commented "I believe the value of CUAC is that an attempt is being made to foster a greater understanding among map librarians of the role the FDLP plays in the building and shaping of their individual collections. CUAC gives the map library community an opportunity to directly lobby the agencies that contribute materials to the FDLP. There is a sense of immediacy and strength in numbers when communicating with the various federal agencies. I see CUAC as a bridge organization which can effectively lobby for its concerns, but can also explain limitations as they are expressed by federal agencies that attend our meetings."

What happens at a CUAC Meeting? Recent topics have included preservation and archiving issues, copyright and free access issues, preservation and public access, and GIS in libraries.

What has CUAC done for you and your library?

- Every year since 1996, CUAC has assisted GPO in the development of a supplemental set of specifications that support spatial data applications.
- CUAC responded to the National Atlas proposal fielded by the U.S. Geological Survey.
- The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), which coordinates geographic data at the federal level, gave a presentation to CUAC in 2002 on "The National Spatial Data Infrastructure and the Geospatial One Stop E-Gov Initiative." CUAC continues to work with the FGDC by sending a representative to their Coordination Group, which meets monthly (www.fgdc.gov/fgdc/fgdccg_org.html).
- CUAC was also invited to participate in the FGDC's Homeland Security Working Group.

Finding information about CUAC has been difficult in the past. Minutes of the annual meetings were electronically routed to the constituent mapping organizations, but due to the need for review of the drafts by multiple agencies, they often appeared quite some time after the meeting. CUAC has a new Web site that will make locating information about them much easier. Hosted by Washington University in St. Louis, it's at http://cuac.wustl.edu. Minutes of CUAC meetings are available back to 1998, and a brief history explains more about the group's origins. It provides a list of council members, and a listing of the CUAC liaisons to federal agencies will help map librarians who wish to send questions or comments.

What's in CUAC's future? May 12–13, 2005, CUAC and the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division will sponsor a conference whose working title is "Map Libraries in Transition II." Modeled on a 1993 conference on the future of maps in libraries, the conference will feature speakers from inside and outside the library world, with presentations and discussions focusing on current and future issues facing the providers of cartographic data. More information will be posted to maps-l and govdoc-l, as well as distributed to members of CUAC's sponsoring bodies.

International Documents Roundup

Family Planning: Now a Component of Reproductive Health

Lynne M. Stuart

The terms "birth control," "family planning," and "reproductive health and rights" reflect the changing conditions, attitudes, and methods of controlling population growth. In the twentieth century, the world's population grew from 1.6 billion to 6.1 billion, and by 2050 may be over 8.8 billion. After World War II, with growing concern about the world's rapidly growing population, the United Nations (UN) and other organizations actively worked to promote family planning. While these efforts have caused a dramatic decrease in fertility in most parts of the world, there are more women of childbearing age than ever before. The world's population is still growing by about 78 million people a year. And half the world's population is younger than twenty-five with a billion young people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four.

Unfortunately, there are still millions of women, especially in developing countries, who do not have access to contraceptives. The inability to determine the size of families and spacing of children puts these women's health and welfare at risk. In September 1994, the UN's International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) convened and the attendees adopted a Programme of Action that focuses on the needs of individual women and men, rather than demographic targets. One of the primary goals of the Programme of Action is to make family planning universally available by 2015. Other goals include more education for girls as well as the reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality. These goals reflect a broader understanding of family planning that includes reproductive health and rights.

Today, besides preventing pregnancies, organizations are working to help women have healthy pregnancies, to lower the risk of death during childbirth, to prevent contraction of HIV/AID and other sexually transmitted diseases, and to obtain an education. For over thirty years, the United Nations Population Fund for Population Activities, the World Health Organization, and the World Bank have conducted research and supported programs that help improve women's reproductive health. Their publications in this column demonstrate the work they have done and continue to do. In addition, European Council publications are included. These reflect concerns that include low fertility, high birth rates of immigrant populations and adolescent reproductive health issues.

UNFPA

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) began operations in 1969 as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. It is the world's largest international source of funding for population and reproductive health programs and, since 1969, has provided nearly $6 billion in assistance to developing countries. The fund supports programs that promote reproductive health, which the organization defines as a state of physical, mental and social well-being in matters related to the reproductive system.

Every year a different topic is covered in UNFPA's annual publication, *State of the World Population.* For example, the 2003 edition, *Making 1 Billion Count: Investing in Adolescents' Health and Rights,* explores issues that the largest generation of adolescents in history will face. The chapters include subjects such as early marriage, HIV/AIDS, and sex education. There are various graphs and tables that illustrate the text as well as tables of economic indicators. This annual publication can be found on the UNFPA Web site (www.unfpa.org) going back to 1996. Previous years are available in print.

Adding It Up: The Benefits of Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health Care (Singh, 2004) (www.unfpa.org) examines the costs and benefits of three major components of reproductive health: contraceptive services, maternal health services, and services related to sexually transmitted diseases and other gynecologic and urologic problems. The report examines existing methods of measuring costs and benefits and then proposes broader approaches to evaluate the benefits of sexual and reproductive health services The material presents information that policy makers can use to make informed choices when choosing programs to fund and/or support.

Culture Matters: Working with Communities and Faith-based Organizations, Case Studies from Country Programmes (Melek, 2004) (www.unfpa.org) reports on the efforts to implement the goals that resulted from ICPD in 1994. The report covers the progress of such programs in Brazil, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Iran, Uganda and Yemen. There is a detailed discussion of developments in each country with an accompanying table of selected indicators such as literacy rates, total fertility rate from 2000-2005, and maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births. The phrase "culture lens" is defined as an analytical tool that practitioners can use to establish working relationships with the religious, cultural, political, legal and professional groups in a community. There are examples from individual case studies that illustrate the successful use of this tool. The report includes an interesting discussion of the growing involvement of faith-based organizations in reproductive health programs in various parts of the world.

WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) deals primarily with medical issues related to reproductive health, ranging from conducting scientific research to developing evidence-based guidelines for family planning planners and practitioners. WHO's Department of Reproductive Health and Research

(HRP) is the main instrument for scientific research in human reproduction. Among its many publications is its biennial report titled *Research on Reproductive Health at WHO*, which reviews HRP's work to provide scientific evidence for the effectiveness of reproductive health care. The 2000–2001 report (the most recent) includes sections that discuss the need for the expansion of varieties of contraceptive methods, adolescent reproductive health, and pregnancy safety. The tables and charts plus the text provide a rich source of statistics. Highlights of the two previous reports are available online (www.who.int/reproductive-health/pages_resources/listing_programme_reports.htm).

Another title, *Safe Abortion: Technical and Policy Guidance for Health Systems* (2003), was written for people working to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity. It includes material on the number of abortions that are performed, the number of deaths resulting from unsafe abortions, and legal and policy issues. The various chapters provide detailed information needed to provide safe abortions as allowed by the laws of individual countries.[1]

Towards Adulthood: Exploring the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents in South Asia (Bott 2003) is a collection of papers presented at the International Conference on Adolescent Reproductive Health held in Mumbai, India in November 2000. Topics include early marriage and childbearing, male and female attitudes towards premarital sex in Sri Lanka, peer programs for reproductive health counseling, and sexual abuse.

World Bank

The World Bank has supported population and reproductive health activities since 1970. As discussed in its publication *Population and the World Bank: Adapting to Change* (2000), the World Bank is using new approaches that link population policy more closely to poverty reduction and human development and adopting a reproductive health approach that integrates family planning, maternal health, and prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

Two publications reflect the World Bank's concern with the high maternal mortality rates in many developing countries. *Reducing Maternal Mortality: Learning from Bolivia, China, Egypt, Honduras, Indonesia, Jamaica, and Zimbabwe* (Koblinsky 2003) provides a thorough analysis of factors that reduce maternal mortality using three retrospective case studies in China, Honduras and Zimbabwe; and four research studies in Bolivia, Egypt, Indonesia, and Jamaica. *Investing in Maternal Health: Learning from Malaysia and Sri Lanka* (Padmanathan 2003) provides the first comprehensive, in-depth analysis of the factors that contributed to reducing maternal mortality to levels comparable to many industrialized countries in Malaysia and Sri Lanka. The study considers policy issues, health system developments, health system expenditures in maternal health, and the use in both countries of professionally trained midwives.

The paper *Reproductive Health in the Middle East and North Africa, Well-Being for All* (Aoyama 2001) provides a comprehensive overview of reproductive health issues in the region. It presents the complexity of these issues, demonstrating that economic development alone does not necessarily correlate to improvements in reproductive health.

Council of Europe

Founded in 1949, the Council of Europe (COE) is the continent's oldest political organization. The Council, with its 45 member countries, defends human rights, works to standardize member countries' social and legal practices, and provides information in areas such as education, culture, and social cohesion. Its European Population Committee monitors and analyses demographic trends in the Council of Europe's member states.

The *Demographic Yearbook* provides a general assessment of demographic trends in Europe and contains tables and graphs that compare countries' main demographic indicators. In 2003, a CD-ROM with country-specific data accompanied the yearbook. Portions of yearbooks back to 1999 are available on the COE Web site (www.coe.int/t/e/social_cohesion/population/demographic_year_book).

The COE also publishes a Populations Studies Series and a European Population Papers Series that cover all aspects of reproductive health. *Reproductive Health Behaviour of Young Europeans 1* (Populations Studies no. 42) (Bajos 2003) covers five main indicators: sexual behavior, teenage fertility, contraceptive practices, abortion, STIs, and HIV/AIDS. The study includes data on these topics as well a discussion of trends, national sexual health policies, and policy implications. *Reproductive Health Behaviour of Young Europeans 2: The Role of Education and Information* (Kontula, 2003) discusses how education effects sexual behavior and health. The paper illustrates its discussion with case studies from Bulgaria, Finland, the Russian Federation, and England (www.coe.int/t/e/social_cohesion/population/EPPS_No_17_Kontula.pdf). ∎

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Canadian Government Information in the Digital Age

Introduction

Ben Amata, Contributions Editor

Although most *DttP* readers are U.S. librarians working with U.S. Federal, state and local, foreign, and international government information, some are Canadians or U.S. librarians who work with the Canadian national depository system. The *DttP* editorial staff thought it would be interesting to invite some of our Canadian colleagues to provide their perspectives on issues, challenges, problems, and services pertaining to Canadian government information in this brave new digital world.

Our contributors are a distinguished group of Canadian librarians and information specialists with extensive knowledge and experience with the Canadian government publishing and depository system. Bruno Gnassi, former head of Canada's Depository Services Program, describes the current challenges facing Canada in meeting its commitment to providing government information to its citizens. Lindsay John-

ston, a librarian at Alberta University, introduces us to STATS CAN, Canada's centralized statistical agency, and the services it provides directly to the public and their depository system. Ernie Boyko, the recent director of the Library and Information Centre at Statistics Canada, furnishes an insider's view of a Canadian agency disseminating its information in an electronic environment. And Elizabeth Hamilton, a librarian from the University of New Brunswick, delineates the problems and issues facing those who serve the public in providing government information in an electronic environment.

While we expect that our readers will find some of the issues similar to any national depository system in the electronic age, there will be new and different information about how Canada uniquely deals with its mission of providing government information in this rapidly changing and highly technological world.

The Depository Services Program

Where Does It Go from Here?
The Depository Proposition Revisited

Bruno Gnassi

Canada's Depository Services Program (DSP) turned 75 years old in August 2002. This milestone went largely unnoticed in the whirlwind of changes then in the offing; continuing a chain of uncertainty and turbulence that had beset the DSP since the privatization of Canada's Queens Printer in 1997. Three months later the Program was incorporated into Canadian Government Publishing. A year later, Communication Canada itself—the latest Canadian government department home to the program—disappeared as a result of political controversy.

Since the late eighties and early nineties, Canada's DSP and Government Publishing have been under intense scrutiny. This scrutiny is the result of the many changes confronting government publishing that are challenging it as value-added proposition:

> Strip away the rules, regulations and permissions, and a federal depository institution is a simple economic bar-

gain. . . . As part of the deal, the library program will select a number of publications without cost, if the participating institutions agree to house, maintain the publication, as well as answer the public's reference questions about the government, its policies and programs.[1]

The symbiotic relationship amongst official publishers, their authoring agencies and libraries now seems to be coming to an end. Partnerships critical to the depository model, whether internal to government or external to it, have weakened or dissolved.[2] Government departments have taken back from central agents control of publishing relationships essential to depository services. For many in government, these programs are "something that is nice to have, but not exactly mission-critical to the programs and services the agencies offer directly to citizens."[3]

As a former head of Canada's Depository Services Program I have mixed emotions watching these developments.

Change is inevitable, and whether for good or bad, has to be accommodated, but it brings with it hard questions and sometimes even harder realities.

The depository model has to evolve. What is less obvious is what direction this evolution should take and where it should go. In Canada, the answer lies partially in the way the government publishing landscape has changed.

The Value Proposition Reconsidered— Depository Programs in Transition

Fundamental to the depository proposition is the intimate link that exists between these programs and official publishers. As long as this link remains unchallenged and strong, the proposition remains viable and vital. Break the link, and the programs are vulnerable.

