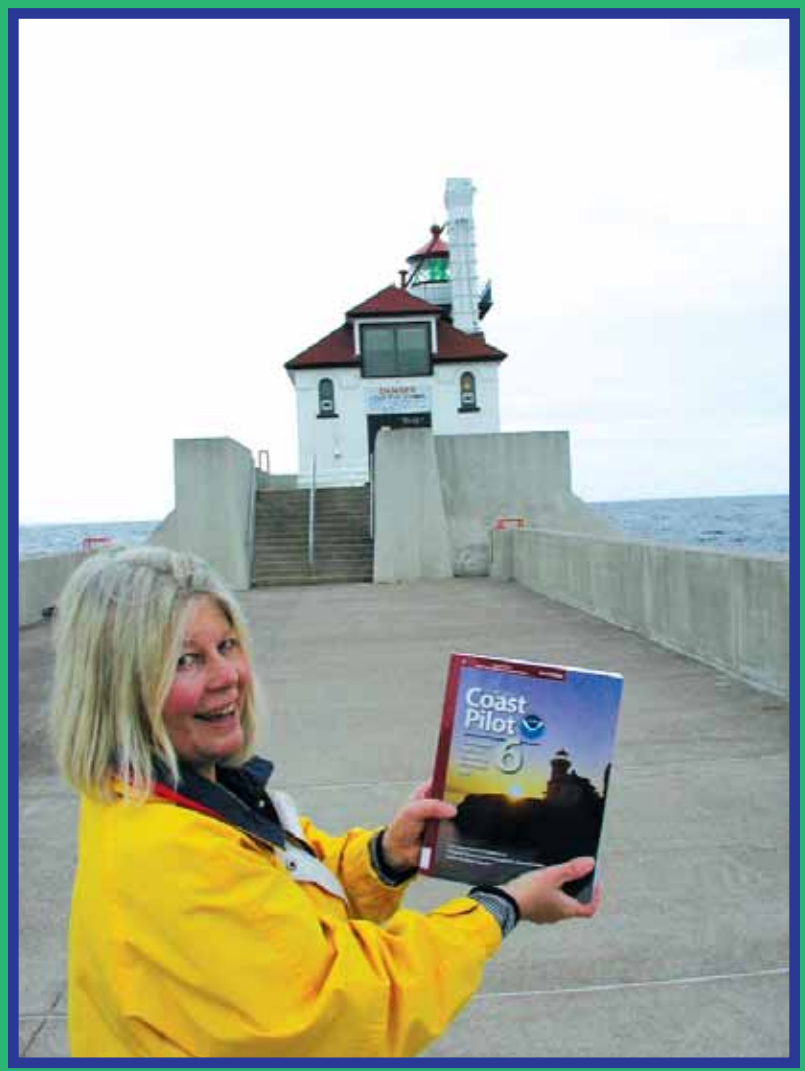
DttP

Documents to the People

Spring 2005 | Volume 33, No. 1
ISSN 0091-2085

In This Issue



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LIBRARY JOURNAL
SEPTEMBER 15, 2003

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DttP features articles on local, state, national, and international government information and government activities and documents the professional activities of GODORT. The opinions expressed by its contributors are their own and do not necessarily represent those of GODORT. Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply endorsement by ALA/GODORT of the products or services offered.

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Contributions: Articles, news items, letters, and other information intended for publication in *DttP* should be submitted to the Lead Editor. All submitted material is subject to editorial review. Please see the Web site for additional information, above.

Indexing: Indexed in *Library Literature* 19, no. 1 (1991) and *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* 33, no. 1 (2005).

Editorial Production: ALA Production Services—Troy D. Linker, Angela Hanshaw; Stephanie Kuenn, Kristen McKulski, Karen Sheets, and Christine Velez.

DttP

Documents to the People

Spring 2005 | Volume 33, No. 1

Columns

Articles

Reviews 33

'Round the Table

About the cover: Our cover photograph is of Ann Jenkins holding *United States Coast Pilot 6, Great Lakes and Their Connecting Waterways 2003*, from the U.S. National Ocean Service (C 55.422:6/2003). This photo, taken by David Ouse, was used in the MLA (Minnesota Library Association) Read (Docs!) Campaign at http://govpubs.lib.umn.edu/forum/read2003.phtml. Both David and Ann are from the Duluth (Minn.) Public Library.

Editor's Corner

Andrea Sevetson

Before I start on my thoughts from the corner, I need to 'fess up to an error in the last issue. Somewhere in the editing process, we managed to reverse two words in the title of John Kawula's article. The correct title should have been: *The Relevance of Political Advocacy Literature to the Library Field: A Case Study of the National Landscape Conservation System*.

The *DttP* team is quite pleased to announce that, beginning with this issue, we'll be indexed by *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts*. This is in addition to our ongoing indexing in *Library Literature*.

Like many of you, I have been transfixed by the photos of the Halloween flood at the University of Hawaii, Manoa Library. The photo that sticks out in my mind is of the wreckage of what was the Government Documents library and shows many *U.S. Statutes at Large* on the shelves, just over from the *Code of Federal Regulations* and other reference items (www.drdriving.org/flood/october_flood-Pages/Image84.html). The Hawaii flood seems, to me, remarkable because of the totality—all the books, the computers, offices, files, everything.

Since I no longer work in a government documents library, photos like this bring back fond memories of great reference excursions into the classic collections that our libraries are made of—the kinds of reference questions that really mark us as documents librarians.

Unfortunately, this photo also brings back memories of other library disasters I have witnessed or heard of. The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake in northern California brought shelves down and opened microfiche drawers, causing whole cabinets to fall over and interfile the microfiche with those from the cabinet across the aisle. One flood story that stays in my mind involves a library entrance located grandly down some outdoor stairs. There were some heavy rains, and the water came down the hills, down the stairs, and straight into the front doors of the library. There were four hurricanes that crossed Florida this year, and one or two more that hit the southeastern U.S. The fire at the University of Georgia Library wasn't the first in a library, and won't be the last.

American Libraries routinely features photos from the larger tragedies, but we all witness smaller ones as well. One of these occurred several years ago in a library where I worked. After approximately two years of demolition to a ten-story, internal stack, they restarted the blowers that had previously pulled air through the book-filled stacks. These blowers were now easily pulling air through a cavernous space and they pulled what seemed like every particle of dust from the floor and the air ducts and transferred them into the air of our reading room while patrons were working. After two days of cleanup, the error was repeated as some bright individual once again flipped the switch on the blowers—before they had been reset to a more reasonable volume—thus repeating the event.

How many disasters can you think of that could take place in your library—floods, mold, bugs, earthquakes? How far does your imagination go? And just consider, I've listed only the disasters from the U.S. that I could think of off of the top of my head—no research was involved in creating this list. You may not be in a flood plain, but a single toilet working overtime can cause a lot of damage.

There is almost nothing in the documents literature about planning for or dealing with disasters, which is interesting considering how often documents collections are affected. One notable exception is from the Federal Depository Library Conference, October 22–25, 2000, where Stephen Henson, then of Louisiana Tech University, presented a paper, "Writing the Disaster Response Plan: Going Beyond Shouting 'Help! Help!'" (www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/proceedings/00pro28.html). The paper is approximately ten pages long, including a short bibliography. When you consider the possible disasters Stephen lists: fire, flood, earthquake, tornado, hurricane, bomb threat, civil disturbance or riot, work-place violence, hostage situation, high temperatures, high or low humidity, mold and mildew, pests, and asbestos, you almost wonder why your library may have escaped unscathed—so far. Print the document out, and start thinking about it. Better yet, start planning.

And, if you've had a disaster, send me a note (dttp.editor@verizon.net) with a short description—we might run a few of these stories in the future.

Enjoy your issue of *DttP*! ▮

From the Chair

John A. Stevenson

For many people, spring is associated with blooming trees, flowering plants, and the beginning of the new growing season. For many GODORT members, it's time for the spring Depository Library Council (DLC) meeting. This year's meeting will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and its focus will be discussion of the GPO's plans for the coming fiscal year. The agenda lists sessions on GPO's strategic vision, authentication and version control, and future tangible product distribution to depositories. Speaking at the ALA Midwinter Meeting, Superintendent of Documents Judy Russell indicated that the FY 2006 budget will not support the distribution of all tangible products currently in the FDLP and that planning for how to use available funds will be finalized following the spring DLC meeting. These topics are critical for the future of the program, and GODORT seeks to encourage fruitful discussions between GPO and its depository library partners.

Spring is the time for sowing and planting. For those working in the field of government information, growing the *Federal Depository Library Program Electronic Collection* can be very

satisfying. How many people have found useful new publications online and wondered why they're not in the *Catalog of U.S. Government Publications*? Anyone can report new fugitive titles to lostdocs@gpo.gov. For those willing to do more, the Electronic Documents Working Group (EDWG) offers volunteers the opportunity to comb agency sites for titles the FDLP lacks. Information about the program and how to sign up for an agency are linked from the FDLP Desktop (www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp). The EDWG is a partnership of librarians and GPO catalogers. Librarians submit electronic titles that fall within the scope of the program for cataloging and archiving by GPO. Submitting a title in an online series to GPO catalogers also plants the seed for future titles in the series to be identified, archived, and cataloged for everyone to use. Sign up now and harvest catalog records for these resources when they're ripe! I look forward to seeing many members in Albuquerque! ▮

On the Range

The Business Model Is Not the Business

Brian W. Rossmann

At the beginning of 2005, librarians in the documents community are dazed and confused by an uncertain future. There have been many signs for years from the GPO, Congress, and from government agencies that someday virtually all government information would be distributed only in electronic format. Nevertheless, now that it appears that this is truly about to come to pass, many in the documents community feel as if the rug has suddenly been pulled out from under their feet without warning.

Indeed, it does seem to have all happened rather quickly. Just weeks before, in the midst of the holiday season, GPO released its *Strategic Vision for the 21st Century* (www.gpo.gov/congressional/pdfs/04strategicplan.pdf). Most of this document purportedly was penned by the U.S. Public Printer himself, Bruce James. It promises, among other things, to "Focus [the] Federal Depository Library Program on Digital Content Management." In other words, GPO will not be providing very much in the way of tangible publications for distribution to depository libraries in the future. Next, at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston, Superintendent of Documents Judy Russell discussed GPO's current budget appropriation request. In a nutshell, the appropriation request for the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) is being held at a stable level; however, GPO's costs for highly trained professional staff and other needs in this new digital world means that only $2.5 million to $5 million will be made available for FDLP printing in fiscal year 2006. The bottom line is that GPO tentatively plans on printing only the 50 *Essential Titles for Public Use in Paper Format* (www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/estitles.html) for FDLP distribution and allocating each selective depository library $500 for print-on-demand of other titles that each library feels is necessary for its own collection. Regional depository libraries will receive a $1,500 print-on-demand allocation. As Porky Pig would say: "That's all folks!"

A program that is focused on digital content management is quite different from the business model of the FDLP that has persisted for so long. Under the traditional FDLP business model, tangible items are distributed to depository libraries across the country. Government documents librarians have defined themselves in relation to the FDLP: they are librarians who work in depository libraries with depository collections. What then is to become of us if the spigot is turned off and shipments of tangible items from GPO cease?

First of all, we should remind ourselves that the business model is *not* the business. The model under which we have all labored for more than a century has been one that has inextricably linked documents librarians with GPO and the FDLP. But it does not need to be that way. Our real business has not been the FDLP: it has been and continues to be providing access to government information. This is easy to forget when so much of what we do—how we have defined ourselves—is based on the day-to-day activities of running a depository: opening the shipping boxes, checking shipping lists, going through the annual selection process, etc. However, even if GPO were to be stricken from existence by an act of Congress tomorrow, and libraries no longer sported FDLP stickers on their front doors, government information would continue to abound on the Internet. Government documents librarians would still be needed. Our business would still be there.

I don't fault anybody for being distressed by the recent announcements from GPO. Nevertheless, it does seem clear that our future lies almost exclusively with electronic documents, and that the FDLP of the future may be little more than a shadow of what it has been. Documents librarians will be challenged to gain systematic bibliographic control over digital objects and complex electronic collections. They will need to continue to develop appropriate metadata standards. The issue of permanent access to ephemeral and fugitive documents will be ongoing. Locating specific information in the digital world will require librarians more highly skilled in documents reference. Consequently, under the new model of an electronic FDLP, government information specialists may actually be more important than they were under the traditional model. What is clear is that government information itself will remain important and abundant. It may become more complex for citizens to navigate the

morass of digital documents that will compose virtual collections. Consequently, government information specialists will continue to play a seminal role in bringing documents to the people and managing digital collections, perhaps more than ever.

A very legitimate question librarians were asking each other and the Superintendent of Documents in discussions at the Midwinter Meeting was: if very few titles are going to be distributed to depositories, what is the benefit of remaining in the FDLP? (Curiously, Ms. Russell was unable to offer a compelling answer.) This is a question with which our community will need to wrestle. More alarming to documents librarians, however, is the certainty that library administrators and boards of directors will be asking this same question and scrutinizing the resources that are being allocated to depository operations. They will be asking why it is still necessary to have documents departments and staff in a completely digital FDLP. Yes, some reallocation of staffing resources may be appropriate (after all, there won't be as many boxes to unpack and process or books to shelve), but you and I probably agree that government information specialists will continue to be essential to our libraries' missions. As documents librarians, we need to be able to clearly articulate this to our library administrators and be ready to argue forcefully why we are valuable—and we need to begin planning for this now!

What the future FDLP, focused largely on digital content management rather than tangible collections, will look like is still largely a matter of conjecture. For government information specialists, these are understandably frightening times because we do not clearly understand what lies ahead. But they are also exciting times. We all can have a hand in designing a new model for delivering government information at our libraries in the future—potentially one that is even better at keeping the public informed. In the past, our roles as documents librarians were by and large defined by an entity external not only to our organizations but also to our profession: GPO. We now have the opportunity to redefine ourselves on our own terms, and we should be cautious not to allow GPO to mold us into what suits its purposes. Our new model must be one that best meets the needs of our patrons and libraries—not GPO. Should the FDLP business model as we know it disappear, libraries and government information specialists will still have a great role to play in providing access to government information. The business model is not the business. ▮

By the Numbers

Exit Polls: Votes You Can Count On?

Stephen Woods

News organizations have been collecting, counting, and reporting on votes in the United States since 1832. Journalists recognized early on the new nation's fascination with numbers and used elections statistics to increase their circulation. The earliest methods for collecting voting statistics, popularly called straw polls, were very unsophisticated. The common premise was that the more questionnaires one could distribute and collect, the more accurately predictions could be made. This method proved woefully inaccurate when in 1936 the *Literary Digest* magazine sent out more than ten million ballots and used the result to predict that Alfred M. Landon would defeat Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Out of the *Literary Digest* straw poll debacle several social scientists emerged, each claiming to a have better method for collecting and analyzing election statistics. Among these were George Gallup, Elmo Roper, Paul Cherington, and Archibald Crossely, all of whom pioneered new methods for collecting polls. These methods primarily focused on new ways of sampling populations and developing better questionnaires.

