DttP

Documents to the People

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In This Issue

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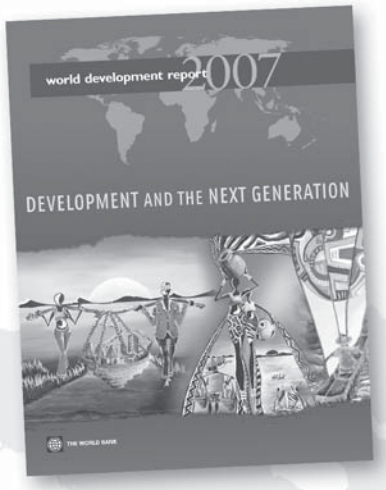
NEW FROM THE WORLD BANK

World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation



There has never been a better time to invest in young people in developing countries. Those aged 12-24 years number 1.2 billion and make up the largest youth cohort in history. They are, on average, more educated and healthier than generations before them. They represent, potentially, a stronger base on which to build, in a world that is increasingly demanding more than basic skills. Today's young people are the next generation of workers, entrepreneurs, parents, active citizens and leaders, who will live their lives with relatively fewer dependents because of lower fertility. Countries need to seize this window of opportunity before the aging process closes it.

Development and the Next Generation, the 2007 World Development Report (WDR), discusses the priorities for government action across five youth transitions that shape investments in young people's human capital: learning, working, staying healthy, forming families and exercising citizenship. It concludes that investments in young people have been most successful when they have not only expanded opportunities directly, but have also improved the climate for young people and their families to invest in themselves.

In addition to detailed chapters exploring these and related issues, the Report contains selected data from the World Development Indicators 2006—an appendix of economic and social data for over 200 countries.

September 2006. 220 pages.
***Paperback**. Stock no. A16541 (ISBN 0-8213-6541-X). US$26*
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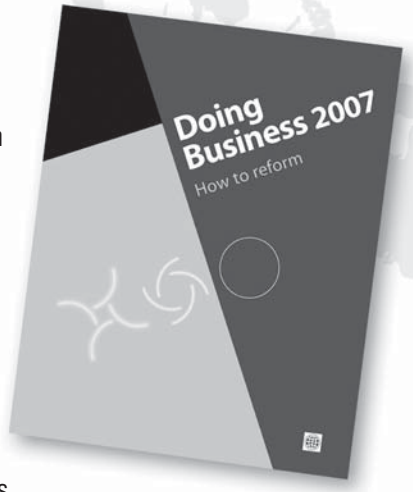
Doing Business 2007: How to Reform



This fourth installment in the series of annual reports investigates global regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it. This year's report measures quantitative indicators on business regulations and their enforcement compared across 175 countries—from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe—and over time. *Doing Business 2007* updates indicators developed in three preceding reports.

The ten indicators are: starting a business, dealing with licenses, hiring and firing, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, trading across borders, paying taxes, enforcing contracts and closing a business. The indicators are used to analyze economic and social outcomes, such as informality, corruption, unemployment, and poverty. The annually published reports give policymakers the ability to measure regulatory performance in comparison to other countries, learn from best practices globally, and prioritize reforms. This year's report covers 20 additional countries. *Doing Business in 2007* focuses on reforms, identifies top reformers in business regulations and best practices in how to reform.

September 2006. 188 pages. Stock no. A16488 (ISBN 0-8213-6488-X). US$35

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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.

Editorial Staff
Please see the web site for full contact information: www.ala.org/ala/godort/dttp/aboutdttp.htm.

Lead Editor: Andrea Sevetson, PO 10835, Colesville, MD 20914; (301) 951-4749; dttp.editor@verizon.net

Editors:
Chuck Eckman, UC Berkeley; (510) 642-7999; fax (510) 643-8179; ceckman@library.berkeley.edu

Julie Linden, Yale University, (203) 432-3310; fax: (203) 432-3214; julie.linden@yale.edu

Helen M. Sheehy, Pennsylvania State University Libraries; (814) 863-1347; fax: (814) 863-1403 hms2@psu.edu

Contributions Editor: Ben Amata, CSU Sacramento; (916) 278-5672; fax: (916) 278-7089; bamata@csus.edu

Reviews Editor: Susan Tulis, Southern Illinois University, Morris Library, Mailcode 6632, 605 Agriculture Dr., Carbondale, IL 62901, (618) 453-2522, fax: (618) 453-3440; stulis@lib.siu.edu

Advertising Editor: Sherry DeDecker, Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9010, 805-893-3713, fax: 805-893-4676, dedecker@library.ucsb.edu

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DttP

Documents to the People

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'Round the Table

About the cover: The cover photo is of the 2006 GODORT Award Recipients. They are (left to right) Kevin Reynolds, Julie Linden, AnnMarie Sanders, Grace York, and Sherry Mosley. See page 49 for more details. The photo was taken by Mark Phillips.

Editor's Corner

Andrea Sevetson

Where Has Customer Service Gone?

We are all faced with real-life examples of customer service in our lives. Sometimes it's things one should never do and sometimes it's an example of great customer service.

Let me interject: One of my favorite "do not's" is from a department store noted for customer service. About ten years ago I went in, and there was a new employee and a veteran at the counter. I got the newbie. I knew that my transaction would take a bit more time because she was new; however, the veteran, in the midst of her own customer transaction on the opposite side of the counter, kept interrupting our conversation to give directions to the newbie. It was clear to me that, given an opportunity, the new employee would have asked the veteran at the appropriate time. But the veteran kept interjecting herself into our salesperson/customer relationship and the interjects were supremely annoying. I came away from that interaction thinking about how I related to interns. Did I interject myself into situations or did I wait for the intern to turn to me and ask for assistance? I hope it was the later, but I know that after being a part of that little interaction, I was much more careful.

No special requests taken: Too recently I was at a nationwide home improvement chain where a gentleman in customer service told me he couldn't take a special order for me; I needed to call the vendor and place the order myself. He was standing under the sign that said, in addition to many other things, "special orders." I told him I thought it seemed a bit improbable that I would have to call the vendor and order it myself when the sign in their own store advertised the product yet didn't give the vendor contact information. After that comment, and an additional interchange (and I admit it, an exasperated look on my part), my sales representative rethought the situation and proceeded to try to help me. But think for a minute—how often do we say "no" to a "special" request just because we're too tired or don't feel like it? What impression does that leave? At least I had another alternative; library users don't generally have another store to go to.

We're glad you're here: How many times do we tell our users we're just glad they showed up? During a recent alumni weekend, I was chatting with a schoolmate and colleague, and he called certain services "hospitality services." This includes making people feel welcome and telling them where meeting rooms and bathrooms are, as well as explaining the Internet and the exhibits. A different kind of hospitality services was displayed at ALA in New Orleans. Everyone was glad we were there and welcomed us simply for showing up even if things weren't perfect. Does your library make folks feel welcome—just for showing up?

The customer is wrong, wrong, wrong! Sometime in the last month I was reading a Southwest Airlines in-flight magazine article about customer service. One of the tenets espoused is that the customer is not always right. And they backed this up by saying "Think about it, haven't you witnessed a customer service transaction where you saw a customer who was wrong?" Of course, we can all think of not just one, but several instances like this; however, the actual point the author made is not about who is wrong. The point is, no matter the situation, the customer still deserves to be treated with respect.

Should we make our users and visitors feel like the libraries we work in and spend our lives in are *their* libraries? Can we welcome them with the warmth that conference attendees felt in New Orleans? Lynne Truss has a new book *Talk to the Hand: The Utter Bloody Rudeness of the World Today, Or Six Good Reasons to Stay Home and Bolt the Door* (New York: Gotham Books, 2005). It's a bit of a rant, but certainly the point is well taken: we could all do with a little less attitude and impatience and a little more hospitality services, and the "we're glad you're here" hospitality.

Changes in *DttP*

You'll notice a few new names in this issue of *DttP.* First, Marcy Allen is the new *Geospatial News* columnist, and we welcome her in this issue with her column on Google Earth. We also welcome Sherry DeDecker as the new advertising editor. Advertising editor is a somewhat thankless job (though we always do our best), and yet working with the advertisers means readers get information about products each issue through ads and can check up on new developments.

One goodbye—this is the last column for Patrice McDermott, as she moves from ALA to OpentheGovernment.org. We wish her the best, and thank her for her columns over the past three years!

About This Issue

This issue we've asked some of our non-documents colleagues to write about what they know and what they wished they knew about government documents. Each took a different approach to it and it makes for some interesting reading. Thank you to all the authors who took the time to share some things they think are important, exposed some lack of knowledge, and help to teach us a few things about how we can reach out to our co-workers.

We're glad you're here—without readers there would be no need for this journal, so please enjoy your issue of *DttP*! ▮

From the Chair

Aimée C. Quinn

In writing this, and reflecting on GODORT's recent work, I am amazed at how much we have accomplished as a volunteer organization! We began an examination of the role GODORT played over the past thirty-plus years and are now looking at what we should do in the twenty-first century. We moved the GODORT web pages to the ALA server and each of the committees and task forces made significant improvements to the content on their web pages, leading to an incredibly rich and robust site. Our councilor, Cathy Hartman, following on the good work and leadership of Larry Romans, worked very hard with her colleagues to change the rules of council representation and secured GODORT's continued representation on council.

GODORT hosted a popular program at the Depository Library Council meeting in Seattle titled "Capturing Digital Government Information: Views from the Northwest." Summaries and handouts are available at www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortprogram/dlcseattle.htm.

But the work goes on. We continue to work closely with GPO and the Depository Library Council in their work to create a new vision for the Federal Depository Library Program. Next year, with the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., we will take full advantage of this location and are developing a preconference focused on international documents to be held at the World Bank headquarters, as well as a program on early Americana not found in the *Serial Set*.

At this writing, GODORT is gearing up for Annual Conference in New Orleans. One of our biggest challenges this year is the revenue shortfall that resulted from the very difficult decision to cancel our annual preconference. We also need to find the funds to continue to develop the W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship, GODORT's $3,000 award to benefit a library master's degree candidate who is currently working with government documents in a library. While we continue to raise funds for the scholarship through our successful silent auction, we need to find a way to fully endow this scholarship. The New Orleans Conference program "Information Literacy Is the Destination, Government Information Is the Road" will focus on using government resources to help with information literacy. Karen Hogenboom deserves special thanks and praise for working tirelessly to pull this program together. The Cataloging Committee will examine Library of Congress changes to AACR2 and how they may impact our daily work. A work group is currently developing the first in a series of web seminars for those of you who desire professional development but cannot attend ALA Annual. In creating this educational series, we really could use your input. So please, let us know what you are interested in learning or teaching!

I am deeply honored to be entrusted to carry on the work of my predecessors, Arlene Weible and John Stevenson, who began the difficult task to honestly examine the role of GODORT in the lives of our members. In her last column, Arlene wrote of the need for a "fundamental reevaluation of GODORT's mission, goals, and organizational structure." I sincerely agree and will do my best to continue those efforts. As such, the incoming members of the GODORT Steering Committee have been charged to start talking with their counterparts and colleagues across the Association, with the idea of developing a vision for the twenty-first century, to discover what exciting things we can do.

I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to Arlene and John for the excellent example they set and to challenge each of you to think of what it is you expect from your membership in GODORT.

Also, I would like to extend my thanks to Patrice McDermott for all her work, good humor, and advice. For those of you who may not know, Patrice leaves the ALA Washington Office to work with OpenTheGovernment.org, a coalition of journalists, consumer and good government groups, environmentalists, labor, and others united to make the federal government more open in support of our democratic principles. I wish her good luck in her new work and want her to know that we will miss her.

I look forward to working with each of you over the next year. Please let me hear from you. GODORT needs your new ideas! ▮

Washington Report

Patrice McDermott

This is my last column for *DttP: Documents to the People*. As most of you know, I am leaving the American Library Association at the end of June to take over the helm of OpenTheGovernment.org (www.openthegovernment.org).

I have found my work with the government documents protectors, strengtheners, and enhancers in GODORT and throughout ALA deeply rewarding and educational. I hope to find ways to continue to work together in our common objectives to make the federal government open and accountable to all the public and its information permanently publicly accessible. Thank you for all your work.

Judicial

Strike against First Amendment Protection for Government Employees

On May 30, in a 5-4 decision for *Garcetti v. Ceballos*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that government employees who speak

out on the job about job-related activities are not protected by the First Amendment, even if they are doing so with the intention of revealing wrongdoings.

The case involved Los Angeles deputy district attorney Richard Ceballos, who alleged that his supervisors retaliated against him after he wrote a memo saying that a deputy sheriff lied to obtain a search warrant. Ceballos claims he was demoted, denied a promotion, and transferred to another office in retaliation for speaking up. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that Ceballos's statements in the memo and later court testimony regarding the search warrant were protected under the First Amendment. The Supreme Court majority ruled against Ceballos, arguing that employers have the right to discipline employees who speak out "pursuant to official responsibilities."

Justice Kennedy in the opinion for the majority writes, "Exposing governmental inefficiency and misconduct is a matter of considerable significance." The opinion holds, however, that "when public employees make statements pursuant to their official duties, the employees are not speaking as citizens for First Amendment purposes, and the Constitution does not insulate their communications from employer discipline."

The ruling reinforces the pernicious situation of government employees who want to expose abuse, fraud, or other illegal workplace activities; if they try to work within the system, as one would hope their employers would want, they have little meaningful protection for their speech and from retaliation.

Justice Souter notes in his dissent that while "a government employer has substantial interests in effectuating its chosen policy and objectives, and in demanding competence, honesty, and judgment from employees who speak for it in doing their work. . . . private and public interests in addressing official wrongdoing and threats to health and safety can outweigh the government's stake in the efficient implementation of policy." Justice Souter argues, "the First Amendment safeguard rests on something more . . . the value to the public of receiving the opinions and information that a public employee may disclose."

Legislative

House Protects the Toxics Release Inventory

On May 18, the House voted to accept the Pallone-Solis Toxic Right-To-Know amendment that shuts down plans by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reduce reporting of toxic pollution under the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) program.

By a vote of 231 to 187, the House passed the Pallone-Solis amendment. Forty-eight Republicans voted with 182 Democrats and 1 Independent in support of the amendment, while 15 Democrats voted with 172 Republicans against it.

A May 17 letter to members of the House from 196 organizations expressed support for the Pallone-Solis Toxic Right-To-Know amendment, explaining that "the EPA's changes would make it more difficult for citizens to track toxic pollution in their neighborhoods and take steps to reduce the impact on their family's health." Among the national organizations signing the letter were the American Library Association, American Association of Law Libraries, Association of Research Libraries, American Nurses Association, AFL-CIO, American Lung Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, American Public Health Association, and Sierra Club.

To see how your member voted, go to http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2006/roll165.xml.

Public Access to Federally Funded Research

On May 2, Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) and Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) introduced S. 2695, the Federal Research Public Access Act of 2006, a bill to require federal agencies that fund more than $100 million in annual external research to make publicly available, via the Internet, electronic manuscripts of peer-reviewed journal articles stemming from their research. Each agency must:

- Require each researcher—funded totally or partially by the agency—to submit an electronic copy of the final manuscript that has been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Ensure that the manuscript is preserved in a stable digital repository maintained by that agency or in another suitable repository that permits free public access, interoperability, and long-term preservation.
- Require that free, online access to each taxpayer-funded manuscript be available as soon as possible, and no later than six months after the article has been published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Public Access to Information on Federal Contracts and Grants

On April 6, Sens. Tom Coburn (R-OK), Barack Obama (D-IL), Tom Carper (D-DE), and John McCain (R-AZ) introduced the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (S. 2590). The bill requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to make information on federal contracts and grants publicly accessible through a free, searchable web site by January 1, 2007. The four co-sponsors hope to move the bill either as freestanding legislation or as an amendment, possibly to budget reform legislation expected to move in the Senate this summer. The bill could reach the floor some time in June.

The web site required by S. 2950 would allow the public to search for information about individual contracts, grants, loans, and other forms of financial assistance, including by name of company or organization, amounts, year, the place of performance, congressional districts, federal program, and more. Information would be posted to the web site no later than thirty days after the financial award. The web site would not contain details about credit card transactions or minor purchases. The bill also requires the

disclosure of subcontracts and subgrants beginning October 1, 2007; there is currently no established method for collecting this information.

A competing bill, the WATCHDOGS (Website for American Taxpayers to Check and Help Deter Out-of-control Government Spending) Act (S. 2718), has been offered by Sen. John Ensign (R-NV). Under the WATCHDOGS Act, however, grantees are required to report more information than contractors. Other concerns exist with the bill. For instance, federal grantees must disclose the name, address, and Social Security number of each officer and employee earning more than $50,000 per year, as well as directors of the organization. Contractors, however, need not disclose similar information. Additionally, the bill calls for disclosure of expenditures on various activities, including lobbying and, oddly, *decorating,* by federal grantees, but not of contractors' expenditures in these areas.

The WATCHDOGS bill would federalize a contractor or grantee if the entity receives 10 percent of its business expenditures or annual budget from federal funds. As a result, the contractor or grantee would be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and to laws that apply to government employees regarding travel, such as the allowable per diem for housing and meals or mileage allowances.

Public Access to the Executive Branch / Executive Branch Accountability

On April 6, 2006, House Committee on Government Reform chairman Tom Davis and committee ranking member Henry Waxman introduced the Executive Branch Reform Act of 2006 (H.R. 5112). The same day the committee unanimously approved the bill and reported it to the full House. The sponsors tried to attach it to the legislative ethics reform bill, but it was ruled nongermane. It remains to be seen if Rep. Davis is willing to push it as freestanding legislation or attempt to attach it to some other must-pass legislation. (I am not holding my breath.)

The legislation would institute landmark reforms of the executive branch of the federal government. The bill would:

- *End secret meetings between lobbyists and executive branch officials.* The legislation requires all political appointees and senior officials in federal agencies and the White House (other than the president, the vice president, and their two chiefs of staff) to report the contacts they have with lobbyists and other private parties seeking to influence official government action. The reports, which will be filed quarterly and maintained on a searchable public database at the Office of Government Ethics, must disclose the dates of meetings, the parties involved, and the subject matters discussed.
- *End the use of "pseudo-classifications."* The bill bans the use of "pseudo-classifications," such as "sensitive but unclassified" or "for official use only," to withhold unclassified information from the public—unless the designations are authorized by statute or regulations. The legislation would require the development of regulations and standards governing the use of any information control designations by federal agencies.
- *Provide protection to national security whistleblowers.* The legislation would give these national security personnel whistleblower protections equivalent to those that other federal employees have. Currently, federal employees who work on national security issues have no effective recourse if they are the victims of retaliation after disclosing abuses.
- *Ban covert propaganda.* The bill requires the federal government to disclose its role in funding or disseminating messages within the United States.