Information and communication technology, economic priorities and spending constraints, and changes in government operational requirements have dramatically altered the landscape in which depository programs exist. "For government agencies, the promise of electronic information citizen services offers a way to balance their own conflicting demands of informing the public and keeping things from them."[4]

Both the United States Government Printing Office (GPO) and Canada's Canadian Government Publications (CGP) have had to realign their business models to adapt to, and reflect, their new business environments. Bruce James, the Government Printer, describes GPO as an "information-based enterprise" whose role is comprehensive information delivery, permanent public access and preservation, and authentication of information.[5] In Canada, CGP maintains that it is ". . . your single window access point to locate and/or order free and priced publications authored by Government of Canada departments, and encompasses both traditional printed documents and publications in alternative formats and electronic products."[6]

It adds that as Canada's official publisher it provides publishing services to departments that include management of licenses, publication advice, production assistance, and distribution services, including referrals to libraries and bookstores. Its DSP is responsible for supplying Government of Canada (GoC) catalogue numbers and ISBNs before publication, including the creation of a catalogue record in Publishing's central publications database. Coincidentally, because depository libraries may select available publications, this brings about a wide regional distribution of author agency publications that ultimately includes professional support services, long-term preservation and public access.[7]

In these scenarios, the depository proposition transforms itself from one that is rooted in an exchange between partners into one that is primarily utilitarian.[8] As a biblio-graphic service centre, the depository purpose now emphasizes the discovery, selection, acquisition, and harvest of publications; the production of detailed bibliographic metadata; ongoing and current stable access; and the provision of access tools and user interfaces.[9] It becomes ". . . a mechanism by which provenance, security and verification create a level of fixity that will, in turn, be the basis for trust in the publications . . . as 'official' Government information."[10]

These models may address many, if not all, of depository institutions' concerns about the changes affecting government publishing: authentication, security, permanence of records and access, but at a cost. In the old paradigm, the relationship between official publishers and libraries was intrinsic and direct: someone had to produce the print, and someone had to make it available. "In an era when the leading edge of information technology was embodied in advances in printing and distribution mechanisms . . . the relationship between 'the nations printer' and the nation's libraries was clear and immediate . . ."[11]

Even though much is made about the role and importance of depositories, it is harder to see how truly essential depository libraries are to the depository proposition in these models. The official publisher acts as information broker, negotiates arrangements to secure products, leverages its internal resources to organize and index them, and puts in place the technical structures needed to maintain and preserve these resources, largely, it can be argued, as a function of its business needs rather than those of its partners:

> . . . the strongest argument *GPO is able to make* for preserving the FDLP is that the expertise provided to citizens by expert depository personnel is a vital asset. Behind that public face is an elaborate acquisition and distribution framework, based on GPO's traditional culture of "production-oriented" processes, which has been in an almost constant state of change for several years.[12]

Libraries and the Revised "Depository" Proposition

Some depository libraries do in fact see little direct benefit to them now that much government information is freely accessible over the Internet. The trend in the United States, according to Prudence Alder, is for federal depository libraries to drop out of the program.[13] American depositories, and doubtless Canadian ones, have little choice but to re-evaluate the cost benefit of being a depository library. "Traditionally, libraries have judged the value to their primary clienteles of information received on deposit is recompense for the cost of service to the general citizenry. It is this contract which is called into question by electronic transformation."[14]

In the United States, it would appear that small institutions located near larger depositories are more prone to review their membership. Their uptake of documents is gen-

erally more limited, and the consequences of relinquishing their depository status is much more manageable. Cost in space, time and staff simply weigh more heavily in this equation than any tangible benefits they derive from deposit.[15]

Data for Canada is harder to come by. Canada's DSP does not directly account for the number of institutions it partners. Anecdotally, it does appear that some Canadian depositories are rethinking their participation in DSP.

Traffic on the program's Infodep electronic discussion list suggests that here too smaller institutions are assessing their membership.[16] However, the numbers of depositories cited on the DSP's affiliated Web sites do not lead me to believe that any have left in any quantity.[17]

The Canadian Depository Proposition—Same Model, New Link in the Value-Added Chain?

Canada's depository proposition is no longer the exclusive preserve of Canada's official publisher. The National Library and Archives of Canada, which were recently merged to become the National Library and Archives of Canada (LAC), have the mandate to serve as "a one-stop shop to the texts, photographs and other documents that reflect Canadians' cultural, social and political development."[18] LAC, in particular, is charged to:

❚ preserve the documentary heritage of Canada for present and future generations;
❚ be a source of enduring knowledge accessible to all—contributing to the cultural, social and economic advancement of Canada;
❚ facilitate in Canada cooperation among communities involved in the acquisition, preservation and diffusion of knowledge; and
❚ *serve as the continuing memory of the government of Canada and its institutions.*

Under the federal government of Canada's "Management of Information Holdings" policy that communicates the government's overall information management system, it is the LAC that is tasked to monitor and report on the overall management of published and unpublished materials produced by the departments.[19]

The Canadian DSP has traditionally collaborated very closely with the LAC. Working together, for example, the LAC and the DSP have undertaken a number of initiatives in the course of the last five years similar to those the GPO and its Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) have undertaken to position themselves as a continuing value-added.[20] This includes exploring opportunities to develop a joint Persistent Uniform Resource Locator (PURL) service, cooperation to

further the implementation of government-wide controlled vocabulary to support federal government of Canada's metadata standard, and the launch of a Federal Locator Service.[21]

Information Literacy— The Challenge of Opportunity

Information literacy is an essential skill for coping and managing in today's world. It is as important as the three Rs—reading, writing and arithmetic.[22] Yet, as a general rule, we are far less well equipped that the sobriquet "knowledge society" would lead us to conclude. ". . . people lack the facts and analytical tools to deal with important social, citizenship, and personal or practical issues."[23]

Libraries, though not alone in fostering literacy, are regarded as key agents for it. We are generally recognized as resources that can help to improve and foster information gathering. "The Library is seen as a place of learning for people of all ages and backgrounds."[24] It is this capacity that provides depository institutions a further opportunity to refine and align their role in the value-added depository chain.

Data Liberation—The Better Basis for a "Depository" Proposition

The Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) is not a depository program, but it can be considered part of the "depository proposition." DLI, whose operating structures are partially based on the DSP's own, is a partnership of Canadian academic libraries and Statistics Canada to make Statistics Canada's extensive data readily available for educational and research purposes in Canada.[25]

Whatever its shortcomings and differences with more typical deposit arrangements, DLI represents a true value-added depository proposition: one or more government agencies and libraries combining to establish and maintain a mutually beneficial joint process and structure not only to identify, acquire, select, maintain, and make accessible government information resources but also to ensure a public good. The DLI builds and shepherds a "community of interest" committed to further knowledge, understanding, and use of Canadian statistics.

DLI members and Statistics Canada together promote and foster DLI content. They develop and support the resources to facilitate retrieval and access. They establish and manage the governance infrastructures required to sustain their partnership. Beyond this, DLI's libraries build community interest in the products the program makes available, and create curricula to train their members so that they can train others in turn.[26]

The DLI's curriculum is built around the regional realities of its member libraries. It relies on the talent and knowledge of regional leads, and leverages these leads to upgrade the skills of local data librarians. The curriculum it provides is built around the range of competencies required to support an effective data service. It is meant to be sustained and sustainable.

> From the outset, it was recognized that a single data training experience would not suffice to build the type of data competencies required to sustain the DLI project. . . .The training program had to allow for this type of learning, as well as the knowledge that, as individual competencies were increasing, so too were local environments changing for these individuals.[27]

The DSP—Where to from Here?

Canada's DSP is likely to continue to be buffeted by change, displacement, and re-evaluation. Depository programs are not so much old hat as little in vogue within government circles.

The profound changes that information technology has brought to government publication has forever altered the landscape in which these programs function. There are opportunities for new partnerships and new relationships that merit closer examination.

Depository libraries and "depository" programs can be vital resources, but they must have the latitude and support needed to achieve this. As committed stakeholders and partners, depositories will always want a strong say in how their programs evolve. Models that relegate them to junior positions, misinterpret, or risk their stakehold, are not likely to be welcomed or appreciated.

The DSP still enjoys good support amongst its depository libraries. As the Program moves forward and embraces new opportunity, its continued success will depend on ensuring that all parties to the contract feel that they are receiving value for investment. ▌

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Getting to Know the Canadians
Access to the Stats Can Universe

Lindsay Johnston

Statistics Canada was established in 1918 as the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Its name was changed in 1971 to Statistics Canada, which is why Canadians know it as "Stats Can."

The agency falls under the direction of Industry Canada. Stats Can is mandated by the federal Statistics Act to "collect, compile, analyse, abstract and publish statistical information relating to the commercial, industrial, financial, social, economic and general activities and condition of the people of Canada." It publishes around 900 titles per year from the main office in Ottawa and smaller regional offices across the country.[1]

In this article, I will present you with a Canadian reference librarian's view of access to Stats Can information.

Access to Portals: Free, DSP, For a Fee . . .

Analytical articles, statistical tables, and data are available from Stats Can through a series of Web-based portals. An understanding of the nature of these portals will help in your search for Stats Can information. Some portals are free to anyone with an Internet connection, others are offered to specified user groups, and some lead to priced products and services.

The Statistics Canada "Search" Portal

You can access free resources and find out about priced items on the Stats Can Web site (www.statcan.ca). The "Search" button (figure 1) on the menu bar leads to simple and advanced search screens. This facility searches all types of products and services, from free tables and articles to customized tabulations. Detailed records for each item tell you how to access the product.

A search of the Statistics Canada Library Catalogue, *Bibliocat* (www.statcan.ca/english/biblionet/hiscol.htm), or the National Library's *Federal Publication Locator* (www.collectionscanada.ca/7/5/index-e.html), combined with use of an index such as *Historical Statistics of Canada* is an effective way to identify older Dominion Bureau of Statistics publications.

Free

Many articles and statistical tables are openly available to any Internet user directly from the Stats Can Web site. The menu bar on the Web site leads to free tables under the headings "Canadian Statistics" and "Community Profiles." Many results of the 2001 Census are also freely available. Ernie Boyko's article in this issue addresses access to the Census. I would just like to congratulate Stats Can on the new "search by census variable" option for the *Topic-based Tabulations* on the 2001 Census section of the Web site.[2] It rocks.

The "Our Products and Services" menu button leads to a list of all free Internet publications, including studies, technical papers, and more tables.[3] The free publications can be listed by subject, catalogue number, or title.

The Canadian Statistics Portal

The Canadian Statistics portal provides statistical tables on a variety of subjects for large geographical areas. The tables provide time series for recent years, or are based on recent census results.

A glance at the Canadian Statistics portal (figure 2) reveals a common structure in Statistics Canada presentation. You are invited to drill-down to a useful table by choosing from various categories: "The Economy," "The Land," "The People," or "The State."

Each category is further subdivided. For example, under "The People," you can select "Education," then "Enrolment," and be presented with links to tables that provide enrolment statistics at various levels of education, including "University enrolment, full-time and part-time, by sex." This table provides you with numbers of students for five recent academic years for Canada and the provinces. A drop-down menu allows you to view numbers for both sexes, just males, or just females.

Like any statistical agency, Stats Can has its own vocabulary, which you will learn as you search. For example, in English, people are "male" or "female" (which makes me think of primates and nature shows), whereas in French, we are more civilized, as we are "hommes" et "femmes" ("men" and "women").

Figure 1: Stats Can Web Site

Figure 2: Canadian Statistics Portal

The Community Profiles Portal

If you click on the "Community Profiles" button on the toolbar, you will find that there are four types of free online Community Profiles. The *2001 and 1996 Community Profiles*

provide selected recent census results for every community in Canada, including cities, towns, villages, Indian reserves, etc. You can learn the population of Norris Arm, Newfoundland, or the number of people who take public transit to work in Vancouver. You can also explore the *2001 Census Aboriginal Population Profile*, the *2001 Aboriginal Peoples Survey Community Profiles*, and the *2001 Agriculture Community Profiles*.

Current Awareness:

The Daily

The Daily is the official release bulletin of Statistics Canada. It announces new releases and makes them official. *Daily* articles provide excellent summaries of new publications, and can also lead the reader to the full document. The "Search" portal indexes the bulletin's articles. Sometimes, a *Daily* article is all a patron needs. The articles are available online back to 1995, and anyone can subscribe to the electronic version.[4]

Figure 3: E-STAT

Access: For a Fee or DSP

Priced publications include print and online monographs, periodicals, and pay-per-download tables. If you use the "Search" portal, you will find records for all types of publications. Each record tells you available formats of the item, whether the item is provided to depository libraries, and the cost of priced items.

The Canadian public either has to pay for priced items, or can access them through a depository library. Non-depository libraries, companies, and individuals can buy priced monographs and subscribe to periodicals. These users can also pay-per-download for single issues of periodicals, for monographs, and for individual tables from CANSIM (discussed below). Just as the "Our Products and Services" button on the Web site toolbar leads to a list of free internet publications, it also leads to an index of "Internet Publications for Sale."[5]

Libraries that participate in the government of Canada Depository Services Program (DSP) *do not* pay for priced Statistics Canada publications. To find a depository library, including one outside Canada, consult the Depository Services Program Web site at http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/ Depo/table-e.html. Depositories outside Canada, including forty-seven libraries across the United States, have free access under the program. Depository libraries receive print monographs and periodicals, and have access to online pub-

lications by IP address. Stats Can and the DSP have cooperated to produce a portal on the DSP Web site called "Index of downloadable Statistics Canada publications."[6] This portal began as the Electronic Publications Pilot in 1996, so that Stats Can and the DSP could work together to assess whether depository libraries would be able to adapt to online access to federal government publications.[7]

This collaborative service portal continues today. Since the DSP exists through policy, and not by force of legislation, it is extremely important for libraries that the DSP has an effective relationship with Stats Can. Stats Can also provides depository libraries with access to the E-STAT portal.

Access: E-STAT Goes International

E-STAT (Figure 3) is an excellent service. It is a portal to statistical tables based on most of the surveys that Stats Can carries out.[8] Depository libraries now have free access to E-STAT through the DSP, with the licensed understanding that it must be used for educational and research purposes only. Stats Can has taken the initiative to offer the same agreement worldwide. *Educational institutions anywhere in the world can register for access to E-STAT*. Registration forms and information are provided on the Stats Can Web site.[9]

E-STAT provides subject access to most tables in the CANSIM database. CANSIM stands for Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System. It includes more than 18 million series on subjects such as agriculture,

business, environment, national accounts, trade, social conditions, etc.[10] In addition to CANSIM data, E-STAT also includes selected tables from the 2001, 1996, 1991, and 1986 censuses. It includes tables from the Census Profile series at higher levels of geography. E-STAT also includes a section called *Censuses of Canada, 1665–1871*.

With a little training, E-STAT proves to be a user-friendly and flexible tool. It is divided into three sections. The "Preview" section provides a brief overview and recent trends for a given subject area. "Articles" provides links to selected analytical articles by subject. The "Data" section allows users to build the tables they need. Again, users can drill down by subject heading, or choose to do a keyword search of CANSIM or a Census. Once they have selected a subject area, specific table, and variables, users can choose to display their results in a variety of formats, including html, csv downloads, and Beyond 20/20 tables.[11] Users can choose to create tables, graphs, pie charts, or maps.