By the 1960s, news organizations developed more sophisticated methods for projecting the outcomes of elections before the votes were actually counted. Results from pre-election samples, exit polls, precinct samples, and partial election returns were all part of a system put in place by the media to provide their audiences with faster and more reliable information. The competition to be the first one to report outcomes was fierce, coinciding with the increasing cost for polling and projection data. In 1993, the major networks (ABC, CBS, CNN, Fox News, and NBC) along with the Associated Press (AP) formed the Voter News Service (VNS) in order to share expenses for increasing costs and to expand the coverage and sophistication of voter polls.[1]

What Are Exit Polls?

Essentially, exit polls are a means of gathering data from voters after they have voted and as they leave the polling center. They include questions about the individual's vote choice in different contests and issues related to the person's vote, as well as questions about demographics such as gender, age and race. Although this method seems fairly straightforward, there are several factors that can lead to errors.

Where Are the Polls Taken?

Exit polls are taken from sample model precincts. During the 2000 election in Florida, only 120 precincts out of 5,885 were designated as model precincts. This means that the model precincts that are chosen must accurately reflect the general population of a state. Often this is done by selecting model precincts based on previous elections. In a post-election review for 2000 VNS reported that they were able to only staff 84 percent of the model precincts nationwide, meaning that 16 percent of the model precincts were not covered. This

was further exacerbated by the fact that some precincts were changed due to the redistricting for the 2002 elections.

Who Is Polled in the Model Precinct?

A trained interviewer from the local community asks selected voters to fill out a questionnaire. It was estimated that the average response rate in the 2000 exit polls was 51 percent. In sum, the voter count from the model precincts is based on a sample of voters and also based only on those who choose to respond to the exit poll. Sample surveys are also administered by phone to early and absentee voters, but it is extremely hard to estimate the percentage of voters who will choose this method of voting.

Other factors can distort the findings and effectiveness of exit polls. Among these are the quality of the questionnaire, training and quality of the interviewer, location of the interviewer in relation to the polling place, and truthfulness of the responses. However, the most important question that the media began to ask following the 2000 and 2002 elections was what responsibility they had in reporting projections prematurely and how exit polls should be used.[2]

How Are Exit Polls Used?

Exit polls can be an effective research tool for describing the profile and opinions of the electorate following an election. Scholars and the media have used exit polls to provide interesting insight into trends and shifts in attitudes. However, many scholars criticize their use as an effective tool for predicting election results. One of the main criticisms levied against exit polls is that they can potentially reduce voter turnout because voters lose motivation when they see the probable outcome. Another criticism is that exit polls are not held to scientific rigor because they are not based on strict probability sampling. Consequently, some scholars consider them glorified straw polls. In sum, the principal problem is not in the exit polls themselves, but in the way that they are used.

Conclusion

VNS was disbanded after the 2002 election and its functions were taken over by Edison Media Research, Mitofsky International, and AP. They were appointed in 2003 by the National Election Pool, a consortium consisting of the ABC, CBS, CNN, Fox, and NBC television networks and AP.[3] The media was much more cautious in its televised coverage of the 2004 elections, often stating that a race was "too close to call" and that they were justifiably skeptical of the results of the exit polls. However, it was clear that the nation's fascination with numbers and interest in exit polls as a predictor for the election were not completely squelched. The *Boston Globe* and *San Francisco Chronicle* reported after the election that exit poll data had been leaked to various political web sites, such as drudgereport.com and wonkette.com, and that these sites received heavy traffic from individuals seeking information.[4]

The implications of leaking this information to political web sites raise several interesting issues. Are citizens aware of the limitations of polls in making predictions? Are there special skills one needs to evaluate whether or not the information is reliable? Do the media have some responsibility regarding how this information is distributed? What effect is the web having on our political process? ▮

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2. Konner, Joan. "The Case for Caution: This System Is Dangerously Flawed." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 67, no. 1 (2003): 5–18.
3. For more details about the National Election Pool go to: www.exit-poll.net.
4. "Exit Polls: Early Numbers Misread and Misused." *San Francisco Chronicle*, Nov. 4, 2004, A16; "Election 2004: America Votes." *Boston Globe*, Nov. 3, 2004, A20.

International Documents Roundup

MyiLibrary and SourceOECD Reviewed

Christof Galli

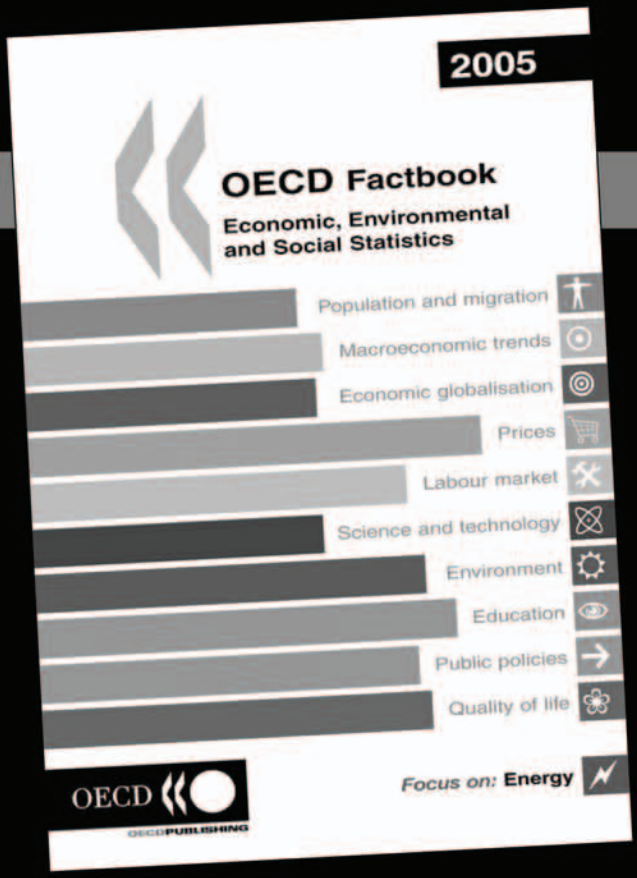
This update focuses on two products that provide one-stop shopping access to international governmental organization (IGO) publications, *MyiLibrary* and *SourceOECD*.

MyiLibrary

MyiLibrary, produced by Coutts Information Services, is a new electronic platform for digitally born publications from international agencies such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Administration (IAEA), and UNAIDS: The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. Publications are available from roughly the early 1990s forward. In addition to materials from international governmental organizations, MyiLibrary incorporates electronic versions of books from publishers such as Blackwell, Cambridge University Press, Humana Press, Palgrave, Taylor & Francis, and Springer.

Both segments of the collection can be searched for relevant publications through a quick search and an advanced search interface. The quick search option is available in the left-hand column of the page listing the available collections. The advanced search box appears in a separate window

OECD Factbook 2005



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For each indicator, there is a two-page spread. The page on the left is textual and includes a short introductory text followed by a detailed definition of the indicator, comments on comparability of the data, an assessment of long-term trends related to the indicator, and a list of references for further information on the indicator. The page on the right contains a table and a graph with a graph providing—at a glance—the key message conveyed by the data.

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when the advanced search button is pressed in the collections page. Search options in the advanced mode are ISBN or ISSN, author/editor, title, full text, subject (controlled vocabulary), publisher, publication year or year range, and Library of Congress or Dewey Decimal classification number.

Once a relevant publication has been identified, it opens in a new browser window. The table of contents appears in the left-hand column. Chapter headings can be exploded by clicking adjacent plus signs to show section and subsection headings, which can be clicked to access the specific text. The text appears in the right-hand panel and scrolls independently of the table of contents. Links to previous and succeeding pages of HTML documents are available at the top of the page. A forward arrow is available at the bottom. A cite button at the top of the page opens a separate window, providing the exact citation of the document formatted according to the rules of the Modern Language Association, Chicago, American Psychological Association, or Harvard style manuals.

Texts of individual publications are searchable. In HTML publications search options are "exact word(s)" or "all forms of the word(s)." PDF documents are searchable with the Acrobat Reader search feature.

MyiLibrary also offers an annotation feature in which readers can store their personal notes and bookmarks in individual publications. The notes are linked with a bookmark to the specific location in the text. The notes are password-protected and can be saved and re-opened. The use of this feature requires the creation of an account.

Another tool available at the individual publication level is a dictionary. Accessible by clicking on a tab in the left-hand column, it opens up a search box in which the search term can be entered. Definitions of terms are retrieved from The-FreeDictionary.com by Farlex. Printing is available for individual pages by pressing Ctrl-P or by clicking on the print page link at the bottom of the left-hand column. Printing of entire publications is difficult because the application is set to detect "suspicious" behavior. It will issue a password challenge if rapid paging in excess of nine pages is detected. Every page of a PDF document is stored as an individual file in order to discourage the printing or capturing of entire publications.

A useful help file with instructions on using the service is available from the starting page. MyiLibrary provides MARC records for every publication contained in a subscription. Plans to add statistics such as World Development Indicators from the World Bank are under way.

SourceOECD

SourceOECD, in operation since 1998, provides access to books, periodicals, numerical data, and reference works published by the OECD. There are three ways to navigate through these publications. The most prominent and probably the most convenient way is by clicking on one of the tabs displayed across the top of the *SourceOECD* home page.

Another way to enter the content is through the drop-down menu at the top of the page. The themes in these menus, nineteen overall, from Agriculture & Food to Transport, are more refined than the tabs at the top and take users directly to predefined sections of the database.

Finally, there is a search option from the main page, which includes a quick search feature as well as an advanced search function from a separate page. The advanced search fields are title, series title, ISBN, abstract, full text, and all fields. In addition, if all fields are selected, full text can be expressly excluded. In addition, advanced searches can be limited to specific sections, which are identified in a drop-down menu. Limiting by year of publications is also available.

Search results can be ordered by relevance or in ascending or descending chronological order. If the collection is accessed via the category tabs at the top of the home page, publications can be browsed by clicking on individual subgroup headings, such as annuals, year, series, or subject/theme for books; and journals, newsletters, or statistical periodicals for periodicals. Implementation of the working papers and reference sections began in late 2004 and is currently being developed.

The statistics section offers interactive access to a number of data sets produced by the OECD. They use Beyond 20/20 software to deliver the data. Selections are made by clicking through a set of choices that determine the selection method (single item, range, entire folder, level) and the desired data series (countries and measures). Dimensions and orientation of tables can be rearranged by dragging and dropping dimension headers. Moreover, tables can be sorted in ascending or descending order by the data in any column. Charting features to produce various types of graphs are also available. Data tables can be downloaded in the native Beyond 20/20 format, as well as in Excel (.xls) and ASCII comma-separated (.csv) formats. The downloaded data file always contains the complete table although the browser may only display, for instance, one variable for a set of countries and years. The maximum size of a downloaded table is 50,000 cells.

Not included in SourceOECD are two numerical data products, OECD Health Data and OECD Statistical Compendium. The Health Data set is available for download as an executable file and can be installed locally by each user (see: www.oecd.org/document/30/0,2340,en_2649_34631_12968734_1_1_1_1,00.htm for more information). The Statistical Compendium, which allows for the creation of cross-database tables, is available from the OECD Statistical Compendium service through DSI Data Service & Information (see www.statistischedaten.de/_shop/osc.php for more information).

The license agreement for SourceOECD is available at: www.oecdwash.org/PUBS/SOURCEOECD/academic_licence.doc.

Both MyiLibrary and SourceOECD offer consortial subscription arrangements. To arrange for a trial of MyiLibrary, contact Steve Forrest (sforrest@couttsinfo.com). For information about SourceOECD, contact Suzanne Edam (suzanne.edam@oecd.org).—***Christof Galli**, International Documents and Middle East Librarian, Duke University, christof.galli@duke.edu* ▮

Geospatial News

Supporting the NSDI: Geospatial One-Stop

Cynthia Jahns

Geospatial One-Stop (www.geo-one-stop.gov) is one of twenty-four e-government initiatives sponsored by the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to enhance government efficiency and improve citizen services, as established under OMB Circular A-16. The key segment of the initiative is the web portal, called "geodata.gov."

The Geospatial One-Stop initiative will provide an avenue for expanding the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). In Ryan et al.'s excellent explanation of the interrelationship of the NSDI, Geospatial One-Stop, and the National Atlas, the NSDI is defined as "a physical, organizational, and virtual network designed to enable the development and sharing of this nation's digital geographic information resources."[1]

Nearly all government agencies at every level now have access to geographic information systems that support planning and decision-making. These agencies are often producers of data as well as consumers of other agencies' data. Combining data and using its geographic component to inform its interpretation creates solutions to problems as diverse as siting library branches and planning transit systems to avoid disrupting wildlife migration. Businesses also use such systems—think UPS using traffic data to plan efficient routes—and are in the market for the latest data.

The Geospatial One-Stop home page provides links to all the state data clearinghouse web sites, plus links to metadata best practices and geospatial standards.

Locating information produced by other agencies, often called data discovery, is a key part of the process. From gopher to Mosaic to Google, helping patrons find such data in electronic formats increasingly has become a part of our jobs for the last decade. Now an "e-gov" initiative has come along to coordinate the collection and dissemination of data that can be used in digital mapping systems.

The geodata.gov site states:

> The purpose of geodata.gov is two-fold:
>
> - Support the businesses of government—almost every aspect of government including, but not limited to; disaster management, recreation, planning, homeland security, public health, environmental protection, etc. has a geographic component.
> - Support decision making—issues occur in places (e.g. floods, events, crimes) and decisions addressing one issue often have broader implications, sometimes affecting entire communities. Geospatial information allows decisions to be viewed in a community context; and can facilitate cross-agency coordination.

Geospatial One-Stop fulfills this purpose by making it easier to find and to share data. This data can be plugged into a geographic information system (GIS) to create products that support decision-making by businesses, governments, and individuals.

There are three types of geographic content available on geodata.gov: data, documents, and resources. Geodata.gov describes it this way: "Search for data if you want to download, order, or add data or map services directly to your map. Search for documents if you are interested in map files, static map images, and geographic information. Search for resources if you are seeking links to external Web sites, data clearinghouses, geographic information system (GIS)-based Web applications, and geographic activities."

The majority of the categories are focused on scientific topics, but there are some excellent social sciences resources as well. The "Law Enforcement" category links to web sites that most government information specialists are already familiar with, such as the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The "Cadastral" category hides popular data behind a term most people don't use. It includes real estate information, such as parcel data for cities and counties; information about boundaries off-shore; mining claims from the Bureau of Land Management; and access to more than two million federal land title records issued between 1820 and 1908 for public land in eastern states.