The bill would also create a federal ban to prevent lobbyists who enter government from handing out favors to their former clients and bar executives who worked for private contractors from awarding contracts to their former employers when they enter government. It would also close multiple loopholes in the law governing when government procurement officials can be hired by companies to whom they previously awarded contracts. ▮

On the Range

GODORT Needs YOU and YOU Need GODORT

Brian Rossmann

I was struck by a comment made by outgoing GODORT chair Arlene Weible in her summer 2006 *DttP* column, when she addressed the fact that GODORT's membership is in decline. Sadly, our numbers are down, as fewer and fewer documents librarians choose to join our organization or renew their memberships. The benefits of belonging to GODORT have been questioned both in such online forums as GOVDOC-L and at GODORT meetings. GODORT committee and task force chairs have been asked by GODORT's chair to examine how their activities serve member needs. In the last ALA election, both candidates for GODORT chair ran on platforms based on increasing the relevance of the round table and growing the membership.

I believe that a professional organization such as GODORT is more important today than ever for government information specialists. In the past, the practice of documents librarianship has had as its center a formal relationship with GPO, membership in the FDLP, and the concomitant daily tasks of running a depository library. By definition a "documents librarian" was a librarian who worked in a depository, and it was our relationship with GPO that provided us with a group professional identity. GPO provided training to librarians and established standards for documents libraries. This

model is evolving now that so much government information is accessible though general search engines while less material is sent to depositories. Many libraries have—or will—merge their documents reference points into general reference; indeed, many stand-alone documents departments are being assimilated into other library divisions. Nevertheless, as I have stated in this column on several occasions, libraries will continue to require the expertise of a government information specialist to offer the fullest access to the complex world of documents, even in a ubiquitous online environment. While I expect that GPO will continue to provide training opportunities and conferences for documents librarians, in the future it will not have the same position that it has had in the past with respect to libraries. Documents librarians themselves need to assume the function of building a professional community of government information librarians. It is in this regard that GODORT can play an important role.

Belonging to a national organization such as ALA's GODORT can help to foster among documents librarians a professional identity and sense of community that extends far beyond the walls of the library in which each individual works. Being actively involved in this professional community allows them to keep abreast of new developments in government information and generally to keep informed about what is happening within this subset of librarianship. By attending GODORT meetings, programs, and preconference events we have the opportunity to train each other and learn more (one example of this is the pre-conference sponsored and offered by GODORT at the 2005 ALA Annual Conference, which had as its goal to teach the basics of documents librarianship to generalist librarians; the proceedings of this event were published in the summer 2006 issue of *DttP*.). All too frequently, there may only be a single librarian at a specific library who specializes in government information, and this person does not have a co-worker to call on for help with documents-related problems. Attending GODORT meetings provides a forum in which to network with peers and develop professional relationships with colleagues from across the country (indeed, from around the world); these are relationships that can be of great benefit when one needs a mentor and offer the chance for those who are more experienced to mentor newer members of the profession. Active involvement in GODORT offers opportunities for professional leadership and growth.

Some have commented that GODORT activities do not address the needs that they have in their libraries at home. Well, get involved and *make* GODORT relevant to you. This round table has a collective will to meet the needs of its members, as evidenced by some of the discussions that have recently taken place among the leadership. There is no shortage of opportunities to become actively involved in a committee or task force, to make a difference, and to contribute to shaping GODORT into the professional organization that you believe it should be. Getting involved is as easy as attending some committee meetings and expressing an interest in participating—either through appointment or running in an election (we're always looking for good folks!).

If you are unable to regularly attend conferences and participate on committees, you can still profit from supporting the organization. A subscription to the publication you are reading is included in the cost of your membership, and GODORT members are able to access an online archive of *DttP* at ALA's web site. While you do not have to be a member of GODORT to participate in the online community of GOVDOC-L, this electronic mailing list was established and continues to be maintained at such high standards by GODORT members.

GODORT is *your* organization. I encourage you to get involved and support it. It's important to the future of documents librarianship: *your* future. ▮

International Documents RoundUp

The New and Old Worlds of the British Parliamentary Papers

James Church

One of the most controversial issues in international documents librarianship recently has been the rollout of the Proquest *19th Century House of Commons Parliamentary Papers* database.[1] In my dozen years working with international documents, I have never seen such confusion and disagreement about a product. To clarify at the outset, I have *not* been paid by Proquest to write about this. But I do think the database offers a dramatically improved means of searching and accessing British Parliamentary information. The full text of the entire run of the nineteenth- (and soon the twentieth-) century papers is accessible; including more than 9.5 million pages for more than 184,000 parliamentary papers, combined with the added value of being able to search for maps, statistical tables and illustrations. This is a significant tool for accessing a collection that has always been difficult to research in print and is often cited as being "the richest and most important collection of printed government records in any country."[2] The greatly improved accessibility of this important information will serve as a tremendous boon to scholars, which is something that no other company, library or consortium is in a position to offer at this time.

What Are the Parliamentary Papers?

To begin with, we need to clear up some confusion about what the British Parliamentary Papers are, exactly. This is

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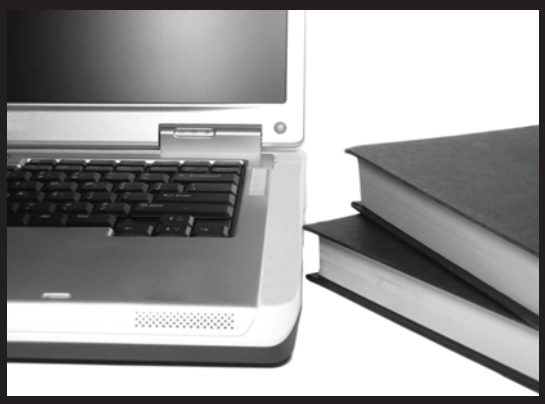

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because the term "parliamentary paper" is used interchangeably to indicate any publication of the British Parliament, as well as more narrowly the "sessional papers," which are a specific type of parliamentary paper. A sessional paper is simply a working document presented to Parliament for consideration. This include bills, reports of committees, and papers presented by Royal Commissions and government departments as well as treaties and international agreements, "Act Papers," "Returns," minutes of standing committees, and statistics. One of most important type of papers are the "Command Papers," which are documents printed "by command of her majesty" from government ministries. The more significant of these are sometimes referred to as "white papers," which are typically policy reports that address legislation the government plans to introduce or executive action that will be taken. The Proquest database includes only sessional papers.

In essence, the sessional papers are the British equivalent of the *U.S. Congressional Serial Set,* with one important distinction: the sessional papers include annual and monographic reports of executive agencies. The key thing to remember is the Proquest database covers the sessional papers only; it does not serve as a one-stop shop for all British legislative information. Neither the microfilm nor the database includes the Debates of Parliament (often referred to as *The Hansard*), the Acts of Parliament, or the diplomatic correspondence of the British Public Record and Foreign Offices. To access these sources, additional tools are needed.

Medieval Papers through the Eighteenth Century

The English Parliament is the oldest in the world and extends back to the Middle Ages. The earliest Parliamentary Papers were transcribed in Latin, Norman French, and Medieval English, and are compiled in a six-volume set (with an index) with the imposing title *Rotuli Parliamentorum; Ut et Petitiones, et Placita in Parliamento,* that includes meetings of the English Parliament from Edward I to Henry VII, covering the years from 1272 to 1504. The rolls record debates and decisions made in Parliament, as well as bills and answers that formed the Acts of Parliament. They were first edited and published in the eighteenth century, and are generally only found in special collections. The volumes remained untranslated until recently, when Scholarly Digital Editions (SDE) decided to translate the rolls into modern English and to make them available in both print (16 volumes) and on CD-ROM. The CD-ROM is called the Parliament Rolls of Medieval England and at £120 is a steal. Larger research libraries may wish to purchase the Internet version, which is also quite reasonably priced according to the size of the institution. Details are available at www.sd-editions.com/PROME/index.html.

In addition, a number of historical compilations of Parliamentary Debates have been published as multivolume sets. *The Hansard* are records of debates held on the floor of Parliament (similar to the *Congressional Record*) and are completely separate from the sessional papers. The first of these, titled *Parliamentary or Constitutional History of England from the Earliest Times to the Restoration of Charles II,* sometimes called the "Old Parliamentary History" numbers twenty-three volumes and covers the years 1066 to 1660. The second compilation is titled *The Parliamentary History of England from the Earliest Period to the Year 1803* and is sometimes referred to as *Cobbett's Parliamentary History of England*. The 1803 ending date is significant, because this was the year in which the actual *Hansard's Parliamentary Debates* begins. Taken together, *Cobbett's Parliamentary History* and *The Hansard* form a good record of the parliamentary debates, from the earliest times up to the present. It is noteworthy that, to date, this collection has not yet been digitized and would be an excellent candidate for such a project.

The *Journals* of the Houses of Lords and Commons can be another useful source. The *Journals* contain the official record of the proceedings of Parliament, including motions passed, amended, withdrawn, committee memberships, and lists of papers. The Commons *Journal* dates back to 1547, the Lords to 1509, and many libraries own complete runs, either in print or on film. For earlier years, selected arguments and speeches given in Parliament are included, which can be important if a researcher is trying to find debates before publication of *The Hansard*. Selected issues of the Commons and Lords *Journals* have also become available online via the British History Online web site: the Commons *Journal* is available there from 1547–1699, and the Lords *Journal* from 1509 to 1717.[3] This is a boon not only because it improves access (the database is full-text searchable) but also because earlier versions are fragile and often housed in special collections.

"Sessional" or parliamentary papers for the eighteenth century were not widely available in print until the publication of *the House of Commons Sessional Papers of the Eighteenth Century* (145 volumes, also called "Lambert") and the *House of Lords Sessional Papers, 1714–1805* (60 volumes, also called "Torrington"). It should be noted that these sets are neither comprehensive nor easy to use. Lambert provides indexes and lists for all the papers described in the set, but the full text of each paper is not always available. Often, after a great deal of work, the researcher will find only a catalog entry referencing a document in a government collection in England or others for which no known copy exists at all. In addition, some research libraries have access to eighteenth-century sessional papers on the Readex microprint set, which was published in 1960 and includes selected papers dating from 1731. The set does not contain some documents found in Lambert, but most problematically uses antiquated microcard technology. There is some hope that the difficulty in finding eighteenth-century papers will be resolved by the new BOPCRIS "18th century British Parliamentary Papers Digitization Project," but to date this collection is incomplete and functions primarily as a descriptive catalog.[4] At present, the task of finding eighteenth-century parliamentary papers remains a challenge and nearly always requires mediation from a reference librarian.

The Nineteenth Century

The majority of researchers are naturally interested in the nineteenth-century Parliamentary Papers, when the United Kingdom reached its peak of power and influence. Original copies of nineteenth century sessional papers are scarce outside the United Kingdom, so most U.S. libraries have opted to purchase print or microfilm reprints. The Irish University Press (IUP) collection of sessional papers was first published in the 1960s, and is still for sale.[5] For many libraries this is the definitive collection. The thousand-volume set is a phenomenal piece of scholarship that consolidates a significant body of the "best" Parliamentary Papers into a browseable collection with subjects labeled on the spine: slave trade, colonies, emigration, poor laws, industrial revolution, and so on. It is indexed in several separate volumes. The major shortcoming is the collection encompasses a fraction of the total, concentrating chiefly on policy papers. The total bound set of original ninetheenth-century Parliamentary papers numbers about 5,900 volumes, or 77,670 papers. The IUP collection, with its 1,000 volumes, includes 4,837 papers. It is true that for some researchers less is definitely more, and many users do not need to fish through a set of 5,900 volumes to find adequate research material. The fact that all relevant information is grouped together, irrespective of time, and is reasonably well-indexed, makes this set a good source for some students and researchers.

Some larger research libraries have naturally opted for more complete collections. The Readex Corporation was the first to undertake the filming of the entire run of sessional papers with their historical "Parliamentary History in the 18th and 19th Centuries" on microcard, published in 1960. This set covers the years from 1731 to 1979, and is still listed on the Readex web site. Its main disadvantage is microcard readers are becoming obsolete, and microcard readers that print copies are virtually nonexistent, although some libraries have purchased digital microcard scanners to deal with this problem. The other nineteenth-century microfilm product is the Chadwyck-Healey microfiche, from which the Proquest database has been adapted. This starts in 1801 and extends into the twentieth century, and is the most complete yet assembled. It includes a cumulative index on CD-ROM, as well as a five-volume subject index that can be of assistance to the researcher interested in browsing a print subject catalog.[6]

Even without the new Proquest product, much has improved in recent years, but in point of fact researchers needing the Parliamentary Papers have always been in for a rough time. A sample of online research guides for the Parliamentary Papers serves as evidence of the problem: the average guide covers about ten pages, and includes lists of journals, breviates, catalogues, registers, finding aids, and asterisks that are enough to make the most dedicated researcher's head swim. There are a number of reference books that attempt to explain the papers, some better, and some worse, but the fact remains that the Papers are too complex for all but the most dedicated researcher to tackle. Gaps in holdings for the sessional papers are typical; in fact no one library, inside or outside the United Kingdom, has the complete run of nineteenth-century parliamentary papers in print, including Oxford University, the British Library, and the British Parliament.[7]

Print and Digital in the Twentieth Century

Parliamentary Papers for the twentieth century are more commonly held than for the nineteenth century. Several research libraries in the United States have print copies of the sessional papers, *The Hansard*, and the *Journals*. The problem until recently has been indexing. The House of Commons issued sessional indexes in the last volume for each session, and there is also the *General Index to the Bills, Reports and Papers . . . and to the Reports and Papers Presented by Command,* in two volumes, 1900–1948/49 and 1950–1958/59. In addition, there is a collection of subject "breviates" authored by Percy Ford that includes annotations and related Acts of Parliament. The situation improved greatly in the 1990's with the release of the Chadwyck-Healey cumulative index on CD-ROM, which indexes the sessional papers from 1801 to the present. Even so, the labor involved in looking through the CD, finding the appropriate fiche or paper, and then retrieving it (without always knowing if it will serve the researcher's needs) remained a daunting task, often requiring assistance from a documents specialist.

This is the reason why the Proquest digital collection is so welcome. There are some points to be taken carefully into consideration before purchasing this product: the added value of the database, the high cost, and the completeness. The completeness at least seems well vouched for. To assemble the collection, Proquest gathered material from Cambridge University, the House of Commons, the British Library, Oceana Publications (for House of Lords papers), and a variety of British government offices, including the Home Office, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Treasury (it is notable that British Library, the House of Commons, and the British National Archives have all purchased this database). The added value of the product will perhaps be its strongest selling point in the long run. Database features include an authorized subject index, metadata for such material as statistics and illustrations, specialized field searching (for example, by command paper number), and a glossary of archaic terms linked to definitions are features that will not likely be available elsewhere.

The greatest cause for concern in this day and age is that someone will digitize all government information in the near future, so why pay a vendor thousands of dollars for information that will soon be free? This may well be the case one day, in fact I have no doubt it will be. The question is one of timing and of added value. The two most likely candidates to digitize the Parliamentary Papers are the British Library in its partnership with the Open Content Alliance, and Oxford University in its partnership with Google. As noted previously, the British Library has already purchased the Proquest

database, and does not have a complete set. If they think it is worth the expense that should settle that question. Oxford has the most complete collection of Parliamentary Papers in the world (though even this is incomplete) and remains a bigger question mark. It is also worth noting that only one million out of the Bodleian library's eleven million volumes are scheduled to be digitized, and that the project has a cut-off point of 1885, which leaves out the last fifteen years of the Parliamentary Papers.[8] While it may be true that the entire run of Parliamentary Papers will some day be freely available, to me it seems likely that open sites will lack the value added by Proquest, and may be long delayed or piecemeal. Given these uncertainties, purchasing the Proquest product make sense for libraries whose mission supports research of British government and colonial history. ▮

Notes and References

1. See http://parlipapers.chadwyck.com/marketing/index.jsp for a full description and online demonstration.
2. Erickson, Edgar. "The Sessional Papers," *Library Journal* 78, no. 1 (Jan. 1, 1953): 13.
3. This marvelous free site is at www.british-history.ac.uk/subject.asp?subject=6.
4. See www.bopcris.ac.uk/18c. BOPCRIS also includes a search engine of some 39,000 British parliamentary and non-parliamentary documents, focusing on the "37,000 key documents, originally selected for inclusion in the internationally known hard-copy Ford Select Lists and Breviates."
5. See www.britishparliamentarypapers.com for the IUP product description and subject listing.
6. Cockton, Peter. *Subject Catalogue of the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers, 1801–1900.* (15 vols.) Cambridge, England; Alexandria, Va.: Chadwyck-Healey, 1988.
7. Oxford University reportedly has the most complete bound set available, but even this collection has significant omissions. For a detailed history of the steps Chadwyck-Healey took to ensure completeness for their product, see the 221-page *House of Commons Parliamentary Papers 1801–1900: Guide to the Chadwyck-Healey Microfiche Edition.*
8. I have done some investigative reporting into this issue, and from what I can gather Oxford seems likely to concentrate on digitizing materials not duplicated elsewhere, although the specifics about what will be digitized remains "classified" at this point.

Geospatial News

The Google Earth Revolution

Marcy M. Allen

Don't be surprised if one day you find yourself using Google Earth to answer a government documents reference question, or any reference question for that matter. Google Earth was officially launched in June 2005, and it has been a year chock full of developments. The pace at which new data and projects are created is enough to make your head spin, but the Google Earth Blog is a great place for staying up to date on the evolution of Google Earth. There are certainly more sites and other blogs focusing on Google Earth, but this one happens to be a favorite and where many of the examples described here were found.