Access: The CANSIM Database

E-STAT is only one portal to the CANSIM database. Any internet user can search CANSIM on the Stats Can Web site. There is an option to select "Search CANSIM" on the left side bar of the "Search" portal. If you find a useful table during a search, you can record the table number and try to find it in E-STAT, or pay to download it on the spot from the Stats Can Web site. If you are using E-STAT, remember that it is only updated once a year, while new time series are added to the CANSIM database every day. It is also possible to subscribe to CANSIM in various ways.[12] Research institutions in Canada may also access CANSIM through the Data Liberation Initiative.

Access: DLI

The concept of the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) grew out of the need for academic libraries to cooperate to access data files. In 1989 Canadian academic librarians formed a consortium in order to be able to afford the impossibly high price that Stats Can was demanding for 1986 Census data. The University of Toronto worked to redistribute the data to consortium members. Librarians made similar arrangements to pay for the files of the 1991 Census and the General Social Survey. In 1992, the data librarians involved began discussions with Stats Can to create a subscription service for all data that was intended for public release. The negotiations were successful, and DLI was launched in January 1996. Now, academic libraries across the country pay much lower fees for a subscription to standard Statistics Canada data products, which include microdata, aggregate databases (such as CANSIM), and geography files.[13] For this reason, you will come across records for public use

microdata files (pumfs) when using the "Search" portal. University of Toronto staff continue their work in the redistribution of data, such as through their Computing in the Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS) portal to CANSIM.

Confidential Data: RDCs

DLI was conceived to reduce costs for data that were always intended for public distribution. Research Data Centres (RDCs) were proposed by Stats Can and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to provide a method of access to *confidential* data. There are ten of these closed "statistical analysis computing laboratories"[14] located on university campuses across Canada. The provision of access to confidential data had to fall within the parameters of the Statistics Act, so researchers who want to use an RDC must: submit a proposal that is peer evaluated, pass a security clearance, take an oath to the Statistics Act, and become a deemed Stats Can employee. Several hundred researchers have been approved, and have completed or are carrying out their research.[15]

Even in my five years as a professional librarian, I have seen the relationship between Stats Can and the DSP, libraries, and the public improve. Users are served by an increasing number of free online publications and tables. If you need help with the array of portals, you can go to the source, or contact Canadian librarians through the GOV-INFO electronic discussion list.[16] ∎

Note: Screenshots used with permission of Statistics Canada.

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The Evolution of Census Dissemination in Canada

Ernie Boyko

May 15, 2001, was the official date of Canada's most recent census, 335 years after Jean Talon enumerated the Colony of New France. Between May 1 and May 12, 11.8 million households received a Census of Population questionnaire. Some 276,000 farm operations also received a Census of Agriculture form at the same time. The first results from this census were released via the Statistics Canada (STC) Web site on March 12, 2002. A summary of these findings can be viewed on the Statistics Canada Web site.[1] The final products, a series of public use microdata files (PUMFs), will be released in the fourth quarter of this year.

The purpose of this article is to describe the evolution of the Canadian Census publishing program over the years. It will pay particular attention to the developments in electronic publishing. Census dissemination via Canada's Depository Services Program (DSP) will also be described.[2]

Canadian Census History

The Canadian Census has a long history of providing Canadians and others with information about Canada. Starting with Jean Talon in 1666, thirty-six censuses were taken under the French rule. Census taking continued under British rule, which started in 1765, but did not happen on a regular basis until 1817. National censuses were conducted at ten-year intervals beginning in 1851. In 1956, the Canadian government decided a national census should be taken every five years, a practice already in place since 1906 in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Govern-

ment officials believed a five-year census would provide a better means of measuring the pace of economic growth and urbanization. Under the Statistics Act of 1971, it became a statutory requirement to conduct a nationwide census every five years.[3]

Census Publishing Overview

While there are many different ways in which one could describe census publishing in Canada, from the point of view of distribution media, there are fairly distinct phases of evolution. During the period 1871 to 1956, all outputs from the census were on paper. Basic Summary Tabulations (BSTs) were the first machine-readable files distributed after the 1961 census. Public use microdata files were introduced for the 1971 census. During this time paper products continued to be the major output format. Commencing in 1986, census outputs on personal computer (PC) readable media with access software were made available to users. This service was extended in 1991, and by 1996 the Internet was introduced as means of dissemination. While the Internet was the major dissemination vehicle for 2001, key outputs continued to be disseminated on paper.

As will be seen later in this article, the DSP has played an important role in census data dissemination since its inception in 1927. Canadian and international access to census data is assured through the DSP network. This network consists of some 680 public and academic libraries that have

arranged to house, catalogue and provide reference services for the federal government publications they acquire under the Program. These depositories must make their DSP collections available to all Canadians and for interlibrary loans. The DSP also includes depositories such as Parliamentarians, central libraries of the federal government departments, press libraries and selected international repositories.[4]

Geography

One of the major characteristics of a census is that the output data are available at a detailed level of geography. Typical Canadian census geographical units have included a variety of categories. Census divisions (CDs) and census subdivisions (CSDs) are towns and municipalities. Federal electoral districts (FEDs) are another category. Census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs) are cities. The exact names for each level of geography have varied over time but the entities represented have been more or less stable. Census tracts (CTs) were introduced as social areas for the 1941 census and more generally as census tracts in 1951. The above also represents the level of geographic detail for which tabular material is available on paper. Enumeration areas (EAs) were introduced as machine-readable files in 1961 and continued until 1996; in 2001 they were replaced by dissemination areas (DAs). Forward sortation areas (FSAs)—based on postal codes—were first introduced in 1986 as a machine-readable file. Readers are referred to the 2001 census Web site for more information about census geography.[5]

The Release Process

The release process that was followed in 2001 consisted of initial releases on the Web site.[6] This consisted of a high-level summary in STC's Daily and highlight tables on the Web site.[7] These tables are available on the official day of release free of charge via the Internet at various levels of geography. They present information highlights through key indicators, such as distributions and percentage changes from 1996. The tables allow users to perform simple rank and sort functions. The appearance of the release information in the *Daily* serves as a signal to users that the official products have been released on are about to be released. The online catalogue contains information about the scope of the product and its distribution to the DSP.[8]

Census Dissemination Overview

The users of census data are many and varied and include such groups as the general public, the media, politicians, policy analysts, businesses, students and academic researchers.

Accordingly, Statistics Canada uses a variety of dissemination approaches. Since one size does not fit all, the agency uses a layered approach in order to meet the information needs of different groups based on the resources available. Part of the strategy includes the sale of standard and custom products. However, in order to ensure that users who cannot afford to pay for such products can still have access to basic information, steps are taken to establish alternative means of access. This has been achieved through a partnership with Canadian libraries, especially depository libraries, which have been active players in providing access to the public over the years. The manner in which this has been done over the years has evolved from a fully paper-based system to one that uses a variety of paper and electronic products.

Paper publications containing data that were tabulated at the census tract level and higher were the mainstay of census publishing until 1996 at which time an increasing amount of information was also distributed on PC-based media. By far the most popular tabular product over the years (both on paper and on electronic media) is referred to as the census profile. These tables are generally univariate in nature (i.e. they are not cross tabulations) but are available at lower levels of geography. They are published on paper down to the census tract level and are available at the EA and DA level electronically. While these latter levels of geography are not freely available to the public, as will be seen below, steps have been taken to ensure that they are at least available to Canadian universities for teaching and research.

Electronic products on PC-based media were not generally made available to depository libraries until the 1996 census. Statistics Canada tested the inclusion of these types of products in the DSP program during 1991–1996. The results were mixed, but refinements were made to the products so that the first electronic products were delivered as part of the DSP in 1996. In that year the full line of census tabular output was distributed to DSP libraries on CD-ROMs with an access software called Beyond 2020.[9] This system worked fairly well for more experienced users (once they got past the initial interface that had been developed by STC), but it did not meet the needs of casual users. The learning curve for such users was simply too high.

For 2001, STC continued to use the *Beyond 2020* software, but access to the data tables was improved by using a Web interface. This approach also gave users more immediate and easy access to basic HTML tables. Users could also save the information in a comma-separated values file. Community-level profiles on the Web were extremely popular in 1996 and were thus expanded for 2001. Profile information for health regions has also been added as a choice of geography.

Three levels of access were offered for the 2001 census. Level one was open to the public and was freely available on the STC Web site. It included basic highlight information down to the CSD level in HTML format. More complex information that required the use of access software was available on a for-fee basis on a CD-ROM that included the Beyond 2020 application. Users wishing to access these

products without charge were encouraged to visit their local libraries that had level two access.

Level two access was open to DSP and Canadian universities that were part of Canada's Data Liberation Initiative (DLI).[10] This included all levels of geography and types of tables down to the CT level and allows users to download data in a Beyond 2020 format. In order to avail themselves of this access, DSP libraries were asked to register with STC and download the Beyond 2020 software. This service excludes the DA- and FSA-level information, which were simply too large to be served via the Web using existing tools. As a result, this information was offered only to the DLI libraries via file transfer protocol (FTP), was not practical as a distribution medium for DSP.

As already mentioned, paper publications from the census have continued albeit in a reduced form. Since the profiles are the most popular and most easily used census products, they have been continued as paper products and contain information down to the CT level with accompanying paper maps. These publications were produced after all the census variables had been released as a cumulative electronic profile.

Recent Policy Changes at Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada has had a practice of ensuring its products are included in the DSP program for as long as this program has existed. Additionally, when the DLI was launched in 1996, the agency began contributing its data files and databases to participating universities. Recently, these practices were included as an explicit part of the agency policy on dissemination and communications. While is not necessarily a magic bullet to ensure 100 percent inclusion of the agency's products in the DLI and the DSP, it will certainly make the work of the Communication and Library Services (which is the agency focal point for both programs) a lot easier.

Other Information about the Canadian Census

Until recently, the best measure of how much census information was available to the public was to examine the content of the DSP. Starting in 1996, STC began putting much more information on its Web site, which is currently receiving 50,000 visits per day. While this broadens the accessibility of the census information, it raises other issues such as the long-term accessibility and preservation of the data. Preliminary discussions aimed at the creation of a Canadian National Data Archive have been held, but this project is not currently on the national policy agenda.

With the arrival of the DLI, certain libraries have built detailed Web sites housing and describing Canadian census information. Although such sites are not yet a substitute for a National Data Archive, they are very useful for students and researchers. A good example of this can be found at the University of Toronto Data Library.[11] This site provides a thorough overview of Canadian censuses over time. While access to the actual data is not often possible due to licensing and other considerations, it is an excellent source of census metadata.

During the last few years, STC has released its E-Stat product to DSP libraries.[12] Previously it was only available to educational institutions. E-Stat contains a complete annual copy of STC's aggregate database (currently containing about 23 million time series). Additionally, this database contains current and historic census data down to the CT level. Recently, E-Stat has been made available to foreign educational institutions that choose to register on the E-Stat Web site.

Canada and the DLI network of universities are currently developing a common approach to marking up survey and data files using a new standard called the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI).[13] The purpose of this work is to create data and metadata files that are interoperable. This will facilitate searching, access and preservation. Statistics Canada is currently working on ensuring that the 2001 census PUMFs are DDI-compliant. The tool kit that the agency is using to do this work is called NESSTAR.[14]

On a final note, a group of Canadian researchers located at several different universities across the country have undertaken the creation of PUMFs with 5 percent samples for each census taken in Canada during 1911, 1921, 1931, 1941, and 1951. This will supplement PUMF files that have already been created for 1901, 1881, 1871, and 1971 to 1996. Current plans call for ensuring that these files are DDI compliant. Readers can learn more about the Canadian Century Research Infrastructure project by referring to the project's Web site.[15]

Summary and Conclusions

Canada has a long history of census taking and dissemination to the public. Libraries have played an important role in this process and have evolved its services to include both paper and electronic products. Electronic products have been available for the Canadians since the time of the 1961 census and have gradually increased in scope and sophistication. As more and more information and data are housed on Web sites and in databases, the challenge for depository libraries will change yet again. Statistics Canada and Canadian universities are experimenting tools that can create and read DDI-compliant files and datasets in an effort to ensure that data such those created by the census will be accessible to future users. ∎

*At this time this article was written, **Ernie Boyko** was Director of the Library and Information Centre at Statistics Canada. He has since retired and can be reached at boykern@yahoo.com*