When you choose certain categories of data, you leave the geodata.gov site and go to another. For example, choosing the category "Administrative and Political Boundaries" takes you off to the U.S. Census Bureau's "Census Bureau Geography" page, with its links to Census Geographic Products, LandView 6, and the American FactFinder site. This category also links to the Environmental Protection Agency's EnviroMapper web site, Bureau of Land Management's digital public land and jurisdiction boundary data, and the U.S. Geological Survey's Geographic Names Information System. The "Natural Disaster Events" category includes two particularly interesting subchannels. One is "Active Volcanoes" and the other is a lengthy collection of links to maps and data on the Indian Ocean Tsunami Disaster.

You can create maps using Map Viewer, a web-based geographic information system (GIS) application, to view and interact with geographic data. Click on the "Make a Map" feature to explore what you can do with the Map Viewer system that's built in to the geodata.gov site. (If you use Mozilla Firefox as your browser, you'll have to enable pop-ups for this site in order to use the Map Viewer.)

You'll see a map of the U.S. on the right side of the screen. Click on the map to start zooming in. The checked boxes on the left indicate which layers of data will appear on the map. For example, "Interstates ESRI" is checked on the left, and you see the interstate highway system in red on the map. If you're looking at an area with which you're familiar, the interstate highways make good landmarks. If you click on that box to uncheck the interstates, then click on refresh, the map will reappear without the red highway lines.

Once you save your search criteria you can choose to set the selected area as a subscription service. You receive e-mail notification when new or updated data, maps, activities, and references in your search area are added to geodata.gov.

As with many government web sites, there are bugs to be worked out in the initial phases. There is some confusion because both the terms "categories" and "channels" are used to describe the same thing. Some categories (Ecosystems) had no data assigned to them at all, and merely retrieved an empty template screen referring the user back to the main channel. And after zooming in repeatedly until I could see street names for a California location, the only way I was able to switch to a different state was to exit the mapping component and go back to the home page, then hit the refresh button to clean out cached information from my previous search.

The search mechanism works well, although some mysterious results appear. Searching for "Oregon" in the category "Atmosphere and Climatic" retrieved some results that were labeled "Coverage Area: California." Further investigation revealed the cause of the problem. By clicking on "View Details," I could see that in the "Place Keywords" field the first place listed was California. Oregon was also included, but alphabetically farther down the list.

Despite a few imperfections, the geodata.gov web site benefits from clean and clear design layout on the top level page. Easy access to the subject categories will make it popular with librarians and patrons alike. ▮

Geospatial One-Stop home page

Reference

1. Ryan, Barbara J., et al. "A Clear Vision of the NSDI." *Geospatial Solutions* (Apr. 1, 2004), www.fgdc.gov/publications/articles/index.html.

"Map and Geographic Information Collections in Transition" Conference

Library of Congress, May 12–13, 2005

Registration details are complete for the jointly sponsored Library of Congress/Cartographic Users Advisory Council (LC/CUAC) conference, "Map and Geographic Information Collections in Transition." The conference will be held Thursday and Friday, May 12 and 13, 2005 at the Library of Congress.

The registration fee is:

- $100, if registration postmarked by March 15, 2005.
- $125, if registration postmarked March 16 to May 2, 2005.

NOTE: No registrations accepted after May 2, 2005. Conference attendance will be limited to 150 registrants.

The conference registration form (http://cuac.wustl.edu/registration.doc) and a preliminary program listing (http://cuac.wustl.edu/MapsInTransition.htm) are on the CUAC web site (http://cuac.wustl.edu). Program details will be updated as speakers confirm their attendance with conference planners.

Taking Our Pulse

University of California Workshop on "The New Government Information Landscape: UC Opportunities for Shared Collections and Collaboration"

Kris Kasianovitz

On October 28, 2004, at Preservation Park, Oakland, California, ninety-seven University of California (UC) librarians and staff attended a workshop titled "The New Government Information Landscape: UC Opportunities for Shared Collections and Collaboration."[1] This workshop provided an opportunity for attendees to look at and discuss the many dramatic and rapid changes in government information collections, services, and staff. Because the UC system is large and distributed, a number of UC librarians and staff are not aware of the pervasiveness of digital government information and the implications this has for UC physical and digital government information collections. These changes provide extensive opportunities for shared collections and collaborative activities within UC. The workshop organizers sought to explore existing examples of these types of collaborations, and to look at future possibilities. This was the first workshop in quite some time to bring together such a diverse cross-section of library participants focusing on government information collections.

Several factors gave rise to the need for this workshop: budget, space needs, growing distribution of government information via the web, continued lack of standard distribution for state and local government information, and a general commitment by the UC libraries to build shared and specialized collections among the campuses and work towards persistent access to digital information.

These broad issues are in no way unique, and many academic and public libraries are grappling with these problems across the nation. The workshop organizers hope that the information gained from this workshop may serve as a tool for other institutions that may be facing similar collection and public service issues, and could be a way to analyze what is taking place in other libraries. We did not cover any issues specific to international, foreign, or map collections. They are vulnerable and in need of attention as well. It should be stressed that although we covered a lot of ground and gained valuable insights from the round table discussions, there needs to be further discussion and action to address these issues.

The main goal of the workshop was to make UC librarians aware of the sweeping changes to government information in a digital environment and how these changes are affecting UC government information print and digital collections. We wanted to explore and raise awareness of potential and existing shared collections. Finally, participants were asked to discuss and suggest ways for all interested librarians to partake in collaborative activities for maintaining expertise, training new librarians or librarians who are new to working with government information (especially in merged reference desk settings), and sharing government information collections. For a one-day workshop, there was quite a bit of territory to cover.

The workshop was designed to bring together a broad range of UC librarians and staff. Participants included resource-sharing librarians and staff, librarian subject specialists, technical services librarians and staff involved in digital preservation and archiving, and associate university librarians and other administrators, particularly in public services and collection development areas. This is not to say that government information librarians were excluded; in fact, they played an important role as discussion leaders for the afternoon round table discussions.

Speakers

The workshop was packed with speakers, lively discussion, and debate. The agenda consisted of speakers in the morning and round table discussion in the afternoon. The speakers were selected because of their roles in working with government information collections—both outside and within UC. All are involved with shared and digital projects of one kind or another.

Judy Russell, Superintendent of Documents, was the keynote speaker. She gave a broad overview of changes and future directions in government information. Judy spoke about specific collaborative initiatives the GPO is undertaking; for example, shared repositories, a Collection of Last Resort, a National Bibliography of U.S. Government Publications, and GPO consultants for depository libraries. She also outlined a number of the new directions GPO is considering, such as print on demand and the GPO Sales Program. For further details, see GPO's recommended reading: www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/reading.html

Janet Coles, California State Library (CSL), spoke on "Government Information Programs at the California State Library: History and Possibilities." Janet gave a detailed history of CSL and the Library Distribution Program, how it has changed and where it is today, including political and funding issues for the state library. She also highlighted the CSL project to "ensure access to California Digital Government Documents." See: www.library.ca.gov/html/gps_cal2.cfm.

Lucia Snowhill, UC Santa Barbara, and Nancy Kushigian, UC Systemwide Library Planning, spoke on "Working with Government Information System-wide." Lucia and Nancy covered current UC shared-collection projects that are already underway and what has been learned thus far. Lucia chronicled the history, problems, and collaborative projects in which the UC/Stanford Government Information Librarians (GILS) group has been involved (www.library.ucsb.edu/gils, www.library.ucla.edu/ucgils, www.slp.ucop.edu).

Patricia Cruse, California Digital Library (CDL), presented "The Web-at-Risk: Archiving Web-Based Government Information and Political Communications." The CDL, in partnership with New York University, University of North Texas, San Diego Supercomputing Center, Stanford Computer Science Dept, and Sun Microsystems, received a National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Project (NDIIPP) grant to develop web archiving tools to capture, curate, and preserve collections of government and political information. Patricia gave an overview of the grant project and the preliminary studies CDL had conducted on at-risk government information (www.digitalpreservation.gov/about/pr_093004.html).

Readings

Participants were asked to read four background articles, covering mainly the federal depository system, its projects, directions, etc. Unfortunately, we did not have enough time to discuss the readings specifically. This would have been an enlightening discussion for all participants.

- "New Economic Models for the Federal Depository System—Why Is It So Hard to Get the Question Answered?" *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* 30, no. 3 (May 2004): 243–49, by John A. Shuler.
- "Future Directions of the Depository Library Program"—Judy Russell's address to ARL directors, www.arl.org/arl/proceedings/142/russell.html
- "Keeping America Informed in the 21st Century: A First Look at the GPO Strategic Planning Process—A Work in Progress" (PDF) by Bruce R. James, Public Printer of the United States, www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/proceedings/James.DLC.04192004.revised.pdf
- "Remarks of Superintendent of Documents Judith C. Russell" (PDF) by Judith C. Russell, Managing Director, Information Dissemination (Superintendent of Documents), www.gpoaccess.gov/about/speeches/04182004_DLC.pdf

Round Table Sessions

The afternoon session consisted of round table discussions. This gave participants the opportunity to debrief from the morning speaker sessions as well as to discuss specific topics. Each table was given two worksheets that dealt with questions about:

- Changes in government information collection development.
- Shared and collaborative approaches to government information collection development.
- Digital collection development—archiving and preserving to ensure future access.
- Training and communication issues.
- Retaining government information expertise throughout the UC system.

The discussions yielded a number of suggestions and questions about each of these topic areas. One round table asked a very provocative question, is a "collaborative environment" enough, or is something more needed? The major themes that emerged from these sessions were:

Shared/Collaborative Collections

There were a number of ideas and suggestions for shared collection projects, some of which are particular to UC. Listed are the key questions and ideas from the round tables.

Questions from round tables:

- Will we lose key government information materials and reference materials due to shared collections?
- Can we envision a new role for the Government Printing Office? GPO could monitor, track, and notify libraries when electronic information changes. Also, GPO could strengthen Title 44 and require more standardization for government information.
- Shared collections can save money on collections, space, and preservation. But are shared collections, particularly government information shared collections, really a cost-saver?

Suggestions for collaboration:

- Make sure to clearly define local collecting practices.
- Draw up agreements, memorandums of understanding to formalize shared collection arrangements.
- Identify and survey stakeholders about the kind of information they are using to help determine what needs to be kept for the UC mission.

- More communication is needed between working groups to discuss workflow, tools, and technologies.
- INFOMINE is viewed as a good tool for building collaborative electronic collections (http://infomine.ucr.edu).
- Broaden collaborative efforts—share tools, collections, expertise, to include local, regional, state, federal agencies, California State Universities and other types of libraries. Continue to work with GPO and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) on these issues.
- Work on establishing working relationships with agencies and educating agencies about collection of materials.
- Collaborative work to collect fugitive documents.
- Cataloging for government materials can be cleaned up and older items can be cataloged. On the flipside, this could cause a cataloging nightmare.

Collection Development in the Digital Environment

The digital environment has made collection development haphazard. Collecting in a systematic way is difficult, since we often do not know what is being distributed. Are there any ways to share information about digital publications; for example, when serial publications cease and web versions begin? There is no assurance of persistent access to any of this material. Key materials are becoming electronic only, as is the case with the California *Governor's Budget*. Print collections are becoming low priority in favor of digital collections.

Participants suggested possible ways to handle digital collection development:

- Identify those documents that are unique to each community or campus, using regional resources to select campus-specific information. Perhaps we should focus on state and local documents as they are particularly vulnerable.
- Develop collection policies and formalize policies at the UC level.
- Assign the harvesting of digital publications by subject and agency and divide responsibility among institutions.
- Be aware of technical problems associated with harvesting, storing, and migrating digital documents.
- Coordinate collection development so that we have planned redundancy at our campuses.

Simplifying Access to Digital and Print Collections

Creating pathfinders or other navigational tools, both in print and online, is essential to locating and accessing these collections. MELVYL, the UC systemwide library catalog, could have location information reflect universal access (for example, not limit records that describe web resources to certain library locations, since all libraries can access this information). It was also noted that, at this time, we might still have to print out some titles, so that a hard copy exists somewhere.

Training and Knowledge Retention

There has been a general trend to merge reference and government information desks, departments, and even collections at a few libraries. Coupled with the fact that a number of UC government documents librarians have retired or will be retiring in the next five to ten years, there is a concern that UC will have a deficit in government information specialists and knowledge. Issues of recruiting into the profession were brought up, but employing a variety of training and mentoring techniques seemed more effective. Training can come in a variety of shapes and sizes—one method is to create training modules that are available from the CDL web site for anyone to access. Repetition in training was noted as a useful method. Utilizing national training opportunities for non-government librarians was suggested. Specific training for interlibrary loan staff could also be useful, especially as we move toward employing shared collection models and relying on these departments for access.

Judy Russell mentioned the GPO consultant program in her talk; UC could utilize a consultant at individual campuses or systemwide for training or collection development issues. The use of web-based guides was overall a popular theme—specifically the creation of web guides, finding aids, and pathfinders that could be shared and adapted by each campus (such as the GODORT Handout Exchange and the UC GILS web site) to help both library staff and users. It was also suggested (and met with enthusiasm) that an apprenticeship or internship program could be created, where for six months to a year, a librarian or staff member would work in a government documents collection.

In order to further the training and development of government information expertise, the UC library administrations need to support professional development activities at all levels, including time to improve staff expertise while on the job. Staff not in government information should be included in government-related professional activities. Individuals who attend conferences or training sessions should be a delegate for his or her campus, and share information with his or her units or departments.

Outcomes

While it would have been ideal to reach some consensus on direction or possible actions, we found that these issues of shared or collaborative collections for government information are not quickly or easily solved. There was general consensus that government information collections are an integral part of the overall UC collections, and that collabo-

ration among all the campuses is necessary to sustain and provide access to them.

Before the workshop, many participants were not aware of the various digitization and digital preservation projects that are taking place at the UC and state level, and with GPO. Many expressed great interest in the CDL NDIIPP grant project and would like to utilize the capture and preservation tools that will be developed. Participants expressed concern that so much information is being produced via the web and that this information is often rapidly lost. Of particular concern is the vulnerability of state and local documents. Creating easy and stable access to government information through bibliographic records or other metadata schemes was another theme raised by most participants.

The topic of shared collections was woven into the entire program. Shared cataloging and improved bibliographic access through MELVYL came up several times as did the concern for preservation of digital information. Lack of centralized funding and coordination was raised as a concern for shared collections. Overall, the most useful information that participants took away from the workshop is the necessity for collaboration (between UC libraries, government information librarians, and subject bibliographer groups) and collaborative collection development.

Information gathered from the workshop will be used by the University Librarians and others to review and decide the next steps for the system and individual campuses. In addition to the workshop, a there is a Shared Government Information Collection pilot project and a report from a government information task force that together will form the basis for future directions and action. ▮

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Note

1. The UC system includes ten campuses in Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz. (See: http://universityofcalifornia.edu and www.cdlib.org). There are more than one hundred libraries in the system that support the university's research and teaching mission. The California Digital Library is also part of this system.

