

In This Issue

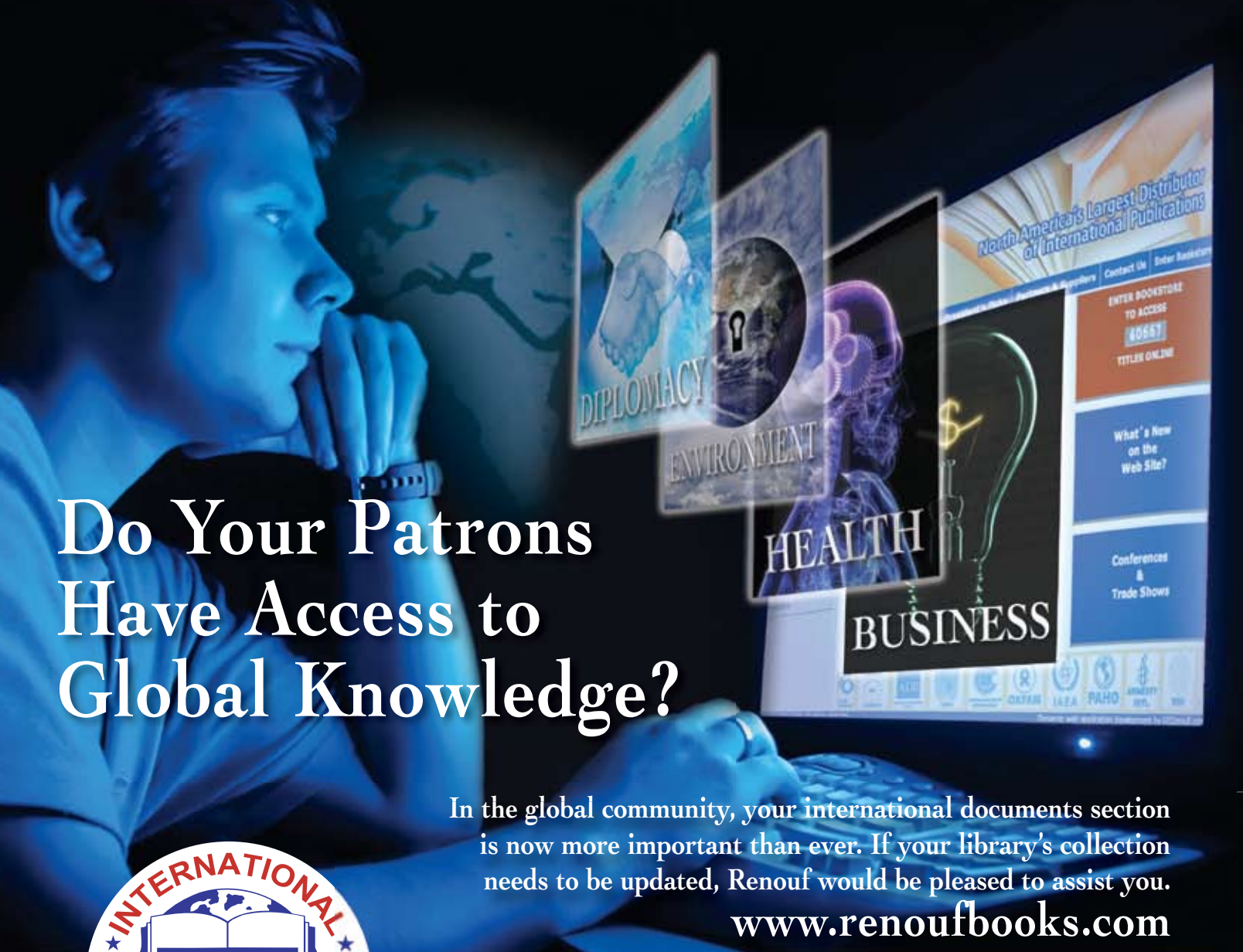
- Connecting Constituents to Government Information
- Fire in the University of Georgia Libraries
- The Unitary Executive and Presidential Signing Statements
- Tips from Tim: Government Acronyms