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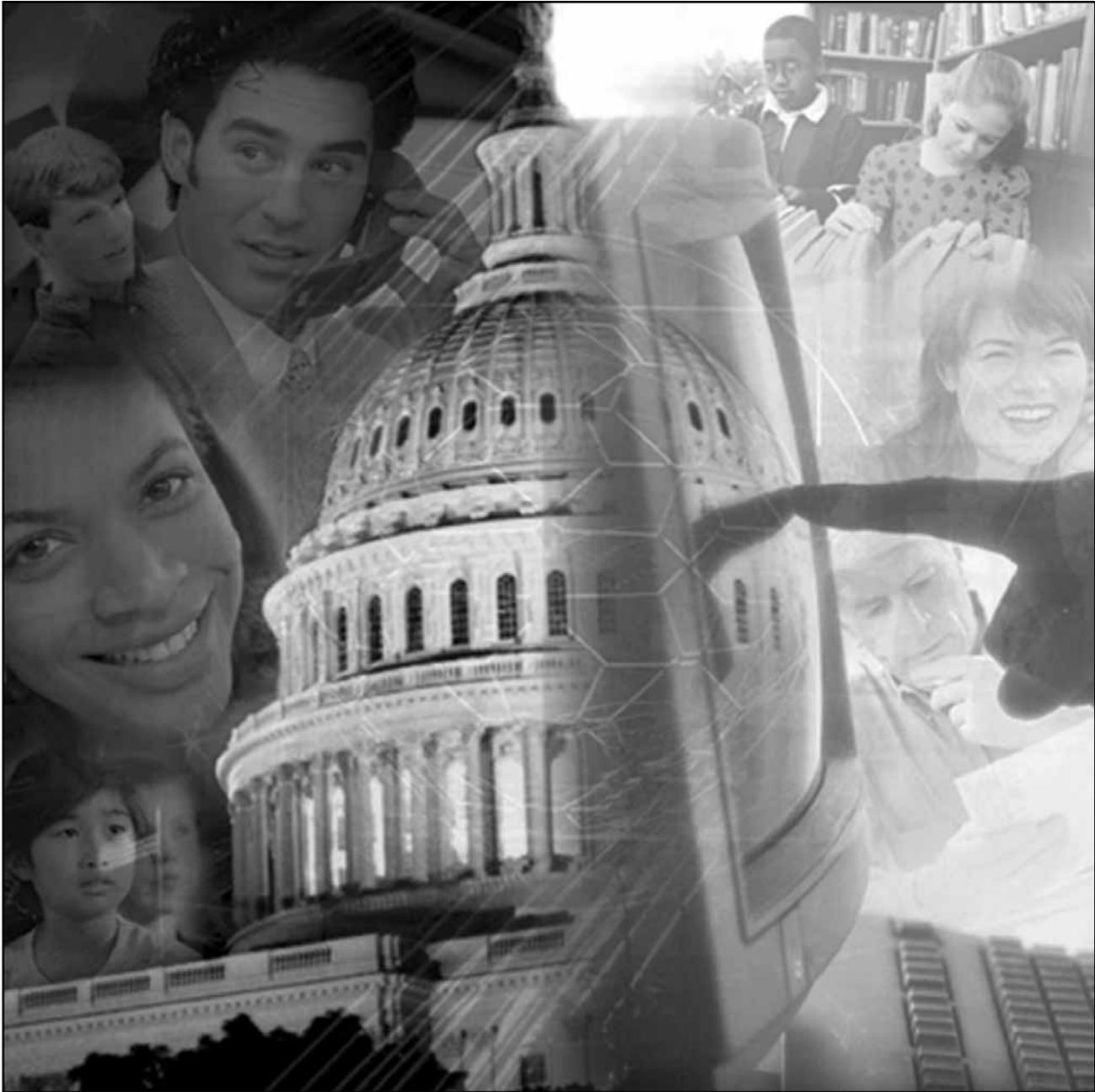
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Democracy in an Electronic Depository World

Public Access to Government Information in a Canadian DSP Library

Elizabeth Hamilton

Canadian federal depository libraries listened with interest in 1999 as the *Speech from the Throne* promised that, within five years, Canadians would be able to access all government information and services online at the time and place of their choosing by the year 2004.[1] In a report released shortly after the *Speech from the Throne*, the Treasury Board cautioned, "access in the digital environment is an issue of fundamental democracy—that citizens have a right to choose not to be connected, and the government must continue to serve them as well or better."[2] The network of Depository Services Program (DSP) libraries is ideally situated to assist the government in broadening access to information to all Canadians, not simply to those who had the technology and preference for receiving information electronically.

It is now five years since that promise of online access to government information and, for many librarians, the utopian vision laid out in the *Throne Speech* is closer, but not quite achieved yet. In 2001, J. Moon surveyed Canadian academic depository libraries regarding electronic government publications and concluded:

As mandated repositories of government publications, depository libraries have been left scrambling to adapt— with a hodge-podge of selective printing from the web, mixed success with URL's being added to library catalogues, and the struggle to support these activities in a time of shrinking budgets."[3]

For many librarians responsible for collections, intellectual access, and reference services in DSP libraries, those words still stand true today; we are scrambling, without a roadmap, to adapt to the challenges presented to us.

Evolving Collections Policies

Whether print or electronic, the fundamental challenge for the DSP is the capture of items for distribution through the network of DSP libraries. Since departments and agencies are not legislated to provide enough copies of titles for the DSP, compliance has always been a problem.[4] In the 1999 report to Treasury Board, Consulting and Audit Canada reported statistics indicating a DSP participation rate of 50 percent by departments and agencies, with only 40 percent of departments maintaining a catalogue of their own publications.[5]

The comprehensiveness of the DSP collection has depended upon the diligence and commitment of the DSP staff.

When the program is vibrant and well-supported within government, the success rate of capture and compliance of print items is higher and our job of providing access to the public in DSP libraries is easier. Whenever the DSP hits an administrative restructuring, staff deployment problem, a shift in focus, or reduction in funding, capture rates for the DSP decline and the burden for collection discovery and acquisition increases for each DSP librarian in Canada.

Between 1999 and 2004, departmental and program changes became the norm, rather than the exception. In 2001, the DSP moved to the newly created Communications Canada; in 2002, delays in distribution and processing in the spring and summer months were created by integrating systems and the position of director of DSP was phased out in the fall. In late 2003, Communication Canada was eliminated and the DSP was adrift once again. In 2004, the DSP moved back to Public Works and Government Services Canada, along with Canadian Government Publishing and the *Canada Gazette*.

We recognize that this is a tough transition for program staff but, as DSP libraries, we are still dealing with shipments without packing lists, missing issues of the *Weekly Checklist of Canadian Government Publications* (also known as the Pink List), diminished print publication numbers, and an ordering system that is still in transition. The physical flow of material is not the only area hard hit by the instability in the program. Finding and listing electronic publications has been adversely affected.

It is not only the transition in the program that makes collections work so challenging in DSP institutions of late. The idea of what a publication is in the electronic era and what constitutes appropriate access has become a bit murky as well. The many different formats require a potpourri of proprietary software, including GIS products, and engender significant technological costs at a local level. However eloquently worded in the *Communication Policy*, the attitude of many departments that "it is on the Web" is adequate in addressing the public access issue.[6]

We have seen, as have many other jurisdictions, the results of documents hastily put on the Web in the flurry of activity after the *Speech from the Throne*: remarkably unstable URLs, documents which could not be opened or printed out, and documents lacking in metadata adequate to the discovery and retrieval of the item. Since standards have been recommended, along with the federal government's "Common Look and Feel" initiative, the URLs have become more stable with the use of persistent URLs, and there is a metadata standard for author departments to follow—but compliance with those standards remains a problem.[7]

DSP librarians are still seeing publications that should never have been considered for solely electronic access. Although electronic access solves reproduction costs at the authoring end, items such as maps included with planning documents issued by Parks Canada cannot be adequately downloaded and printed for consultation on a home printer or even on higher-end printers. Extensive publications, or consultation documents which are made available only in electronic format, present access barriers for those who do not have, may not want, or may not be able to afford high-speed Internet access, robust computers, and who lack the searching ability of knights in search of the Holy Grail.

Because of this, and because of the lack of a comprehensive preservation and archiving program for government electronic publications and databases, DSP librarians are also wrestling with the question of long-term access. In the print world, the model of broad dissemination in paper format provided a measure of insurance of longer-term access. The lack of an archiving policy and the disappearance of web-based publications over the past five years have left DSP librarians with the dilemma of determining the best way to serve the public of today and preserve material for tomorrow's generation. Should we print out hard copies of documents? Should we download copies to a local server? Or, is it enough to cross our fingers and rely on serendipity, with the hope that someone else will have an authentic copy in the future?

Between November 2003 and June 2004, our library has spent over $2500.00 (an average of $31.76 per title) for printing *selected* items not available from the author departments to the DSP or by special request in print format. These items are often those for which there is a high demand by a non-technologically oriented public or items that are so important to our regional and national history that we cannot risk losing the information in them. We also have experimented with local downloading as an access model, but again we wrestle with inadequate metadata and the question of authenticity.

This is far from satisfactory. A good archiving policy would help access to government information, as would greater cooperation between author departments and the DSP on appropriate decision-making for information dissemination formats. The collective memory of our nation is too valuable to entrust to a single webmaster or stored in a server somewhere in Ottawa—or worse, buried in a machine in a regional office suddenly hit with a budget cut. Librarians have been government-watchers for years; we know how fast the information evaporates when a department, agency or commission ceases to exist.

Intellectual Access Issues

Whether libraries are dealing with a physical collection or an electronic collection, it is obvious that discovery and retrieval are critical to the provision of access. Traditionally, government publications have not been well-indexed in commercial indexing and abstracting services. DSP librarians relied on whatever indexing tools were provided by author departments such as the Statistics Canada *Catalogue* and the *Government of Canada Publications: Quarterly Catalogue*. Many DSP libraries also rely on their own library catalogues for discovery, though full cataloguing records were often difficult to find for materials not included in the Pink List.

As we have moved into a more electronic model, we have found that some of the problems faced in the print world remain with us. Government publications are still not well-represented in commercial indexing services. Though there is now a minimum tag set recommended for authoring departments, metadata is not uniform across government Internet sites, hampering the performance of standard search engines. Also, it tends to be applied to static documents rather than to databases and other information resources made available via the Internet. The search engine on the Canada site (www.gc.ca) lacks the functionality required by most users to retrieve relevant items.[8] Librarians still have to rely on their knowledge of government and of government web sites to respond to public enquiries, and often use search engines such as Google that have site delimiters (for example, .gc.ca) to discover and access relevant government information. To compound the issue, as the amount of information on the Web has exploded, the complexity and resources needed to handle reference queries has increased as well.

The presence of government documents in our local catalogues was greatly enhanced when the DSP partnered with the Library and Archives of Canada (LAC) with the goal of providing full MARC records within ten days of their inclusion in the Weekly Checklist. Long the "neglected child" in the world of cataloguing, government publications have been slow to enter into the national library catalogue, and we were delighted with the results of the joint effort.

The option of using the 856 field in Web catalogues offered exciting new possibilities for DSP librarians. Direct links to Web-based documents can enhance public service immeasurably. There are still problems, however. Some library catalogue systems do not support the use of external 856 links. There are still significant challenges in keeping up with the volume of material, and the application of cataloguing rules to electronic products has taken time to work out. The LAC has found it to be an expensive and time-consuming endeavour, particularly when separate records are required for each format.[9]

Accessibility remains a concern for DSP libraries as well. Though the government's online initiative has promoted standards that allow accessibility for visual impairments, compliance is definitely spotty. Ironically, one of the first titles discovered which did not meet accessibility guidelines was a report from the House of Commons /Standing Committee on Human Resources Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities.[10] As librarians, we are cognizant of the needs of the public both for information today, and for future users. Until the issue of archiving is satisfactorily resolved, we will be using a variety of options to capture this generation's intellectual record of government-decisions and action.

Summary

Unlike the (U.S.) Government Printing Office, the Canadian Government Publishing Program and the DSP lack a clearly communicated plan for transition to an electronic environment as well as a clear outline of their expectations for partner libraries. Amidst a sea of change, communication has been spotty, restricted largely to notices of discontinued or migrating publications and service interruptions in the Weekly Checklist. The current issue of one of the DSP communication tools, *What's Up, Doc?* dates back to 2001.

Library directors are not immune from the mentality of the "it's on the web" solution to access. With the lack of profile by the DSP, library directors have merged, integrated and reworked government collections across the country; the network becomes weakened without the human intervention required to navigate the complex corridors of government. As DSP institutions, however, our commitment to access remains steadfast.

With the lacunae in information, DSP librarians have become remarkably inventive, relying on tools developed within their own institutions for public service such as local government document Web pages and database-fed links to IP-restricted DSP sites. There have been some cooperative efforts as well. Under the leadership of Anita Canon, the *Guide to Canadian Government Information on the Internet* provided a means for discovery and access of Canadian government information by subject.[11] And until very recently, Paul Nielson provided an invaluable tool for government publication awareness through the Govinfo listserv.

In a recent survey, DSP libraries across the country listed, as their top concerns, archiving and preservation, followed by URL instability and the adequacy of current discovery tools and search engines.[12] A majority of respondents believe that many Canadians do not find what they need through the Canada site search engine. The move to a more electronic DSP library has offered broader access to those who have the technology and the skills to navigate government structure. That is where the DSP partnership continues to have its strength: in the commitment of DSP staff to their mission and to the expertise in DSP libraries in traversing the myriad corridors of the Canadian government departments and agencies to provide access to the public, today and tomorrow. The partnership can make a significant difference in the way democracy is practiced in Canada. ❚

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GODORT Membership

Government Information Reference Service

New Roles and Models for the Post-Depository Era

Debora Cheney

*The Post-Depository Era—That historical moment
when citizens seeking government information are
no longer bound by geographic boundaries.*

Since 1993 federal depository librarians have seen increasing amounts of government information made available on the Internet. The change has been dramatic and fast-paced, leading some commentators to refer to the widespread availability of U.S. government information on the Internet as an "electronic swamp."[1] As a result of the federal e-government initiative nearly every person with computer access and an Internet connection will find a wealth of information and services online.[2] Portals to government information have proliferated. Datasets once accessible to only seasoned researchers, previously hard-to-find government reports, and numerous congressional hearings are now available on government Internet sites. Together these efforts provide access that once was available through the (FDLP) collections.

The FDLP enters the twenty-first century facing an uncertain future. At its inception, the FDLP focused on the distribution and preservation of government information. Later, interest turned to access to, and maintenance of, these collections. Until the late 1980's, few textbooks or articles included a description or discussion of reference *services* within depository libraries, but rather focused on technical aspects of documents department administration. Many other textbooks or articles focused on sources and how to "do documents reference" with descriptions of the many difficult and complex government sources, government organizational structure, and government publishing patterns.[3] Yet with every .org, .gov, and .com Web site now in the business of providing access to government information, it is clear that documents librarians must make a strong stand on the *services* they provide backed by their historical collections and the remnants of tangible formats still received. But are FDLP collections and the libraries and librarians who service and support them visible enough to serve as a service-point for government information?