An Arizona Model for Preservation and Access of Web Documents

Richard Pearce-Moses and Joanne Kaczmarek

This paper describes a model for curating a collection of web documents.[1] The model is based on the observation that the organization of web sites parallels the organization of an archival collection and on the assumption that archival principles of provenance and original order are useful to curate and to provide access to documents in the collection. The University of Illinois and OCLC have received a National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Project (NDIIPP) grant from the Library of Congress to test and refine the model and to develop open-source software tools to support its practical application.

Background

Like many other state libraries, the Arizona State Library is the official depository for state agencies' official reports and publications (documents). The legislature mandates the library to collect and provide access to these documents for current and future use. In an effort to reduce printing costs, the Arizona legislature encourages agencies to publish documents on the web, rather than in paper. As a result, the number of documents published on the web has skyrocketed. On average, state agencies' web sites contain more than 300,000 documents at any given time.

In many ways, the web can be a boon for the state library. The increased number of documents on the web means a vastly richer collection of publicly available reports and publications, and the web has made it much easier to locate and capture fugitive documents. However, web documents present a number of challenges to traditional ways of curating a print-based collection. The web is used to distribute ephemeral documents in addition to official reports and publications, blurring the distinction between which documents should be added to the depository program and those with limited value. Web documents often lack the formal elements of printed reports and publications; without a cover sheet or title page, finding the information necessary to describe the documents can be a challenge. Where printed documents have a simple and familiar structure—ink on paper sheets with a binding that defines the content's sequence and boundaries—web documents are often created using specialized software and may contain links that blur the document's boundaries.

To realize the potential benefits of the web, the state library must discover ways to identify, select, acquire, describe, and provide access to the enormous amount of digital information state agencies are now producing. *What* we do will remain fundamentally the same, but *how* we do those things in a digital environment will change significantly. Those changes are reflected in the vernacular as the words *publication* and *document* are replaced by *information*.

To date, institutions building a collection of web publications have generally followed one of two models. The bibliocentric model is based on a traditional library processes of selecting documents one by one; identifying appropriate documents for acquisition; electronically downloading the document to a server or printing it to paper; then cataloging, processing, and distributing it like any other paper publication. This approach can capture a low volume of high-quality content. However, it cannot be scaled to the massive numbers of web publications without a large increase in human resources.

The technocentric model focuses on software applications that can capture virtually everything with automatic web crawls. This approach trades human selection of significant documents for the hope that full-text indexing and search engines will be able to find documents of lasting value among the clutter of other, ephemeral content. This approach essentially transfers the work of selection from the libraries to the patron.

A third approach relies on web masters to send documents to the state library or to create documents using standards and metadata so that the library can easily harvest them. Unfortunately, the library has not had success with this approach. Webmasters are very busy and cannot easily take on additional work. Second, they are not trained in collection development, so they are often unsure what documents the library wants. Finally, because turnover among state webmasters is relatively high, institutionalizing these practices is difficult. Ultimately, it has always been the library's job to do these tasks, and the library must discover another approach that works for the web.

An Archival Approach

The Arizona State Library is investigating another approach to curating collections of web publications. This model is based on the observation that a web site is similar to an archival collection. Both are collections of documents that have common provenance. Both group related documents together; on the web, the groups are called directories and subdirectories, while in archival collections they are called series and subseries.[2]

At a fundamental level, an archival approach to curating a collection of web documents shares the same basic

functions as a bibliographic approach. Both involve identification and selection (what archivists call appraisal), acquisition, description, reference and access, and preservation. However, the archival approach to accomplishing those functions is distinguished from a bibliographic approach by a few core principles:

- Materials are managed as a hierarchy of aggregates: collections, series, subseries, and folders. In general, archivists do not manage collections at the item level unless the individual items are of great importance.
- Respect for provenance requires that documents from one source are not mixed with documents from another source.
- Respect for original order requires that documents be kept in the order that the creator used to manage the materials.
- Respect for provenance and original order ensures that documents remain in context, and that the context can yield a richer understanding of the individual documents. The whole, by nature of the interrelationships between the individual items, is greater than the sum of its parts.

The benefits of an archival approach to curating a collection of web documents, focusing first on aggregates (collections and series), rather than on individual documents, reduces the size of the problem to a more practical number. Spending just five minutes each to process the 300,000-plus Arizona web documents would take twelve years to complete. Taking an archival approach by spending ten hours analyzing the series (directories) on the two hundred collections (web sites), the work could be done in a year. To the extent series are stable on a web site, the amount of work after the initial analysis will be substantially less in subsequent years.[3]

These archival principles also facilitate efficiently curating the materials in the collections. Exploiting original order saves time spent reclassifying materials in another system. The principle is based on the assumption that the creator needed to be able to find materials and that order remains useful. If the Department of Transportation organized its construction records by highway, reorganizing the records by contractor, date, or some other facet will not necessarily improve access.

These principles also facilitate efficient access to the materials in the collections. Working with aggregates does not necessarily reduce efficiency of patron access. Large aggregates (collections) are organized in a manner that makes it easy to eliminate large quantities of irrelevant materials. Someone looking for information on highway construction would start with the agency principally responsible for that activity, the Department of Transportation. Provenance can help identify other collections that might have relevant information; Environmental Quality may have some information based on the impact highways have on air and water pollution. Many times provenance can help eliminate large bodies of material from a search; Child Welfare Services probably has little or no information on highway construction.

Smaller aggregates (series) are also organized to help narrow a search even further. The patron looking for highway construction within the Department of Transportation might disregard series associated with driver's licenses and traffic studies. The series on highway construction presents the patron with a rich collection of relevant materials that, when supported with appropriate finding aids, makes it easy to find the precise information being sought.

The Craft of Curating a Collection

Curating a collection of web documents using archival principles is relatively straightforward. The archivist approaches the documents on a web site as an organic whole, then, moving down the hierarchy, looks at each series in the collection as a whole. The archivist stops when further subdivision of the hierarchy is no longer useful.

The challenge of curating a collection of web documents is in understanding the structure of the web site. In particular, the archivist may have access to the documents through the web site, but may not have direct access to the underlying server or its file system.

Specialized software can facilitate the process of curating a collection of web documents as an archival collection. However, the tools alone will not guarantee success. First and foremost, the Arizona Model focuses on craft rather than technology. It seeks to articulate a rational way to perform tasks and to use tools in an integrated fashion to produce a reasonable result. Having a hammer and chisel does not make one a sculptor, and few can use those tools to create a work of art.

Identification

The first step in building the collection is determining which web sites have documents appropriate for acquisition. For the Arizona State Library, those boundaries can be easily described as "all web sites that hold state publications." At first glance, identifying the specific URLs for those web sites might seem as easy as including all domains that end in state.az.us. In fact, while conventions used to organize the web offer clues to the intellectual organization of the content, the two are far from congruent. One of the principal tasks of identification is to describe the boundaries of state agency web sites in terms software can understand.

"Web site" is an ambiguous term. In many cases, a web site correlates with a single domain. For example, all the content produced by the (fictitious) Arizona Department of Examples could be hosted under the domain www.azexample.gov, with a link to each page on that web site

begining with the same domain, www.azexample.gov. In the case of large web sites, the boundaries may encompass several domains, which may be clearly associated, such as photos.lib.az.us and www.lib.az.us, or they may integrate content from very different domains, such as www.azdeq.gov and www.phoenixvis.net.

The boundaries of web sites are often blurred by the relationship between different content providers that are responsible for different portions of a web site.[4] For example, the Division of Paradigms, a part of the Department of Examples, might publish a set of documents and services on the web in a space that would commonly be considered the division's web site. However, the relationship between the division's and the department's web sites may not be as clear as their organizational relationship. The division's web site may be nothing more than a directory under the department's web site domain (www.azexamples.gov/paradigms) or it may be part of a subdomain (paradigms.azexamples.gov), or it may be a completely different domain (www.azparadigms.gov).

The concept of web site is further confused by the complex relationships between content and creators, and by the lack of consistent practices for organizing material on the web. As a result, only a human can define a web site's boundaries. The Arizona Model tests machine-assisted approaches that combine the strength of computing with human judgment to identify and maintain a list of domains (and corresponding web sites) with in-scope.

Machine-Assisted Web Site Identification

The first approach is based on the assumption that the vast majority of state web sites will be referenced on at least one other state web site. By analyzing the links on all state pages, it should be possible to discover the links for those web sites. Starting with a seed list of web sites, a spider downloads all the pages on those sites and builds a list of all links on those pages. The list is then analyzed to create a list of distinct domains. For example, a web site may include many links to different pages on the state Department of Transportation web site, each of which begin with the domain www.dot.state.az.us. The site may also include many links to pages on the federal Department of Transportation web site, which begin with www.dot.gov. In Arizona, the initial scan of four large web sites captured some ten thousand links, but fewer than seven hundred domains.

The list of domains was then manually appraised, and if the domain represents or is part of a state web site, it is associated with the content provider. Many domains were immediately recognizable as out-of-scope (www.dot.gov, www.adobe.com) or in-scope (www.dot.az.state.us, www.azgovernor.gov). Sites that staff were not familiar with had to be evaluated manually, a process that took about three days.

As each new state web site is discovered, it is added to the seed list so that it will be included in future analyses. However, the software will only show newly discovered domains, so after the initial evaluation the list of domains to be reviewed will be relatively small.

Manual Web Site Identification

The machine-assisted approach is an efficient but imperfect tool. While there is a high correlation between web sites and a single domain, that correlation is imperfect. This approach cannot distinguish web sites located on commercial servers (www.mindspring.com/~abote). Also, this approach does a poor job identifying subordinate web sites for divisions within an agency (the Arizona Capitol Museum, a part of the State Library, has a web site—www.lib.az.us/museum—that is part of its parent's web site).

To counter these limitations, documents with lists of agencies, such as organizational charts, budgets, and telephone directories, are manually searched to identify names of entities not already discovered using the machine-assisted tool. Those names are then searched using Internet search engines to discover if the agency has a web site that has not yet been identified. This second approach helps catch exceptions the first approach misses, including web sites that are not referenced on any other state site and web sites hosted on commercial Internet service providers.

Reconciling Web Sites with Content Providers

Building the list of domains is merely a means to an end. The ultimate goal is a list of content providers and their web sites. Each domain is associated with a content provider, and the content providers are organized into a taxonomy that documents the relationships between content providers (agencies with their subordinate divisions) and that links content providers to their web sites (see table 1).

The taxonomy will also include descriptions of the content provider (described below in Description and Access) so that patrons can quickly see if a web site is likely to have relevant information.

Table 1: Taxonomy.

Library and Archives	www.lib.az.us
Archives	www.lib.az.us/archives/
Photo Collection	photos.lib.az.us/
Braille and Talking Book	www.lib.az.us/BTBL/
Law and Research	www.lib.az.us/is/
Genealogy	www.lib.az.us/is/genealogy/
Museum	www.lib.az.us/museum/
Transportation	www.azdot.gov
Aviation	www.azdot.gov/aviation
Motor Vehicle Division	www.azdot.gov/mvd
	www.servicearizona.ihost.com
Planning Division	tpd.azdot.gov

Renouf Chosen as New Official North American Distributor for the ILO

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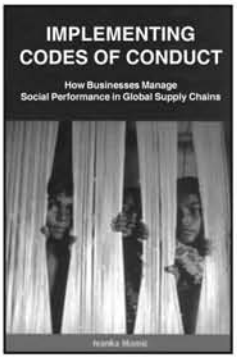

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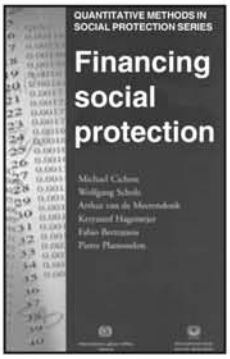

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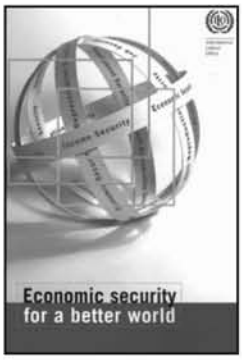

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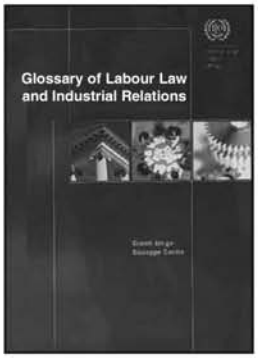

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The taxonomy will never include every agency, division, department, office, board, commission, and task force. The Arizona Model relies on human judgment to determine when it is appropriate to create an entry. While Genealogy is listed in the example above, in practice it may be sufficiently described in the entry for the Law and Research Library. Building the taxonomy will take time. However, it can be grown incrementally, starting with little more than the content providers' names and later adding in additional information.

The taxonomy database is one of the key tools of the Arizona Model, recording information about and providing a systematic view of both the content providers and their web sites.

Selection

Once a state web site has been identified, the second step is to determine which documents on that web site should be acquired for the depository program. Using an archival approach, selection is done at the series level, rather than considering each document individually.

An archival series—not to be confused with the bibliographic concepts of series and serials—is "a group of similar records that are arranged according to a filing system and that are related as the result of being created, received, or used in the same activity."[5] The Arizona Model's presumption that series exist on web sites is founded on the common human behavior of organizing related materials into groups to help manage them. Because this is a general behavior rather than a requirement, different webmasters will organize their sites differently and with varying degrees of consistency. Those idiosyncrasies mean that a series-level approach to selection will have varying degrees of success. At one extreme, sites may lack any order. However, larger sites tend to have at least some order.

For example, a web site may have a series (directory) called "forms"; looking at a sample of documents, it quickly becomes clear that the series contains blank forms that are outside the scope of collections. Another series called "calendars" contains documents about upcoming events and, because of their ephemeral nature, are outside the scope of collections. A series called "reports" contains documents that are clearly within the scope of collections. Because series names may be often misleading, a human must sample documents in the series to see if the documents in the series are in scope. A series called "annual reports" looks like a rich find for the depository, but on closer inspection the documents are blank forms used to file annual reports with the agency.

Of course, many series contain a mixture of documents, only some of which are in scope. In many cases, a decision would typically be made to collect all or none on the grounds that there is not sufficient staff time to select individual documents.[6] As a result, some out-of-scope documents will be preserved or some in-scope documents will be lost. In some instances, it may be possible to write rules to exclude unwanted documents or to include in-scope documents. For example, a directory containing both pdf and html versions of the same document might have a rule to capture only one format.

Series are often broken into subseries. For example, a series called "reports" might be broken into subseries for different years or for different geographic areas. That practice is also reflected in some webmasters' organization of their sites, with directories broken into subdirectories to further organize content. In the case of very large web sites, the hierarchical structure is very deep, extending to subseries within subseries within subseries. The art of archival selection is knowing when to stop traversing the hierarchy. To use the example above, the subseries for years or regions need not be evaluated separately if the larger series is selected.