DttP

Documents to the People

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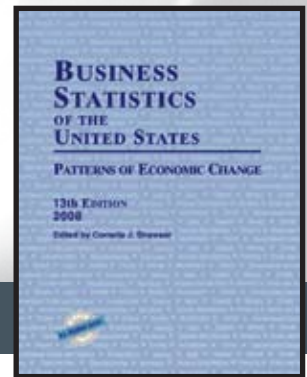
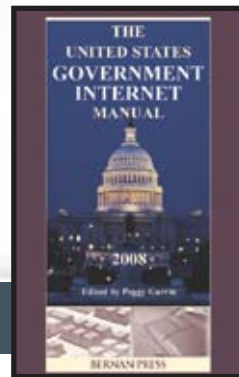
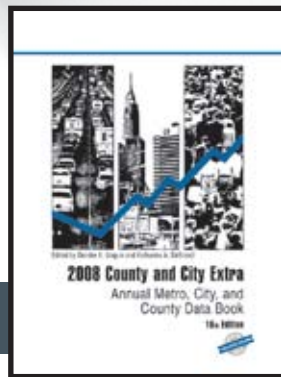
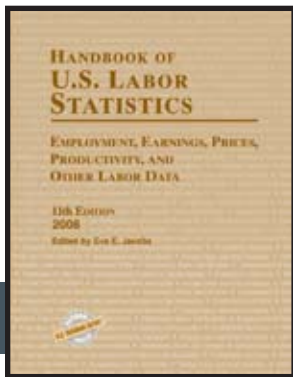


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Editorial Staff

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

Lead Editor: Andrea Severson, 18 Wheatherstone, Lake Oswego, OR 97035; (301) 951-4749; dttp.editor@live.com

Editors:

Jackie Druery, Queen's University; (613) 533-6401; drueryj@post.queensu.ca

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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Editorial Production: ALA Production Services—Troy D. Linker, Chris Keech, Tim Clifford, and Justine Wells.

Columnists:

On the Range

Brian Rossmann
Montana State Univ.
brossmann@montana.edu

International Documents Roundup

James Church
Univ. of California, Berkeley
jchurch@library.berkeley.edu

State and Local Documents Roundup

Kris Kasianovitz
Univ. of California, Los Angeles
krisk@library.ucla.edu

Tech Watch

Valerie Glenn
Univ. of Alabama
vglenn@ua.edu
Amy West
Univ. of Minnesota
westx045@umn.edu

Geospatial News

Marcy M. Allen
Pennsylvania State Univ.
mallen@psu.edu

Washington Report

Kevin McClure
Chicago-Kent College of Law
kmcclure@kentlaw.edu

By the Numbers

Stephen Woods
Pennsylvania State Univ.
swoods@psu.edu

News from the North

Michael McCafferty
Univ. of Toronto
michael.mccafferty@utoronto.ca

DttP

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Editor's Corner

When It All Comes Together

Andrea Sevetson

I could claim that we had planned this issue to come out at this time, when certain issues were breaking in the government documents/government information community, but I'd be lying. Originally we had planned an issue about depository designations for you, but I didn't quite get organized all the way and it never quite got off the ground. So, what we have is several articles with an interesting hodgepodge of issues and ideas.

With the current discussions going on about GPO's report on regional libraries, there has been a lot of discussion about what the problems are that both regional and selective depository libraries face. Are they to be archives of wonderful government publications or are they there to fill the immediate and current information needs of the public? Should there be redundancy? If so, how much is appropriate? How do depository libraries allow members of the public to use their computers to find government information when libraries can be the subject of lawsuits as Internet providers?

We have three great articles this issue. The first, from Suzanne Sears, is about the history of congressional designation of depository libraries. I believe this article is going to be cited for quite a while, and will also be a favorite of government information courses in the years to come, Suzanne's article describes how it took nearly a hundred years for the

ideal of equitable geographic access to government publications become a reality. What is the new ideal we should be striving for—and how long will it take the FDLP to get there?

The second article is from Susan Field, now retired from the University of Georgia. This article was a bit too long to fit into last year's issue on disasters, so now its time has come. Susan discusses the fire that was set in the government documents department several years ago, and the aftermath. How do collection-destroying disasters play into the current discussion on regionals?

The last article, from Rebecca Byrum and Cheryl Truesdell, is the first of a series of articles on presidential signing statements. Rebecca and Cheryl got interested in the controversy surrounding the George W. Bush signing statements and approached *DttP* with the idea of writing an article on them. After they got into their research, they decided there was a lot more there than would fit into a single article—so we're looking forward to more articles from them.