What does Google Earth have to offer government document librarians? Located within the Google Earth menu you will find census data (county data for population, median family income and per capita income with a link to the National Atlas), postal code boundaries, city boundaries, U.S. Congressional districts, and crime statistics. Clicking on the community services link will bring up schools, churches, and cemeteries. Other data and projects are available all over the web. To find some more of these detailed data and projects that have used Google Earth to display data, a search was performed in the archives of Google Earth Blog and a wealth of datasets created by people and agencies all over the world became available. Here are some examples of how government agencies are using Google Earth to relay data:

- The Smithsonian has a web site on volcanoes and a link to a Google Earth file showing Holocene era volcanoes. The data in this file is amazing: a photo of the volcano, geographic data, and links to volcano monitoring sites.
- The National Snow and Ice Data Center has created a web site tracking the changes in the colder regions of earth resulting from global warming. The State of the Cryosphere web site is using Google Earth to illustrate datasets showing the status of snow, ice, permafrost, and glaciers.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coral Reef Watch Program tracks changes in coral reefs around the world. Changes in surface water temperatures and other data can be viewed in Google Earth files from the web site mentioned above.
- USGS is using Google Earth for a variety of projects. Download their virtual helicopter tour of the Hayward Fault, and you will learn about the dangers of life along this geological rift.
- To celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, USGS created a web site and used Google Earth to create a number of virtual tours of the earthquake to help viewers gain an understanding of the science behind the earthquake as well as the quake's affect on the human population.
- Also as a part of earthquake awareness surrounding the anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, USGS released a series of geologic maps viewable in Google

Earth for the Northern California region. These are great for taking a look at the variety of geological realms at play in the region.

- The USGS is also using Google Earth to illustrate real-time stream flow data. Their WaterWatch Program collects data and lets you view it and draw comparisons with historical data for the same stream. Data is for the entire United States and Puerto Rico.

Of course, Google Earth can be used for fun stuff too—features created generally by individual users of Google Earth that are found in the Google Earth Community. Users can:

- view points of interest in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;
- see recipients of the U.S. Medal of Honor from a number of campaigns in U.S. military history;
- track *The Amazing Race* TV show contestants;
- view UNESCO World Heritage Sites; and
- view country information from the *CIA World Factbook*.

Getting Started

To use Google Earth, the first thing you'll need to do is download the program; you can download all the software at www.earth.google.com. There are three versions available: Google Earth, Google Earth Plus, and Google Earth Pro. Regular old Google Earth is free, and you get all general viewing capabilities. Google Earth Plus will cost you $20 and will gain you faster access to the server, GPS data import capabilities, high-resolution printing, e-mail customer support, the ability to annotate your views, and the ability to import spreadsheets (it has the capability to read addresses in a .csv format. There is no difference in the imagery between the Google Earth and Google Earth Plus versions. Google Earth Pro will cost you a whopping $400 (there is an educational discount). For your money you get the fastest performance provided; additional annotation capabilities, including the ability to draw polygons; measurement tools, such as square feet, mileage, and acreage; and increased spreadsheet support. While Google lists a few premium features under their main feature list when looking at Google Earth Pro, the following premium features come at an additional cost: importing GIS data, a movie maker, and premium printing module.

The downfall to all of this technology? Well, all of the files to make Google Earth run are located on servers across the globe, and some of them can be quite large, so if you are connecting via a dialup connection it will be quite slow, possibly even inaccessible. Also, Google Earth is not without its errors. For example, when flying to see my favorite pizza place in my hometown, I turned on the lodging and dining layer in Google Earth only to find the point for the location I was looking for was grossly misplaced. But with the roads feature turned on I was able to navigate my way there. It is impossible to express here the amount of stuff you can find, see, learn about, and create in Google Earth, so I encourage you to download and fly away.

Sites Mentioned in This Column

Google Earth—http://earth.google.com
Google Earth Community—http://bbs.keyhole.com
Google Earth Blog—www.gearthblog.com/index.html
The Smithsonian on volcanoes—www.volcano.si.edu
National Snow and Ice Data Center—http://nsidc.org/sotc
NOAA's Coral Reef Watch Program—http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/index.html
USGS—
- Hayward Fault—http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/research/geology/index.html
- San Francisco Quake—http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/research/geology/index.html
- Geologic Maps—http://sfgeo.wr.usgs.gov/geologic/downloads.html
- WaterWatch—http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch ▮

By the Numbers

Education Statistics: Census of Educational Institutions

Stephen Woods

The United States government first began collecting education statistics in 1840 as part of the decennial census. Questions about literacy and school attendance were added in 1850. However, it was not until the founding of the Bureau of Education in 1867 that the government seriously began collecting education statistics in response to a rapidly emerging public educational system in the southern states and a well-established system in the northern states. The bureau began issuing annual or biennial statistics of secondary institutions in 1870 and postsecondary institutions in 1890. Statistical reports were generated entirely from administrative reports submitted to the bureau from states' education agencies or, in the case of private schools, from individual institutions.[1]

The problem with this approach was that it there were no standardized reporting mechanisms, making it difficult to make comparisons between states. The Office of Education initiated a cooperative program in 1951 producing handbooks for institutions and state agencies that identified, categorized, and defined hundreds of terms. By 1955 a handbook was created for higher education, making marked improvements in the comparability of statistics between and among states.

Following World War II, the tremendous growth in federal aid for education spent on veteran's benefits and federal

grants associated with the National Defense Education Act of 1958 made it necessary for states and the federal government to improve services for gathering educational statistics. Furthermore, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Higher Education Act of 1965 revolutionized federal aid programs in education. Consequently, the federal government initiated two major educational data collection systems in the late 1960s.

Common Core of Data

In 1969, the Office of Education launched an ambitious educational data system, Elementary-Secondary General Information System (ELSEGIS), providing data on staff, instructional programs, pupils, finance, and facilities.[2] However, the prohibitive cost of this program necessitated a replacement program in the 1980s known today as the Common Core of Data (CCD), concentrating on pupils, staff, and financing in less detail.[3]

CCD is the principal data collection system used by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to collect data on public elementary and secondary education in the United States.[4] It is designed to provide an official listing or directory of public and secondary schools and school districts in the nation. Basic information and descriptive statistics are also provided about the schools and the districts, students and staff, including fiscal data.

CCD is comprised of five separate surveys drawn from administrative records of state education agencies. The *National Public Education Financial Survey* provides expenditure and revenue data at the state level. Financial data at the school district level is provided in the School District Finance Survey. Information about students, staff, and institutions at the state level is drawn from the State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education. Two surveys, Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey and the Local Education Agency Universe Survey, provide characteristics of students, staff, and institutions at the level of individual institutions and school districts.

It is possible for the data reported in these collections to be at least one year out of date. The data collected by each state is intended to reflect the conditions on October 1 of a given year, but do not have to be reported to NCES until the following September.

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

The Office of Education also started in 1968 an ambitious data collection program for post-secondary education called *Higher Education General Information Survey* (HEGIS).[5] Annual surveys were administered from 1968 to 1986 to acquire basic information on the number of students and selected characteristics of institutions, students, staff, financial structure, and operations. Legislation in 1985 and 1986 reevaluating federal aid to higher education initiated in 1965 led to the replacement of the HEGIS data collection program with a data collection program known today as the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).[6]

IPEDS is a system of surveys designed to collect data from all providers of postsecondary education. The NCES divides providers, or postsecondary institutions, into three categories: baccalaureate or higher degree institutions, two-year award institutions, and less than two-year institutions. IPEDS does not include postsecondary institutions that are not open to the public, such as prisons, military bases, and corporations. This distinction becomes problematic, particularly in the case of postsecondary education provided in conjunction with hospitals and medical schools.

The core of IPEDS is the annual collection of a variety of institutional characteristics, such as directory information, degrees, tuition, admission requirements, and housing. Other topics, such as degree completions, enrollment, graduation rates, student financial aid, staff, and salaries, are also collected. In addition, IPEDS collects information about the financial condition of the educational providers based on revenue and expenditure reports from institutions.

The content of the surveys have evolved over time in response to legislative policy.[7] Annual data is collected about the completion of degree and enrollment, but in 1990 the Office for Civil Rights required institutions to report this data by race and ethnicity as part of its *Compliance Report*. In 1997, in response to requirements of the Student Right-To-Know Act of 1990, graduation rates broken down by gender, race, and ethnicity were also included. Changes in the collection of student financial aid data were initiated in 2000 focusing on category of student receiving aid, type of financial assistance, and level of government (local, state, federal) providing assistance. Beginning with 2001, the NCES required institutions to report employees by distinct function or occupational categories. Data on staff is collected biennially in compliance with the Office for Civil Rights and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. IPEDS also includes information on salaries collected annually from 1990–1999. Beginning in 2004, collection of salary data was required only for degree-granting institutions.

Conclusion

CCD and IPEDS are only two of numerous educational surveys done by the federal government. However, the comprehensiveness and coverage of these surveys are what make them unique. There are no other educational surveys done by the federal government that attempt to collect responses from the total universe of educational institutions. CCD and IPEDS provide important building blocks for educational decisions as well as key starting points for other educational surveys and data collection systems. They essentially serve as the census of educational institutions in the U.S. ▮

References and Notes

1. For a nice historical discussion of the statistical programs of the United States, see Joseph Duncan and William Shelton. *Revolution in United Government Statistics 1926–1976.* Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of

Commerce, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, 1978 (C1.2:St 2/10/926-76); and U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards. *A Framework for Planning U.S. Federal Statistics for the 1980's.* Washington, D.C.: The Office, 1978 (C1.2: F 84/2).

2. Data for ESLEGIS is available at the International Archive of Education Data operated by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) in cooperation with NCES. http://webapp.icpsr.umich.edu/cocoon/IAED-SERIES/00101.xml
3. Hoffman, Lee. "Introduction: The Common Core of Data Series." *Education Statistics Quarterly* 2, no. 2 (Summer 2000): 7–11.
4. The CCD data as well as some nice online data analysis tools are available at http://nces.ed.gov/ccd.
5. Data for HEGIS is available at the International Archive of Education Data operated by ICPSR in cooperation with NCES. http://webapp.icpsr.umich.edu/cocoon/IAED-SERIES/00030.xml.
6. The IPEDS data as well as some nice online data analysis tools are available at http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds.
7. For a more thorough discussion of these changes see *Programs and Plans of the National Center for Education Statistics,* 2005 ed., pages 67–77. http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005113.

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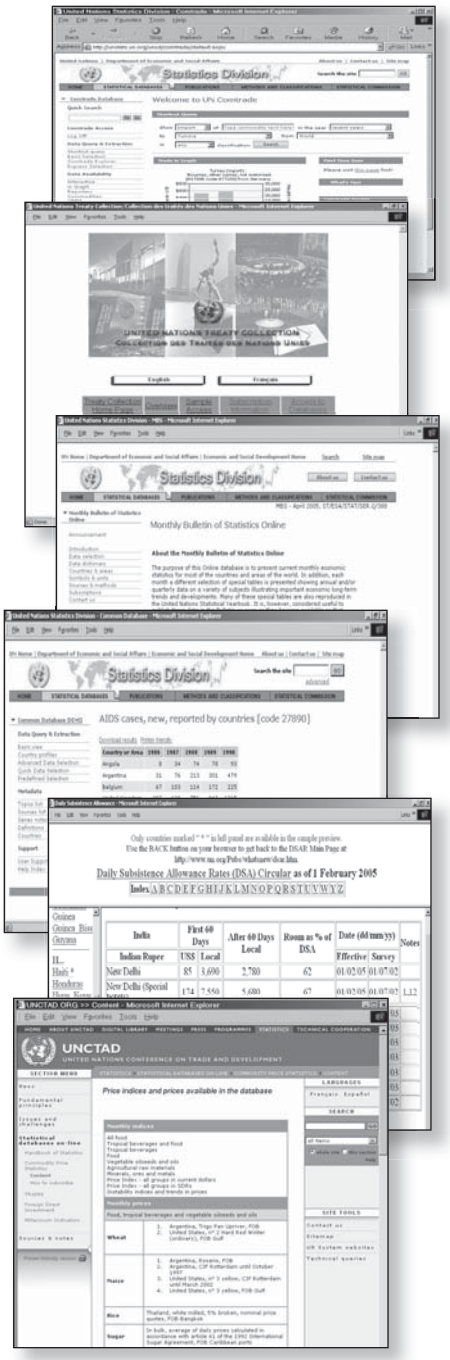

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Things I Wish I Knew about Documents, and Things I'm Glad I Know

. . . Health and Medicine

J. M. Livingston

In a paradox of sorts, the more I learn about governmentally produced health and medical information, the less I think I know. This would seem to me a natural and, excuse the figure of speech, healthy reaction, if one considers the vast quantity and disparate nature of the information. There are so many governmental organizations of all ilks creating information in the field, from institutes to centers, bureaus, departments, agencies, offices, and administrations; and no two, not even those whose primary mission is data collection and dissemination, seem to publish and warehouse information consistently. This is true for United States government documents, and the problem is only compounded when dealing with international entities. Publication inconsistencies, widely diffused distribution, and commonplace redundancies are all immutable truths in governmental research.

Constructing a cognitive framework of governmental health and medical publications is a daunting, if not impossible, task. The intention of this article is to step away from the mire of esoteric and confusing government documents. It presents a type of information known in the medical community as "pearls." This term, most likely derived from the phrase "pearls of wisdom," refers to short, practical tips that may not be widely known but can be used to solve commonplace problems. Sources of government information and tips or training I have received that have been most valuable to me in my everyday work as a health sciences librarian are described within the context of user needs. It is my hope that the information presented here will be easy for readers to remember and apply in their work.

Health Research

PubMed (www.pubmed.gov)

It would be inconceivable to talk about governmental resources in health and medicine and not mention *PubMed* first. Revered by medical librarians, feared by countless others, *PubMed* is *the* essential tool for health information. Created by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) at the National Library of Medicine (NLM), *PubMed* includes the entire *MEDLINE* database plus additional citations, which primarily date 1950–1965 (*MEDLINE* covers 1966–).

PubMed is without a doubt the best tool for finding citations to medical studies. Information contained in the studies is critical to answering questions about recent or historical discoveries in medicine relating to cause, prevalence, and treatment of diseases or other medical conditions. *PubMed*'s worldwide focus makes it a good place to look for information about the health status of foreign countries; it also indexes a growing body of literature relating to alternative therapies. Though perhaps not the best source of information related to agriculture and biology, *PubMed* can be used to find information in both fields. I recently used *PubMed* to find research on the oddly fascinating topic of vampire bat regurgitation (for the curious, bats that successfully feed will share blood meals with unfortunate others).

PubMed has a lot of power, but many intricacies. To learn more about *PubMed,* I'd recommend a visit to the NLM Training Manuals and Resources site, which offers links to *PubMed* manuals and other educational resources (www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/web_based.html).

Personal Health Information

MedlinePlus (www.medlineplus.gov)

By and large, the research studies indexed in *PubMed* tend to deal with very specific aspects of disease. They do not present diseases, treatments, or epidemiological data in a nutshell. Also, they are written in the language of the medical profession, and thus many laypersons will not be able to understand them readily. For these reasons, *PubMed* is generally *not* a good starting place for those seeking easily comprehended overviews of topics. Especially when dealing with common medical problems or treatment options, consumer health literature is far more suitable for the task.

This is where *MedlinePlus* comes in. *MedlinePlus,* NLM's consumer health information site, is the antithesis to *PubMed*. It has an easy search interface that provides access to simplistically worded materials about diseases, treatments, and drugs. It even provides interactive tutorials and information in Spanish or large print. NLM does not create content specifically for *MedlinePlus,* but instead organizes and links to a mass amount of authoritative information posted online

from NLM, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), other government agencies, and health-related organizations.

MedlinePlus is easy to use, but there is still more to learn about the larger topic of consumer health information. To learn more, visit NLM's "FAQ Finding Consumer Health Information" site (www.nlm.nih.gov/services/faqpc.html).

Other NLM Resources and Training

NLM Gateway http://gateway.nlm.nih.gov
National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) http://nnlm.gov
National Training Center and Clearinghouse (NTCC) http://nnlm.gov/mar/online

Besides *PubMed* and *MedlinePlus*, the NLM offers numerous retrieval systems for which the *NLM Gateway* acts as portal. NLM systems include bibliographic and full-text resources relating to biomedicine (clinically and consumer health oriented), toxicological and carcinogenic substances, and genetics. Like other portals, the best use for the *Gateway* may be simply as a resource finder. Nothing can replace the utility of a native interface.

The NLM has established two units that provide free in-person training to groups wanting to know more about health information or NLM resources specifically. These entities include NNLM, itself comprised of eight regional offices, and NTCC. Course catalogs differ between each office, but core offerings generally consist of *PubMed*, *MedlinePlus* and consumer health information, and public health information and data. I have taken several of these classes myself and have found them invaluable.

Health Statistics

International, National, State, and Local Health Agencies

Medical librarians are generally quite content to spend their time in the resources provided by NLM, which satisfy the majority of their information requests. There is one genre of information, however, for which they must venture forth—health statistics. Though statistics do lurk in research articles and consumer health information, they are best served forth by the international, national, state, and local health agencies responsible for large-scale surveys and assessment.

International

Two institutions play a large role in generating international health statistics, the World Health Organization (WHO) (www.who.int/en) and the United Nations (UN) (www.un.org). WHO publications cover topics important to international public health, including diseases and conditions, health personnel, and immunization. When setting expectations for statistics available from the WHO, it is helpful to understand that the WHO devotes the majority of its attention to prevalent health problems with high morbidity and mortality tolls. It will, therefore, collect data on an epidemic such as avian influenza or tuberculosis, but would be unlikely to devote attention to dental cavities, which despite their prevalence in most of our mouths, do not cause great bodily harm or death.

The United Nations Statistics Division collects, compiles, and disseminates official national statistics on births, deaths, and life expectancy. It is also actively engaged in the area of human functioning and disability. This data, as well as social indicators tracked by the UN, acts as a valuable cohort to that produced by the WHO.

National

When searching for national-level statistics, the primary place to go is the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) (www.cdc.gov/nchs). NCHS tracks health issues of national significance, such as diseases with high morbidity and mortality rates, health expenditures, health insurance, and facility utilization (for example, hospitals or hospice). NCHS gathers data by surveys, which are conducted independently or in partnership with the states, and also by utilizing data contained in health records. It should be pointed out that states often amend questions to the NCHS surveys relating to health concerns of state or regional interest. This data would be accessible only at the state level.

Unfortunately, other NIH institutes, centers, and offices (www.nih.gov/icd) warehouse their publications and statistics separately. It is a good idea to keep them in mind. National statistics on dental cavities (also known as dental caries), for example, would be at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) site.

State

Each state has an agency (www.fda.gov/oca/sthealth.htm) responsible for activities that play a vital role in administering programs that protect public health. As part of their role, state health agencies collect health and vital statistics, which they usually publish on their web sites. They are also responsible for issuing licenses, permits, and certifications, and for receiving complaints against healthcare providers and health-regulated facilities. Though this information is generally not web-accessible, it can be obtained by contacting the state health agency.