In some instances on the web, a directory is not a series, but represents a single document. The subdirectory—sometimes called a folder at this level—contains different files that form the document. This use of directories is especially common at the lower levels of the file structure. The Arizona Model assumes that most selection decisions will be made at a higher level.

In order to be able to appraise and select at the series level, archivists need site analysis software to help them visualize and understand the directory structure of a web site, especially if they do not have direct access to the system. For example, an analysis of the links on one web site revealed more than 7,800 links to files on the site; although those files are organized into 208 directories, subdirectories, and folders, only the top 31 directories are equivalent to series appropriate for selection.

When archivists understand a web site's structure, it is possible to make decisions about selection, including series to avoid and how often to acquire documents within specific series. The site analysis software will record these selection decisions.

Description and Access

The Arizona Model envisions a combination of traditional archival description, high-level manual indexing using a controlled vocabulary, and full-text indexing to facilitate patron access to the documents in the collection. The model envisions search software that groups documents into categories for more precise results and to facilitate discovery by helping patrons narrow their search.

In archives, description and access are hierarchical. Patrons use collection-level descriptions of content providers (provenance) to determine which collections are likely to hold documents relevant to their interests. For example, someone searching air pollution would start with the Department of Environmental Quality before the Department of Economic Security. Once collections are identified, patrons look at descriptions of the series to determine which

likely hold relevant materials. In the case of air pollution, the patron would disregard series on water quality and landfills. The patron can also take advantage of any subseries; in this example, the patron might look at a series on auto emissions. After locating relevant series, the patron browses a list of the documents in those series.

Traditionally, archivists have described each collection in a finding aid. A finding aid usually begins with an administrative history, which explains the content provider's mandate and functions, and curatorial information, such as acquisition information and restrictions. This information is captured in the taxonomy database. The heart of a finding aid includes a scope and contents note, which describes the nature and type of the collection as a whole; an outline of the series and subseries, which serves as a rough table of contents; and then a list of the folders, organized by series and subseries. This information is captured in the site analysis tool. Patrons browse the finding aid, much like looking over the captions on the folders in the files, and request only those files they are interested in. The Arizona Model adapts this process with two modifications.

First, the collections and series are assigned descriptive metadata from a controlled vocabulary; when documents are harvested from the series, that metadata is assigned to each document within the collection or series.[7] The Department of Water Resources might be given the heading "Water Resources." The Governor's Drought Task Force, a division within that department, would be given headings that describe a more narrow focus, "Drought" and "Water Conservation." The series "County Programs" on the task force's web site might be given the heading "Planning Documents."

Second, the finding aid does not list folders within series, but the titles of documents. In the context of manual preparation of finding aids, listing each document in an archival collection was prohibitively time consuming. By harnessing the power of the computer, it is possible to create a list of all documents. The quality of that list will vary with webmasters' individual conventions for naming documents as well as the ability of the computer to distinguish documents.

While a finding aid's bird's-eye view of a collection remains a useful curatorial tool for archivists, patrons would almost certainly find finding aids cumbersome access tools in the age of full-text searching. The Arizona Model sees the descriptive metadata as a tool to help display the results of full-text searches more efficiently by organizing the results into categories. A full-text search would retrieve all documents that contained the search words, and then sort the results under headings drawn from the controlled vocabulary in the descriptive metadata. The search would then allow patrons to narrow their search to just documents in those categories. For example, a categorized search for water might look something like table 2, which would precede the more familiar item-level results organized by a relevancy-ranking algorithm.

Even though the public is familiar with full-text search engines such as Google, they are often frustrated and stymied by results that bury useful documents under thousands of false hits. Categorization has proven value in making searches more efficient. Based on an analysis of global information locator service (GILS) searches at Washington State and in Arizona, people greatly prefer searching by browsing categories. Browsing categories is particularly valuable because it helps ensure that searches are constructed using the terms used in the documents. Browsing also prevents patrons from having to think of the right concept; rather, they are offered choices to help them find just what they're looking for.

The taxonomy database records information about the content providers, and the site analysis software records metadata about the series.

Acquisition

In traditional archival and bibliographic workflows, acquisition takes place before description. In the Arizona Model, acquisition is an automated process that follows rules developed during the preceding steps. Using information about which series contain documents to be acquired for the depository, harvesting software downloads documents from those series. It creates a package that contains all the files necessary to reconstruct the document. Descriptive metadata taken from the document's parent collection and series is added to the package. Administrative and preservation metadata is also added to the package. Additional descriptive metadata may be added using text analysis software. That package can then be stored online or offline. The harvesting software may also insert text into the package so that patrons viewing the document clearly recognize that it is an archival document with historical, noncurrent content.

Harvesting software will likely use the Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS) as the basis of the package structure. Separate software will be developed to

Table 2: Hypothetical results from a categorized search.

Found documents in the following categories	
water	500+
water conservation	357
Salt River Project	210
drought	110
flood control	98
xeriscape	25
Found documents in the following categories	
Water Resources	135
Drought Task Force	102
Phoenix	87
Maricopa County	84
Corporation Commission	35
Rural Watershed Alliance	76

load the package into digital collections software, such as Greenstone, Fedora, DSpace, and OCLC's Digital Archive.

Realization of the Arizona Model

In September, the Library of Congress announced that it had awarded the Library and the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign an NDIIPP grant. Other partners in the grant include OCLC, the Arizona State Library and Archives, the Connecticut State Library, the Illinois State Library, the North Carolina State Library, the Wisconsin State Library, the Tufts University Perseus Project, and the Michigan State University Library. A significant part of the project will be focused on testing and refining the Arizona Model and to develop open source software tools to support the practical implementation of the model. ▮

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References and Notes

1. Throughout the paper, "curate" is used to refer to a wide range of activities, including identification and selection, acquisition, description, and reference and access.
2. Materials of the same provenance are sometimes called a collection, a fonds, or a record group. The words are not exact synonyms and each reflect variations in archival theory and culture. For the purposes of this paper, these approaches are more common than different, and for the sake of simplicity the authors use the word "collection" throughout. The divisions within archival collections may be given different names in different contexts. Large collections in large repositories often have more divisions, including subgroup, series, subseries, and subsubseries. Large web sites may have similar divisions, with agencies using different domains, directories, subdirectories, and subsubdirectories. Throughout this paper, "series" and "directory" will be used to describe the internal divisions within a collection or web site; "subseries" and "subdirectory" will be used only when essential to emphasize the notion of a series within a series or a directory within a directory
3. The time to process the documents would be 1,500,000 minutes or 25,000 hours at 60 minutes per hour. Given 2,080 hours in a work year, it would take twelve years of uninterrupted work to finish, without consideration for any new documents that might be added. Evaluating large collections (web sites) will certainly take more than the suggested average of ten hours. However, many smaller collections have simple structures with few directories and will take far less time. With some small web sites, it will be more efficient to capture everything than to spend time analyzing them.
4. "Content provider" is an unfortunate bit of jargon. Necessity demands its use as a generic term to represent the diverse names given different levels of government, including agency, division, department, office, board, commission, court, individual, or other body responsible for providing web content.
5. Pearce-Moses, Richard. *A Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology* (Society of American Archivists, forthcoming early 2005). Prepublication copy available from www.archivists.org/glossary.
6. Preliminary specifications for the site analysis software allow selection decisions to be made at the document level, should a repository have the resources to work at this level. Even repositories with limited resources may want to take advantage of this feature for some series, where the time spent weeding will have sufficient benefits.
7. Many state libraries are using a controlled vocabulary developed by Jessica Milstead for this purpose. Available from www.cyberdriveillinois.com/library/isl/lat/lat_findit_subject_tree.html.

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Federal Depository Libraries and Shared Public Service Obligations on the Web

Some Reflections from Ten Years of Innovation with the DOSFAN Project

John Shuler

During the first few months of 1994, the federal depository library at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and U.S. Department of State (State) struck a unique partnership that has lasted eleven years. In an unusual combination of mutual interest, UIC and State delivered an array of web pages, information sources, and digital archives that have been informing users around the world. During the first two years, UIC provided State with low-cost, real-time access to the expanding web in order to distribute post reports, announcements, and press briefings. By 1996, what began as a gopher site soon evolved into a primitive web page. A year later, the GPO blessed the three-year partnership with its first official recognition of a "content partnership" that joined a depository library, an executive agency, and the printing office into a shared arrangement. Over the next four years, State and UIC developed and promoted this federal executive web space to other agencies, other depository libraries, and to the public.[1]

In January 2000, with the change in administrations, UIC depository librarians shifted from managing State's web space, which the agency assumed within its own public affairs structure, and began to build an electronic message management system to organize and respond to public questions delivered through State's web site. These message management systems, including answers, evolved from simple e-mail, to electronic discussion lists, and eventually settled on using an earlier version of the software developed for the QuestionPoint projects managed through the auspices of OCLC.[2] Over the last four years, the public has sent many thousands of inquiries. These deal with questions about overseas travel, international adoption, foreign policy (both current and historical), immigration and visas, passports, how to find employment in the State Department, and how to study in the United States or study abroad. Nearly eighty standard answers to the most frequently asked questions have been created because of the partnership.

Though the project included an aspect of digital collection development and preservation, the partnership's purpose since 2000 was to explore ways a federal depository library and government agency might sustain a program of cooperation to provide electronic public information services.[3] One might think about the roles the agency and library played in this fluid relationship through three questions:

- Who is responsible for the content in the agency's web space?
- Who is responsible for access to the agency's web space?
- Who is responsible for the intermediation when the contexts for "content" and "access" are unclear to the user?

Government information librarians have debated these issues since the mid-1870s, when the American Library Association launched its first national lobbying campaign to petition the federal government to make more rational what was clearly a wasteful and unorganized system of federal printing, sales, and distribution. But when one considers the profound changes brought about by the digital network on both government information distribution and access, is the past necessarily prologue? Within the context of Department of State Foreign Affairs Network (DOSFAN), there are more questions than answers. Any rational future policy recommendations involving public information resource management stand a fair chance of foundering between the shoals of what librarians might want their world to be and what the digital national information infrastructure is giving them.

Before the advent of the web in early 1990s, the gravity of mediation that bound librarian and user in such a tight grip of mutual dependence sprang from a common mass of collected material (mostly print and paper, with a more than a few microforms, data disks, and other formats) physically owned by the library. However, it was a form of dependency that gave the library more power than it did the user. These collections were cataloged (or not), classified (or not) and preserved (or not) to meet the needs of the library first, and those of users second. Much of the material, regardless of the format, remained fragments of agency policies or programs. More often than not, the librarian acted as a stand-in for the agency in that he or she might explain the agency's public missions through a handful of representative publications. If these collections were classified along the

lines of provenance, then the librarian had another tool to explain the government's flow of policy and programmatic purpose, enabling users to find a whole range of publications arranged on physical shelves according to time and author. If the collections were small or specialized enough, then the inherent government quality of these publications might be completely subsumed in the name of subject or application (items classified according to either the Library of Congress or Dewey systems).

Here is another way to think about it: generations of government information librarians use their depository collections as pragmatic bibliographic models that reveal information objects produced by public policies and programs. Indeed, the needs of the government agencies that produced this information were nearly always lost in this relationship. If the agencies agreed (or disagreed) with how librarians were speaking on their behalf, it was difficult for them to do anything about it, except to pull publications or work with librarians to promote particular services (patents, taxes, and so on). Truth be told, many federal agencies considered depository libraries to have little or no role in their delivery programmatic public information services.

The web radically alters the elements that traditionally drew users into the bibliographic orbits of depository library collections. Government web space reconnects a federal agency's production of public information with a means of information distribution independent of a third party. Over the years UIC worked with State, it remains very clear that department's bureaus, offices, and sections quickly reasserted their authority over thousands of publications in terms of both placement (classification) and interpretation (reference service). State's agency web pages are both portals and delivery mechanisms for thousands of information sources that far exceeded any printed collection managed by a depository library. This includes transcripts of news conferences, reports from overseas installations, and other reports normally published either through other media outlets.

The questions received by State staff and UIC librarians come from more and more people who seek information by and about the State Department as an existing organization, and not some bibliographic representation captured by a few hundred titles distributed to depository library collections. UIC librarians suddenly find themselves serving this role between the agency and the user, whether or not there are any publications or information sources.

Think of how government information librarianship might have developed if it did not have its century of practice and public service grounded in either special collections or means of distribution. The DOSFAN experience gave the UIC librarians a chance to explore "what might have been . . ." in real time.

With this as background, the three earlier questions might help sort out the DOSFAN experience a bit better.

Who is responsible for the content? There should be no doubt in any librarian's mind, whether they speak of paper or electronic digits; content remains the fundamental responsibility of either the agency or government. If there is something missing, altered, inaccurate, shrouded by security, it becomes less about "documents to the people" and more about "information awareness to the people." In this way, librarians are more in league with other media outlets used by the government to distribute their information services.[4] Libraries (even depository libraries) are merely instruments of transmission at a most basic level. If libraries wish to serve as more than mere instruments of transmission, they are going to have to invest a good deal more time and resources to understand the agency's historic mission, programs, and services as well as its relationships with other government bodies. Only in this way can they begin to explain why something an agency reports or does might not make sense.

On a broader scale, the issue of content must also be understood in terms of archiving and persistence. In the digital world, librarians work with government agencies directly, or through other grant opportunities, such as the recently announced initiative to capture and preserve significant portions of the web's government information space. Outside of several nonfederal efforts, preservation and persistence remains the primary—oft-times undefined—responsibility jointly shared by the agency and the National Archives. If the UIC experience with State is any indication, this mandate to preserve the living record of public policy is going to continue to be difficult to sustain without constant discussion among those who create the current records, those who use them, and those responsible for their historic preservation. One significant aspect the web changes about within this discussion is the blending of what is a "record" and what is a "publication."

Who is responsible for the access? Here the issues are much more ambiguous and difficult. As librarians who work with State to inform citizens of the agency's programs and policies, the general philosophy of service shifted from finding the right information source to finding the right information. In this way, State itself became the information collection, organized along its multitude of bureaus, offices, and centers. The answer might come from one office, or it might be pieced together from several different sources, involving phone calls, e-mail exchanges, and traditional bibliographic consultation. Access is not so much a transparent quality embedded in State's structure (public contacts, e-mail addresses, web pages); rather it comes from the skill or knowledge (either found in a librarian or state worker) of someone who knows how the organization works and how its programs are put into effect. That is not say that traditional government information librarians do not do this; indeed they do. But, at least with the DOSFAN partnership, it was amazing how many times the information and answers were fabricated from several sources both human and web-based with very little referral to any traditionally printed source.