In an increasingly electronic environment how do you stand upon something you cannot see, do not own, and cannot reliably provide access to? And, who are your "users?" Before 1993, a depository's users, as specified by FDLP guidelines, were the citizens in its congressional district. But with of broad Internet access, the location of a user becomes irrelevant. Recent research argues, "the advent of new technology has changed the behavior of users in a way that requires a reciprocal change in the behavior of reference librarians toward greater emphasis on [user training and strong reference interviews.]"[4] What skills do documents reference librarians need if they are to excel in providing *services?* What role should the non-depository library play in providing these services? If any library can now provide access to government information, who is responsible for training the librarians who do not specialize in government information, but who are called upon to answer such questions?[5]

Any discussion of reference services for government information almost always works itself around to a discussion of the environment within which federal depository collections operate. In 1999, Diane Smith posed the question:

> Should not librarians be experimenting with new ways to provide users with assistance in locating government information in a timely and economic manner, rather than attempting to shore-up the concept of an FDLP network that has outlived its relevance in today's world?[6]

What about FDLP libraries? Are there network-based reference services a nationally organized consortium of libraries can provide? How could such a service be organized? *Should* it be organized? Is it better to decentralize such services? As document librarians began to shape these questions, an increasing number of documents reference desks were being merged with general reference desks in an effort to streamline and centralize library services.[7]

It was in this environment that the Heads of Government Publications from the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) met to discuss cooperative initiatives and projects.[8] A wide range of possibilities was discussed, but one topic—a cooperative electronic reference service—repeatedly returned to the agenda. The group struggled with several issues:

▌ differing institutional commitments to documents collections;
▌ differing staffing levels;
▌ differing philosophies of reference service; and
▌ inability to clearly define a purpose and audience for such a service.

In an effort to further articulate these questions the group moderated a panel at the 2000 Federal Depository Library Conference and coined the phrase "the post-depository era" in an effort to describe the changing environment within which federal depository libraries operate.[9] The panel explored whether librarians from different types of depository libraries (a law library, a public academic library, a private academic library, and a public library) experienced the same challenges and whether the depository library community could generate new ideas for better providing reference services.

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Debbi Schaubman (Moderator): When *Thomas* was launched in 1995, the *New York Times* said:

> Washington has long been infamous for producing mountains of paper, from dust-gathering studies to interminable transcripts of windy Congressional debate. Now the Internet is transforming all of that into billions of bytes of data, an electronic swamp where even the most determined electronic citizen can be bogged down.[10]

What changes have you seen in depository library reference services in recent years that helps *citizens* negotiate that swamp?

John Shuler (JS): Among the changes I've seen is the shift in focus from depository librarianship to government information specialists. One place I've observed this is as an adjunct professor in a library graduate program. Students are no longer given the traditional curriculum course in documents librarianship that focuses on the administrative structure and management of a depository library system. They are now taught to search and organize government information wherever it is found. The number of librarians who can now access and find government information has expanded exponentially. Whether we are public librarians or government information specialists, we're all fishing in the same ocean of information.

Ann Miller (AM): I like that analogy, but you need a hook if you're going to fish. There is a lot of discussion about the "electronic citizen" and assumptions that everyone is and can be an electronic citizen. What I see is that a lot of so-called electronic citizens are getting bogged down in what your *New York Times* article called "an electronic swamp." The change I've seen is that this environment makes depository libraries more responsible to create an environment that facilitates users finding information on their own without getting bogged down; an environment that anticipates citizen needs.

Bert Chapman (BC): Of course, it always depends on the kind of fish you want, doesn't it? What I've found has changed is the need to teach users to evaluate and think critically about the information they have located. For example, not only do they need help navigating a Internet data site,

they need help understanding the source of the data, how it's been prepared, and by whom.

Helen Burke (HB): I think that what you've said is true. What is unrecognized are the many "have not" citizens that depository libraries support. What I see is government expects citizens to be independent, but the average citizen finds that navigating government information is difficult. Our role then is to help those who do not have the equipment, skill, or expertise to find or use the information at our library. We find ourselves making frequent referrals, acknowledging our limits, and playing to our strengths—to provide access and support to citizens seeking government information who may not have the resources outside the library to do so on their own.

AM: But how do we get the user to a place where they are independent? I think we're back to Web page design. The government Internet sites are increasingly sophisticated in design and content. What is our role, what is the value we add if users can go directly to an agency Web site rather than to the Web sites we create for our users?

JS: Yes, its Web design, but it's also information architecture—something we should excel at. Remember the Carnegie libraries—they had form as well as function.

Audience comment: Most people want to be self-reliant. This creates an entirely different model for quality reference service—to help unobtrusively.

Moderator: Let's explore the differences between walk-in services and electronically-based services. Does it make sense to somehow target services to specific user groups? For example, the Pew Internet and American Life Project Report *Who's Not Online* states: "The older a person is, the more likely it is that she does not have Internet access."[11] So, should walk-in services need to be designed to meet the needs of people falling between the cracks?

AM: It depends whether we think reference "services" can be reduced to repetitive patterns like applying for a loan through a telephone applications. We have always received reference questions by telephone and letter, and now by e-mail. However, very few of these questions request an answer as simple as yes/no. Very few people actually ask the question they really want answered. If depository libraries begin to think of reference services to be delivered electronically, we need to address a number of related questions about location and hours for these services; challenges related to lending/circulation services; how to provide interlibrary-loan services; and what aspects of the reference service process we can make electronic? We've already mentioned that we're providing a number of different reference-related services. Some aspects of reference services can be electronic. For example, follow-up to a reference question is easily done via e-mail—a "Here's the information I found after you left" type of reply. I also increase face-to-face contact by asking e-mail requesters with difficult or ill-defined topics to meet me at the reference desk during my next desk shift. This encourages use of our physical spaces and collections. Possibly documents librarians need to pursue different approaches for categorizing reference questions.

BC: Well, clearly we need to treat each individual user as unique. We need to accommodate our responses and services in a way that is best for them. That implies that we may need a range of service delivery mechanisms. It seems like we've already condemned the electronic citizenry initiatives, which in many cases are simply government agencies trying to answer frequently asked questions or provide frequently used services to citizens. We're serving as a back up to these services. Should we create more of them?

JS: From our experience with the Department of State partnership and helping to answer questions online for citizens about foreign policy and travel questions, I've found that the idea of different classes of users is a library myth. When are we going to be like Amazon.com? They sell books and provide book reviews at the same time. Users are not changing; their expectations are changing. There have been two great original ideas in the library profession in the last 100 years—classification systems and reference service. We need the same breakthrough moment with electronic delivery of reference services. Citizens are getting the information, mostly without us. We need to find a new gig.

Bill Sleeman (BS): In a law library environment, we have to be careful in the reference services we provide to give no legal advice.

BC: Users will judge us based on whether we provide them with a service or with the information they need. When we create these boundaries we create opportunities for others to help people *we* should have helped. We also don't create a positive image of libraries.

HB: I don't believe we need another revolution in library service, I think we have to have confidence in what we're doing and do it well. We provide service regardless of format and whether hardware is down. We found our users don't know about the services we can provide and the richness of the collection. Our professional standards for reference service do (and should) remain constant.

JS: reference service is not depository-library dependent. With or without depository status, libraries face the same issues. That implies we need to work closely with other areas of our libraries to craft an approach to this new environment. Possibly the first step is to think of ourselves as government information specialists (with or without depository status).

BC: In some ways the fact that libraries themselves are divided by departments may work against depository library collections from the beginning. I don't believe anyone has studied whether the recent merger of documents reference desks into more general library reference desks helps or hinders a government information specialist from providing better quality reference services.

Audience comment: The University of Nevada is moving away from the concept of a collection, but increasing human interface to a virtual collection. We are exploring the use of office hours in departmental units. We are going into dorms (but not dorm rooms). We try to go where the students are. How do we help people use the Internet resources?

Moderator: The existing guidelines for FDLP written by the Depository Library Council (DLC) tend to be collections- and access-oriented rather than service-oriented. In fact, the *Depository Library Public Service Guidelines for Government Information in Electronic Formats* are rather non-prescriptive.[12]

What is GPO's or DLC's responsibility for developing guidelines for appropriate reference service? Should there be specific rules on access and collections and general rules on services?

AM: It's our responsibility, not GPO's. We are funding the staff, buildings, servers, and other infrastructure for physical collections and to provide access to the virtual collections. Guidelines from above are appropriate and helpful, but each library should decide within those guidelines what is appropriate.

BC: One-size-fits-all situations cannot be proposed by Washington bureaucrats. Every depository library has different clientele, budgets, administrative support, and staff patterns, not to mention a different user base and community or congressional district environment.

BS: If they created inflexible rules on service, law libraries would withdraw from the program. We do not want to be a *public* law library.

AM: The original concept of the FDLP was focused on the collection. The library does not own the collection. We hold it in trust for the community. So the government has greater responsibility for the collection than it does for reference services.

JS: The reality is that standards mean nothing without some level of enforcement. In reality, there are no consequences for poor or nonexistent user and reference services. Maybe we have too *many* depository libraries.

Audience comment: The Depository Library Council created the existing *Guidelines* over a period of five years. At that time we used focus groups to try and better understand what reference services people wanted and expected. Council found it difficult to set even the simplest of guidelines. Libraries were in danger, then, too. We found we couldn't impose a universal approach on all depository libraries.

Moderator: Some have argued that the FDLP needs to be reborn as "an electronic and networked structure that better coordinates (not necessarily centralizes) government information." Indeed, they've argued that there is less need for 1,300 depository libraries and more need for fewer such libraries that are better connected with a higher bandwidth and more staff.[13] If you were designing the FDLP today, how would you do it in a way that maximizes the services provided to the public?

BC: I would begin by looking carefully at the willingness to commit resources. I think that the amount of money (in staff, collection support, etc.) varies widely from library-to-library. It creates inequities throughout the system and makes it difficult for individual libraries to provide the services they might.

JS: I would suggest that libraries compete for the right to be a depository, much like broadcasters compete and bid

to use part of the public airwaves. This moves the idea of a depository status from "public largesse" to something more dynamic.

AM: I would look closely at the Federal Communication Commission model for purchasing the depository collection in the same way radio and television stations purchase a station but are regulated closely. Clearly, the current model of getting free stuff is in the past and based on a very 19th century model. The focus on the institution's willingness to commit resources is much more of an issue today.

HB: I would look to creating a minimum level for participation as a starting point and noting local and regional strengths and weaknesses for access to these collections and information. I think self-assessment is an excellent tool. When done in cooperation with the FDLP you become aware of strengths and needs in the region and become poised to serve the needs of the region. The current system can be adapted and is well-suited to meet the needs of the post-depository era. We might look to libraries within a geographic region that are able and willing to serve as referral points for certain types of questions, such as legal questions.

Moderator: Many institutions have noted that the number of reference questions they answer is declining. Why is this seen as a problem? Is it more efficient for us to focus on better bibliographic control, more intuitive user interfaces, and so on, than providing individual level services to the public?[14]

JS: The use of the Web has changed perceptions of when to use a library. To undergraduates, the Internet is their first choice; the library is their last. We're up against a huge competitor.

AM: I don't think they know when they *are* using the library. The library, for example, provides *LexisNexis Academic Universe*, but few users are aware of that support. The same with government information—how many would know they were using government information when they looked in the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*?

HB: Reference questions are down. But, how do we measure what we do? Questions today are much more involved and time-consuming. Staffing levels are down. Staff need more training, and we're struggling with finding the right service level, other ways of delivering information, and making people aware of the source of information. We need user education. We need to gather statistics that accurately reflect our work.

AM: We need to make sure that services that support the documents collection are important to our parent institutions. Generally, I believe, circulation is also down but the quality of information we provide is up.

JS: We need to provide services without the infrastructure of the depository system. In other words, a government information service without a depository program. Perhaps begin to establish a new revenue mechanism. At the heart of the depository arrangement is that somehow these materials are free and freely available to the public. With the advent of the Internet, and the seriously challenging budget shortfalls

of recent years at the federal level, this no longer makes economic sense.

BS: Currently we can answer many document-related questions using Internet resources. But I don't think we should give up on GPO because it continues to play an important role in dissemination and preservation. My library cannot and will not preserve it all.

AM: Preservation is important. The Social Security Administration, for example, took down two old versions of the title *Social Security Programs Throughout the World*. Agencies who are discarding information do not know citizens want and need historical sources. We want, and we already have, historical, long runs of statistics. I worry about a country that gets all its information off the Internet. If we lose the history we left behind, we are doomed to repeat that history.

BC: We've come full circle again. Our role is not only to teach users how to locate information, but how to critically evaluate information, even (especially) that from our government. We have to train users how to find information without the Internet. We need to develop their attention span.

BS: How different is today than what we used to do? Weren't we always trying to get people beyond *Readers Guide* and into government information?

AM: User instruction is very important. It is important that it is one-on-one as well as formal and in the classroom. It certainly needs to be focused on government information and the special resources and strategies needed to locate this information efficiently and effectively.

BC: User instruction is probably the most important aspect of reference services in a depository library. It serves to educate users about our presence, teaches them what resources are available, and builds up a clientele of users who better understand the role of the library preserving and providing access to government information.

Audience comment: We have a bit of an age gap between students who are under thirty and their instructors. Professors are giving good grades for only Internet research because the faculty does not always understand the new information sources. It's a matter of working with the professors to help them develop these skills and an understanding of how government information is being distributed today.

Moderator: Are you saying then, that very little should change in today's FDLP program? The system itself may change, but how and where people receive government information reference services does not matter?

AM: This is really the most exciting time to be in reference services supporting access to government information. With virtual reference commercial products we have both the ability to show users both the resource and how we found it, all in real time. This also brings up the question of how much we consolidate reference services. Should we have one big reference desk in Iowa somewhere?

Moderator: Are you saying that the best reference service is one that best mimics one-on-one interactions?

Most: Yes.

JS: No, I don't agree. I don't hear anyone saying, "If only we could go back to three broadcasting channels." It would be considered a step backward. We cannot and should not measure the success of new services by the standards of the old services.

BS: Old services incorporated a commitment to quality service.

JS: The question is not one of quality alone. The question is how do we organize and manage reference services in cyberspace? The philosophy to provide quality services is still true. But there is a related issue—what kind of services will survive in this new environment? We must continue to answer reference questions. However, despite a commitment to excellence, we still have not figured out the mechanics of cyberspace-based reference services—what they look like, how to monitor them, and how to ensure they respond to an academic curriculum. If you look at the annual reports and statistics produced by the Superintendent of Documents, we can see depository libraries receive only the smallest portion of government information-related questions. The bulk of these are primarily in response to an academic curriculum.

AM: Maybe reference librarians should bill themselves as information therapists.[15] "What are they really asking?"