Local

Local Public Health Agencies (LPHA) can be administered through a county or town, or combinations thereof (multi-

county, town-county). LPHA are important for delivering health services (inspecting restaurants, testing for lead, creating and maintaining vital records, providing immunizations, and so on) and conveying information to the state health agency. As NCHS relies on states to gather and convey information, so states rely on LPHA. Their role in the data chain is essential.

There are a number of web tutorials on health statistics, including NLM's "Finding and Using Health Statistics" (www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/usestats). In-person classes on health data are offered by NNLM and NCHS. The NCHS catalog of classes (www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/catalogs/unipres.htm) is targeted at the university audience; however, classes can be arranged for other groups, including librarians. Of particular value is the class "Accessing and Using Data From the National Center for Health Statistics."

This article shares what I am glad I know about health and medical government documents. There are numerous other sources that crop up in my work, but none that I use as extensively as those listed above. As for the things I wish I knew . . . there are plenty of those too. I am currently familiarizing myself with the governmental and organizational sites linked from the "Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce" site (http://phpartners.org), many of which I have never used. And, as for the *real* government documents, those not produced by health agencies, well, I don't know much about them either. Fortunately for me, my office cubicle is conveniently situated next to that of our government documents librarian. ▮

J. M. Livingston, Reference Librarian/Liaison to the Schools of Nursing and Allied Health, University of Connecticut, jill.livingston@uconn.edu

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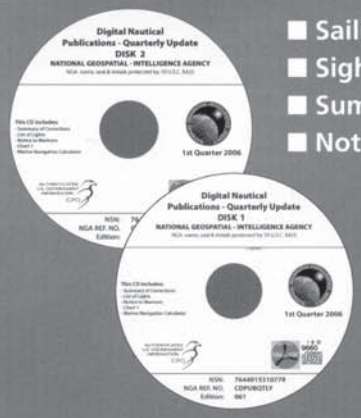

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Things I Wish I Knew about Documents, and Things I'm Glad I Know

. . . Agriculture & Education

Barbara J. Glendenning

During the course of my twenty-five-plus years as an academic librarian I have worked as a life sciences librarian, a generalist reference librarian, a biology and agricultural librarian, and a social sciences librarian. A mental review of the types and numbers of government publications I have used in the context of those jobs actually surprised me. My sole memories of the government documents course I took in library school revolve around long, tedious afternoons in an overly air-conditioned classroom, seemingly endless reviewing of the *Serial Set*, and trying not to inhale the strong cigar smoke odors from the professor's jacket. Somehow I came away from that experience thinking government publications revolved around only legislative hearings and reports. Not once in my career have I had to look up legislative materials.

All but one of my positions have been in subject specialty libraries where there is no documents librarian on site available for questions, but there has always been a documents librarian colleague who handled and monitored the collection of documents and was available for questions and consultation.

In the first three-fourths of my career, documents were almost entirely on paper, with some on microfilm or microfiche. Increasingly they are almost entirely electronic. This shift has significantly changed the kinds and number of questions I've had about government documents.

As a life sciences librarian I used U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports and bulletins, federal soil surveys, California food and agriculture bulletins and reports, state agricultural extension bulletins, and county agricultural commissioner reports. I don't recall finding these hard to locate and use, but I think that is largely because I had been a student employee in that library as a college student and literally memorized the call numbers of much of the material over several years of shelving it. I recall using primarily the *Bibliography of Agriculture* to locate these publications and finding it easy, reliable, and effective. I loved those old documents, and always felt a small victory when I could pull out the one the user needed. Most of the questions I had about documents were easily answered from notes, descriptions, and instructions in the printed indexes that I used to locate documents.

During the three years that I worked as a generalist/reference librarian, I was usually able to hand most of my more complex documents questions over to our government documents librarian. My documents downfall during those years was the U.S. census material. Questions on census materials were so regular and so common that I had to have some level of familiarity with them. In those years (early to mid-1980s) we used unwieldy and difficult bound computer printouts for our local areas before the compilations came out several years later. My memory of using those collections is hazy and dreamlike (and not pleasant dreams either). I often wondered how the Census Bureau printed and distributed these massive computer printouts to areas all over the country such that libraries could obtain them for their metropolitan area. Who coordinated that? How many people did it take to produce, organize, and ship the printouts? Although the biggest question was always: when, oh when, would the big compilations actually be available? That was often the first question from a patron. Naturally we often resorted to the use of data from such sources as the *County & City Data Book*, the *State & Metropolitan Area Data Book*, *Statistical Abstract, Historical Statistics of the U.S.,* and *Vital Statistics of the U.S.*

After three years I moved to a new university and the next phase of my career—in a natural resources/biology collection. I was again using the familiar USDA, state, and county agricultural collections, and Agricultural Research Service documents. Occasionally there was a need to access an international document from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) or the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau (CAB). Once again I became a regular user of the *Bibliography of Agriculture* and a semi-regular user of its online counterpart, *AGRICOLA*. I used soil surveys and soil maps, state and county agricultural documents, *Index Medicus* from the National Library of Medicine, and some Centers for Disease Control documents. We were increasingly using computerized searching then (via Dialog), but normally those searches were for journal literature rather than for documents. In general, I found those documents relatively easy to locate and use. The U.S. indexes were well-organized and thorough, and once again, by and large, answered whatever questions I had about what was included and what was not included. The CAB and FAO indexes were less familiar, somewhat harder to use, and trickier in several ways, but knowing they were compiled from numbers of countries made this somehow more forgivable. Users were generally quite thrilled we could even come up with international documents.

During the last fourteen years of my career I've been a social science librarian working with collections in education, psychology, and social services. These years are, of

course, the period of the move from print document collections to (primarily) online documents. The era of end-user databases and web-based collections had arrived. I have delved most deeply into education literature and education statistics—on federal, state, and district levels—using print and online formats for all of these. I have used National Center for Education Statistics documents and web pages, California state education documents and statistics in print and online versions, and district-level school statistics mostly in online formats. I have used the National Criminal Justice Reference Service web site, the National Center for Health Statistics, and National Institute of Mental Health web site and online statistics. Most recently I have begun looking at Social Security Administration web sites and documents.

Obviously the one major change that has occurred over these twenty-five years is the move from paper documents to electronic format, with searchable web-based indexes. As documents have become more and more accessible, I find that patron questions have become more complex, they want more than they did in the "print era," and they often want the information in tabular format that can be manipulated and inserted into programs.

Given the consistency of the types of materials I've been using during the last fourteen years, my "I wish I knew" thoughts fall into several categories:

1. The history of the agency (primarily for state and federal education agencies) producing the documents I use regularly and the outline or hierarchy of that agency and its publications:
   - I wish I had a chart with dates, titles of agencies, and titles of their publications showing when changes were made.
   - I wish I had a chart showing the dates various government agencies moved their publications to online formats.
   - A general wish: I wish state and federal agencies would not regularly change their reporting lines and agency names.
2. Statistical materials: I wish I knew the methodology on collection of the data—the caveats and special notes that hopefully are footnoted on every table (but are not always there). I wish I knew timelines for the data collecting process.
3. Archiving: A major concern I have is about the archiving of documents since the advent of the electronic versions. What is being done in this regard? Is it being done systematically for all areas of state and federal documents? Can I trust that they will be available in fifty years?
4. Just curious: Is there a (subject) pattern to SuDoc numbers like there is with LC numbers?

Things I've always been glad I knew:

1. That changes in agencies' names, patterns of publications, and titles of documents were to be expected.
2. That I knew documents librarians I could turn to for help! ∎

Barbara J. Glendenning, Head, Education-Psychology Library & Head, Social Welfare Library, University of California Berkeley, bglenden@library.berkeley.edu

Things I Wish I Knew about Documents, and Things I'm Glad I Know

So Much Data, So Much to Know

Eleanor J. Read

As a data services librarian in an academic library, I deal mostly with social science data in both statistical (aggregate) and microdata forms. Many of my interactions involve data produced by the U.S. government, but I also help faculty and students find data for the state of Tennessee and local areas. In recent years, I have spent an increasing amount of time helping users find international data. In the six years since I began this job, I have learned a tremendous amount about data resources, data use, and data services, but there is so much more to learn. In this essay, I will discuss several sources and strategies that I have found to be useful in dealing with government data resources, a few areas where I wish I knew more, and some avenues for learning about data-related topics. This is by no means a comprehensive list.

U.S. Government Data

My all-time favorite U.S. government document (data or otherwise) is the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. It is much more than the chief compendium of statistical information about the U.S.; it is a huge learning and referral tool. As a data librarian, I rely heavily on the source notes that accompany every table. The cited sources may lead me to more current data (helpful given the publishing lag inherent in this source) or assist in finding more specific data in terms of subject content, cross-tabulations, or numerical detail. More broadly, the sources in the *Statistical Abstract* help me become more familiar with who does what with data within the U.S. government.

When the U.S. Census Bureau began disseminating the 2000 decennial census data a few years ago, I started using *American FactFinder* (http://factfinder.census.gov) to extract data for users. At the time, I thought *American FactFinder* was easy enough to use, but I wanted to know more about census data in general. To educate myself about the 2000 census, I got a general overview from the Decennial Census/Learn More section in *American FactFinder,* and then I studied the technical documentation for the summary files for more detailed information. What I learned from this self-study gave me confidence using this important resource and allowed me to be much more effective in my census-related interactions with data users. I am very glad I took the time to do it.

One aspect of *American FactFinder* that I wish I knew more about is the mapping feature. I don't get many questions on mapping, so I haven't spent much time with the thematic and reference maps, and I need to explore the different options available so I will be better prepared to advise on using these features.

The U.S. government collects, generates, and disseminates an enormous amount of data. Often, agencies and programs will list a contact person on their web site. I have worked with several students and faculty who called or sent e-mail messages to contacts at the Census Bureau, National Center for Education Statistics, or National Center for Health Statistics to request data and information about a study, program, or data product. All of them received the information or data they needed in a timely manner, and sometimes also received extra, unsolicited information that proved to be helpful (for example, a doctoral student received several relevant article citations along with the data he requested). If contact information is given, don't be afraid to use it to ask your questions.

Tennessee Data

When I receive a request for data for the state of Tennessee and its cities and counties, the first place I would usually go for the data is the *Tennessee Statistical Abstract,* published by the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) at the University of Tennessee (www.cber.utk.edu/tsa.htm). The *Tennessee Statistical Abstract* resembles the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* in the range of topics and format. Unfortunately, CBER produced its last edition in 2003 (in print and online), and is in the process of developing an online data server that will provide access to a reduced number of tables. The 2003 and older editions of the *Abstract* will still be useful for their coverage of a wide variety of topics, long time series, and cited sources, but updates of this valuable, easy-to-use resource will be missed. Note that all fifty states and the District of Columbia have a statistical abstract or other source of statistical information (www.census.gov/statab/www/stateabs.html).

The State of Tennessee web site (www.state.tn.us) provides access to a wide range of statistical data. I often use the *Tennessee Statistical Abstract* for leads on where to look for data

on the web site. The site has a Statistics and Reports page with links to data-related pages for a number of topics, and some departments' web pages have direct links to data, statistics, or reports. The data sources found on the state web site are often reprinted from or linked to U.S. agency web sites, so depending on the data and the level of geography needed, it might be just as easy to go to the federal agency web site and drill down to the state or local level.

International Data

In recent years, we have acquired subscriptions to several major international databases, including the *United Nations Common Database* and *World Development Indicators*. I am working at increasing my proficiency and familiarity with these databases and other international data sources. It would be nice, however, to know more about the differences between the major databases (that we do and don't subscribe to) in terms of the country, time, and subject coverage; accuracy; currency; ease-of-use; overlap; sources of the data; and so on. Knowing what their advantages and limitations are would help me make more informed decisions on where to look for a particular type of data.

In 2004, I worked with a doctoral student who needed data to study demographic changes in Montreal, Canada. Because we do not have Census of Canada materials in our library, we needed to use interlibrary loan. No problem, except that I had no idea what specific materials to ask for. I sent an e-mail message to Statistics Canada explaining the topics and years the student was interested in and asked for guidance on what volumes we needed. The next day I had a list of the relevant volumes specifying the catalogue number, title, volume, and table numbers for all of the desired years. We were able to turn that information into interlibrary loan requests, and the student proceeded with his research. As noted before, don't be afraid to ask for help from an organization, whether you are dealing with U.S. or non-U.S. data.

Training Opportunities

There will always be many things to know about government data. Fortunately, there are opportunities available to help us learn. For those who are not government information specialists, remember that your institution's documents librarian may be one of your closest allies when it comes to data from government sources. I have learned a great deal about government data from our government documents librarian, particularly regarding older U.S. census products.

For many, U.S. census programs are an important source of data, and the Census Bureau provides support for users by presenting local seminars and workshops on general topics or specific products. Representatives from our regional census office and the economic census program have made several visits to Knoxville, usually at the invitation of the Tennessee State Data Center, to talk about Census 2000, *American FactFinder,* the *American Community Survey,* and the *2002 Economic Census.* You may want to check with your State Data Center (www.census.gov/sdc/www) to see if they have any training like this available for your state.

A valuable resource for learning about data is an organization called the International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST; www.iassistdata.org). The international membership includes data librarians, government information specialists, data archivists, and a variety of people who collect, process, and disseminate all kinds of data. For a modest membership fee, one can have access to the extensive collective knowledge of the members. There is an active electronic discussion list to which members may post questions about the existence, location, and use of particular types of data, as well as questions about technical issues, resource acquisition, and other things. It is particularly helpful to tap into the knowledge and experience of members in other countries or international organizations for questions regarding international data. IASSIST holds a conference every year, which includes a day of workshops on various topics. Without a doubt, I am glad I know about IASSIST!

Conclusion

The "glad to know" and "wish I knew" lists for a librarian using government data will always be in flux. Experience working with government-produced data resources will help build skills and knowledge in certain areas, while new data needs and the discovery of new resources will raise questions in others. While I have learned a great deal about government data in the last six years and will continue to add to my "glad to know" list, I will always wish I knew more. I feel confident, however, in my ability to help the faculty and students at the University of Tennessee find the data they need because I know there are multiple resources out there (people, web sites, research guides, technical documentation, and training sessions, to name a few) that I can consult to learn what I need to know when I need to know it. ▮

Eleanor J. Read, Associate Professor and Social Science Data Services Librarian, University of Tennessee, eread@utk.edu

Things I Wish I Knew about Documents, and Things I'm Glad I Know

A Humanities Librarian's Perspective

Stephanie J. Graves

I accepted the invitation to write this piece with considerable anxiety. The mere mention of government documents sends me into an immediate panic. Perhaps the name itself implies bureaucracy, a sure signal for impending difficulty. The fault may also be my own. Conceivably I didn't pay enough attention in library school during discussions of government documents. A documents class was not required, and I admit to avoiding one. My fear could also be a Pavlovian response. As a new librarian, I would try to find documents for library users. On each and every occasion, I would get stuck, confused, or confounded and resort to asking for help from the documents librarian. The documents librarian would then walk directly to the shelf, pull the item, and begin reciting a laundry list of other relevant and exciting sources. These experiences have conditioned me to refer, refer, refer! Consequently, I tend to avoid anything with a SuDoc number.

Does my highly irrational fear disqualify me from writing a documents article? There are certainly plenty of humanities librarians who are better informed than I. On the other hand, my apprehension makes me sublimely qualified to write an article about "things I wish I knew about documents." I know very little; I wish I knew a lot more. When dealing with documents my role as librarian, expert information-seeker extraordinaire, is stripped away. More importantly, I know I'm not alone. Perplexed at even attempting to write this article, I polled my colleagues in the Literatures in English (LES) section of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) via our electronic discussion list (LES-L).[1] Several respondents echoed my apprehension and admitted that the best documents resource they had ever used was their local documents librarian. I concur. Despite all the things I don't know, I can always count the documents librarian among the "things I'm glad I know."

There are several areas of confusion that I can articulate with clarity, and many I cannot. There are also some tried-and-true sources I have discovered along the way. I will try to begin with the obvious.

The arrangement of government documents is troublesome. Humanities scholarship is often multidisciplinary, and becoming increasingly so. Humanities scholars have adapted by learning how to search in subject areas outside their realm of expertise; for example, in medical texts for descriptions of illnesses that afflict famous authors. Any and all information is fair game in humanities research. As a universal and comprehensive catalog has yet to be realized, researchers still rely on such subject-based classification schemes as Library of Congress Subject Headings and such subject-specific databases as *MEDLINE* and *Literature Online*. Libraries and businesses alike function on the premise that searching is made easier by grouping like items together. Documents do not follow suit. Browsing, a favorite research tool of humanities researchers, is not at all helpful with documents. Because documents are not arranged by subject, but rather by the issuing government agency, it is up to the user to divine which agency may or may not have published materials in a given subject. This not only defies traditional library convention, it can also seem incredibly daunting for those who know little about government agencies.

Obvious choices, such as the Smithsonian Institution, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Library of Congress, may come easily to mind for humanities researchers. However, the multidisciplinary nature of humanities research complicates the matter when searching outside one's comfort zone. Which agency would have published information on American utopian communities, McCarthyism, or statistics regarding social welfare programs? I wouldn't dare to guess. All of these have relevance to the popular literature, art, and music of their corresponding eras and could be useful for humanities scholars. Grasping for leads, I find that the multitude of publishing agencies, web sites, links, and portals on *FirstGov* and *GPO Access* is simply overwhelming. *FirstGov.gov* offers some broad subject categories that are helpful; for example, its History, Arts, and Culture web site.[2] However, I find the site search functionality cumbersome. Searching *GPO Access* seems even more complex. Deciding which branch of government to search is intimidating for those of us who still can't seem to differentiate between a congressional report, a Senate hearing, a resolution, or action.

Thankfully, in the course of my searching, and with the wise counsel of my colleagues on LES-L, I discovered the new interface for the *Catalog of Government Publications*.[3] The basic search works well for many humanities topics and can be used from the *GPO Access* main web page. However, the advanced search offers greater searching granularity. Users can search by fields commonly found in their library catalog: title, author, keyword, LC subjects, MeSH subjects, and even OCLC number. The look and functionality of the interface resembles a standard OPAC. For novice users, the design

and added searchable fields are a drastic improvement over *MarciveWeb DOCS*. The familiar look went far toward reducing my anxiety. After only ten minutes, I could navigate with ease. I will be teaching this site in bibliographic instruction sessions, recommending it to faculty, and exploring the contents for my own research needs.