But there are serious questions raised about how long librarians can sustain this kind of deeply embedded relation-

ship with a government agency, and still be able to perform their information mediation function. Ten years of working with State is evidence for some kind of sustainability. At the same time, there is no persistence built into the relationship, and the functions UIC librarians perform can be easily absorbed back into agency structure, as evidenced by what happened with the web pages in 2000.

Who is responsible for the intermediation when the contexts for "content" and "access" are unclear to the user? There remains an area of service ambiguity between a public agency's information obligation and the user's inability to penetrate that agency's information culture. It represents some of the more profound challenges to government information librarians. If formal arrangements, such as DOSFAN, are difficult to sustain over long periods of time, and librarians are left with the seemingly impossible task of keeping a sustainable knowledge of agency activity that depends less on information sources, and more on knowing what the agency has done and is doing, enhanced by a series of strategic questions that attempt to guess where the agency might go next—what manner of librarianship is this? A quick answer: reference work.

In the end, the DOSFAN experience mirrors the arc of evolution that is forcing change on government information librarianship in general. In the last ten years UIC librarians shifted from managing collections to managing queries and access about a large set of information they neither possessed or controlled. Librarianship without libraries, is it possible? If the experience with State is any indication, it not only is, but it must be. ▮

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2. See www.questionpoint.org for information on this initiative.
3. UIC continues to house an "e-archive" of older DOS material (pre-1996), as well as web pages from the United States Information Agency (USIA) and Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA). See: http://dosfan.lib.uic.edu/ERC/index.html.
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Distance Government Publications Instruction to Library School Students

Lessons Learned

Eric Forte and Sherry DeDecker

In fall 2003, we blithely agreed to become instructors for an online distance education course on government publications through the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Graduate School of Library and Information Science's LEEP program.[1] We knew we were in for a bit of work, but the opportunity to teach students the way we wish we had learned this subject was too good to pass up! And yes, it was quite a bit of work: the preparation involved in planning and implementing this instruction program was enormous. However, the results are gratifying. Where else can you talk about your favorite topic—government information with all its idiosyncrasies—to a captive audience, and maybe end up bringing new docs lovers into the fold? With two semesters under our belt, we now feel ready to share our experiences with those of you who may be considering teaching similar courses.

Preparation

The initial preparation and planning involved several steps. First, we reviewed the format of similar courses, beginning with the previous versions of this UIUC class taught by Marilyn Moody. We found that most classes begin with introductions to the major catalogs and indexes, both print and online. The subsequent format usually is agency, branch, or topic-based: no surprise to those of us working with these collections. So for our initial session we tentatively planned to cover major indexes and databases.

Next were sessions covering four areas: the major publications of the executive and independent agencies, the legislative process and resulting publications, judicial activity, and regulatory law. Subsequent sessions would be topical, covering statistics (and more statistics, and more statistics!); foreign, international, state, and local publications (in focus; non-federal material was also covered to some extent in legislative, law, and statistics classes); and specialized sources such as patents and trademarks, technical reports, and treaties. One session was an in-person class; we reserved that one for historical sources and maps, with plenty of time for students to lay their hands on various other government information sources in their print format.

We also planned a session covering the nuts and bolts of working with government information, such as complying with depository regulations, selection, cataloging, processing, and so forth. For this segment, we had the students write a short collection development policy for a U.S. documents collection. We concluded the semester with a class on major issues and the future of government information, and how to keep abreast and find contacts.

The next step was to decide on textbooks and readings. Consideration of whether to use a text, and if so, which one, was one of the most difficult decisions we had to make. While we found that most courses assigned textbooks, we decided not to. This allowed us more freedom to design the class according to what we felt to be most useful. Nonetheless, there are several excellent current texts; we likely would have used Judith Robinson's *Tapping the Government Grapevine* (Oryx Pr., 1998) if a more recent edition (the last was from 1998) were available. We also liked Peter Hernon's *United States Government Information: Policies and Sources* (Libraries Unlimited, 2002), but stopped short of requiring it, as it did not appear that we would be using it enough to justify its purchase. In the end we decided to use a chapter or two from several different texts and guides.

Lesson Plans

The other major preparatory work required our biggest leap into the unknown: how to plan lessons in light of the fact that we would be delivering them during two-hour online class sessions. These consisted of a one-way audio feed, a classroom live-chat, and pushing web pages and other items. Teaching the legislative process is one thing; doing so without recourse to a physical bill, law, or the *Congressional Record* was another. Likewise, teaching something as simple as the *Statistical Abstract* is made harder by having to rely solely on a pdf version.

Most difficult was doing all of this by talking to a computer screen, with only chat feedback. The research on the science of online teaching is growing, but perhaps not as fast as the technology itself.[2] Best practices are still based largely on anecdotal experience. Successful students must not only have solid technological skills, but equipment that can keep pace with the lesson. We lost track of how many times we presented a point or an example and had moved on to the next point only to realize that we had lost students along the way, several minutes earlier. For a few students on

older computers and dialup technology, there was a delay of perhaps ten seconds before they could hear what we said, compounded by the delay it took for them to type their question or comment.

The best practices we did find were very helpful. We were able to get advice from other instructors working in similar mediums, and benefited from several instructional and discussion sessions organized by the graduate school. In the end, the limitations of the technology proved to be the best editor we could hope for: distance education offers less time for expository material. We had to get to the point, stick to the point, reinforce the point, and sometimes wait a few extra moments to make sure the point got across. We had to keep the lessons tightly focused to maximize our ability to cover the key concepts.

We prepared the lecture portions of class meticulously. The lack of feedback (and the relative difficulty of sharing any immediate feedback), not to mention the peculiarities of lecturing to a computer screen, made the more improvisational style we're used to in the physical classroom very difficult, at least initially. We came close to using outright scripts, which leads us to another important point: straight lecturing for two hours through computer speakers has even more potential for tedium than it does in-person. We were always on the lookout for alternative classroom activities. Sometimes this just took the form of practice reference questions that students would attempt, but we also used a number of in-class group projects and a few games.

Online Government Information

When one gets over the initial adjustment to teaching online, the medium's fit with the realities of government information begins to come into focus. First there is the simple fact that the vast majority of our current material in government information is online. There are relatively few cases where the online materials we employed were inferior to a print counterpart (ASI, SRI, IIS, we miss you). More often, there *was* no print counterpart. Quite frankly, Google and Firstgov are much more likely to be used by government information librarians these days than MOCAT. How often (never?) would one trace a current legislative history in print? And even if the *Statistical Abstract* has little value added in its online pdf, what's the distance threshold under which a government information librarian would walk in search of a hard copy?

Classroom Strategies

While our reference questions haven't gone online as quickly as the material that provides the answers, it's an increasingly realistic scenario. We had a number of real-world questions for students to practice with—questions that are often born digital and require digital (usually e-mail, sometimes chat) answers.

Also, certain aspects of government information—tracing the legislative or regulatory process, finding a time-series, hunting up a UN Security Council resolution—are unfamiliar to the novice, and daunting to some. We found that setting up small groups both in and outside of class sessions strengthened the learning curve for the students, and offered novel ways of creating learning communities that don't necessarily exist in-person. Also, working in groups whose communication is mostly electronic is a reality of almost every workplace.

Issues of the Day

Students in our first class asked if we could discuss current issues that come up that specifically affect government information. We began each session with a short discussion of issues such as copyright, the USA PATRIOT Act, disappearing government information, the unconnected population, and recent GPO proposals. If we found a timely article, we posted it to the general bulletin board ahead of time, and allowed time for class discussion. We found that interspersing discussions of issues throughout the semester was a far more effective strategy than reserving a single class session for them.

Assignments and Sample Reference Questions

Weekly assignments were pretty classic reference assignments. We'd ask a handful of reference questions on the week's topic, questions meant to be as real world as possible. This was never easy. We discussed how the nature of government information questions has shifted somewhat over recent years: questions that have become easier for us because of electronic tools have also become easier for patrons to find themselves. Google and its brethen have made patrons feel more self-sufficient, and a larger percentage of the questions we *do* handle are especially difficult and involved, often with no predictable outcome. We reinforced this by providing students some samples of questions we had been asked recently. We posted the questions, and gave students an opportunity in class to guess where they might look for possible answers. These real-world questions—even the real stumpers—proved valuable to students, who felt they learned much from these sessions.

Yet our assignment questions tended to be a bit easier than these real-world questions. This was largely to make them answerable. We limited the really hard questions—those that were realistic but sometimes without useful answer—to class time discussions. We also wanted to ensure that students were learning the basics. While it's true that sometimes our assignment questions involved topics that in many cases no longer required a librarian, we recognized that having those basic skills was necessary before our students could investigate the really difficult ones.

Sample Searches

As alluded to above, we sprinkled opportunities for practice searching throughout each session. We would provide instruction, then ask a question and allow time for students to find the answers. We were able to provide feedback to reinforce the lesson.

Source Lists

We provided our students with a weekly reading list. We also prepared an annotated bibliography that will help them in future reference work.

Course Requirements

In addition to the weekly assignments, students were expected to compile a web page of resources as their final project. We also tracked class participation, and a small portion of the grade was based on this. We felt that participation was a great help to the class overall, even if it's not clear that it helps actual learning.[3]

Student Evaluation

We paid special attention to feedback from our students from the first two semesters, and the excellent feedback has led to numerous adjustments.[4] Yet like teachers everywhere, we're striving to find balances. For instance, we received conflicting feedback about the pacing of the course, amount of information covered, and amount of classwork. Some felt we moved too fast and covered too much ground, while others felt we moved too slowly and dwelled too long on concepts. Perhaps this reaction mirrors perceptions of government documents among our peers in the library profession: some are endlessly enthralled by and love working with documents, while others mumble (good-naturedly, we think) about damned government documents and the cult of government documents librarians! The truth appears to be that some of our students, such as political junkies or ex-lawyers, are quicker to pick up government information topics. Others, especially those who are learning a fair amount of the necessary civics, likely require more time to assimilate. Add to this disparity the differences in skills using computers and online sources, and the apparent talent gap (apparent only because we feel that although the need for remedial civics and computer skills may slow learning about government information, it does not necessarily reflect future success with government information) between students can appear somewhat wide.

Nonetheless, while it may be necessary to move more slowly in an online atmosphere, we're still dealing with a graduate-level program training of those who may become front-line reference (and government information) librarians; expectations should not and can not be lowered because of the format of the instruction.

Lessons Learned

Preparation time—It takes a lot of work to properly prepare for a class like this. Our teacher friends tell us that the accepted standard for initial class preparation is three hours for every hour taught; we found that to be a minimum.

Let them know what to expect—We provided the class with a detailed syllabus, and went over the major points the first day of class.[5] We encouraged students to contact us with any questions about class content or confusing assignments before they became unnecessarily stressed.

Repeat often—When you can't see your students, it is more difficult to get the major points across. Ask frequently if there are questions or if some form of clarification is needed.

Put it in writing—Put major points on a slide, push a web page, and give students something to look at to reinforce the instruction. Distance learning students need this far more than those in a standard instructional setting.

Provide timely feedback—We check our e-mail and bulletin boards on a daily basis in order to respond to students as they read the material and worked on assignments. During classes, we constantly checked to see if messages were coming through to us while we were talking (it's so easy to keep going when you're on a roll, and hard to remember to stop and look).

Reinforce with a source list—We left our students with an extensive annotated bibliography that they can consult in their future careers. Part of that list contains recommended texts and books that we believe are essential for a reference desk, such as Sears and Moody's *Using Government Information Sources*.

Conclusion

Despite the workload, we enjoyed interacting with the students and guiding them through the maze of government information, with all its changing formats. We feel we have left them well-grounded in the nature of the beast, and given them a familiarity with major reference tools, and commonly needed information scenarios and publications. While many of these students won't become documents librarians, they will almost certainly need to consult government information in their general reference work. We hope that we've been able to share our love for the genre, and dispel some of the anxiety that librarians sometimes feel when faced with a government-related question at the desk. ▮

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***Sherry DeDecker**, Head, Government Information Center, and U.S. Documents Librarian, University of California, Santa Barbara, dedecker@library.ucsb.edu*

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Rozkuszka Scholarship Fundraiser in Chicago

GODORT is planning its fifth silent auction to raise funds to benefit the W. David Rozkuszka scholarship. The scholarship provides financial assistance to an individual who is currently working with government documents in a library and is trying to complete a master's degree in library science. This award, established in 1994, is named after W. David Rozkuszka, former documents librarian at Stanford University. The award winner receives $3,000.

The GODORT Development Committee is looking for contributions (both physical and financial) to support this scholarship. The GODORT fundraiser is a fun way of contributing. Possibilities include all types of arts and crafts—either those that you make or a friend or family member makes or that you purchase and donate. Something that represents your geographic region is only one example; we encourage you to be creative!

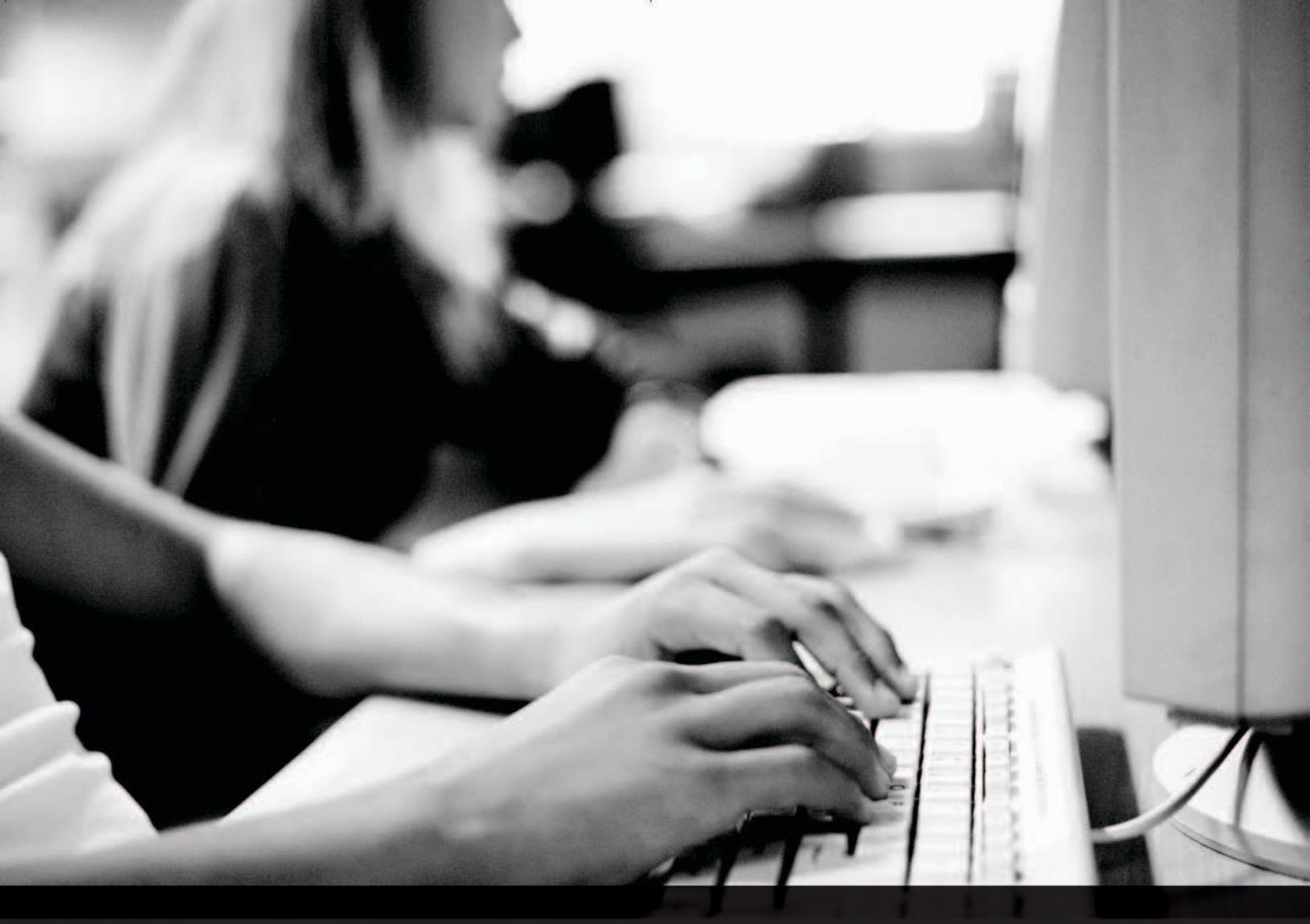
Physical items donated will be sold through a silent auction at the GODORT booth in the exhibits area during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, from June 24 until noon on June 27.