Given that this issue is put together just after the ALA Annual Conference, we also have the usual grouping of the 'Round the Table news from GODORT, as well as a report on the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning that has been meeting for about a year now.

Enjoy your issue of *DttP*!

From the Chair



The Church Lady Speaketh

Cass Hartnett

It is an honor to lead GODORT in 2008–09, and I am excited to share my thoughts with you in this column. I came back to greater GODORT involvement and commitment after a two-year break from ALA service altogether. I needed

to freshen up my perspective, and the time away served me well. During my ALA hiatus, I looked for other activities to fill the void. I attended and taught a class at the Medical Library Association conference, which will be fodder for another column. I also ended up with a three-year term of service on the council of a local Catholic church.

What a surprise it was, as I sat in the St. Leo church basement on Tuesday nights, to be reminded of GODORT

at every turn. I had been appointed to the parish equivalent of the Steering Committee, I knew that, but I found that I had also been appointed (stealthily) to the Pastoral Care Commission, whose members expected me to be their liaison and representative to the council. Now I had Wednesday night meetings to attend as well, learning about the incredible work of more than three hundred Pastoral Care volunteers (who do everything from providing funeral hospitality to knitting shawls for cancer survivors).

Suddenly, I was seeing the whole infrastructure of unpaid work that goes on, and just in my tiny unseen Pastoral Care universe. The liaison reports from other councilors taught me about other commissions: Finance, Social Justice, Liturgy, Facilities, Education, Ecumenical & Inter-Faith Relations and,

yes, Strategic Planning. Every churchy Sunday detail—starched altar linens, music, printed bulletins, fresh votive candles, coffee after Mass—requires the coordination of just a handful of underpaid staff and hundreds of volunteers. But churches do not operate solely on Sundays, so another layer of ignorance was lifted as I learned about emergency services during the weekdays, the centerpiece being the operation of South Puget Sound's largest soup kitchen. I had really taken a local Tacoma institution for granted.

So it is with the Government Documents Round Table. For my first ten years of GODORT involvement, I was a committed and passionate member of the congregation. I sat in the pews (forgive the extended analogy) and felt proud to be a participant in something grand and special, something that spoke to me about freedom of information and unfettered access to government publications. I showed up and I told the truth, as the saying goes, and that was my contribution. As I moved into a task force secretary role, a perfect starting place for any newcomer, and have gradually gotten to this GODORT chair responsibility a decade later, it has clicked for me: the more we give our time to a valuable organization, an institution we respect, the more we see the wide-reaching range of endeavors with which it is involved. In my case, and yours too, it is about (finally!) fully grasping the work of hundreds of GODORT volunteers, without whom there would be no equivalent of a celebration on Sundays or sustenance for the government information community.

Our Nominating Committee members convince idealistic and energetic volunteers to run for open GODORT offices by the Midwinter Meeting each year (thank you, Esther Crawford of Rice University for doing such a bang-up job this year). Without that one linchpin team, I would not be writing this column, as I would not have run for chair without prompting. Our Conference, Awards, Development, Membership, and Bylaws & Organization Committees keep our traditions and our work alive, as do treasurers, secretaries, and chairs across the organization. Our GODORT Councilor (Mary Mallory, University of Illinois) connects us with “Big ALA,” where

she joins our many advocates interweaving the high ranks of our parent organization (GODORT is very fortunate in this regard).

And we've got a fantastic professional journal: this particular *DttP* editorial team has been on a path of continuous improvement since its formation. Surely I am not the only one whose housemates, friends, or colleagues chuckle when they witness a “new-*DttP*-in-my-mailbox” happy dance. We are an enthusiastic bunch, aren't we? And I haven't even mentioned our ALA staff members, our web administrators, parliamentarian, interns, liaisons, archivists, oral history specialists, comic relief experts, past chairs, and virtual members. In this vibrant round table, we are all renewed as we fully appreciate decades of thousands of librarians “showing up” to create a present, and future, of our imagining. Each of us gives his or her little (or big) push of effort on a particular task, and the results are spectacular. Yes, it is somewhat daunting following the term of Bill Sleeman, who leads this group so naturally with such intelligence and dignity, but Bill is constantly encouraging me, so I must press on.