JS: Agreed. Right now, the best model from our perspective is when they are standing in front of you. But these interactions are no less important in an electronic environment. The service will change as well, but not the quality of service.

BC: It is true; we must be flexible, if we are to meet user needs. We need to help faculty on a professor-by-professor basis understand that more recent forms of government information are available on the Internet, and that sometimes the Internet is the only source for some government information. ∎

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Easy Access, Early Exit?
The Internet and the FDLP

Luke A. Griffin and Aric G. Ahrens

The majority of the twentieth century saw a marked growth in the number of libraries participating in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). During the last fifteen years, however, a consistent downward trend has emerged for the first time. This reversal deserves analysis. Whereas for the majority of the twentieth century, the ability to provide access to government information depended largely on an institution's proximity to or possession of a government documents collection, this is no longer the case. The dissemination of government information via the Internet has convinced some libraries that they can provide adequate access to government information without possessing their own documents collection. In turn, this has lead to a perceived diminishing value of continued participation in the FDLP, and the decline in the overall number of depositories.

Background

The FDLP was established by Congressional resolution on December 27, 1813. On December 1, 1814, the American Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Massachusetts received the first documents distributed to a non-governmental body and became the first depository library.[1] The primary purpose of the program was preservation of the historical record, not dissemination.

By 1859 there were twelve designated depository libraries. Changes in the law at this time allowed the designation of libraries by Congress; linking depository library distribution to population. Over time, distribution grew flawed due to changes in Congressional districting.[2]

When the laws concerning public printing were first brought together and passed on January 12, 1895, Congress envisioned one collection in each congressional district that would contain a complete collection of the history of the U.S. and serve as a permanent repository for access by all citizens.[3] This duplicative repository system would ensure the permanence of the public record and its geographical distribution based on population would ensure local access. In order to establish these collections, Congress effectively formed an official depository system. The system of libraries included "one designated by each Representative in Congress, one named by each Senator, one specially designated by statute (the Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Mass.), and the official libraries at each State and Territorial capital . . . the libraries of each of the eight Executive Departments and of the Military and Naval academies."[4] Filling all these designations would have created a system of 507 libraries, distributed throughout the country to support collections across the 44 states and serving approximately 69 million Americans.[5] However, only 419 depositories were actually designated.[6]

The Printing Act of 1895 effectively established a centralized location for printing, created a system for distribution, and established a system that would ensure that the historical record of the United States would be preserved and disseminated to the public. The act also stated that a depository library, once established, should remain a depository library and not change every time new legislators or senators took office. It provided for conditions under which a library should be removed from the program, but set up no funds or means of inspection other than a library's "persistent refusal to acknowledge the receipt of the books sent."[7] Aside from this one method of removal, there was no system in place for a library to be removed from the depository program unless they requested to be removed.

By 1907, the United States had added two states, and the depository system had been expanded through legislation to include land grant colleges and a library in the Philippines.[8] There were now 474 depository libraries (see figure 1).

The only significant decline in the number of depository libraries was immediately following new legislation allowing libraries that had never had much interest in being depositories to drop out of the program. In 1914 it was noted that over 10,000 libraries had expressed interest in public documents.[9] With the implementation of the new selection system in 1922, many of these libraries began to take on depository status. Between 1924 and 1962 we see a slow, but steady increase in the number of depository libraries.

The largest jump occurred in 1964 after the law was amended to allow two depositories per congressional district. Other changes included adding the libraries of the highest appellate court in each state, and a large jump when in 1978 the law school libraries were allowed to become depositories.

By 1980 the number of depositories started to level off with only slight increases each year. The depository system had reached the plateau for the program at about 1,400 by the mid 1980s. In 1993 a slight shift occurred and, from that point onward, the program contracts (see figure 2).
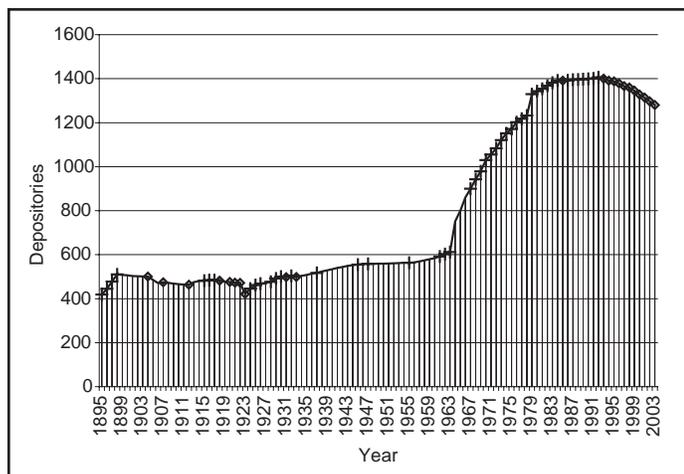
Figure 1. Number of Depositories by Year 1895–2003

Figure 2. Number of Depositories Leaving and Joining FDLP Annually 1980–2003

For the first time ever there is a continued downward trend in the number of depository libraries. As each year progressed the curve became steeper. Why are depository libraries leaving the program? What are the causes behind the dropout and how does it affect the dissemination of government information? What can or should be done about this issue?

Literature Review

Looking through the annual reports of the Public Printer it is clear that often times libraries decide to drop their status as depositories. More recently, the *Administrative Notes Technical Supplement* includes a list each month of libraries that have been added or dropped from the program. Absent from these reports however, is any discussion of the reasons behind the decision drop out of the FDLP.

To address this issue, Hernon, McClure, and Purcell conducted a survey in October 1983 to probe the reasons behind the decisions of forty libraries to terminate their status.[10] They found the following reasons for termination of status:

❚ The publications were seldom utilized. (23)
❚ We thought that another library in the area was a better choice for depository status. (21)
❚ We had severe space limitations. (20)
❚ We lacked the professional staff to maintain the status. (12)
❚ We lacked the support staff necessary to maintain the status. (11)
❚ Participation in the depository program was a financial burden. (6)

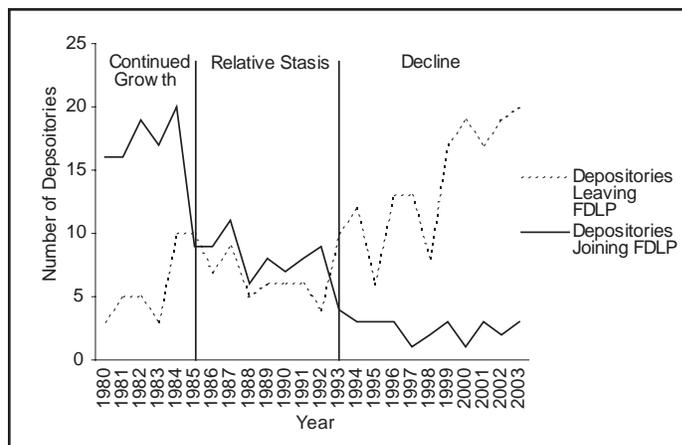The study included fifty-one libraries that had dropped their status between January 1970 and September 1983, but many of them had either merged, or were excluded for some other reason bringing the total to forty. Overall, during that thirteen-year period, there were many more libraries joining the program than leaving it. Currently, there are many more libraries dropping than joining. The rate of the dropping libraries has increased since the 1983 study. The 1983 study examined fifty-one libraries that had dropped out over thirteen years, or about 4.2 percent of the average yearly total of those years, with an overall increase of 352 libraries in the program. The 2003 study examines fifty-six libraries that had dropped out over three years, or 4.3 percent of the average yearly total of those years, with an overall decrease of thirty-six libraries in the program. It therefore became necessary to examine the reasons for leaving the FDLP stated by libraries that have recently relinquished their status to determine if new factors are influencing the decision.

While cost is still an issue, it is doubtful that this is the sole motivating factor behind the increased dropout rate. In a recent study, the Jefferson County (Colo.) Public Library (JCPL) found that it would actually cost more to purchase and maintain the resources that they needed and currently receive by being in the program.[11]

Beginning in 1993 there has been a steady stream of publications relating to the new and changing role of the depository due to the shift to electronic information. These include the landmark *Alternatives for Restructuring the Depository Library Program* put out by the Depository Council soon after the *Government Printing Office Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993* was passed.[12] This document highlighted and discussed solutions for the problems caused by this new legislation for the depository program. In "A Brief History of the Federal Depository Library Program," Ridley R. Kessler Jr. states that this legislation "served notice to all 1,400 or so depository libraries that the electronic age was here to stay and that they had best begin to deal with it in a serious manner forthwith."[13] Many libraries chose to drop out of the program. Other articles by Adler and Lowry, and

Kram added fuel to the fire, pointing the changing role of depository libraries.[14] In spring 2003, Public Printer Bruce James stated that GPO must "leap over the twentieth century into the twenty-first century," and indeed there are some radical changes ahead for the program if it hopes to play a role in both preservation and access.[15]

Procedures/Data Collection/Analysis

The hypothesis of our study is that the free availability of government information on the Internet is the main factor influencing continued library participation in the FDLP.

To examine this issue the authors identified the libraries that dropped out of the program in fiscal years 2000–2002. With the understanding that no individual libraries would be identified or singled out, GPO provided the authors with the termination letters, inspection reports, self-study reports, e-mails, and other information regarding the decision to withdraw from the program of fifty-four of the fifty-six libraries (96.4 percent).

The materials were read for explicitly stated reasons for leaving the program and a database was created. Analysis of this data shows the following reasons for removal from the program that is outside the scope of this study:

❚ One library was removed by GPO due to repeated non-compliance issues and refusal to address these issues.
❚ Three libraries were eliminated from the program due to mergers, moves, or library closures.
❚ Fifteen libraries do not list any reason for dropping out of the program, but simply request to be removed.

Thirty-seven libraries, or 66 percent, listed at least one motivating factor behind their decision. These thirty-seven libraries listed the reasons cited in table 1.[16]

At this point that a comparison between the study by Hernon et. al. and the current study highlights the striking change in reasoning among libraries leaving the FDLP.

Figure 3 lists the reasons given for leaving the FDLP in the Hernon study.

If a statement were to be constructed for why libraries were leaving the program based on this data, it would read:

> The documents are not being used, and in the rare cases where someone does need a document it is available at another depository close by. We have space limitations and the cost of staff and other factors influenced our decision to be removed from the program.

In contrast, if a statement were to be made about libraries dropping from the program from 2000–2002 based on the data in figure 4, it would read:

> We can't afford the staff and resources to continue to remain in the program when almost everything we need is available on the Internet. We can not afford to adhere to the technology standards of the program, and do not see the value of being in the program when we can get the same material for free online without having to adhere to these standards.

While these statements may be oversimplifications, the new motivating factor is clear. The program was attractive in the past because small libraries could fairly easily maintain the GPO standards and receive many valuable resources for free. Since most of the important material is now available online, the program has lost some of its intrinsic value. Unlike 1814, when the system was first established, access to the information, rather than preservation, has become the main goal of these libraries. The benefit of participation in the program no longer outweighed the resources needed to adhere to standards.

Although the diminished value of the program and inability to meet GPO standards are small factors, the authors believe that they should carry more weight. Many directors made statements along the lines "Why should I have to meet requirements for and budget staff and space for something that I can now get for free?" Therefore, the diminished value and requirements of GPO, while not explicitly stated as a reason to drop participation in the program, were implied in many cases.[17]
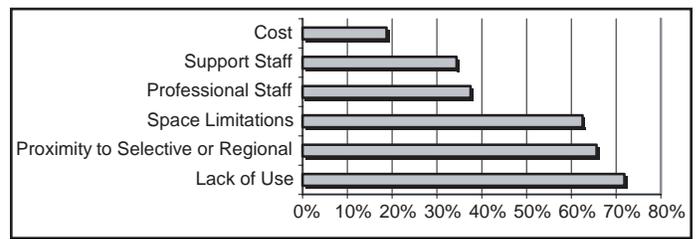
Table 1. Reasons for Leaving FDLP Cited by Dropping Libraries

Reason Cited for Leaving FDLP	n	%
Staff or Funding Issues	22	59
Availability of the same resources on the Internet	16	43
Proximity of another Depository Library	8	22
Space Concerns	7	19
Diminished Usage of Collection	6	16
Diminished Value of Depository Status	3	8
Inability to meet GPO Standards	3	8

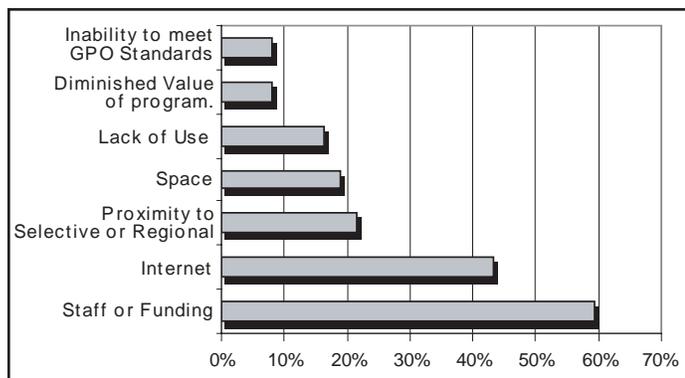Figure 3. Reasons for Leaving FDLP 1970–1984

Figure 4. Reasons for Leaving FDLP 2000–2002

The frequency that each factor is mentioned is taken in this study as an indication of importance. Since the libraries did not actually rank their reasons, nor were they asked when they terminated status why they left, if they took it upon themselves to state their reasons it would seem to be a fairly good indicator of importance. However, in several instances it is clear that this is not an exclusive list. Statements such as "we have decided to terminate our status based on staffing, costs, as well as other issues," were fairly common, and also point to the diminished value of the program.

Clearly, staff and funding issues and the availability of resources via the Internet points to the weight that libraries may be placing on the ability to provide information via the Internet on their decisions to remain in or to leave the FDLP. In today's work environment, in which increased productivity is expected and doing more with less is essential, the Internet can be an obvious alternative to physical collections, which require space and greater staff time and resources.