The finding aids may have improved, but the arrangement of documents still causes confusion at the shelf. In the case of depository libraries such as mine that use SuDoc numbers for documents and LC for their collections, it's difficult to make the mental switch that E stands for Energy on one shelf and for American History on another. I've attempted to study *An Explanation of the Superintendent of Documents Classification System* countless times, but without much opportunity for practice, the structure disappears quickly from memory.[4]

The following are a few additional items that I've discovered along the way.

- Utter the words "government" or "research" and the Library of Congress (LOC) comes to mind immediately and rightfully so. In addition to LOC, scholars may also wish to check their nearest depository library for documents holdings. Recent documents are accessible via *Thomas* (http://thomas.loc.gov), the online resource where legislative documents from the 104th Congress (1995/96) to present are digitized and made available to the public.
- The official repository of U.S. records is the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Known primarily for housing such amous historical documents as the Bill of Rights, NARA also collects millions of archival records, photos, memos, letters, and other items important to the preservation of American history. NARA is an excellent resource for primary source material.
- I found it worthwhile to take the time to learn how to use *LexisNexis Congressional*, a commercial indexing and abstracting database. The interface is awkward, but the ability to obtain many full-text items is a bonus. Congressional publications are especially rich with information on social movements of historical importance; for example, the civil rights movement.
- I also teach my students to use *LexisNexis Statistical*, another commercial product. With a little guidance and the proper terms, I have yet to encounter a student who couldn't find useful statistics on any given subject. When writing the obligatory English 101 paper on a controversial subject, students feel empowered when they can back their thesis with a few statistics, especially if derived from government entities. Some corporate data is included, so users should pay careful attention to the source to avoid any implications of bias.
- I always recommend *ERIC*. Intended for educators, it also holds a great store of information on authors, poets, artists, musicians, and famous figures. The English majors that I work with are often surprised by its usefulness.
- The title is misleading, but Science.gov actually includes humanities information. A basic search for "Sylvia Plath" returned twenty-one results, most derived from selected journal articles in *PubMed* and *ERIC*. This is an especially useful free resource for research that crosses the traditional boundaries of humanities scholarship.
- The CIA *World Factbook* can be useful for writers who need information on a foreign country. I have used this source for journalism students, creative writing students, and foreign language majors.
- State and local agencies are often forgotten but can be a good source of information. *FirstGov.gov* has a listing of state and local agencies as well as tribal agencies.

The above are only a smattering of the options available. There are some I failed to mention, and many more of which I am sure I am unaware. Some of the sources are open access; others are not. The proprietary nature of resources such as *LexisNexis* adds an additional layer of complexity to the searching process. Given that some of the best tools are subscription-based products, the playing field of documents is not even.

I am grateful for all that I learned during the course of writing this short piece. I still have much to learn. As a beginning librarian, I know that I have time to continue to grow in my knowledge and experience with documents. However, I wish that a documents class had been required in library school, as documents are important to every discipline and a must for serious research. At the very least, a section or unit in a required course would have been useful. Trite as it may be, I wish I had known then what I know now. Government documents are a treasure trove of materials for the humanities and just a little knowledge can go a long way. ▮

Stephanie Graves, Humanities Reference Librarian, Morris Library, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, sgraves@lib.siu.edu

Notes and References

1. LES-L is the official electronic discussion list for ACRL's Literatures in English section. See www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/literaturesineng/leslistserv.htm for subscription information. Many thanks to my colleagues on LES-L for their sage advice and counsel.
2. http://firstgov.gov/Citizen/Topics/History.shtml.
3. http://catalog.gpo.gov.
4. U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, *An Explanation of the Superintendent of Documents Classification System*, www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/explain.html.

Things I Wish I Knew about Documents, and Things I'm Glad I Know

The *Congressional Record:* Two Editions Too Many

Irene R. Good

A few months ago, I was asked to write an article about what I knew or wished I knew about government documents. Choosing a topic wasn't difficult. As a legal information librarian at the Boston College Law Library, I frequently work with attorneys and students seeking to understand Congress' intent when it creates a statute, a process known as statutory interpretation. Without hesitation I knew I would write on locating legislative history within the *Congressional Record* and share some of the things I've learned about the *Congressional Record's* complex format and publication pattern. The article will introduce the reader to the role of legislative history within the practice of law and describe how to efficiently locate one type of legislative history, proposed amendments to legislation. Finally, the article will describe how to locate the correct citation to amendments published in the *Congressional Record*.

Statutory interpretation occurs when the plain meaning of a statute cannot be derived from the statute's text alone. In these instances judges, attorneys, and law students examine a statute's legislative history to find the statute's meaning. A statute's legislative history is comprised of the bills, amendments, hearings, committee prints, committee reports, debates, and presidential messages created during the process leading up to its enactment. Evidence of deliberate exclusions and inclusions to a statute through the amendment process are a small portion of a statute's legislative history. Amendments to statutes can be introduced on the floor of either the House or the Senate and are reproduced in the *Congressional Record*.

Unfortunately, the *Congressional Record* has two editions. Published daily while Congress is in session, the first edition is referred to as the daily edition. Some time after the end of each session of Congress, a second edition is produced and is referred to as the permanent edition. There are differences between the editions, which make providing an accurate citation to information published within the *Congressional Record* difficult.

The *Congressional Record* daily edition consists of four parts: the Daily Digest, the Senate pages, the House pages, and the Extension of Remarks. The Daily Digest summarizes a day's floor and committee events. The House and Senate pages contain the proceedings of each chamber. The Extension of Remarks pages include tributes, statements, and other information that supplement statements made on the floor of either chamber. There is a separate series of page numbers for Senate and House pages. Each series is prefixed with either an S for the Senate or an H for the House. The Extension of Remarks pages are also numbered separately and contain the prefix E.

The *Congressional Record* daily edition is available by 11 A.M. the following day on *GPO Access*. The four parts of the daily edition along with references to the recorded votes are distinctly represented on *GPO Access* (see figure 1).

GPO Access (www.gpoaccess.gov/crecord/index.html) has the *Congressional Record* daily edition from 1994 to the present.

The *Congressional Record* daily edition is indexed by subject, name, and title of legislation. The index (www.gpoaccess.gov/cri/index.html) is published every two weeks in print and is updated daily online. A History of Bills and Resolutions (www.gpoaccess.gov/hob/index.html) is published separately and lists the bills introduced in a congressional session and summarizes their legislative history. The History of Bills and Resolutions is updated daily online. Online the index and History of Bills and Resolutions contain references to the daily edition's pagination.

The *Congressional Record* permanent edition contains the same information as the daily edition. When a congressional session ends all of the daily editions from that session are

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Issue/Day/ Date	House Pages	Senate Pages	Ext. Pages	Digest Pages	House Recorded Votes	Senate Recorded Votes
No. 80, Tuesday, June 20, 2006	H4221-H4329	S6099-S6188	E1207-E1218	D659-D668	H. No. 292 H. No. 293 H. No. 294 H. No. 295	S. No. 176 S. No. 177 S. No. 178

Figure 1. *GPO Access Daily Congressional Record*—Browse feature

collected and republished as the permanent edition. However, the two editions do not use the same pagination. In the *Congressional Record* permanent edition, the Senate, House, and Extension of Remarks prefixes are removed and integrated, and continuous pagination created. The index and History of Bills and Resolutions are also republished, but with references to the permanent edition's pagination.

Currently there is a five-year time lag between the daily edition and the permanent edition. Volume 147 (2001) is the latest permanent edition. Furthermore, only volume 145 (1999) of the permanent edition is available through *GPO Access* (www.gpoaccess.gov/crecordbound/index.html).

While it is possible to locate proposed amendments to a statute by searching the full text of the *Congressional Record*, it is not recommended. Locating an accurate list through full-text searching would require sifting through a large number of results, even if a search is limited by date or bill number. It is easier to use the History of Bills and Resolutions (www.gpoaccess.gov/hob/index.html) to locate a complete list of amendments. However, the online version of the History of Bills and Resolutions does not link to the text of the *Congressional Record*. Therefore, a separate search of the *Congressional Record* database by page number is needed to locate the text.

My preferred method of searching for amendments is to use *Thomas* (http://thomas.loc.gov) because it provides direct links to the text of the amendments. *Thomas* provides a legislative history of statutes passed from the 93rd Congress (1973) to the present. For example, to locate the text of proposed amendments to Public Law 104-132, the Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (AEDPA), access *Thomas*. Select the Public Law link to browse by congressional session. Select the 104th Congress and browse for the 132nd law passed. After locating Public Law 104-132, *Thomas* provides links to the various legislative history components (see figure 2).

One component is a link to Amendments. Select this link to browse a list of proposed amendments to Public Law 104-132. Click on an amendment's citation to locate a summary of the amendment and a reference to where it is published in the *Congressional Record* daily edition. I chose Senate Amendment 1200 from the list of amendments to Public Law 104-132 (see figure 3).

As explained earlier, the "S" in the page number refers to Senate pages from the daily edition of the *Congressional Record*. Click on the page number link and a list of contents for the *Congressional Record* daily edition page S7629 appears. From the list select the link to the Lieberman Senate Amendment No. 1200 to view the amendment's text (see figure 4).

Thomas does not provide an actual page from the daily edition of the *Congressional Record*. However, there is a link from the *Thomas* page to GPO's PDF copy of the *Congressional Record* page for easy verification of the contents.

Locating the text of an amendment is only half the battle. An attorney needs to provide a correct citation to the text of the amendment. A citation to the daily edition can be used for the five or six years it takes to produce the *Congressional Record*

S.735
Title: A bill to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Sen Dole, Robert J. [KS] (introduced 4/27/1995) Cosponsors (8)
Related Bills: H.RES.405, H.R.665, H.R.668, H.R.729, H.R.1710, H.R.2703, S.CON.RES.54, S.CON.RES.55
Latest Major Action: Became Public Law No: 104-132 [GPO: Text, PDF]
Latest Conference Report: 104-518

All Information (except text)	Text of Legislation	CRS Summary	Major Congressional Actions
Titles	Cosponsors (8)	Committees	All Congressional Actions
Related Bills	Amendments	Related Committee Documents	All Congressional Actions with Amendments
CBO Cost Estimates	Subjects		With links to *Congressional Record* pages, votes, reports

Figure 2. *Thomas:* Links to Legislative History Components

S.AMDT.1200
Amends: S.735 , S.AMDT.1199
Sponsor: Sen Lieberman, Joseph I. [CT] (submitted 5/26/1995) (proposed 5/26/1995)

AMENDMENT PURPOSE:
To amend the bill with respect to emergency wiretap authority.

TEXT OF AMENDMENT AS SUBMITTED: CR S7629

STATUS:

5/26/1995:
Proposed by Senator Lieberman to Amendment SP 1199.
5/26/1995:
Motion to table SP 1200 agreed to in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 52-28. Record Vote No: 233.

Figure 3. *Thomas:* Links to Amendments

permanent edition. The GPO is up to volume 147 of the *Congressional Record* permanent edition (2001), thus, any citation to the *Congressional Record* prior to 2001 must use the permanent edition page number.

To convert our present example, page S7629, to a *Congressional Record* permanent edition page reference, you must use the permanent edition's History of Bills and Resolutions. Unfortunately, the History of Bills and Resolutions from the permanent edition is unavailable through *GPO Access*. If you do not have the *Congressional Record* permanent edition in print, use the Federal Depository Library link found at the bottom of the *GPO Access* page to locate a library in your area that may have the volumes. Or your library may have access through an online subscription, such as *Law Library Microform Consortium Digital* (LLMC) (www.llmc.com). LLMC contains PDF versions of volumes 136–147 of the *Congressional Record* permanent edition (1990–2001).

LIEBERMAN AMENDMENT NO. 1200 (Senate - May 26, 1995)
[Page: S7629] ***GPO's PDF***

Mr. LIEBERMAN proposed an amendment to amendment No. 1199 proposed by Mr. **Dole** to the bill (S. 735) to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, and for other purposes; as follows:

Insert at the appropriate place the following new section:

SEC. . REVISION TO EXISTING AUTHORITY FOR EMERGENCY WIRETAPS.

Figure 4. Lieberman Senate Amendment 1200 (5/26/1995)

S. 735- A bill to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, and for other purposes.
By Mr. DOLE (for himself, Mr. Hatch, Mr. Nickles, Mr. Thurmond, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Brown, Mr. Kyl, and Mr. Gramm), 11370 [27AP]- Read the first time, 11367 [27AP]-Placed on the calendar, 11485 [1MY]- Debated, 14523 [25MY], 14654, 14665, 14668, 14678 [26MY], 14727, 14729 [5JN], 14919, 14935, 14955, 14968 [6JN], 15018 [7JN]- Amendments, 14600 [25MY], 14669, 14700 [26MY], 14731, 14738, 14739, 14740, 14742, 14754, 14758, 14766, 14776, 14777, 14778 [5JN], 14920....

Figure 5. History of Bills and Resolutions

After you locate the set, select the *Congressional Record* permanent edition volume from the year the amendment was proposed, in this case volume 141 (1995). Use AEDPA's bill number S.735 and the date the amendment was proposed, May 26, to locate the permanent page number within the History of Bills and Resolutions for volume 141 (see figure 5).

According to the History of Bills and Resolutions there were two amendments proposed on May 26, and the Lieberman amendment may be found on either page 14669 or 14700 of volume 141 of the *Congressional Record* permanent edition. A quick check of volume 141 of the *Congressional Record* permanent edition reveals the text of the Lieberman amendment is published on page 14700. Now we can cite to the correct page of the *Congressional Record* for the text of the amendment.

Unless Congress chooses to eliminate the permanent edition, the need to convert a daily edition citation to a permanent edition citation will remain. Some librarians think the government may stop publishing two editions of the *Congressional Record*, but no one knows for sure. In the meantime, attorneys will continue to search for legislative history and to look to librarians for help finding the correct citation. ▮

Irene R. Good, Educational Technology Specialist, Legal Information Librarian, and Lecturer in Law, Boston College Law Library, irene.good.1@bc.edu

Things I Wish I Knew about Documents, and Things I'm Glad I Know

Getting Down to Business about Government Documents

Heather Tapager

One expectation upon my employment as research services and collections librarian for business, economics, and public safety leadership at the Milton S. Eisenhower Library of the Johns Hopkins University was that I would work two hours per week with the government publications librarians, primarily with Jim Gillispie, head of the Government Publications, Maps, and Law Library (GPML). Mr. Gillispie and the head of the Research Services and Collections department established this expectation jointly in order to provide the two departments with a better understanding of mutual roles, resources, services, and overlapping interests. Meeting the complex information needs of more than four thousand business and economics students, primarily through distance education, at a university that lacks a separate business school and business library, is challenging. Little did I know how valuable those librarians would be in helping me to better serve the faculty, staff, and students in my subject areas, as well as to build my knowledge and skills regarding government information.

Initially, my conversations with Jim began with one or more questions. The first conversation addressed the critical question: "How is government information useful for business, economics, and public safety leadership research?" I learned that government resources offer authoritative, comprehensive information on many topics that pertain to my subject areas. Information for economics includes trade and commerce data, labor statistics, economic indicators, and overviews and analyses for specific countries. Pertinent information for business includes demographics, specific industries, company filings, patents, foreign investment, and sources of government funding. Important information for public safety leadership includes crime statistics, court cases, laws, and government reports. Government resources are particularly useful in providing data at many geographic levels, most specifically at the census tract level. An added bonus is the mapping software, *ArcView*, which allows marketing and public safety students to plot customized, tabular census and firm-level data geographically. This capability helps them visually identify trends or correlations among data, often at the census tract or block group level, and determine business opportunities or existing competition.

Another conversation raised interesting questions regarding industry research. For example, when should one use industry data provided by the government in the economic census versus information from commercially available business resources? How and when does the committee that puts together the NAICS classification scheme (the North American Industry Classification System, or NAICS, was developed in cooperation with the U.S. Economic Classification Policy Committee, Statistics Canada, and Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática) recognize or establish an industry? Why does it not offer information at even narrower industrial levels?

I learned that the U.S Census Bureau is an authoritative source for industrial data. It includes the number of establishments and other statistics by industry, offering information at narrow geographic levels. Data compilations are published every five years, which is not as timely as patrons prefer. Unfortunately, searching through the industry resources and classification schemes (www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html) requires more time and effort than patrons typically want to expend. For many students and researchers, reports are often too broad or general to meet industry research needs. Industry sectors are encapsulated within broader ones or broken up among several categories (manufacturers, wholesalers, retail providers). For example, to research the bottled water industry, specifically for branded products such as Glaceau's Vitaminwater, a student must explore at least four NAICS codes and sift through extraneous information to find relevant components for bottled water, excluding industry codes for vitamins or nutritional supplements. The four codes are: Soft Drink Manufacturing 312111, Other Grocery and Related Products Merchant Wholesalers 424490, Bottled Water Manufacturing 312112, and Other Direct Selling Establishments 454390.

In addition, the NAICS schema is slower than commercial sources to designate some existing and emerging industries as their own distinctive entities. Pornography (erotica or adult entertainment), organic food, and the "wellness" industries are current examples of industries or services that are not yet recognized. As a result, students with limited time prefer to start with periodicals, commercial business products, and concise market research reports.

We also discussed caveats that exist with commercial resources. One must consider their methodology, sources, and error rates. Electronic and print business directories,

article indexes, and specialized publications such as *Market Share Reporter,* index or organize information by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) and NAICS codes. Although companies are assigned a primary NAICS code, other secondary codes may pertain as they venture into different lines of business. Searching by NAICS/SIC code assignments in business directories and article indexes can sometimes yield inconsistent and irrelevant groupings. It is challenging to get an accurate, comprehensive tally of establishments by industry from any one commercial resource. Unlike government resources, they also do not provide information at the county level. Therefore, it is important to understand what the economic census can provide.

A third conversation with Jim focused on two questions. When is it best to purchase or use a specific statistical source from the U.S. Government versus a commercial source? How valuable is repackaged data? Consumer expenditure information is an excellent example. The government provides some of that data via the *Consumer Expenditure Survey* from the Department of Labor. It presents detailed information on how the data is collected and tabulated. However, data is not available for small geographic areas like census tracts. Commercial sources, which are very expensive, provide information for small geographic levels but often do not describe their data collection methodologies in detail because they consider this information proprietary. A second example is the *City and County Data Book,* published by the U.S. Census Bureau every five years. Bernan sells the *County and City Extra,* which is published annually. Even though some of the tables are not updated, new data is added as it is made available. Comparing the content of these resources clarified the value of the Bernan purchase.