If you are interested in contributing, please notify Susan Tulis at *stulis@lib.siu.edu* as soon as possible.

If you are interested in making a financial contribution instead, please send your check to the GODORT treasurer Ann Miller with a memo indicating it is for the Rozkuszka scholarship. Ann's address is:

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

And if you are interested in helping to staff the GODORT booth during the conference, let us know. Otherwise, please come and bid on the wonderful items we will have on display at the GODORT booth! Remember, the money goes to a wonderful cause.—***Susan Tulis**, Southern Illinois University, Morris Library Mailcode 6632, 605 Agriculture Dr., Carbondale, IL 62901* ▮



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Vital Statistics of the United States: Births, Life Expectancy, Deaths, and Selected Health Data. Edited by Helmut F. Wendel and Christopher S. Wendel. Lanham, Md., Bernan Pr., 2004. ISSN: 1549-8603, $95.

The National Center for Health Statistics' (NCHS) three-volume *Vital Statistics of the United States*, last published in 1999 for the statistical year 1993, has been sorely missed. The Center for Disease Control has continued to collect the data and release data on the NCHS web site, but has not compiled it in an easily accessible way. Bernan Press has addressed this vacuum in a one-volume work, also titled *Vital Statistics of the United States*, that covers birth, death, health, marriage, and divorce. While not nearly as detailed as the NCHS's three-volume government publication, it is a useful reference source for both academic and public libraries. The Bernan editors seem to have chosen to concentrate on the more relevant social issues of our time, such as race, gender, and availability of health care, in pulling together their data, and have given us an overview rather than the detail of the previous NCHS editions. While the NCHS publication provided greater analysis and included a volume specifically broken down into geographic areas, the Bernan edition gives the types of statistics that most students of public policy or social welfare would find useful. The data is usually for the United States as a whole, but occasionally it is broken down by state.

An attempt to compare tables in the Birth and Death sections of the NCHS and Bernan volumes showed that they do not generally correspond. The Bernan volume has 51 tables under Birth, while the 1999 NCHS publication has 126; tables relating to educational attainment of the mother, for example, are reduced from six in the latter to one in the former. Similarly, the section on Mortality in the Bernan volume lists 113 causes of death, whereas the NCHS volume lists 282; the causes of cancer and types of infections, for instance, are broken down into more detail. Yet the Bernan editors have pulled the information that users need most, such as death rates and age-adjusted death rates by "Race, Hispanic Origin, and Sex." There are several tables on the "Number of Deaths, Death Rates, and Age-Adjusted Death Rates" for the leading causes of death, such as firearms, alcohol-induced, and drug-induced. Race and age are consistently covered throughout the volumes, which are important issues for public policy.

One of the great values of the Bernan volume is that it provides prefatory material before each of the major sections. It also provides a short explanation before each table; these paragraphs enhance the value of the tables, since the exact meaning of such terms as "birth rate" is not always apparent. Each table has many carefully researched footnotes at the bottom. While the source of information is not listed after each table, which would have been helpful, there is a bibliography and source list at the end of the volume. These sources include suggestions for future research, both online and print. Another useful feature is a glossary, which defines the terms used throughout the book. The volume also has a detailed index, which is a feature missing in the NCHS publications.

The useful section on Health in the Bernan edition is an area not covered in the NCHS *Vital Statistics of the United States*. Examples of the topics in this section are "Health Insurance Coverage Among Persons under 65 Years of Age, 1994–2001;" and "Life Expectancies and Expected Years in Good or Better Health and Excellent Health for Selected Ages, 1995." The section on Marriage and Divorce, which again concentrates on age, race and sex, is particularly rich in graphs, which enhance the information provided.

Because the Bernan editors have attempted to include so many topics in one volume, much detail has understandably been lost. It would have been helpful to have more coverage of the intervening years between 1993 and 2002, which is the latest data presented in the book. A few of the tables attempt to cover those years, but not many. Overall, however, this new publication is an excellent reference source for any library, from public to large academic, since it pulls together the type of statistics that can only be found with difficulty in other sources, and is extremely relevant for sociological and health research. The Bernan editors were very successful in abridging the volume by cutting out the least-used details. Perhaps health professionals would find otherwise; but for social sciences research, this is an excellent starting point.—***Jan Goldsmith**, Reference/U.S. Documents Librarian, Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles; goldsmi@library.ucla.edu.*

A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility: Report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change. New York: United Nations, 2005. $15. ISBN: 9211009588. Available from: www.un.org/secureworld/report3.pdf.

Autumn 2003 was not a happy time for the United Nations (U.N.) or its Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. Dismissing Security Council objections, the United States had invaded Iraq and overthrown the government of Saddam Hussein. Non-state terrorist organizations continued to strike against various targets, including U.N. officials, in various corners of the world. And genocide was again in the news, this time in western Sudan, as international organizations tried to aid civilian refugees despite inadequate financial and personnel resources.

In the midst of these setbacks, Annan created the U.N. Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change and asked the group of sixteen distinguished international leaders, including former U.S. national security adviser Brent Scowcroft, to examine the current security threats confronting all nations, determine how best to respond to those threats, and recommend ways to strengthen the U.N.'s role in providing for international peace and security.

The Panel's final report, *A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility,*

issued in December 2004, is organized in four sections. Part 1, "Towards a New Security Consensus," contrasts the world of 1945, when the U.N. was founded, with 2005; reviews the major social, economic, and political trends of the second half of the twentieth century, and argues the case for collective rather than unilateral approaches to security. Part 2, "Collective Security and the Challenge of Prevention," delineates the major security threats to individual and national security, grouped in six broad categories (socio-economic, inter-state conflict, internal conflict including civil war and genocide, weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and transnational crime). It also proposes a consensus definition of terrorism for adoption by the General Assembly as part of a comprehensive convention on terrorism. Part 3, "Collective Security and the Use of Force," describes the conditions under which military force can be legally used to defend security when peaceful forms of prevention fail. Five criteria of legitimacy are proposed as a guideline for determining when to resort to military force. Part 4, "A More Effective United Nations for the Twenty-First Century," acknowledges past U.N. programmatic and structural failings and proposes a series of reforms.

The panel report—packed with more than one hundred recommendations and footnotes developed during forty regional issue workshops and six panel meetings in various locations around the world—reads like a scholarly repudiation of recent U.S. foreign policy, especially the muscular assertion of American values and the concept of preventive war as articulated by the Bush administration in *The National Security Strategy of the United States of America* (September 2002).[1] The creation of the U.N. report as a response to the Iraq War and U.S. unilateralism is everywhere apparent, although the war is only infrequently mentioned by name. In the historical sketch of Part 1, for example, the report's authors blame the "United-States-led war in Iraq in 2003" for eroding a brief "spirit of international purpose" born of the end of the Cold War (13).

If both sides (unilateralists and multilateralists) agree on the need for military force when peaceful means fail, they disagree on the process by which the resort to force occurs.

In introducing the National Security Strategy of the United States, George W. Bush asserted: "In the new world we have entered, the only path to peace and security is the path of action."[2] In his address at the U.S. Military Academy, Bush vowed that "The U.S. national security strategy will be based on a distinctly American internationalism that reflects the union of our values and our national interests."[3] In the same document he promised, "While the U.S. will constantly strive to enlist the support of the international community, we will not hesitate to act alone, if necessary, to exercise our right of self-defense by acting preemptively . . ."[4]

By contrast, in *A More Secure World*, the word "collective" serves as a dominant theme, especially in the opening chapter on a new security consensus:

> In the twenty-first century, more than ever before, no State can stand wholly alone. Collective strategies, collective institutions and a sense of collective responsibility are indispensable. The case for collective security today rests on three basic pillars. Today's threats recognize no national boundaries, are connected, and must be addressed at the global and regional as well as national levels. No State, no matter how powerful, can by its own efforts alone make itself invulnerable to today's threats (9).

Part 3 reviews what the U.N. Charter says about the use of force against a member state.[5] Two exceptions to the prohibition against such military action are allowed: when authorized by the Security Council or in self-defense. During the Cold War these rules were frequently broken, but the report writers see in the post-Cold War period a growing "yearning for an international system governed by the rule of law." They conclude: "There is little evident international acceptance of the idea of security being best preserved by a balance of power, or by any single—even benignly motivated—superpower" (62). When a case for preventive military action arises, it should be put to the Security Council for ratification. And what if the Security Council rejects the military option? In what comprises the U.N. report's clearest repudiation of the unilateralist approach to foreign policy, the panel concludes:

> For those impatient with such a response, the answer must be that, in a world full of perceived potential threats, the risk to the global order and the norm of non-intervention on which it continues to be based is simply too great for the legality of unilateral preventive action, as distinct from collectively endorsed action, to be accepted (63).

Harry Truman put it more directly, in speaking to the founding conference of the U.N. Organization in 1945: "We all have to recognize—no matter how great our strength—that we must deny ourselves the license to do always as we please" (77).

When not engaged in a tacit debate with U.S. neo-conservative foreign policy makers, the panel report is most interesting for what it says about past U.N. successes and failures and for the reforms it proposes. To increase the effectiveness and credibility of the Security Council, the panel calls for enlarging the body by nine members via one of two plans, labeled Models A and B. Model A calls for adding six new permanent seats, (two from Africa, two from Asia, one from Europe, and one from the Americas) all without veto power, and three new non-permanent, two-year seats. Model B would provide for no new permanent seats but create eight new four-year renewable-term seats and one new two-year non-renewable seat. Both models would result in twenty-four members spread equally among the four regional areas, and both would give preference to those states that were major financial and troop contributors to the U.N.

budget and peacekeeping missions. The structural recommendations also call for the creation of a Peacebuilding Commission to assist states in the transition from conflict to peace, a shortening and focusing of the annual agenda for the General Assembly, a revamping of the Commission on Human Rights to improve its credibility and professionalism, and the creation of a second deputy Secretary-General, responsible for peace and security issues.

Unilateralists will not be optimistic about the chances for improved international security arising from such reforms. Multilateralists will continue to look to the U.N. and its regime of sanctions, conventions, frameworks, and accords as the best continuing hope for resolving disputes short of war. Secretary-General Annan will add his own revisions and formally submit the report to the U.N. for action in March 2005.

In *Dark Victory*, a recent study of the Iraq War and its consequences, Jeffrey Record calls the Bush strategy of preventive war "the most sweeping foreign policy shift since the declaration of the Truman Doctrine of containment and deterrence in 1947."[6] If the Truman Doctrine of containment and deterrence has been replaced by the Bush Doctrine of prevention and pre-emption, perhaps Truman's opinion about preventive war should also be recalled: "I have always been opposed even to the thought of such a war. There is nothing more foolish than to think that war can be stopped by war. You don't prevent anything by war except peace."[7]—***Alan Zoellner***, *Government Information Librarian, Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary, afzoel@wm.edu* ▮

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Index to Advertisers

2005 Midwinter Meeting Wrap-Up, GODORT Highlights

Boston, Jan. 14–18, 2005

Full information concerning GODORT's activities will be posted in the minutes on the GODORT web site. At the first Steering Committee meeting, Chair John Stevenson reported on letters sent and GODORT activities at the October Depository Library Council meeting. Treasurer Ann Miller reported on a sound GODORT FY 2003/2004 budget. Steering discussed the transfer of authority for the GITCO Clearinghouse to GPO, a proposal to raise dues, and the ALA strategic planning initiative *ALA Ahead to 2010*.

At the GODORT update, Julie Schwartz, Connecticut State Library, discussed the OCLC Digital Archive Project to capture Connecticut state government publications; Patrice McDermott reported from the ALA Washington Office; and Superintendent of Documents Judy Russell spoke about GPO's *Strategic Vision for the 21st Century*. Later at the Federal Documents Task Force (FDTF) Business Meeting, Jennifer Boettcher of Georgetown University spoke on working with the economic census in libraries and Judy Russell and T. C. Evans continued to discuss GPO's plans.

The International Documents Task Force (IDTF) heard agency liaison and vendor reports on developments related to international government organization information, and planned a preconference for Annual 2006. Vivienne Monty, of York University, Toronto, spoke on the Canadian Depository program. IDTF also discussed the value of the UN Treaty Database, and voted to request that GODORT send a letter to the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights emphasizing the database's importance and requesting that all treaty body documents continue to be loaded on the Treaty Body Database. This was later approved at the business meeting.

The State and Local Documents Task Force (SLDTF) continued planning its 2005 program, discussed a new web site and an improved Cataloging Toolbox. Midwinter speakers included Julie Schwartz on digital archiving, Bette Siegel, State Library of Massachusetts, on the collection development for state and local documents, and Pat Finney, Center of Research Libraries, on the Center's collection of U.S. state documents and their plan to offer tours during ALA Annual 2005.

The GODORT Awards Committee met and selected following award recipients: James Bennett Childs—Ernest F. ("Gil") Baldwin III (GPO); LexisNexis/GODORT/ALA "Documents to the People": Dan O'Mahony (Brown University Library); Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders: Sue Selmer (retired, Everett Public Library); NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds Research Grant: not awarded; W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship: Julie Tanis Sayles (enrolled at the University of South Florida, Tampa).