In the last decade, the essential association between the ability to provide access to government information and participation in the FDLP has broken down. The perception has developed that the Internet has rendered participation in the FDLP as optional in the goal of providing access to government information; an option that many libraries have decided is too expensive to maintain. As we continue into the twenty-first century, the FDLP and its member libraries will be forced to confront this disassociation. ∎

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16. Each library could have multiple reasons.
17. In three cases this was a stated reason.

Nominations Are Open for GODORT Awards

Nominations due December 1, 2004

ALA GODORT presents three major awards to recognize achievements by documents librarians, one award designed to encourage participation in professional study or publication, and a scholarship for an individual pursuing a library science degree. Awards will be presented at the Annual Conference in Chicago and will be selected by the Awards Committee at Midwinter in January 2005. The Awards Committee welcomes nominations and applications by **December 1, 2004.**

Nomination/application forms for all awards and the scholarship are available from the GODORT Web site (http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/GODORT/awards) or from the Awards Committee Chair, Susan Tulis. Applications will be accepted via e-mail (preferred), mail, or fax. Please send to Susan Tulis, Chair, ALA GODORT Awards Committee, Morris Library, Southern Illinois University, 605 Agriculture Dr., Carbondale, IL 62901; phone (618) 453-2522; fax (618) 453-3440; e-mail stulis@lib.siu.edu.

Awards

James Bennett Childs

The James Bennett Childs Award is a tribute to an individual who has made a lifetime and significant contribution to the field of documents librarianship. The award is based on stature, service, and publication, which may be in any or all areas of documents librarianship. The award winner receives a plaque with a likeness of James Bennett Childs.

LexisNexis/GODORT/ALA "Documents to the People"

The LexisNexis/GODORT/ALA "Documents to the People" Award is a tribute to an individual, library, institution, or other noncommercial group that has most effectively encouraged the use of government documents in support of library service. The award includes a $3,000 cash stipend to be used to support a project of the recipient's choice. Sponsored by LexisNexis Academic & Library Solutions.

Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award

The Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Award recognizes documents librarians who may not be known at the national level but who have made significant contributions to the field of state, international, local, or federal documents. This award recognizes those whose contributions have benefited not only the individual's institution but also the profession. Achievements in state, international, or local documents librarianship will receive first consideration. The award winner receives a plaque.

NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds

The NewsBank/Readex/ALA/GODORT Catharine J. Reynolds Award provides funding for research in the field of documents librarianship, or in a related area that would benefit the individual's performance as a documents librarian or make a contribution to the field. This award, established in 1987, is named for Catharine J. Reynolds, former head of Government Publications at the University of Colorado, Boulder. It is supported by an annual contribution of $2,000 from NewsBank, Inc./Readex.

Scholarship

W. David 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 masters degree in library science. This award, established in 1994, is named after W. David Rozkuszka, former documents librarian at Stanford University. The award recipient receives $3,000.

Please consider nominating a deserving individual for one of these awards prior to December 1, 2004.

CUAC Liaison Report

As GODORT representatives to the Cartographic Users Advisory Council (CUAC), both Donna Koepp and I attended the 2004 CUAC meeting, held 6 and 7 May at the Bureau of the Census in Suitland, MD.

Representatives from eight federal offices spoke on their agency's creation and distribution of geospatial data. Written reports from two additional agency representatives were presented and will be included in the official minutes. Final minutes of the agency reports will be published in upcoming versions of the ALA/MAGERT publication *base line*, and will also be posted on the CUAC Web site.

During the recent GODORT business meeting in Orlando, the GODORT membership voted $100 in seed money to help support a planned CUAC/Library of Congress-sponsored 2005 conference on transitions in maps and cartographic information. This conference is in its formative stages, content-wise, but the dates and venue are definite—12 and 13 May, 2005, at the Library of Congress. Mark your calendars and watch the discussion lists for more information.

Please send ideas for conference speakers and session topics to Mary McInroy, mary-mcinroy@uiowa.edu.

More information on CUAC can be found on the CUAC Web site at http://cuac.wustl.edu.—*Mary McInroy, GODORT representative to CUAC*

American Library Association
Council Report

Bernadine E. Abbott Hoduski, GODORT Councilor

Midwinter Meeting, San Diego, California, January 2004

As GODORT Councilor I attended the ALA Council and ALA Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA) meetings. All the resolutions initiated by GODORT passed Council. The *Key Government Information Principles* were passed after much discussion and the addition of key to the title. I argued that GODORT took the principles from policies already adopted by ALA and that GODORT and the Committee on Legislation were anxious to have them passed so it would be clear that these are principles supported by all of ALA and not just GODORT. It was also explained that they would be used in our current crisis in responding to the Public Printer's request for feedback on the proposal to start charging non-depository libraries users for access to *GPO Access.*

Council passed a number of resolutions that: (1) support bills that would undo parts of the USA PATRIOT Act; (2) oppose initiatives on the part of the U.S. Government to constrain the free expression of ideas or to inhibit the use of libraries; (3) commend ERIC for its good work; (4) commend the GPO and NARA for their memorandum of understanding that provides for preservation of and provision of permanent public access to government information; (5) oppose passage of H.R. 3261, the Database and Collections of Information Misappropriation Act; and (6) memorialize Senator Paul Simon's lifetime work of supporting libraries and the public's access to online government information.

Council debated the Core Values Task Force 2 report after discussing it in small groups. The core values are access, collaboration, diversity, education, intellectual freedom, preservation, privacy, professionalism, public good,

and service. Council spent almost as much time debating and defeating a resolution to rescind ALA's first expression of core values, "The best reading, for the largest number, at the least cost" passed in 1892.

Council accepted the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Intellectual Freedom joint report on Cuba which among other things expresses ALA's "deep concern over the arrest and long prison terms of political dissidents in Cuba in the Spring of 2003 and urges the Cuban government to respect, defend and promote the basic human rights defined in article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Council rejected a resolution governing the role of units of ALA in endorsing and working for candidates for ALA president and treasurer leaving it up to units to determine their own policy. The executive director did issue a set of guidelines for such campaigns at the request of the ALA executive board.

ALA sold its building at 30 East Huron and invested the money. It is keeping the building at 50 East Huron.

Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida, June 2004

Budget: Revenue for the Association is flat or below projections in several areas such as membership dues (despite a 2% increase in membership) and publications. ALA has reduced expenses with hiring freezes, unit expense reductions, and other budget reductions. ALA Council approved the FY2005 budgetary ceiling of $48,972,061. ALA plans on buying office space in Washington, D.C., on New Hampshire Avenue, which will be funded with $1 million from the ALA Endowment Fund and a $3.5 million mortgage. Members of Council protested the proposed elimi-

nation of the paper edition of the ALA *Handbook of Organization.*

ALA-APA: The ALA-APA screened a twelve-minute salary and pay equity advocacy video, *Working @ Your Library: For Love or Money.* In order to raise revenue for ALA-APA, the next membership renewal form will ask for $5 from each member. The online newsletter, *Library Worklife,* which was free to all ALA personal members will now cost $35 for ALA members and $60 for non-ALA members. The ALA-APA Council approved an ALA-APA budgetary ceiling of $302,681 for FY05.

Advocacy: ALA President-Elect Carol Brey-Casiano will promote grassroots library advocacy . A free, one-day ALA Advocacy Institute is planned for Friday, January 14, 2005, in Boston. A 10-minute video produced for the Campaign for Americas Libraries is available for advocacy initiatives.

Rural school, public and tribal libraries: ALA Council created a new Committee on Rural and Tribal Library Services to work with the appropriate units of ALA to develop a national advocacy campaign to advocate for library services in rural areas and tribal libraries. A budget of $40,000 was requested.

Core values: ALA Council adopted a report by the 2nd Core Values Task Force identifying 11 core values that provide the foundation of modern librarianship and define, inform, and guide professional practice. They are: access, confidentiality/privacy, democracy, diversity, education and lifelong learning, intellectual freedom, preservation, the public good, professionalism, service, and social responsibility.

Intellectual freedom: The Intellectual Freedom Committee completed an online privacy toolkit available at www.ala.org/oif/iftoolkits/privacy. The Committee is also updating the ALA *Intellectual Freedom Handbook.* ALA

Council approved revisions to eight policies in the *Handbook*. Council passed a resolution asking the FCC to reconsider its new standards for enforcing its indecency policies.

Legislative Concerns: ALA is working with a coalition of groups supporting bills amending provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act that infringe on the civil liberties of the public. ALA is also working against passage of legislation that would expand law enforcement agencies ability to use such tools as as administrative subpoenas without court oversight. ALA Council adopted 5 resolutions moved by the Committee on Legislation, including Guidelines for Sensitive Information; Securing Government Accountability through Whistleblower Protection; Access to and Ownership of Government Information; Superinten-

dent of Documents Salaries and Expenses Appropriation for FY2005; and supporting reinstatement of the Administrative Conference of the United States.

The GODORT Committee on Legislation worked closely with the ALA Committee on Legislation Subcommittee on Government Information to craft the 5 resolutions. GODORT voted to support these resolutions at its business meeting.

Membership meeting quorum: ALA Council approved a resolution to reduce the quorum for ALA Membership meetings to seventy-five members. ALA membership will be asked to approve this reduction on a mail ballot.

Electronic balloting: ALA Council adopted a resolution asking that ALA elections as well as electronic and information technology services be accessible for people with disabilities.

Torture: ALA Council adopted a resolution condemning the use or threat of torture by the U.S. government.

Iraq: ALA Council defeated a resolution calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and the internationalization of assistance to Iraq.

NEW GODORT COUNCILOR: Congratulations to Cathy Hartman, newly elected GODORT Councilor. I have been honored to serve two terms as GODORT councilor. As a newly elected at-large Councilor, I will continue to support issues of importance to the documents community. There are a number of Councilors who are supporters of "documents to the people" and we hope to establish a government documents caucus.—***Bernadine E. Abbott Hoduski***, *GODORT Councilor*

Get Involved with GODORT

Run for OFFICE!

The GODORT Nominating Committee is seeking members to run for GODORT offices. Elected offices include a wide variety of leadership and committee positions. Take advantage of this opportunity to direct the future of GODORT and provide input in the direction of access to government information. Experienced and new members are encouraged to consider running for office. If you are unable to run this year, please inform the committee of other GODORT members you would recommend for an office. The following offices are up for election this year:

❚ Assistant Chair/Chair-Elect (3 year commitment: 1st year-Assistant Chair/Chair Elect; 2nd year- Chair; 3rd year-Immediate Past Chair)
❚ Secretary (1 year)
❚ Treasurer (2 years)
❚ Awards Committee (2 years)—3 positions
❚ Bylaws and Organization Committee (2 years)—2 positions
❚ Nominating Committee (2 years)—2 positions

❚ Publications Committee Chair/Chair-Elect (2 years: 1st year Chair-Elect; 2nd-year Chair)
❚ Federal Documents Task Force Assistant Coordinator/Coordinator-Elect (2 year commitment, 1st-year Assistant Coordinator/Coordinator-Elect; 2nd-year Coordinator)
❚ Federal Documents Task Force Secretary (1 year)
❚ International Documents Task Force Assistant Coordinator/Coordinator-Elect (2 year commitment, 1st-year Assistant Coordinator/Coordinator-Elect; 2nd-year Coordinator)
❚ International Documents Task Force Secretary (1 year)
❚ State and Local Documents Task Force Assistant Coordinator/Coordinator-Elect (2 year commitment, 1st-year Assistant Coordinator/Coordinator-Elect; 2nd-year Coordinator)
❚ State and Local Documents Task Force Secretary (1 year)

The Nomination Form is available online at: http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/GODORT/nominating (please use the RTF format), or you may request a copy

from a Nominating Committee member. Deadline: December 15, 2004.

Join a GODORT Committee!

In addition to elected office, GODORT has many other opportunities for involvement. Members may accept a formal appointment or they may volunteer to work with a committee or task force and participate in a project of interest. To get involved informally, simply make contact with the chair of the committee or task force or attend the meetings to identify projects of interest. The GODORT Volunteer Form provides members an opportunity to express their interest in committee work. Information is passed to the current chair to fill vacancies and the assistant-chair for future committee appointments.

For more details on all the committees and task forces and for elected positions, see the GODORT homepage at: http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/GODORT. The GODORT Volunteer Form is available online: http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/GODORT/nominating, or request a copy from a member of the Nominating Committee.

Notice of Proposed Bylaws Change

At ALA in Orlando 2004, the GODORT Steering Committee voted to approve language to be sent to the membership for a proposed bylaws change. The language will be voted on by the membership at the Midwinter Meeting.

The proposed change will shift the role of the Web administrator from *Policy and Procedures Manual* (*PPM*) editor to one who will simply upload changes in the manual. The role of editing *PPM* will shift from the Publications Committee to the Bylaws and Organization Committee.

Rationale: The Web administrator is a technician and should not have additional editorial responsibilities. If the Bylaws and Organization Committee edits the *PPM* changes submitted by GODORT task forces and committees they will immediately be able to note changes required in the bylaws, and vice versa. This will result in more timely changes to both documents.

All GODORT units retain ultimate responsibility for their own sections of the *PPM*, with the Bylaws and Organization Committee providing overall support for editorial consistency.

The exact wording of the bylaws change is posted on the Bylaws and Organization Committee Web page, upper right corner (below the Bylaws and *PPM*). Please read the document changes. At Midwinter Business Meeting in January (Boston) we will vote on the change.—**Barbara Miller**, *Chair, Bylaws and Organization Committee*

Interested in Serving on Depository Library Council?

The Depository Library Council (DLC) is an advisory board to the Public Printer of the United States. Each year, GODORT recommends up to five people to be nominated by the ALA Executive Board for service on DLC. Nominations are forwarded to the Public Printer for consideration. To express your interest fill out the Depository Library Council Nomination Form located on the GODORT Web page at http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/GODORT/nominating (please use the RTF format), or request a copy from the GODORT Nominating Committee. Resumes cannot be substituted for the application form. The GODORT Steering Committee will recommend up to five names during the 2005 ALA Midwinter Meeting (Boston). The deadline for nominations is December 1, 2004.

Members of the GODORT Nominating Committee are Bill Sudduth, Chair; Linda Kopecky; Dena Hutto; and Yvonne Wilson. (Contact information for the committee is available at http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/GODORT/nominating.)