In addition to these various conversations with Jim, I attended GPML's training workshops and had one-on-one instructional sessions. My best learning opportunities regarding government publications, however, were team teaching and working on actual reference questions with the GPML librarians. Learning based on actual projects provided me with new insights as to how government librarians approach inquiries and which resources best meet specific needs.

Subsequent meetings also generated questions regarding what I, and perhaps other business and economics librarians, would like documents librarians to answer more fully. From my perspective, the issues that warrant more in-depth discussion include:

1. Why is it so challenging to obtain economic projections from government sources, when many commercial sources sell them?
2. Why are there subscription fees for some government information products? (Examples include *STAT-USA, World News Connection, USATrade,* and *EuroTrade*.)
3. In patent searches, when should I use the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office search engine and web site versus such products as LexisNexis patent files and Dialog's Derwent files?
4. What are the differences between government and technical reports available from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) and the government publications that appear in such sources as the GPO's *Catalog of U.S. Government Publications*?
5. For international marketing and entrepreneurial students, what are the best resources offered by specific countries regarding their business culture, trade regulations, in-depth industry and company information, and requirements for entry and accountability?

Finally, business librarians may wonder, "For a large, remote user population, how can business and government librarians better convey on their web sites the distinctions among government and commercial resources and the value of or appropriateness in using specific government resources (or formats) over others for particular information? Is it the business librarians' or the government librarians' responsibility to clarify this information online?"

While there is much to learn, I find my meetings and work with GPML librarians invaluable. I now incorporate government publications in my reference opportunities and class preparations and consult with the GPML librarians regularly. Our partnership enables us to serve our patrons as a stronger, more cohesive unit. ▮

Heather L. Tapager, Librarian for Business, Economics and Public Safety Leadership, Milton S. Eisenhower Library, Johns Hopkins University, htapager@jhu.edu

Things I Wish I Knew about Documents, and Things I'm Glad I Know

Dysfunction Junction: The Intersection of Historians & Government Documents

Jeannette E. Pierce

History librarians are often among the first to introduce new students and faculty to the collections in their library. In addition to orientating a newbie to the machinations of today's print and electronic library world, experienced history librarians demystify obscure citations, identify pertinent secondary literature, and locate primary source material. A less recognized service is that of referral. History librarians need to make more of a concerted effort to know the government documents librarians in their library and to learn about the most important government documents reference tools. Government document librarians need to provide better historical context to their collections to make them more relevant to the historian.

Articles written about why historians do not use government documents to their fullest potential suggest that the reason is two-fold: government documents are difficult and time-consuming to identify, and government documents are not useful to the historian.[1] One student I consulted said, "The sheer number and variety of government publications is staggering, and it may be difficult to both find out that there's something interesting out there and sort it out of the haystack from all of the useless government documents. It doesn't help that government publications are typically dry and yield little in the way of interesting quotes." This student has used government publications for research, but suggests that he uses them only when he knows in advance that they will be useful, such as when he sees them cited elsewhere.[2] Another student notes that the "biggest difficulty in using the material is that it is so badly cataloged. You have to root around; find a citation that leads to another, etc. It's frequently hit and miss."[3] As a collections and liaison librarian, I want my history students and faculty to know that we have government publications librarians who can help them identify and locate government documents.

The literature suggests that historians locate and identify primary source material for their research most commonly through footnotes in secondary sources, bibliographies, and library catalogs.[4] An article by Wendy M. Duff and Catherine A. Johnson offers additional insight by focusing on the information-seeking behavior of historians in archives.[5] Like government documents, archival information systems can be mystifying and overwhelming. Duff and Johnson identify four types of information-seeking activities: orienting, seeking known material, building contextual knowledge, and identifying relevant material.[6] Of these, the ways that historians orient themselves to a new archival collection and the building of contextual knowledge have the most relevance to my thoughts about historians and government documents. The authors found that historians use finding aids to reduce uncertainty and to acquire a sense of the collection as a whole.[7] In addition, finding aids helped the historian learn the specialized language of the collection. "The introduction was read to get a sense of what was included in the collection and the agency history (history of the organization that produced the records) or the biographical sketch (biography of the person who created the papers) gave important contextual information about the organization or individual that created the collection."[8] Historians need to know why records were created, who created them, and the relationship between types of records.[9] "Historians must comprehend the records in their context rather than as separate disembodied items. Without this contextual information, the historian could easily misinterpret the meaning or significance of the information in an individual record."[10]

The importance of understanding the context in which a document is produced begs a fundamental question about the role of government documents librarians. Do government documents librarians see themselves as assisting only with published government documents distributed through the federal depository system, or do they see themselves as assisting with all historical government information, including government archival records? The latter is particularly important as the context of every document is likely to be illuminated in the archival records of government agencies.

Assuming it is an appropriate role for government documents librarians to assist researchers with the identification of published documents and pertinent archival material, how is that role articulated to historians? One way is to ensure that our library's government documents web pages provide the descriptive and contextual framework needed by historians. A review of many home pages of government documents collections would seem to indicate that few reveal any real interest in assisting with historical research. The home pages are very good about providing links to current information online, but most do not give any indication of how to access earlier texts that are not online. Unlike

special collections web pages, government documents web pages seldom highlight the fact that the collection or parts of the collection have historical significance.[11] An excellent example of a web site that would be very useful to current and aspiring historians is "The Guide to Historical Research with Government Publications, 1789–1989."[12] The guide interweaves online and print reference tools so that the relationships between the relevant tools remain clear. In addition, more government document web sites need to list and describe *The Guide to U.S. Government Publications* and *A Historical Guide to the U.S. Government*.[13] Both guides provide the types of contextual information that are crucial to historians. If you are creating a web site about the census, including references to such guides as *Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses from 1790–2000* helps historians understand the unique features of each census.[14] Mary Stuart's wonderful article on government publications as sources of information in the former Soviet Union was groundbreaking in detailing the scope of important government information that is available to researchers.[15] Stuart described relevant information produced by a broad range of government agencies. Historians and history librarians would benefit from seeing this type of valuable survey of government sources reproduced on the web for a variety of topics.

If, as a history librarian, I were to give any advice to my government documents colleagues, I would encourage the development of online, keyword-searchable versions of our most important government documents. Historians are benefiting enormously from the ability to search historical collections online. But, please keep your print copies whenever possible. Historians still recognize the value of seeing the original document. Plus, browsing through a series of documents often leads to unexpected findings in ways that cannot be duplicated online. One concern is that libraries are destroying or cycling out documents just to save space. A historian at my institution recently commented that the shift away from political history toward social and cultural history in the 1960s may have resulted in less use of government publications by historians, and the concern is that as a result historians may be less vigilant about what is happening in their local depository collections and at the National Archives.[16]

The role of the government documents librarian as an advocate for access to government information is indispensable to the historian. Please continue to battle against the baseless restriction of government information. Please continue to fight for public funding for the distribution and preservation of our nation's documentary and archival record. Please continue to ensure that born-digital documents do not disappear forever into the net. Please think about how government documents librarians can provide more historical context to their unique collections. Historians of the future will thank you for it. ▮

J. E. Pierce, Research Services and Collections Librarian for History and Political Science, Johns Hopkins University, pierce@jhu.edu

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Now You See It, Now You Don't—NARA's Response to Reclassification

A Summary with Commentary

Bill Sleeman

In a *New York Times* article published in February 2006 journalist Scott Shane drew the nation's attention to a little-known document "reclassification" project that had been underway at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).[1] While the re-review program by a number of military and civilian intelligence agencies began during the closing year of the Clinton administration, the program, as so many other changes in access to government information, has grown dramatically since 9/11.[2]

Intriguingly, the re-review efforts had been alluded to previously in several published accounts (including an earlier piece by Shane) and at an open meeting of the U.S. Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation in 2002.[3] However, it was the February story that really caught the public's attention. In his article, Shane reported on claims by independent historian Matthew Aid that a number of documents that Aid had worked with in the past had been removed from public access. The article by Shane helped to catalyze the issue and resulted in a strong reaction from historians, journalists, and information professionals against the project. In response, the newly installed archivist of the United States, Allen Weinstein, promised that the program would be put on hold while an investigation was undertaken, a promise that was fulfilled on April 26, 2006, when NARA's Audit Report was released to the public and made available on the NARA Internet site.[4]

The report, *Withdrawal of Records from Public Access at the National Archives and Records Administration for Classification Purposes* (hereafter Audit Report), was prepared by the archive's Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) and provides valuable insight into how nearly 26,000 "records" (or was it 55,000 pages?—the total number remains unclear) were removed and either reclassified, assigned a classification for the first time, or are still awaiting a final review decision.[5] The Audit Report also speaks volumes about what is wrong with the nation's current regime of secrecy. As was stated almost a decade ago in the Moynihan Report on secrecy, many agencies that are engaged in national security activities still do not recognize that public access to government information is "an important agency mission."[6]

Legal Background

Before looking at the results of the investigation, it is worthwhile to consider briefly the three primary pieces of law upon which the re-review activities were based as discussed in the Audit Report.

Presidential Executive Order 12958 and Presidential Executive Order 13292 (amending E.O. 12958)

The core documents used in the original declassification efforts and the subsequent re-reviews with which the Audit Report is concerned are these two Executive Orders. The Clinton order (E.O. 12958) veered toward declassification and more open access, particularly when an agency was in doubt about the need to retain a document as classified or was unable to identify a specific threat or danger associated with the release of the information. Although some in the intelligence community were opposed to the Clinton effort, the overall goal, according to a report by the Congressional Research Service, was for only a "small quantity of the most highly sensitive information" to be subject to classification.[7] It was the Clinton order that created the goal of generally declassifying content that was twenty-five years old or older. The Bush order (E.O. 13292), with its focus on *securing* information, pulled back from many of the advances in access promulgated in the Clinton order and created additional classifying parameters, including the ability to block release of information approved by the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP). The feature of the Bush E.O. that is most relevant for the NARA re-review is the expanded options provided for the reclassification of previously declassified documents.[8]

32 CFR 2001

This section of the *Code of Federal Regulations* addresses the duties of NARA's ISOO and serves to codify and, to a lesser extent, define the process for classification, declassification, and related tasks devoted to the security of the content.[9] Particularly noteworthy in this instance is section 2001.13, which addresses the process for reclassifying information that had been declassified (as opposed to information that has never been classified before) and released to the public. There are ample examples, both in the Audit Report and in earlier congressional testimony about the re-review efforts that the

agencies involved ignored the requirement to first determine if the already released information was in fact "recoverable." Several of the agencies behaved as if by pulling the originals in the National Archives they would be able to control access by the public or, as expressed by one congressman, they could "put the toothpaste back into the tube."[10]

The Audit Report also makes reference to the Kyl-Lott Amendment in conjunction with the re-review by the Department of Energy (DOE). This law applies only to the DOE efforts that are still under investigation.

The Audit Report

The Audit Report was requested in January 2006 when historian Matthew Aid first expressed his concern about missing materials in a letter to the National Archives.[11] Eventually Aid's complaints, with the assistance of staff from the National Security Archive (NSA), got the attention of Congress. Aid, Weinstein, and NSA director Thomas Blanton were all invited to testify before Congress about the increase in government secrecy generally and the NARA re-review efforts.[12]

The goals of the audit—most of which were achieved—were to identify the number of records withdrawn from the *open shelves;* to identify the agencies involved and the depth of their activities; to identify the authorization and justification claimed by the agencies for the withdrawal; and, finally, to use statistical sampling to determine the level of appropriateness of the classification efforts.[13]

After reviewing the goals, the Audit Report proceeds to lay out the policy considerations relevant to the process. There were eight points considered by ISOO in this section. Some of the points considered were:

- Could the agency undertaking the reclassification "identify or describe the damage?" The request for re-review had to be more than just a "trust us"-type demand.
- Requesting agencies were expected to provide a level of risk analysis about the document before proceeding with a request to reclassify. Had they done this?
- Who is the appropriate person(s) to perform the review? Were all relevant agencies consulted prior to the original declassification? If not, was a review for reclassification in order?
- Could material declassified inappropriately and already released to the public be retrieved in an effective and thorough manner?

The Audit Report goes on to discuss the various groups of records reviewed by the agencies. Some of these, such as the Department of Energy review, were discovered to be a problem not because of the review by the agency, but because of DOE's decision to expand the review process to include other agencies.[14] DOE's review of restricted data and formerly restricted data is statutorily mandated, but the process of referring documents to other agencies was questioned. Other agency activities were clearly inappropriate, such as the Central Intelligence Agency's decision to pull "a significant number" of otherwise unclassified documents to obscure the nature of the few valid documents they wanted to protect. And finally, one agency—the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—which pulled from the Eisenhower Presidential Library 134 documents that had long been properly declassified was clearly engaged in a re-review that was, based on the applicable legislation, unwarranted.[15]

The Audit Report next moves to consider by way of statistical sampling whether the actions for re-review undertaken by the various agencies were either "appropriate," "questionable," or "inappropriate." The results by agency are:

- DOE re-review = still under investigation by ISOO.
- Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) (Bureau of Intelligence and Research) re-review = 50 percent were appropriate; 18 percent were questionable; 32 percent were inappropriate.
- CIA (other various archival collections) re-review = still under review by ISOO.
- FEMA re-review at Eisenhower Library = 100 percent were inappropriate.
- NARA re-review at Kennedy Library = 98 percent were appropriate; 2 percent were questionable.
- NARA re-review at George H. W. Bush Library = still under review by ISOO.
- U.S. Air Force re-review = 74 percent were appropriate; 18 percent were questionable; 8 percent were inappropriate.
- CIA review of Internet resources = 78 percent were appropriate; 9 percent were questionable; 13 percent were inappropriate.

It is interesting to note that for many of the re-review efforts that were determined to have been inappropriate, a common factor was the age of the document. One can only wonder why the representatives of these agencies believed that a document more than forty years old posed a national security risk. As was pointed out in a recent newspaper article about Cold War era MIAs:

> [Patricia Lively] Dickinson questioned the sensitivity of material a half-century old. "The sources are very elderly, and probably most of them are deceased," she said in an interview. "And as for the [intelligence gathering] methods, if the methods have not improved in the last 50 years, I think we're in trouble. It's just an extremely frustrating situation."[16]

For researchers who want or need to get information from the government, it is indeed frustrating. Equally frustrating is the seeming absence of consideration by the

agencies involved that the public might actually benefit from having access to this information. Consider again the case of FEMA, an agency with arguably little responsibility for protecting national security secrets.[17] Still, the agency was allowed to participate in the process of identifying records for re-review. As FEMA's primary mission is to mitigate the effect of a disaster on the public, one has to ask how is the public served by being prevented from knowing about some event or contingency plan studied forty years earlier. Given the age of the documents and the administration involved, it is hard to imagine what information FEMA thought it could legitimately claim still posed a national security risk. Wisely, but belatedly, all of the records pulled by FEMA were determined to be inappropriate for reclassification.

Overall Findings

The Audit Report identified ten significant findings as a result of the investigation. They are briefly summarized in figure 1.[18]

1. Records at NARA containing classified national security information were inappropriately designated and released to the public.	Recommendation: Create a National Declassification Initiative to craft the necessary procedures and standards for an executive branch–wide declassification effort. The effort would include training in recognizing other affected agencies.
2. Previously declassified records at NARA were removed from public access when continued classification was not appropriate.	Recommendation: NARA and the agencies involved must work to return to public access as quickly as possible those records not appropriate for classification.
3. Agencies reclassified records that had been declassified under proper authority.	Recommendation: The recommendation from number one above must be applied to all records, whether the records were classified appropriately or pulled for possible reclassification.
4. In one instance, unclassified records were deliberately removed from public access by NARA.	Recommendation: The "complexity of the issues" in this instance requires ongoing ISOO involvement.
5. Sufficient judgment is not always applied when withdrawing previously declassified records from public access.	Recommendation: The recommendation from number one above must include collaboration between NARA and the agencies in determining the appropriateness of any action and that provisions for appeal of any review are provided.
6. Sufficient quality control and oversight has not been provided for the process.	Recommendation: Greater quality control is required throughout the review process. ISOO should regularly audit any future review activities.
7. Sufficient documentation is not being maintained for declassified records.	Recommendation: Within sixty days ISOO and the affected agencies "must" develop the specific documentation to accompany any declassification actions. These should be part of the National Declassification Initiative mentioned in number one above.
8. NARA has not kept pace with re-review and declassification activities.	Recommendation: NARA "must" redesign its current procedures and practices to guarantee that records are processed and made available to the public as soon as legally possible. NARA must exercise greater oversight of agency activities.
9. Standards for re-review of declassified records have not been created.	Recommendation: A draft protocol (attachment two of the Audit Report) has been prepared and the affected agencies have agreed to follow this until an official procedure has been formulated.
10. Current referral process for review by affected agencies is not adequate.	Recommendation: Create a National Declassification Initiative to craft the necessary procedures for an executive branch–wide declassification effort.

Figure 1. Findings of the Audit Report

Concluding Thoughts

Was John Jay correct when he wrote that it is "better to keep many unimportant things secret, than by observing too little reserve?"[19] Certainly many in the current political leadership in Washington believe that less public access to information of any kind is better. As has been seen far too often in the past six years, many officials in Washington hold the public's right to know in outright contempt.[20] Unfortunately, the staff members at the National Archives who "acquiesced" to the secret re-review appear to be of the same mindset.[21] These officials not only went along with the re-review, but also agreed that the effort should be kept secret from the public—not, apparently, out of concern about the loss of content (which is lamentable), but rather from the greater political fear that the public might find out about the re-review project and be upset, as indeed they were.[22] Had the program not been outed by such individuals as Aid, Shane, and Thomas Blanton of the National Security Archive, one has to conclude that the secret re-review program would still be underway.[23]

However, the academic community and users of government information should be pleased that the archivist of the United States, Allen Weinstein, moved as quickly as he did to halt the various projects and to call for an examination of the process. Weinstein, in his keynote address at the April meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Archivists Conference in Baltimore, acknowledged that the program should never have been conducted in secret, and that future re-review efforts, if any, would be as transparent as possible.[24] But true transparency—when talking about classified intelligence—is a nebulous quality at best. What one agency may see as transparent, another may see as excessive and perhaps dangerous access. As Information Security Oversight Office director Bill Leonard pointed out, in his message accompanying the Audit Report, "the classification process is a tool that must be wielded with precision."[25] Yet most of the agencies involved appear to have approached the task with a chainsaw rather than a scalpel. When agency representatives are allowed to pull masses of innocent documents in order to purposefully obscure a few items that are truly secret, and thereby overwhelm the system, an open process is not likely to develop.