The Bylaws and Organization Committee proposed dropping the requirement (in the *Policies and Procedures Manual* [PPM]) that the bylaws be published every three years in *DttP*. This was later approved by both the Publications and Steering committees. The committee also recommended that the Bylaws and PPM show the councilor's term of office as three years (in compliance with ALA bylaws), and that the PPM needs a new section on special officers.

At the Cataloging Committee, Laurie Hall, director of bibliographic services at GPO, presented GPO's plan to create separate records for titles in multiple formats. Full-level cataloging will be provided for online resources, but GPO will only catalog tangible materials at minimum-level. Attendees requested GPO consider full-level cataloging for all items, and the committee will gather more input. Attendees also requested improvements in GPO's communication regarding changes in cataloging practice. After a presentation on flaws in the UN Classification Scheme, the committee approved a motion that the GODORT send a letter to UN officials regarding these deficiencies. Subsequently, it was decided to take this issue to IDTF for discussion before taking action.

The Conference Committee discussed the challenges of working with ALA housing in arranging a block of rooms at Midwinter and Annual, as preconference dates are excluded. The committee selected a location for the GODORT reception in Chicago, and because of space limitations, voted not to invite other organizations to participate. Jill Moriearty reported on successful fundraising efforts for the reception. The committee also approved renaming the silent auction the Rozkuszka Scholarship Fundraiser.

The Development Committee discussed guidelines for soliciting donations for GODORT activities. A standard letter will be drafted and included in the PPM. The GODORT treasurer and chair will monitor all solicitations. A letter to retirees and all current and past GODORT members seeking donations for the reserve/endowment will be sent in spring 2005. Susan Tulis will lead Rozkuszka scholarship fundraiser planning.

The Education Committee continued work on the GODORT Handout Exchange, and discussed competencies for government information specialists. GPO is developing online tutorials and personnel were present to discuss coordinating training efforts. The committee also approved a proposal for a preconference for 2006 about how government information can be used to teach information literacy concepts.

The Government Information Technology Committee (GITCO) discussed the transfer of responsibility of the Digital Projects Clearinghouse Database from GITCO to GPO. GPO will maintain all data on nonfederal projects in the database, with the assistance of

a GITCO subcommittee. GPO's Judy Russell and George Barnum discussed the *Concept of Operations for the Future Digital System* (ConOps FDS) document that describes a new system for organizing, disseminating, and preserving government information. GITCO will be tracking the Google Print project. GITCO is currently planning a 2007 preconference on the American Community Survey.

The Legislation Committee discussed the new ID 72 (effective January 10, 2005), "Withdrawal of Federal Information Products from Information Dissemination Collection and Distribution Programs," (www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/sod72_policy_rev.pdf) and will be communicating concerns to GPO. The committee authored the "Resolution on Access to National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Publications" and "Resolution on FY2006 GPO Salaries and Expenses Appropriations," both of which were endorsed in principle by the GODORT membership and are available on the committee's *Checklist of Resolutions* page.

The Membership Committee discussed avenues for reaching potential members through GODORT regional organizations, conference and preconference activities, brochures, and *DttP*. A revised GODORT dues structure was drafted for the Steering Committee, and some alternatives to a formal mentoring program were discussed. The New Member Lunch was successful, with twenty-five new and veteran members in attendance.

The Nominating Committee met twice during the conference and presented a ballot to the Steering Committee, which approved it. Most offices will have contested elections and will feature a contest for GODORT chair-elect between Mary Horton and Aimee Quinn. Jill Moriearty is running unopposed for treasurer. Beth Rowe is running for GODORT secretary. John Hernandez and Maureen Olle are running for FDTF coordinator-elect, and two candidates (Lora Amsberryaugier and Sarah Gerwitz) are vying for FDTF secretary. The IDTF coordinator-elect contest features Christof Galli and Elizabeth Margutti, with Jeffrey Knapp and Amy Stewart Mailhoit running for IDTF secretary. Paul Arrigo and David Utz are seeking the SLDTF coordinator-elect position, while Kris Kasianovitz is running for SLDTF secretary in an uncontested contest. Contests for the Awards Committee (John Phillips, Karen Hogenboom, and Amy West), Bylaws and Organization Committee (Bill Sleeman and Jim Veatch), Nominating Committee (Esther Crawford, Andrea Morrison and Vicki Phillips), and chair-elect of Publications Committee (Dan Barkley) round out the ballot.

The Program Committee finalized plans for the 2005 preconference "Demystifying Government Sources: Government Information for the Rest of Us," and the program "Born Digital, Dead Tomorrow: Strategies for the Preservation of Web-Based Government Information." They also submitted proposals to the Steering Committee for a 2006 Annual Conference pre-conference and program.

Steering approved an IDTF preconference proposal, tentatively titled "It's a Small World after All: The Globalization of International Documents, the United Nations, European Union, Organization of American States, and Beyond" and the program proposed by the Education Committee, tentatively titled "Information Literacy is the Destination, Government Information is the Road: Using Government Information to Illustrate Information Literacy Concepts." Anyone interested in working on the development of these program ideas should contact Arlene Weible, chair, Program Committee, aweible@library.unt.edu.

The Publications Committee heard reports from Notable Documents Panel chair Linda Johnson, web administrator Lesley Pease, treasurer Ann Miller, and *DttP* lead editor Andrea Sevetson. *DttP* back files from 1972–98 are being scanned by Stanford University and will be made available. The Committee also discussed the possibility of making the current run available via the ALA web site.

The committee and task force web managers met and reviewed the process of creating and updating pages, page responsibilities, archiving processes, and ideas for handling the "Current News." They also covered expectations of web managers.

Rare and Endangered Government Publications (REGP) Committee covered some agenda items from Annual Conference 2004, held over due to a lack of quorum. REGP approved all of the recommendations of its Subcommittee for Endangered 1932–1962 Federal Documents, including a request that the GODORT chair write a letter to the Superintendent of Documents supporting the plan to establish a National Clearinghouse for Digital Collections, later approved at the Business Meeting. REGP approved a plan for a Committee-sponsored monograph on the *U.S. Congressional Serial Set*, with Aimee Quinn and Donna Koepp as co-editors. REGP also discussed plans for a program for the 2007 Annual Conference on "Congressional Documents in the History of the 18th through 19th Century United States," and appointed a subcommittee in response to GPO's request to review its survey of "priority U.S. Government documents for digitization." Later that day was a tour of the Government Documents Department of the Boston Public Library.

At the GODORT business/membership meeting on Monday, two resolutions from the Legislation Committee (noted above) were endorsed in principle. Revisions to the bylaws passed unanimously. Action items from IDTF and REGP received approval. An extensive discussion responding to the draft *ALA Ahead to 2010* ensued, with a decision to pursue further discussion between now and the Annual 2005 meeting, when the plan is to be adopted by ALA Council.

At GODORT's second Steering Committee meeting, the Bylaws and Organization Committee proposed that the GODORT bylaws describe the GODORT councilor's term of office for three years as stated in the ALA bylaws and the PPM reflect this, and also that the PPM no longer stipulate that the bylaws should be printed in *DttP* every three years. Both were approved by

Steering, The second motion will go to the membership for approval.

Development of an endowment (reserve) fund was discussed and Steering approved $400 to pay for postage for a Development Committee letter soliciting donations. Steering unanimously approved a motion from Legislation that GODORT send a letter to the Superintendent of Documents outlining concerns about the new ID 72 (regarding withdrawal of titles from the FDLP). The Membership Committee's dues proposal was discussed. The motion to raise member dues to $25 failed, but motions to raise institutional dues to $35, to offer a new student membership rate at $10, and to create a new support staff membership rate at $20 passed. The dues proposals will be presented to GODORT membership for a vote at the Annual Conference.

In new business, the Program Committee presented proposals for ALA 2006, a program sponsored by the Education Committee and a preconference proposal sponsored by IDTF, and both were approved. Steering also approved REGP's request that the chair write a letter of thanks to the Boston Public Library for their library tour at Midwinter.—***Andrea Morrison**, GODORT Past Chair* ▌

Councilor's Report

Representing GODORT, I attended all ALA Council sessions. Included in this report is information of special interest to GODORT members. For additional information about Council meetings visit the ALA Council web site at www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governanceb/council/council.htm.

Council elected four persons to serve on the ALA executive board, with GODORT member and former Superintendent of Documents, Francis J. Buckley Jr. elected to serve a three-year term. Congratulations, Fran!

Other information on ALA elections included the announcement that the 2004 electronic balloting was a huge success, the 2005 electronic ballot will be compliant with accessibility standards, and paper ballots will still be available upon request (e-mail membership@ala.org or call 1-800-545-2433, press 5, to request a paper ballot).

GODORT was complimented by the chair of the ALA Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) for significant progress with controlling costs and increasing revenues. ALA ended FY2004 within budget and with a membership of 64,099—an increase of 1,484 members. Conference registration reached more than 13,000 as of Monday, January 17, 2005, which exceeded the attendance at the 2004 Midwinter Meeting by more than 2,000 persons.

Council considered a number of resolutions and actions. GODORT submitted two important resolutions for approval with both receiving strong support from council. In debate, no council member spoke in opposition to the resolutions. The resolutions approved are: 1) Resolution Opposing GPO's Decision to Eliminate Print Distribution of Important Government Information; and 2) Resolution on Access to National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Publications. Council members urged the ALA Washington office to plan a grass-roots campaign to encourage ALA members to communicate with their congressional representatives regarding the information contained in the two resolutions. Although immediate action is required on these issues, the annual ALA National Library Legislative Day will be held on May 3–4, 2005, in Washington, D.C., and offers us an opportunity to talk with congressional members and their staff about no-fee public access to government information. GODORT members are encouraged to attend.

Also of interest to GODORT, the ALA Committee on Organization (COO) recommended the passage of an action item to establish a Scholarship Committee for oversight of all scholarship awards. Many questions arose related to the level of oversight to be provided, so council referred the motion back to COO for clarification with the expectation that it will be brought back to council at Annual Conference. Since GODORT awards a scholarship, this issue bears close monitoring.

In other action, council approved a resolution opposing the closure of the Salinas, California, library system and adopted a resolution in support of the "*Stop Before You Click" Campaign: 12 Principles for Fair Commerce in Software and Other Digital Products* drafted by a coalition of organizations opposing UCITA. The brochure informs individuals and businesses of unfair terms in shrink-wrap and click-on licenses. For more information on this campaign, visit http://affect.ucita.com/fairterms/fairterms.htm.

ALA council members also serve as the governing council for the ALA Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA), which provides national certification for library workers, advocates for salaries and training for library workers, and provides reports, analyses, and consulting services. The ALA-APA will offer Certified Public Library Administrators as its first certification program.—***Cathy Nelson Hartman**, GODORT Councilor* ▌

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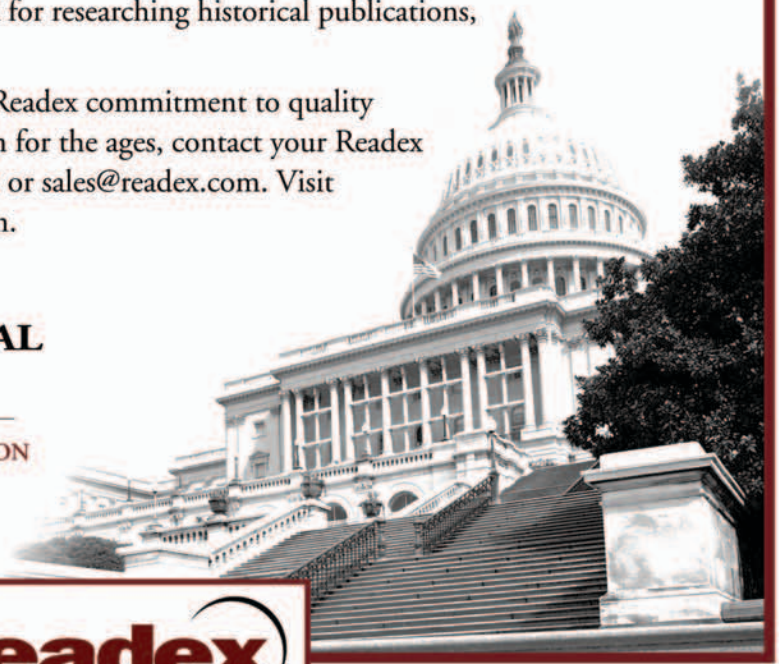

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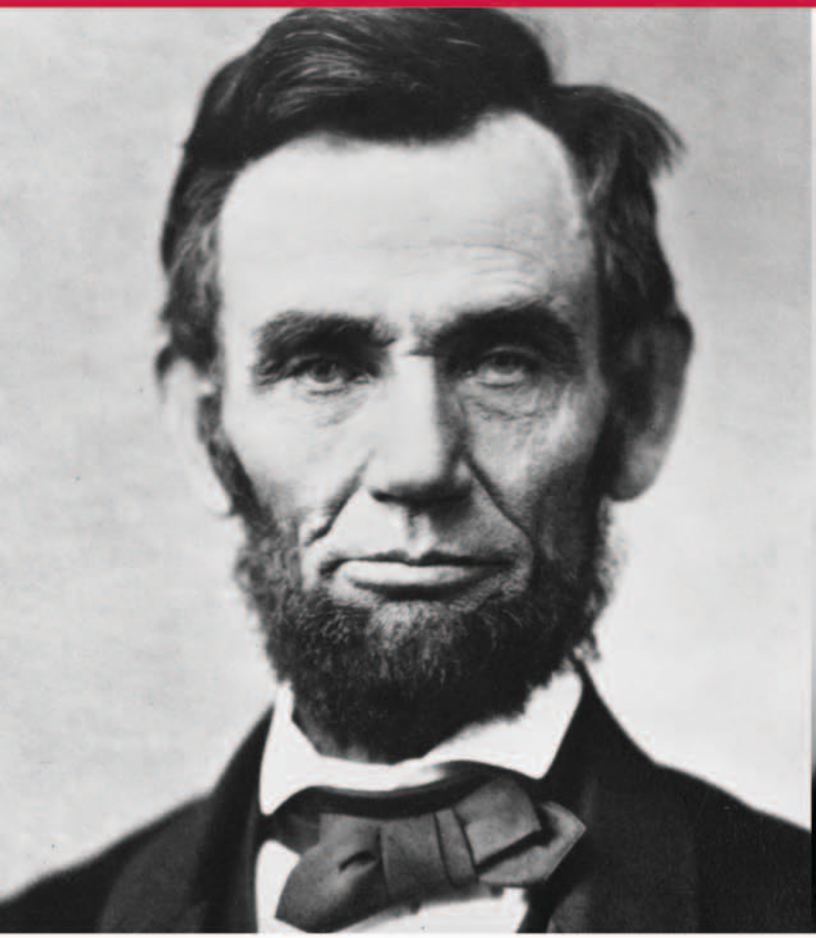

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