Rozkuszka Scholarship Fundraiser a Success!

The GODORT Development Committee is pleased to report that the Rozkuszka Scholarship Fundraiser (renamed from GODORT silent auction), held at the 2004 ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, raised $2800. Monetary donations bring the total to more than $3,000. The $3,000 will support the 2005 W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship; any revenue generated beyond $3,000 will be deposited in the scholarship endowment fund. David Rozkuszka provided the initial monies in his estate for the scholarship. Our goal is for interest from the endowment to grow enough to support the annual scholarship. Until that time, the Rozkuszka Scholarship Fundraiser will try to generate enough revenue each year to completely support the scholarship as well as build the endowment.

I want to take this opportunity to thank those members and friends (listed below) that donated items to the silent auction. Your generosity ensured that we reached our goal to support a scholarship for 2005.

- David Braden, Readex
- Superintendent of Documents, GPO
- John Hernandez (Princeton University) and wife, Kim Wobick
- Susan Tulis (Southern Illinois University)
- Lynne Siemers (Washington Hospital Center)
- Gayle Christian (Georgia State University)
- Valerie Glenn (University of Northern Iowa)
- George Barnum (U.S. Government Printing Office)
- Robin Haun-Mohamed (U.S. Government Printing Office)
- Barbie Selby (University of Virginia)
- Carol Turner (University of Florida)
- Diane VanderPol (Michigan State University)
- Sandra Peterson (Yale University)
- Bernadine Abbott Hoduski (retired)
- Gwen Sinclair (University of Hawaii at Manoa)
- Ann Miller (Duke University)
- Julia Gelfand (University of California, Irvine)

- Julia Wallace (University of Minnesota) and daughter-in-law, Westy Copeland
- Bill Sudduth (University of South Carolina)
- Andrea Morrison (Indiana University) and Barbara Mann (University of Southern Maine)
- Jan Goldsmith (UCLA)
- Ken Svengalis (Rhode Island Law Press)
- Linda Johnson (University of New Hampshire)
- Barbara Kile (retired)

A big Thank You as well to the many auction bidders and to those who staffed the booth. Many other members have contributed monetarily to the scholarship endowment fund, and the Development Committee also greatly appreciates their generosity. If you would like to make a donation towards the scholarship endowment, please send your checks to the GODORT treasurer Ann Miller at the following address, indicating in the memo line that it is for the scholarship endowment fund:

Ann E. Miller
Federal Documents Librarian
Public Documents & Maps
Perkins Library
Duke University
Durham, NC 27708-0177

A Little About David Rozkuszka and the Scholarship

Many of you never knew David but I was lucky enough to have had the privilege. He was the foreign and international documents librarian at Stanford University for more than 25 years. He was a wonderful colleague and *an expert* in foreign government documents. He had endless patience and was always ready to assist a colleague on the other end of the telephone line in ferreting out that elusive source, whether you were a neophyte documents librarian or an experienced one. He had a wonderful sense of humor and is fondly remembered by many. Two of his colleagues, Carol Turner and Ann Latta, stated upon his retirement and subsequent death:

> David is an incomparable original whose work has set the standard for all who have worked with him in any capacity. [Taken from http://sunsite.Berkeley.edu/GODORT/awards/roz_bio.html]

The W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship was established in 1994 to provide financial assistance to an individual who is currently working with government documents in a library and is trying to complete a masters' degree in library science.—*Sandy Peterson*

2004 Annual Conference Wrap-Up, GODORT Highlights

Orlando, FL, June 25–29, 2004

The GODORT pre-conference "Make the Most of What You've Got: Improving Access to Government Information in Your Online Catalog" was attended by seventy-seven participants. It was co-sponsored by GODORT's Cataloging Committee and ALCTS, with support from Marcive, Inc., ExLibris, Innovative Interfaces and SIRSI. Speakers were from the Government Printing Office (GPO), vendors, and users of bibliographic records for documents in online catalogs.

At the first GODORT Steering Committee, Andrea Morrison, Chair, reported on activities since Midwinter and the GODORT treasurer, Ann Miller, reported on the budget. The GODORT Councilor, Bernadine Abbott Hoduski, reported on Council activities and presented her report as liaison from the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF). A new GODORT liaison for FTRF is actively being sought. Due to budget restrictions, adding the FTRF liaison cost to the budget was not approved.

In a close vote, the pre-conference proposal for 2005 from REGP was not approved. Steering approved that the Chair of GODORT send a letter regarding the absence of GODORT's visibility in official ALA communications letters to appropriate ALA officials.

The GODORT Update included the following speakers. Noriko Gimes from the Library of the UN reported on *UNBISNET* and the Official Document System. Judy Russell, Superintendent of Documents, discussed GPO strategic planning and asked for feedback on documents. Dan Barkley, Chair of Depository Library Council spoke about Council's activities. Next, a panel of speakers spoke on the topic of permanent public access to government information.

In their meeting, the Federal Documents Task Force (FDTF) discussed the need for ongoing monitoring and feedback concerning GPO strategic planning. As no pre-conference was accepted for 2005, FDTF refined the idea of a pre-conference for government information novices discussed Midwinter as "Government Documents 101" to propose to the Program Committee.

The International Documents Task Force (IDTF) meeting included reports from the World Bank, OECD, World Tourism Organization, United Nations, European Union, Center for Research Libraries, Bernan, and the IDTF Agency Liaison Program. Canadian Government Publications developments were discussed. A second IFLA representative recommended by IDTF, Jackie Druery, was nominated by GODORT to ALA.

The State and Local Documents Task Force (SLDTF) hosted speakers

Richard Matthews on the AALL report on State Government Information and Megan Waters on the Palmm project, a state digitization partnership project.

The GODORT and the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table of ALA (FAFLRT) held a joint reception Sunday evening at the beautiful University of Central Florida Rosen College of Hospitality Management Library to socialize and to present awards.

GODORT award recipients included: Robert A. Walter, Dean of the Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University (James Bennett Childs Award), the California Digital Library represented by Rosalie Lack for Counting California (LexisNexis/GODORT/ALA Documents to the People Award), Dr. Kristin R. Eschenfelder, Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison (NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds Research Grant Award), Melody S. Kelly, Associate Dean of Libraries, University of North Texas (Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award), and Mark Phillips (W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship). The reception was supported by Newsbank/Readex Corporation and LexisNexis and planned by the Conference and Awards Committees. For more information about the five GODORT Award recipients, please see http://sunsite3.berkeley.edu/GODORT/awards/awards2004.html.

The Bylaws and Organization Committee discussed and agreed to a new role concerning editing and maintaining the *Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM)* in cooperation with the Publications Committee.

The Cataloging Committee hosted two speakers from GPO: Gil Baldwin presented initial planning of the National Bibliography Program and Lori Hall reported on the Office of Bibliographic Services and retrospective cataloging efforts. Also discussed were the GODORT pre-conference, map cataloging, and a project to catalog the ASI non-depository microfiche.

The Conference Committee organized the set up and scheduling of volunteers needed at the GODORT exhibit booth during the conference.

The Development Committee met and planned ways to increase GODORT revenue through future fundraising activities. The Chair will contact ALA offices concerning ALA scholarships and endowments.

The Education Committee discussed the merger of the online GODORT Handout Exchange and Clearinghouse, core competencies for government information staff, and an @ your library campaign® relevant to government information. Grace York was thanked for her contributions in editing the Clearinghouse. Two separate poster sessions were presented by Education Committee members on using government documents in information literacy education.

GITCO continued their discussion on CD-ROM legacy issues, planning next steps in their project to review CD and DVD-ROM depository titles. GITCO will contribute the contents of its Digital Projects Clearinghouse to GPO to form the basis of their digital projects registry and help launch their National Digitization Project. Grace York gave a presentation on using PDQ Explore software, a user-friendly system for extracting Census data from the Public Use Microdata Samples. A preconference on the upcoming American Community Survey was planned.

The GODORT Legislation committee worked on resolutions, which were presented and endorsed by GODORT at the Business Meeting. They are available on the Committee's Web site, http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/godort/legislation.

The Membership Committee discussed publishing a new GODORT brochure, the mentoring program, alternatives for membership categories and planning for GODORT meetings at Federal Depository Library Conferences. They hosted the successful GODORT new members lunch directly after the GODORT Update.

At their first meeting, the Program Committee evaluated the successful GODORT preconference. At their second meeting, the Program committee reviewed the SLDTF program for this conference, "Potholes on the Informa-

tion Highway: Improving Access to Local Government Information," which was well received. The Committee voted to recommend a FDTF pre-conference for 2005 designed to provide public service staff from any type of library with the basics for effectively locating and accessing government information.

The Publications Committee heard the reports of the *DttP* editor, Notable Documents Panel Chair and the GODORT Web Administrator. The Committee also discussed editing *PPM* and looked at ownership and responsibilities for Web pages. Two candidates for the GODORT Web Administrator position were interviewed.

The Rare and Endangered Government Publications (REGP) Committee heard a presentation from the Subcommittee for Endangered 1932–1962 Federal Documents.

At the GODORT Business Meeting, the Treasurer's report and the budget were discussed at length with the result of approving a 2005–2006 budget that included conservative budget measures. These will allow GODORT to increase a reserve fund as required by ALA. Also approved was a request from Mary McInroy for GODORT to fund $100.00 in support of a national meeting sponsored by the Cartographic Users Advisory Council (CUAC).

At second Steering, the recommendation of the Program Committee for a 2005 preconference proposed by FDTF was discussed and approved. Steering also approved the Publication Committee's recommendation for the GODORT Web administrator, by written ballot, as the two candidates for this position were not in attendance. The proposal by Publications and Bylaws and Organization concerning the responsibilities of the *PPM* editing and maintenance was also approved. Steering took no further action on the revisions of ALA's *Intellectual Freedom Manual.* The 2004–2005 appointments roster was approved and the new Steering Committee took office under John Stevenson, Chair.

—*Andrea Morrison*

Steering Committee 2004-2005

For updates to this document, and for the committee and task force directories, see http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/GODORT/Directory.

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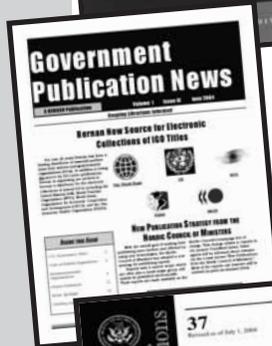
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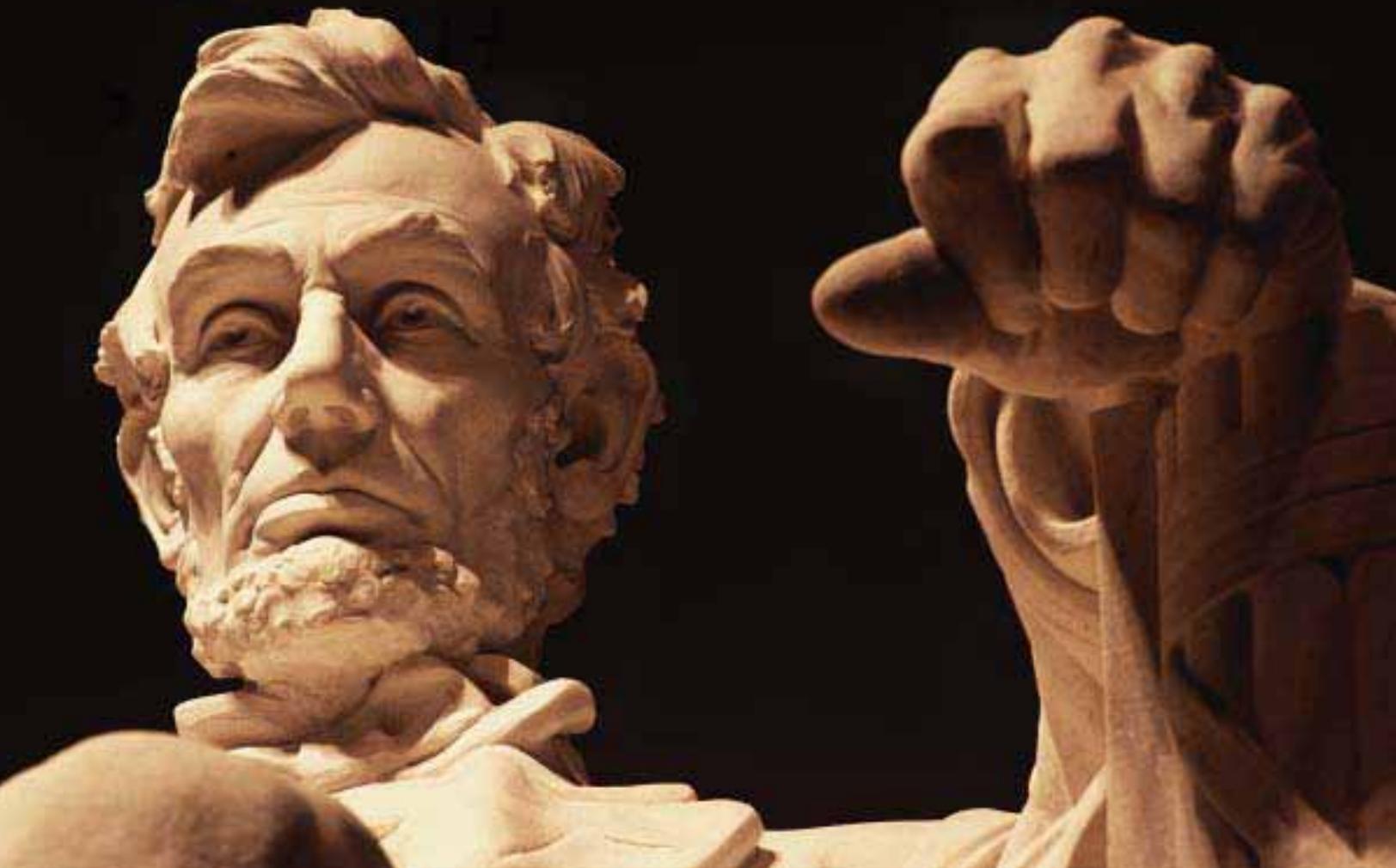
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