Dovetailing with this—and featured prominently as part of the findings—is the far more significant fact of how unprepared NARA was to contend with the scale of requests for review. As the Audit Report makes clear, NARA lost control of the re-review process. For some materials, the original record structure was destroyed by the agencies; in other instances, the agencies cannot account for all material they pulled, so NARA still does not know *exactly* what was removed from some files. Certainly there are individual documents, records, and even entire series that, in the interest of national security, must remain closed to the public and ISOO should do everything it can to facilitate that process. However, NARA and ISOO also have an obligation to preserve the historical record for future researchers, and that doesn't appear to have been a key consideration by NARA at the beginning of the process.[26] This failure may be due to a lack of staffing and funds, which, as suggested in the Audit Report, resulted in a lack of attention to the details of the process—essentially NARA took its eye off the ball. It is also possible that NARA got outmaneuvered by bigger agencies that could play the "national security" trump card and could not say "no" even if it had wanted to. However it happened, it doesn't appear that NARA, despite its good intentions, had the clout or the administrative support necessary in its dealings with the agencies involved to fully protect the public's right to know. Thus it is imperative that the library community and other stakeholders not consider these events to be closed with the publication of the Audit Report. The library community should urge Congress to improve ISOO funding and support so that staff are not overwhelmed in their important work. GODORT can do this in part by adding its support to the Audit Report's proposal to revise 32 CFR clarifying prohibitions and limitations on classification by agencies.[27] Finally, GODORT could more carefully monitor NARA to help ensure that future re-review efforts are indeed transparent and 100 percent appropriate. ▮

Bill Sleeman, Assistant Director of Technical Services, Thurgood Marshall Law Library, The University of Maryland School of Law, bsleeman@law.umaryland.edu.

Notes and References

1. Although "reclassification" is not technically accurate for the re-reviews undertaken it is the phrase that has caught on in the media about the event. In this piece I will use "re-review" as shorthand for the overall event and provide specific examples of other activities as needed; Shane, Scott. "U.S. Reclassifies Many Documents in Secret Review." *The New York Times*, Feb. 21, 2006. www.nytimes.com.
2. The agencies identified in NARA's audit report are the United States Air Force, Central Intelligence Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Energy, and the National Archives and Records Administration.
3. Shane, Scott. "Since 2001, Sharp Increase in the Number of Documents Classified by the Government." *New York Times*. July 3, 2005, International sec.: 12; U.S. Department of State. Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation, Dec. 2–3, 2002. Minutes. Available at www.fas.org/sgp/advisory/state/hac1202.html.
4. National Archives and Records Administration. Information Security Oversight Office. *Audit Report: Withdrawal of Records from Public Access at the National Archives and Records Administration for Classification Purposes*. Apr. 26, 2006. www.archives.gov/isoo/reports/2006-audit-report.pdf.
5. These 26,000 records could be a single page or multiple pages related to a particular topic, thus leading to the confusion about the total number of pages involved.

The Audit Report is not completely clear on this, as it indicates some materials were not available to the audit compilers for analysis, and in fact they admit that they are not sure how much material—in some instances—was actually pulled, nor can the agencies that pulled the information account for the material. See for example *Audit Report,* 10.

6. United States. Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy. *Report of the Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy, Pursuant to Public Law 236, 103rd Congress* (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1997): 52.
7. Relyea, Harold C. *Security Classification Policy and Procedure: E.O. 12958, as Amended* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, 2005).
8. Public Citizen. "Analysis of Executive Order 13292: Changes in Classification Policy Imposed by the Bush Administration Executive Order." www.bushsecrecy.org.
9. 32 CFR 2001.13 (2005).
10. *Audit Report,* 20. See also Shane, Scott. "Why the Secrecy? Only the Bureaucrats Know." *The New York Times,* Apr. 16, 2006. www.nytimes.com.
11. *Audit Report,* 3.
12. House Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations. *Drowning in a Sea of Faux Secrets: Policies on Handling of Classified and Sensitive Information.* 109th Cong., 2nd sess., March 14, 2006. http://reform.house.gov/NSETIR/Hearings/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=40820.
13. *Audit Report,* 3–4.
14. Ibid., 7.
15. Ibid., 9.
16. "Russia Provides Scant Help as U.S. Searches for MIAs." *The Baltimore Sun,* May 18, 2006. www.baltimoresun.com.
17. For a definition of the agencies with "intelligence" responsibilities see Best, Richard A., Jr., *Intelligence Issues for Congress. CRS Issue Brief for Congress* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, updated Apr. 10, 2006): 2.
18. *Audit Report,* 18–25.
19. As quoted in: White, Laura A. "The Need for Government Secrecy: Why the U.S. Government Must Be Able to Withhold Information in the Interest of National Security." *Virginia Journal of International Law* 43, no. 4 (Summer 2003): 1073.
20. Silva, Mark. "Cheney Won't Explain Records Classification." *The Baltimore Sun*. Apr. 30, 2006: 18A.
21. *Audit Report,* 2.
22. See, for example, Craig, Bruce, ed. "A Home Run for Historians and Openness Advocates in Exposing Government Reclassification Efforts." *NCH Washington Update* 12, no. 9 (Feb. 24, 2006). www.h-net.org/~nch/ or Librus. "Sanitizing American History through Reclassification." *PoliticalCortex* (Mar. 2, 2006), www.politicalcortex.com
23. National Security Archive. "Secret Understanding Between National Archives and CIA Exposes Framework for Surreptitious Reclassification Program." Apr. 19, 2006. www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/news/20060419.
24. Presentation by Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein at the Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Archivist Conference, Apr. 21, 2006. (Notes on file with author.)
25. *Audit Report, Attachment 1. ISOO Director's Message.* www.archives.gov/isoo/reports/2006-audit-report-attach-1.pdf: 1.
26. This basic proposition, often overlooked by those who oppose any form of government secrecy, was asserted in the "Moynihan Report" on government secrecy. United States. *Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy. Report of the Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy, Pursuant to Public Law 236, 103rd Congress.* S. doc 105-2 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1997), 49.
27. *Audit Report, Attachment 2. Interim Guidelines Governing Re-review of Previously Declassified Records at the National Archives.* www.archives.gov/isoo/reports/2006-audit-report-attach-2.pdf.

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Tips from Tim

The Five Stages of Census Data Users' Grief

Tim Byrne

It is a lot easier to help patrons download census data than it was back in the early days, when we were using the 1990 Census CD-ROMs. Actually, if our patron was happy with the preset tables, downloading was not bad, but if they needed to do a little more sophisticated data manipulation, it was hell. Basically, to get data beyond the standard preset tables, you had to use a program called Extract. It wasn't fun. I was extremely disappointed when the one person on my staff who was willing to help people use Extract took a job in Rhode Island. That meant the buck stopped with me and I had to learn Extract.

Extract was an evil program that would work just well enough to let you think that you could get a lot more. Then it would proceed to drive you crazy. It was particularly good at freezing the computer and losing all of the data you just spent an hour running. I spent a lot of time working with Extract with students and faculty, as well as people from local businesses. We often bonded. Sadly, we often were not successful in getting what was really needed.

After a while, I began to observe that these data users would go through similar stages of behavior as the Extract program continued to deny them the data they needed. As I watched the grief experienced by these patrons, I noticed a great similarity with Elisabeth Kubler-Ross's seminal "stages of grief" or "stages of dying." Kubler-Ross found that there are stages that a dying person goes through when they learn they have a terminal illness. The five stages progress through denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. It amazed me how many times I saw someone using Extract go through these exact same stages.

For those of you not familiar with Kubler-Ross, she is the author of the best seller *On Death and Dying* and is credited as the woman who popularized the field of thanatology as a topic for polite conversation. I don't claim to have read the book or much else on this topic. In fact, what I do know about Kubler-Ross' stages of dying comes from seeing the movie *All That Jazz,* which contained, believe it or not, a comedy routine based on Kubler-Ross' book.

While the downloading of census data has improved greatly since the days of Extract, I still see some frustrated patrons progress through the five stages of data users' grief. They can be using the *American FactFinder,* the Census Bureau DVDs, or the Geolytics products, it doesn't matter.

Denial: Of course, denial is natural at first. People refuse to believe that the program they are using is not going to let them have what they want. They are sure that if they keep trying they will get their data. They refuse to believe that the data user gods are not smiling on them. This is most frustrating when they want data that is impossible to get from the census, but they refuse to believe it when told.

Anger: It is always a little embarrassing to see people screaming at a computer. It is annoying when they scream at you. Frustrated data users can express their anger in many ways. I try to encourage them to do it outside the library.

Bargaining: Personally, I am pretty good at bargaining with my office computer to get it to give me what I want. I know it well and know what upgrades to promise. Our patrons don't have much luck bargaining with our public computers, which have very strict security controls. So they try bargaining with me. Usually they offer money, sometimes food. I bargain with them to accept some data that is a little easier to extract. They bargain with their professor, or boss, or whoever will give them permission to give up on the data they need.

Depression: When depression sets in, I find them surfing the web looking for a vacation getaway, playing sudoku, or just not caring anymore whether they ever do get the data they need. They begin to question whether they really need the data, whether the census is really accurate, or whether there is any real meaning to life.

Acceptance: This is where they give up trying to get the data they need and accept the fact that they will never be able to download the numbers they want. It is, indeed, sad to see someone you have spent hours with give up and start photocopying tables from census volumes or printing off tables, knowing that they will have to manually key in all the numbers.

I want to emphasize that most of our current census users get what they need with little problem. Still, there is a small group for whom nothing comes easy. These are the ones whose grief is clearly obvious as they sit at a computer, slowly dying. Armed with the knowledge you now have of the five stages of census data users' grief, you should be better able to recognize the symptoms and take steps to avert disaster. ▮

Tim Byrne, Government Publications Library, University of Colorado, Boulder, tim.byrne@colorado.edu

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Review

Historical Statistics of the United States: Earliest Times to the Present. Edited by Susan B. Carter et al. 5 Volumes. New York: Cambridge University Pr., 2006 Millennial Edition. $825 print; (contact publisher for online price). ISBN: 0521817919 (set); 0521584965 (v.1); 0521585406 (v.2); 0521817900 (v.3); 0521853893 (v.4); 0521853907 (v.5); 0511132972 (online); 0511133111 (5-volume set and online bundle).

Historical Statistics of the United States has evolved from a single, 363-page volume published in 1949 by the Bureau of the Census in cooperation with the Social Science Research Council to a five-volume goldmine of social science statistics in the 2006 *Millennial Edition*. Not only has *Historical Statistics* increasingly expanded in size over the course of the two intervening editions (1960 and 1975), it has also expanded in terms of the number of topics covered. New areas of coverage since the landmark 1975 *Bicentennial Edition* include chapters on poverty, American Indians, slavery, and even the Confederate States of America. More than eighty scholars served as contributors and more than three hundred served as consultants to the latest edition, representing a concentration in the disciplines of economics, sociology, and history. Previous editions were produced by the U. S. Census Bureau; this one was published by Cambridge University Press (with the authorization of the Census Bureau). The statistics found in these five volumes were derived from more than one thousand sources, both published and unpublished, most of which are official but also a number of commercial and academic sources.

In order to make sense of such a cornucopia of information, this edition of *Historical Statistics* has been compiled in five thematic volumes: population, work and welfare, economic structure and performance, economic sectors, and governance and international relations. Each volume provides an index to the entire five-volume set in order to help take some of the guesswork out of locating statistics on a desired topic. For example, a researcher wanting to locate historical statistics on immigration to the United States will find twenty-one subdivisions of the topic including "Immigration — Immigrants — by country of origin" leading him or her to volume 1, Population, and numerous tables showing data on immigrants both by continent of last residence and by country of last residence for the period 1820–1997 on pages 555–585. Sometimes the indexing of the 2006 edition is not always as satisfactory as that of the 1975 edition. For example, a researcher wishing to determine if the wholesale price of textiles increased or decreased over the course of the nineteenth century would ultimately be able to track this down through a relatively arduous, four-step process: (1) looking under "Prices and price indexes"; (2) then "wholesale, by commodity"; (3) following the references to various tables located in volume 3, Economic Structure and Performance; and (4) locating his or her answer on pages 180–183. The same table can be found in the 1975 *Bicentennial Edition* in Part 1 (volume 1) on page 201, but in this case, the index entry is easier to find: "Textile Industry — Wholesale Price Indexes" located on pages 200–202. In most cases, however, the indexing found in the 2006 *Millennial Edition* is satisfactory and sometimes surprisingly specific; for example, there is an entry for "Buddhist temples, membership."

As anyone who has used census reports to track historical trends has noticed, the Census Bureau has used different units of measure and terminology from one census to another, as what is considered significant to count has changed over time in response to political, demographic, economic, and social developments. One of the virtues of *Historical Statistics* is the imposition, where possible, of standardization, thus saving the researcher much time and effort. Of course, neither all aspects of a topic nor all variables are actually available as far back as a researcher might desire. Using the example of "Buddhist temples, membership" mentioned above, the researcher is directed to volume 2, Work and Welfare, pages 904-909 and Table Bg334-348 "Church and Congregation Membership, by Denomination: 1790–1995." Buddhist temple membership numbers are available only for the years 1951–1987 (minus 1966 and 1967). In fact, only one out of the eleven religious denominations can be completely traced over the period 1790–1995, the Methodist Church. This is not meant to be a criticism of *Historical Statistics,* but rather a reminder to researchers that complete data for the whole period "earliest times to present" are often unavailable.

Social, economic, and demographic changes within major population groups are revealed by the variables listed in the index; for example, marriage rates and births and birth rates. These data also reveal fascinating differences between major population groups. Researchers will find especially interesting the variables pertaining to the social situation of specific population groups: looking under "Hispanic Population" in the index, one sees "AIDS cases reported" and "juvenile delinquents." These variables do not appear under the index listing for "White Population," "Asian or Pacific Islander Population," "American Indian Population," or "Black Population." However, for each of these major population groups the index lists its own unique variables not found among the other groups.

A particularly helpful feature of *Historical Statistics* is the narrative text that appears in essay form at the beginning of each chapter. More than eighty experts contributed to this text in order to explain the concept being covered, provide definitions, explain methods of compiling the data, and provide some historical context. A long list of references consulted follows each explanatory chapter, typically including

numerous government documents as well as citations to scholarly literature about the topic. As is done in the annual *Statistical Abstract of the United States,* each table in *Historical Statistics* provides citations to the source of the data. Each table also refers the reader to the appropriate documentation within the explanatory text found at the beginning of each chapter.

Slightly irritating to this reviewer is the lack of specific Internet addresses when cited as a source for data in a table. An example can be found in Table Ed 212-222 "Hostile Engagements with Indians — Military, Civilian, and Indian Casualties, by Place of Action: 1866–1891" in volume 5, Governance and International Relations (pages 382–403). The source is listed as "U.S. Army War College Internet site, Carlisle Barracks, 'Chronological List of Actions, &C, with Indians, From January 1, 1866, to January, 1891,' with corrections by the editors made from the original documents, accessed March 30, 2004" (p. 403). The explanation for leaving out specific Internet addresses is that "owing to the fleeting nature of specific Internet addresses or web-based file names, we do not use them when identifying sources. Instead, we use more general phrasing to direct users to the Internet source" (pp. 1–xxvii, volume 1, Population). As scholarship continues to become increasingly dependent on Internet sources rather than on stable and more or less permanently verifiable print, microform, and manuscript sources, such incomplete citation documentation can be expected until a truly stable form of electronic archiving becomes possible. This should definitely be of concern when a publication such as *Historical Statistics* is intended for long-term use by researchers.

While this review has concentrated on the print edition, the reader should also take note that an online edition is available as a one-time purchase. Pricing for the electronic edition or a print and electronic "bundle" acquisition varies considerably by size of the institution considering purchase. Interested parties should contact Cambridge University Press for a price quote (see also www.cambridge.org/us/americanhistory/hsus for more information). The online edition provides a number of useful features making it easier for researchers to retrieve and manipulate data. It is possible to download tables in Excel or CSV (comma separated value) format, send a table or explanatory text via e-mail, and to perform such operations as customizing data and merging columns from multiple tables for downloading, printing, or graphing. Researchers can also download complete citations in RIS (Reference Manager), text, or CSV formats.

Historical Statistics of the United States Millennial Edition is both a welcome update to and a significant transformation of a major statistical reference source. Social science researchers will find this to be an extremely useful resource. The narrative chapters accompanying the statistical tables are a major contribution, as they define the subject, provide historical context, and also explain some of the technicalities and derivation of the data. Five massive volumes of statistical data may seem daunting to contemplate. Thanks to logical organization, detailed indexing, comprehensible tables, and a very helpful narrative text, *Historical Statistics* is a gateway to fascinating factual information about American history and society. Ultimately, these statistics provide us with a detailed understanding of American lives past and present. Both the serious researcher and the casual browser will find *Historical Statistics* to be a wonderful resource. Just as the annual *Statistical Abstract of the United States* is an invaluable reference source that belongs in most libraries' reference collections, *Historical Statistics of the United States Millennial Edition* is a fundamental reference source that belongs in most large academic and public libraries' reference collections. ▮

Tim Dodge, Reference Librarian, Auburn University; dodgeti@auburn.edu

Index to Advertisers

ALA Annual Conference Summary—GODORT Highlights

New Orleans, Louisiana, June 23–26, 2006

Weather delays and a reduced number of flights presented logistical challenges for attendees trying to reach New Orleans, but the Annual Conference was worthwhile for those who attended. It was the first Conference employing ALA's new uniform start times for meetings, and it featured different meeting times for each GODORT task force, allowing members to attend all task force sessions. Complete minutes for all GODORT units will be posted to the web site, but highlights appear below.

Steering Committee Meetings

Chair Arlene Weible reminded members of the charge to examine GODORT unit mission statements and contributions to the GODORT membership. Discussion of these issues took place throughout the Conference. At the second Steering Committee meeting, the idea of starting an oral history project for GODORT was referred to the Publications Committee.

The GODORT Membership meeting (formerly called the Business meeting) distilled GODORT activities into a short meeting. Among the high points: members passed a GODORT budget for 2007–2008; the Bylaws and Organization Committee received feedback about GODORT's next steps regarding future planning; and members passed an action item to send a letter of thanks to Patrice McDermott for her service and commitment to government information issues during her tenure in the ALA Washington Office. Mary Mallory of the Legislation Committee presented resolutions that the membership approved. All are linked from the Legislation Committee's page, including four that were later passed by ALA Council:

- Resolution on EPA Libraries
- Resolution on the Federal Research Public Access Act of 2006 (FRPAA)
- Resolution on Saving Federal Libraries
- Resolution of Appreciation for Patrice McDermott
- Resolution Concerning Advocacy for Federal Library and Information Programs
- Request that ALA Form an Ad-Hoc Committee on Federal Libraries

After endorsement by GODORT's membership, the last two were folded into the ALA Committee on Legislation's report, which was subsequently endorsed by ALA Council.