In 2008–09 we continue our process of insuring a strong future for GODORT through strategic planning. Please make it a point to offer your good ideas to the GODORT Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee (headed by Marianne Ryan and Linda Johnson). Use the GODORT wiki (wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php), which is developing more content each week. We are in active dialogue with the United States Government Printing Office as it examines the role of regional libraries within the Federal Depository Library Program. We will watch, and report on, the changes occurring in international intergovernmental agencies as well as our local and state governments. Whatever affects access to government information, we will take note, educate ourselves, and respond. We will talk about government information at work and at play, over cups of tea (or pretzels and beer at a game), while hanging out with kids and dogs, generally whenever we're awake. It will drive people crazy.

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Washington Report

Kevin McClure

The previous “Washington Report” focused on presidential records, and included a discussion of the persistent problems associated with the preservation of White House e-mail records. Throughout the spring, there have been some notable developments in the ongoing effort to secure federal records, including the introduction of a new bill, the *Electronic Communications Preservation Act* (H.R. 5811). The bill, which gives NARA eighteen months to establish regulations for the electronic capture, management, and preservation of electronic records to make them retrievable by electronic search, reached the House floor after clearing the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee by a unanimous voice vote in May.

In testimony before the Oversight Committee’s Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives on April 23, Linda Koontz, GAO’s director for information management issues, described the unique challenges e-mail records pose for records management. According to Koontz, a GAO study of e-mail management practices for senior officials at the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Trade Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development found that for “about half” of the officials reviewed, “e-mail records were not being appropriately identified and preserved.”¹ While agencies generally had satisfactory policies in place to bring e-mail records into an appropriate records management system, “about half of the senior officials we reviewed were not following these policies and were instead maintaining their e-mail messages within their e-mail accounts, where records cannot be efficiently searched, are not accessible to others who might need the information in the records, and are at increased risk of loss,” Koontz testified.²

At the same hearing, OpenTheGovernment.org director Patrice McDermott called the bill an “important step,” but one that does not go “nearly as far as it needs to.”³ McDermott said NARA has already been working with federal agencies on electronic record-keeping designs for more than a decade. Pointing to a new report by Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, *Record Chaos: The Deplorable State of Electronic Record Keeping in the Federal Government* (www.citizensfor-ethics.org/recordchaos), McDermott said it was clear that “in essence little has concretely occurred and, therefore, the agencies have done nothing. NARA and the agencies don’t need another 18 months” to set new rules, nor should agencies get four years to reach compliance as allowed under the bill. What

is needed, McDermott said, are “enforceable repercussions for failure to meet obligations under the Federal Records Act. I do not think anyone has ever been prosecuted for destroying, much less failing to preserve federal records. Records management is not a priority in agencies . . . Unless Congress makes it a priority, including through funding, we will likely be having this same discussion in years to come.”⁴

On a related matter, NARA aroused concern when it announced in April that it would not conduct an “end of administration” web snapshot of executive branch web sites when President Bush leaves office in January 2009. In a web post explaining its decision (www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/memos/nwm13-2008-brief.html), NARA said that guidelines it set forth in 2005 gave agencies clear instructions for preserving their own web records, that a government-wide harvest by NARA might convey to agencies the false impression that they were relieved from obligations to preserve their own records, and that in any case NARA was not convinced of the archival value of a snapshot taken on one random day near the end of a presidential term.

A letter signed by ALA and nineteen other organizations expressed “serious concerns” about NARA’s decision and urged its reversal (www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=470). Snapshots are in fact “of great historical value,” the joint letter said. “They provide the public with an image and understanding of the government at a particular point in time that can be then compared and contrasted with other such images over Administrations. Such comparison is of immense historical value because it allows the public direct access to federal digital records at a given time in history. As Congress and Federal agencies continue to move more and more of their work online, proactive and detailed digital archiving is essential for public awareness and government accountability.”