Chair Arlene Weible reported on a number of GODORT activities since the 2006 Midwinter Meeting. Highlights included:

- The GODORT Chair sent a letter of appreciation to Kikko Maeyama, former UN Depositories Officer, for her work with UN depository libraries.
- GODORT sponsored a program at the Spring Federal Depository Library Council meeting in Seattle, Washington, titled: *Capturing Digital Government Information: Views from the Northwest*. Handouts and a summary of the program are available on the GODORT web site, www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortprogram/dlcseattle.htm. In addition, GODORT hosted a New Members Lunch for meeting attendees.
- The Publications Committee finalized an intramural agreement with ALA Editions to publish the book *Managing Electronic Government Information in Libraries: Issues and Practices*, edited by Andrea Morrison.
- GODORT unit heads provided reports of discussions held at Midwinter addressing unit missions and membership needs. The results of these reports were compiled in the summary document, "GODORT Unit Mission Statements and Contributions to GODORT Membership," from the GODORT web site.
- Members of GODORT's Steering Committee held conference calls with GPO staff in February, March, and May. Major topics of discussion included: GPO's FY2007 appropriations request; recommendations for improvement to GPO's Customer Contact Center and *askGPO* Service; reporting of GPO cataloging and PURL referral statistics; GPO's proposal for a new methodology for creating FDLP's Essential Titles List; and clarification of FDLP collection policies related to the Iraqi Freedom Documents posted by the Dept. of Defense.
- The GODORT chair contributed comments to a letter from the ALA Washington Office and other library associations to GPO on the topic of shared regional collection models for the FDLP.
- The GODORT chair and chair of the Publications Committee sent a letter to Stanford University providing official permission to provide online access to the *DttP* back file.

Task Force Meetings

At the Federal Documents Task Force, new business included discussion of GPO's Essential Titles List Proposal. Many attendees expressed concern that the proposal did not offer the flexibility to assure that libraries could select the titles they need to serve the people who come to them. Judy Russell, Superintendent of Documents, gave an update of GPO activities, including the web harvesting project and ILS and Z39.50 interface, and responded to questions. GPO's George Barnum and Kate Zwaard presented "A Day in Your Life with FDsys."

International Documents Task Force (IDTF) planning for the 2007 ALA preconference in Washington, D.C., to be held at the World Bank is going well and will cover key sources, such as databases for the United Nations, European Union, and World Bank. The IDTF Working Group discussed their report

and proposals on "Service to IDTF Members and the Profession," which includes a proposal to create an online database of distribution policies and practices of IGOs and national governments. There was also discussion of whether the UN plans to cease sending print documents to depository libraries.

The State and Local Documents Task Force (SLDTF) followed up on a of variety projects since the Midwinter Meeting. The SLDTF pages have been refreshed with an updated *State Depository Systems & Laws* resource guide and bibliographies for 2001–2006 will be added. Task force members engaged in a productive brainstorming session to evaluate the relationship of the task force's mission to the needs of GODORT members.

Committee Meetings

The **Bylaws and Organization Committee** reviewed the status of the Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM) flow chart and agreed to some minor changes. A lengthy discussion followed on possible approaches to restructuring GODORT to better serve the current membership and to help attract new members. The chair was charged with discussing the several possibilities at the Membership meeting to gauge the response to the various approaches. The Bylaws and Organization Committee than joined the Membership Committee meeting—already underway—for a discussion on how to boost membership in GODORT.

The **Cataloging Committee** heard a report on *RDA: Resource Description and Access*. The committee discussed the decision by the Library of Congress to cease creating series authority records as part of their cataloging, noting that this affects all types of documents, and decided to take action in four ways:

- Send the survey (appendix C) from the "GODORT Informational Document" on the series decision page on our web site out to documents libraries.
- Discover the policy decisions of major federal cataloging agencies and (depending on their stance on this issue) have the chair of GODORT write each a letter of thanks or concern (approved at the GODORT Membership meeting).
- Gather and post information about the decision on our web site.
- Request SLDTF discover and publicize the series policies decisions of state cataloging agencies.

The *Toolbox for Processing and Cataloging State and Local Government Documents* was approved to be posted online, and the GPO cataloging update and handout will be made available via the Cataloging Committee's web page.

The **Development Committee** examined Rozkuszka Scholarship fundraising issues and had several action items, including a request for $300 postage to mail out a solicitation letter in support of the scholarship. Funding was approved at the GODORT Membership meeting.

The **Education Committee** discussed whether the GODORT Handout Exchange and Clearinghouse should be rebranded now that they have been reviewed and combined into one resource. Promotion of the resource and maintenance (including clean up of former host sites) are continuing issues. Government Information @ your library® continues to be an active committee charge, as are competencies for government information specialists.

At the **Government Information Technology Committee** (GITCO) meeting, GPO's George Barnum and Kate Zwaard gave an update of the Future Digital System (FDsys). A Master Integrator (MI) RFP was released in April, with a best and final offer phase (contract negotiations) set for the end of July. The MI will be chosen based on best value for the government. "Best value" does not mean "low bid," but the system that best meets GPO's needs. (Price is a ranking factor, but not the only one.) Open source software and open data formats are two of the more than 1,700 requirements of the FDsys. GPO acknowledged the increasing popularity of web services, such asAPIs, remixing of data, AJAX, and so on, and they will be included in GPO's scenarios for the future. GPO has begun to think about what hybrid documents will look like and stressed the need for authenticity of government information. There was a short presentation on LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe) stressing the ease of setup. Members produced outreach documents, and the committee will be looking into the avenues of outreach presented.

The **Legislation Committee** met four times and presented resolutions at the GODORT Membership meeting. The committee also drafted a letter for the chair to send to Eliot J. Christian of the USGS thanking him for his extraordinary efforts on behalf of the public and users of government information for more than a decade.

The **Membership Committee** met twice, and both meetings provided a chance to brainstorm for the forthcoming membership plan that the committee has been working on. Discussion also covered the New Members Lunch and the Friday night GODORT Happy Hour, both of which were well attended. Plans were discussed for continuing both programs at the Midwinter Meeting in Seattle.

The **Nominating Committee** reported that three names were forwarded by GODORT and ALA to the Public Printer, and one of those nominated was appointed to the Depository Library Council. Congratulations were given to Tim Byrne.

The **Program Committee** approved changes to PPM. The committee deferred additional work on the web conferencing report until such time as ALA officially makes their report and software available for testing. The committee worked with the subcommittee from IDTF on the 2007 preconference related to international documents. The committee will continue to work with Social Responsibilities Round Table in the development of a program related to the EPA libraries closures, with the Map and Geography Round Table in the development of a preconference on historical map cataloging, and with the Law and Political Science Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries in the development of future programs.

Publications Committee meeting highlights include the approval of the 2008 Notable Documents panel; approval of the book proposal for *Untold Treasures: The U.S. Congressional Serial Set Revealed* (to be edited by Aimee Quinn and Donna Koepp); update on the GODORT book publication to be published by ALA Editions titled *Managing Electronic Government Information in Libraries: Issues and Practices* (edited by Andrea Morrison); and the creation of a GODORT online Occasional Papers series.

The **Rare and Endangered Government Publications Committee** (REGP) heard updates on the *Serial Set* book project, and the REGP-sponsored program for ALA Annual in 2007. Geoff Swindells reported that the tour of the historic New Orleans Collection was a success, with twelve attending, including five non-GODORT members. George Barnum reported on his research into the history of paper standards at the Government Printing Office. Swindells led a discussion of REGP's role with respect to digital publications. There was consensus that all rare and endangered government publications, regardless of format, were the responsibility of the committee, but that the committee's role in this area required further clarification before embarking on any future projects. Swindells appointed a subcommittee to address this issue and to report back at Midwinter in Seattle.

At the **GODORT Update**, Judy Russell (U.S. Government Printing Office) reported on FDLP issues. Mark Sandler and John Wilken spoke about the Google Digitization project at the University of Michigan. Lora Amsberryaugier (University of New Orleans) made a sobering presentation about the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the depository libraries of the New Orleans area. The presentations from the Google and hurricanes segments will be made available online.

The **GODORT Reception**, hosted by the Loyola University Law Library, proved a lovely venue for the presentation of awards. The following people were honored: Grace York, University of Michigan (James Bennett Childs Award); Sherry Mosley, Florida International University (LexisNexis/GODORT/ALA *Documents to the People* Award); Ann Marie Sanders, Library of Michigan (Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award); Julie Linden, Yale University (Newsbank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catherine J. Reynolds Research Grant Award); and Kevin Reynolds, Sewanee: University of the South (W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship). Organized by the Conference Committee, the reception was sponsored by Readex, LexisNexis, *Government*

Information Quarterly, Paratext, CQ Press, MARCIVE, and Renouf.

GODORT's Program, "Information Literacy is the Destination, Government Information is the Road," cosponsored by the ACRL Science and Technology Section, was attended by about 120 people. A third of the attendees were members of the ACRL Instruction Section or RUSA Business Reference and Social Sciences section rather than GODORT. Information from the program will be included in GODORT's web pages. ▮

John A. Stevenson, GODORT Immediate Past-Chair, varken@udel.edu

Councilor's Report

2006 Annual Conference—New Orleans

The people of New Orleans welcomed the ALA Conference attendees with open arms and were appreciative of our presence there. ALA members responded by volunteering their time for clean-up projects, donating funds for local library rebuilding projects, and learning more about the impact of Katrina on the lives of the people of New Orleans. Final registration for the conference totaled 16,964 member and vendor registrations, which is about 1,700 less than the Orlando Conference in 2004. Relief funds totaling more than $1.37 million were contributed to local libraries from the ALA Library Relief Fund and the American Association of School Librarians Relief Fund.

Dues: In the spring election, members voted to increase membership dues, and the ALA Executive Board is working with ALA staff to develop plans for the use of the expected extra funds. The dues increase will be phased in over a three-year period, with new funds going to support the ALA strategic plan, *Ahead to 2010*. Initiatives included are support for legislation and advocacy (a GODORT priority), advancing the publishing and distribution of digital publications, expanding continuing education opportunities for members, and providing funding for research and development of new products and services.

Two specific initiatives for expenditure of the additional funds are of potential interest for GODORT members. First, GODORT members have long asked for improved web services, and plans now state that by 2010, the ALA budget will include $250,000 to be used to "continuously improve ALA's technology capabilities in order to achieve the association's goals and meet member needs." Secondly, a potential opportunity for GODORT, about $250,000 will be made available each year as an "initiative fund" to be competitively awarded to ALA units for one-time initiatives to help improve organizational effectiveness.

GODORT Resolutions: All GODORT-endorsed resolutions presented to council by the ALA Committee on Legislation were approved including resolutions on support for EPA libraries, saving federal libraries, the Federal Research Public Access Act of 2006 (FRPAA), and no-fee FDLP access to the PACER system. For the full text of the resolutions, see the GODORT Legislation Committee's web site (www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortresolutions/index.htm) or the ALA Council web site (www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governanceb/council/council.htm).

Additionally, in response to many recent closings of federal libraries or funding cuts, council approved a request from the Committee on Legislation Government Information Subcommittee (GIS) and GODORT that ALA form an ad hoc committee on federal libraries to "assess the current situation of federal libraries" and report back to ALA. The ad hoc committee membership will include GODORT members. ▮

Cathy Nelson Hartman, GODORT Councilor (2004–2007)

GODORT Award Nominations Are Due December 1, 2006

ALA GODORT presents three major awards to recognize achievements by documents librarians, one award designed to encourage participation in professional study or publication, and a scholarship for an individual pursuing a library science degree. Awards will be presented at the 2007 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., and will be selected by the Awards Committee at Midwinter in January 2007. The Awards Committee welcomes nominations and applications by December 1, 2006.

Nomination/application forms for all awards and the scholarship are available from the GODORT web site (www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortawards/index.htm) or from the Awards Committee Chair, John B. Phillips. Applications will be accepted via e-mail (preferred), mail, or fax. Please send to John B. Phillips, Chair, GODORT Awards Committee, Documents Dept., Edmon Low Library, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-0375; phone (405) 744-6546, fax (405) 744-5183, or e-mail john.phillips@okstate.edu.

Awards

James Bennett Childs

The James Bennett Childs Award is a tribute to an individual who has made a lifetime and significant contribution to the field of documents librarianship. The

award is based on stature, service, and publication, which may be in any or all areas of documents librarianship. The award winner receives a plaque with a likeness of James Bennett Childs.

LexisNexis/GODORT/ALA Documents to the People

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

Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award

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

NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds

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

Scholarship

W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship

The W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship provides financial assistance to an individual who is currently working with government documents in a library and is trying to complete a 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 recipient receives $3,000.

Please consider nominating a deserving individual for one of these awards prior to December 1, 2006. ▮

It's a Cover Contest!

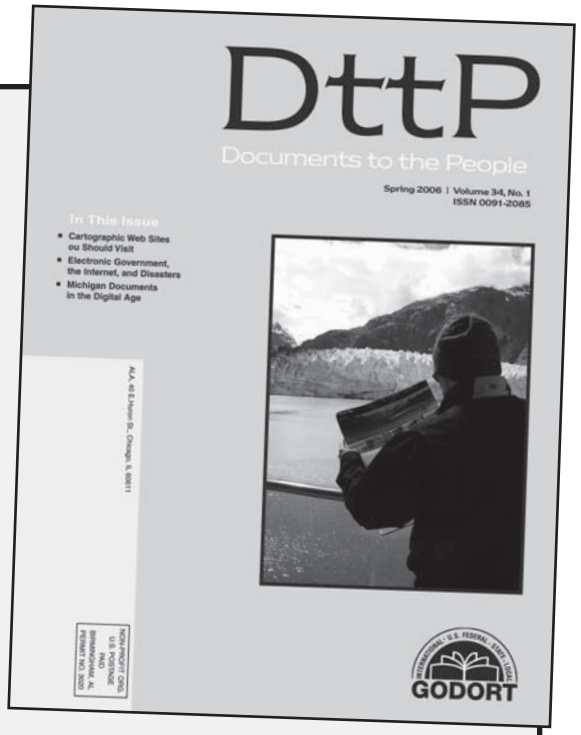

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Photo orientation should be portrait (not landscape). Digital photos must be at least 300 dpi. For submitted hard copy photos, please make sure the return information is available so we may return the photo. All photos submitted must include citation information.

Please submit all images to the Lead Editor (see masthead for contact information) of *DttP* by December 1, 2006.

Steering Committee 2006–2007

GODORT Officers

Aimée C. Quinn, chair
Univ. of Illinois at Chicago
phone: 312-413-0048
fax: 312-413-0424
aquinn@uic.edu

Assistant Chair/Chair-Elect
Bill Sleeman
The Univ. of Maryland School of Law
phone: 410-706-0783
bsleeman@law.umaryland.edu

GODORT Secretary
Kirsten Clark
New Mexico State Univ.
phone: 505-646-4385
fax: 505-646-7477
kclark@lib.nmsu.edu

GODORT Treasurer
Jill Moriearty
Univ. of Utah
phone: 801-581-7703
fax: 801-585-3464
jill.moriearty@utah.edu

GODORT Immediate Past-Chair
Arlene Weible
Oregon State Library
phone: 503-378-5020
fax: 503-588-7119
arlene.weible@state.or.us

GODORT Councilor
Cathy Nelson Hartman
Univ. of North Texas Libraries
phone: 940-565-3269
fax: 940-565-2599
chartman@library.unt.edu

Task Force Coordinators

Federal Documents Task Force
John Hernandez
Princeton Univ. Library
phone: 609-258-3209
fax: 609-258-4105
jhernand@princeton.edu

International Documents Task Force
Christof Galli
Duke Univ.
phone: 919-660-5850
fax: 919-684-2855
christof.galli@duke.edu

State and Local Documents Task Force
Paul A. Arrigo
Lee College Library
phone: 281-425-6447
fax: 281-425-6557
parrigo@lee.edu

Standing Committee Chairs

Awards Committee
John B. Phillips
Oklahoma State Univ.
phone: 405-744-6546
john.phillips@okstate.edu

Budget, Committee
Jill Moriearty, *see information under Treasurer*

Bylaws & Organization Committee
John A. Stevenson
Univ. of Delaware Library
phone: 302-831-8671
fax: 302-831-1041
varken@UDel.edu

Cataloging Committee
Eva Sorrell
California State Univ., San Bernardino
phone: 909-537-5392
fax: 909-537-7048
esorrell@csusb.edu

Conference Committee
Barbara Miller
Oklahoma State Univ.
phone: 405-744-6546
fax: 405-744-7579
barbara.miller@oktate.edu

Development Committee
Tim Byrne
Univ. of Colorado
phone: 303-492-4375
fax: 303-492-1881
tim.byrne@colorado.edu

Education Committee
Judith A. Downie
California State Univ. San Marcos
phone: 760-750-4374
fax: 760-750-3319
jdownie@csusm.edu

Government Information Technology Committee (GITCO)
Valerie D. Glenn
Univ. of North Texas Libraries
phone: 940-565-2868
fax: 940-565-2599
vglenn@library.unt.edu

Legislation Committee
Mary Mallory
Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
phone: 217-244-4621
fax: 217-244-2058
mmallory@uiuc.edu

Membership Committee
Beth Clausen
Northwestern Univ. Library
phone: 847-491-2927
fax: 847-491-8306
b-clausen@northwestern.edu

Nominating Committee
Marianne Mason
Univ. of Iowa
phone: 319-335-5538
fax: 319-335-5900
marianne-mason@uiowa.edu

Program Committee
Bill Sleeman, *see information under Assistant Chair-Chair Elect*

Publications Committee
Dan Barkley
Univ. of New Mexico
phone: 505.277.7180
barkley@unm.edu

Rare and Endangered Government Publications Committee, Co-Chairs
Rebecca C. Hyde
Univ. of California, San Diego
Phone: 858-534-4175
fax: 858-534-7548
rhyde@ucsd.edu
George Barnum
U.S. Government Printing Office
phone: 202-512-1080
fax: 202-512-1076
gbarnum@gpo.gov

Schedule Committee
Arlene Weible, *see information under Immediate Past-Chair*

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