Another recent development the library community has followed closely is the congressional order that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) restore its library network. That mandate, delivered in an omnibus bill signed into law at year’s end, included a directive that EPA report on its plans to restore library service to each EPA region. The EPA report arrived in late March but was light on details (www.epa.gov/libraries/documents/Library_Report_to_Congress.pdf), and information reported subsequently by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) raised new concerns. Referring to a May 8 memo to employee unions setting out plans for reopening four libraries, PEER said that “the announced plan for the Chicago library, formerly the largest regional library serving the entire six-state Great Lakes area, stipulates:

- The reopened library will be in a vacant reception area on the 16th floor of a federal building;
- The reopened library will occupy less than one-tenth the area of the closed library and will be only slightly larger than the typical men's restroom in that same building; and
- No provision is made to restore the unique Great Lakes ecological collection or to recover any of the other holdings from the former library.⁵

PEER also cautioned that the new plans place “virtually every aspect of library operations under centralized control of a political appointee.” PEER associate director Carol Goldberg said that “even as many collections remain in crates, EPA has decided to micromanage what is left . . . Professional librarians should be making these management decisions, not political appointees.”⁶

As this issue of *DttP* nears press time, EPA is conducting a week-long comment period through its Partner Blog for the National Dialogue (blog.epa.gov/partners). When the comment period ends, the agency pledges to post a summary to the “What We’ve Learned” section of its National Dialogue website (www.epa.gov/nationaldialogue). These outreach efforts are a positive step, and librarians who have been affected by the disruptions in the agency’s library network should continue to take advantage of opportunities like these as the conversation between the EPA and its library network stakeholders moves forward.

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By the Numbers

Public Policy, Social Surveys, and the National Science Foundation

Stephen Woods

The National Science Foundation (NSF) in its 2007 budget request to Congress cites as one of its prominent investments support for three “gold standard” surveys: the American National Election Studies, the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, and the General Social Survey. Collectively, these surveys have inspired more than ten thousand books, articles, and doctoral dissertations. An understanding of the origins and focus of these surveys is critical particularly because they are often used to influence public policy and often show up in citations of government information resources.

American National Election Studies

The NSF formally established in 1977 the National Election Study (NES) in order to help develop a national research resource to assist in making public policy decisions. Prior to the creation of the NES, an election survey had been developed and collected by the University of Michigan and archived by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). The rationale given by the NSF to use the survey developed by the University of Michigan was the benefit of continuing a long-standing survey and to continue to provide researchers with the ability to do analysis over long periods of time. On the other hand, it was also their intention to attempt to improve the survey and to allow researchers to explore new theories of voting and public opinion.

The NES was later called the American National Election Study (ANES) due to the emergence of election studies done by other countries. The survey collects information about a citizen’s social background, political tendency, social and political values, perceptions of social groups and leaders, responses to public policy issues, and participation in politics. Since 1986, the survey has also included questions designed to measure an individual’s knowledge about political facts.

Access to the ANES is available to the public through the use of three different tools: a bibliography of reports, raw data, and an online analysis tool.¹ The bibliography consists of more than 5,000 citations without links to full-text and is organized by author. Unfortunately, a subject index is not provided, but the user can use the search function in the PDF-formatted file. The raw data is available in ASCII, SPSS, SAS, and STATA along with the codebooks for sophisticated users.

However, I recommend exploring the online analysis tool, Survey Documentation and Analysis (SDA), provided by the University of California, Berkeley. SDA allows users to select variables from the survey and to create cross-tabulations.

General Social Survey

The General Social Survey (GSS) traces its origins to the “social indicator” movement in the late 1960s. This interdisciplinary movement promoted the use of the social sciences to monitor social trends to help influence public policy. Its members promoted and developed sociological and psychological surveys, producing reports they considered analogous to “economic indicators.” This movement influenced the development of the GSS in two important ways: belief that data must be available to all researchers and that surveys need to be developed that replicated questions over time.

The GSS started out as a small twenty-question project by James Davis, a sociology professor at Dartmouth College. The idea was to include these questions in a survey conducted each year by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. The Russell Sage Foundation and NSF agreed to fund the pilot project in 1972. The following year, the survey was expanded and NSF assumed the lead funding role.

The content of the GSS ultimately has come to include: a replicating core, experimental questions, non-GSS supplements, topic modules, and cross-national modules. The replicating core consists of a set of questions that regularly appear on the annual surveys about demography, attitudes, and behaviors. This core has changed a little over time, but has essentially remained fairly stable. Experimental questions are added in an attempt to measure wording, importance of an issue, or knowledge, primarily to assist in the future developments of the survey. The prominence and size of the GSS also provided a means for researchers to pay to add supplementary questions for their research.

Historically, the GSS has also included topic and cross-national modules that changed from year to year. Topical modules in the GSS were started in 1977 focusing on issues of race, abortion, and feminism. Over the years there have been numerous topics such as military and military recruitment in 1982, volunteerism in 1996, and prejudice in 2002. By 1982, the international community began to explore the possibility of creating a set of thematic questions that would allow researchers to make cross-national comparisons. Collaboration was started in 1985 between GSS and the International Social Survey Programme to explore the role of government, covering attitudes toward civil liberties, education and parenting,

welfare and social equality, and the economy.² Since then a number of thematic modules have been done on topics such as women and work, environment, and social equality.

The public has access to the GSS through the use of three different tools: a bibliography of reports, raw data, and an online analysis tool.³ An extensive bibliography is available that allows the user to do a keyword search for some full-text documents and citations. The raw data for each year or a cumulative file for the data 1972–2006 is available in SPSS, SAS, and STATA. Online analysis and data extraction is also available using the software Nesstar. Nesstar is increasingly becoming a popular interface, particularly for international data providers. I would highly recommend exploring and becoming familiar with this interface.

Panel Study of Income Dynamics

The passage of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 as a declaration of war on poverty led to the formation of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). The OEO initially partnered with the U.S. Bureau of Census to conduct an economic survey in 1966 and again in 1967. These studies, called the Survey of Economic Opportunity, gathered data from interviews in 30,000 households. The OEO, working with the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan, began the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) in 1968 to replace the Survey of Economic Opportunity. Rather than taking large random samples of the population, the PSID would be a longitudinal survey that would track individuals and families over long periods of time.

The survey design of the PSID was one of the first of its kind. Originally, the OEO only wanted to interview two thousand low-income families identified in the Survey of Economic Opportunity annually for five years. However, researchers convinced them to add an additional three thousand randomly-sampled families in order to track how non-poor families fell into poverty. Consequently, the PSID ended up with two surveys and two sets of data: a cross-sectional national sample and a national sample of low-income families from the Survey of Economic Opportunity. The other survey innovation that occurred later was the idea of following the children of the sample families as they left to form their own households, increasing the number of families tracked to around seven thousand in 2001. Consequently, the survey allowed researchers to follow a bloodline rather than an individual, allowing them to look at intergenerational data and connections.

By 1972, the five-year funds were running out and there were rumors that President Nixon was going to abolish the OEO. Responsibility for the PSID was transferred to the

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare whose officials saw the value of continuing support. The budget concerns in the 1980s led the transfer of primary funding for the study to the NSF. Like the GSS, the PSID has inspired other countries to create and carry out similar surveys, providing researchers with possibilities for cross-national comparisons.⁴

The content of the PSID have focuses on two domains. It provides a consistent time series of core questions about family and individuals, such as demographics, income sources, employment, family composition, housing and food expenditures, housework, health, consumption, wealth, pensions, and savings. The second domain includes a set of supplemental questions in cooperation with other federal agencies and research groups that are focused on a specific issue. For example, the National Institutes on Aging contracted with PSID to add questions focusing on medical expenses, Medicare claims, and beneficiaries.

Access to the PSID is made available to the public through the use of two tools: reports and raw data. A bibliography is provided with more than 6,300 citations without links to the fulltext.⁵ There is a search feature as well as controlled vocabulary for subject searching and browsing. For the more sophisticated user, the raw data is available in ASCII, SPSS, SAS, and STATA along with the codebooks. A nifty tool has been developed that allows a user to search for relevant variables over the span of the survey and to extract only the variables they need.

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Geospatial News

Keeping Up: Reviewing an Online Collaborative World Mapping Effort

Marcy Allen

Start reading any article about map libraries these days and it will contain at least one sentence referring to the rapid change in the availability of mapping technologies and data. Even to map librarians this change has been swift and overwhelming and trying to keep up has proven to be challenging. It

seems like new web sites offering the ability to make a map of any data you have are reported daily on blogs, wikis, and the like. One of these sites—a collaborative mapping site that is quietly taking the Internet by storm—OpenStreetMap is an exciting idea to map the world using user input and public domain data from around the world. This article will explore OpenStreetMap a little more so readers can get a better sense of what the resource is and how it might be used as a reference and map-making tool for their patrons. Due to article size limitation, this will not be an exhaustive discussion of the site but a basic overview of OpenStreetMap.

OpenStreetMap

OpenStreetMap (OSM) (www.openstreetmap.org) was started in England in 2004 by a man named Steve Coast and is a collaborative, open source, worldwide mapping project based on the same concept as Wikipedia. The process of data collecting and mapping in OpenStreetMap goes something like this: have handheld GPS unit, go out into the field, capture GPS points, go home, upload points to OpenStreetMap, edit the points you have uploaded, add some metadata, done. That of course is the simple version of the story; there are many more features you can map in OSM and can make maps that are very appealing such as the map of bike paths in Belgium (see figure 1). The concept of a worldwide collaborative mapping project is awe-inspiring but a couple of points need to be addressed



Figure 1. Bike Paths in Belgium

before you jump right in and start mapping away. Issues about accuracy, ethical use and input, and availability of the data are some that come immediately to mind. These issues are not brought up to highlight negative aspects of OpenStreetMap but simply to give some food for thought when considering the use of OpenStreetMap particularly as a reference tool.

Accuracy and Ethics

This is not the place for a larger discussion about the ethics of data use and input within OpenStreetMap, but as with any source that is open and free for the public to edit, the ethical use of data has always got to be in the back of one's mind when using information from a site such as this. Now, accuracy we can talk about. The first question that probably came up upon reading this article is "How can this data possibly be accurate if there are not experts collecting and uploading the data?" The producers of OpenStreetMap address the accuracy question on their web site. They state up front that the nature of the data input lends itself to inaccuracy, and they make a good point about the accuracy of commercially prepared maps or data that often come with errors embedded in order to catch improper use of said maps or data. Their argument is a simple one—users have a stake in the data they are uploading and creating for use in OpenStreetMap, and just like in Wikipedia where users can correct information, the same can happen in OSM. If you are particularly familiar with an area and zoom into it on OSM and find a wrong road name or park name it is up to you to register as a user and correct the information. As of the writing of this article, OSM has yet to come up with a standard for checking uploads and changes and suggest that users judge the data themselves.

Availability of Data

The second issue that arises with a world public mapping project is what happens in the parts of the world where technology is not pervasive and where public domain data is not available in place of user-entered data? Already this issue is highlighted in many parts of Africa and South America. Zoom into either of these areas on the map and it becomes evident that the data available is slim to none. There are parts of each continent where data is available such as this map of Brasilia, Brazil (see figure 2). But the data is limited to road structures, which most likely came from a publicly available data set. This lack of user input data in certain areas of the world could be due to the fact that OSM is a relatively new volunteer collaboration and users need to understand this project will take a very long time to complete.

Coverage and enhancements seem to be heaviest in European countries and cities and in some Canadian cities such as Toronto. Not surprising is the level of detail for the United Kingdom—zoom into London and any bit of information you might want to know is there: tube stops, bike paths, parks, gardens, and so on. Basic road coverage is available in the United States as OSM has uploaded the most recent Census TIGER files onto the site but unless someone chooses to go in and name the roads, they remain nameless. Public participation in the United States seems to be limited thus far. For example, the most notable piece of data missing for the United States besides road names is bodies of water. Zoom in and there is no Mississippi River, no lakes in the Ozarks, and a limited Columbia River.

Reference Tool, Just for Fun, or Both?

OpenStreetMap can serve as a great reference source on many levels for many reasons, particularly in the areas where more data and information are available. For instance, if I had a patron arrive at the desk to inquire about bike paths in Belgium for an upcoming vacation I could go to OSM, zoom into a Belgian city of particular interest, open the map key to learn the label for bike paths, and have a map to display for the patron. This resource is a particularly useful tool for libraries without a map collection or travel guides.

OpenStreetMap is just for fun as well. Any geography geek with a GPS can take that GPS on vacation to wonderful spots around the world; take the GPS on hikes, walks and bike rides around their neighborhood; collect points; record street names; and go home to enter their newfound data into OSM and just like that another part of the world is mapped. As is obvious from the growing popularity of this site, people are doing just that—having fun with OpenStreetMap.

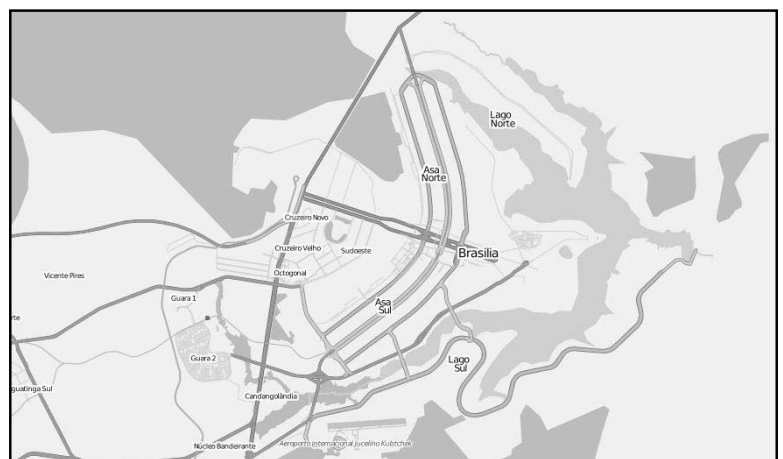


Figure 2. Brasilia, Brazil

In the End

One thing that does make OpenStreetMap a true world map is the language factor. Zoom into any non-English speaking country and the names of the cities or roads are all in the language native to that country, the names are not in English as illustrated by the map of Moscow (see figure 3).

The concept of collaborative world mapping is more than exciting—it is simply mind boggling. The possibility of having an open collection of geographic data for the entire world would make any map librarian giddy and to have one made by the masses would just be plain old cool.



Figure 3. Moscow, Russia

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 OpenStreetMap Featured Images, wiki.openstreetmap.org/index.php/Featured_images

International Documents Roundup

European Union Studies at the University of Pittsburgh

Mark C. Scott and Phil Wilkin

In 1951, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands founded the European Coal and Steel Community, which turned out to be the institutional model for the European Economic Community (EEC), founded in 1958. The EEC was superseded by the European Community (EC) in 1967, which was superseded by the European Union

(EU) in 1993. Throughout this period, the institution has consistently been referred to as the Community.

Currently, the EU is a fully functioning supranational government with both a great deal of influence over its member states and in international affairs. Throughout its existence, the EU has produced a massive amount of publications and documentation describing its activities. Since the early 1950s, the library at the Delegation of the European Commission to the United States in Washington, D.C. (www.eurunion.org) collected as much of this documentation as possible. The University Library System (ULS) at the University of Pittsburgh acquired this entire collection from the Delegation through an open competition in 2007. On April 9, 2008, Ambassador John Bruton, current ambassador of the delegation and former prime minister of Ireland, traveled to Pittsburgh to formally donate the collection to the ULS.

This article will focus on this collection and how it fits into EU studies in general at the University of Pittsburgh. First, the contents and significance of the newly acquired EU collection will be described. Second, the role of the Archive of European Integration (AEI)—an online archive (aei.pitt.edu) and repository of research materials on the topic of European integration, administered by the ULS—will be discussed. Third, how these factors have interacted with the Center for European Studies and the European Union Center of Excellence (www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/euce.html) at the University of Pittsburgh will be described.

The EU Delegation Collection

The ULS recently named this collection the European Union Delegation Collection (EUDC).¹ This collection is essentially a virtually complete “government documents” collection, containing documents produced by all the institutions of what is now the EU since 1951. This collection contains more than 16 million pages of documents, and is by far the most comprehensive collection of EU publications in North America, containing many publications not held by the fifty-six other EU depository libraries in the United States.² The main collection consists of about 1,750 linear shelf feet; the microfiche collection consists of 120 linear feet. Many of the pre-1973 documents are in French, and nearly all after that are in English. Since the mid-1980s, the EU has placed an increasingly larger proportion of its publications on its web site (europa.eu) and distributed progressively fewer publications in paper. Consequently, the EUDC is proportionately richer in historic materials published before the mid-1990s.

The collection is rich in all policy and administrative areas that any government would be involved in, such as agriculture,

economics and finances, environment, energy, foreign affairs and foreign aid, health policy, institutional administration, internal and external trade, social policy, statistics, transportation, and vocational education. Also, the collection contains a huge cache of documents, mostly from the 1960 and 1970s, and in several languages, on peaceful atomic energy research.

The production of publications within the EU is not centralized. The Office of Official Publications (OOP) produces mostly traditional items, like monographs and research studies, often with copyright and ISBN numbers. In addition, nearly every department or institution with the EU produces its own publications, mostly documents with no copyright. The European Commission publishes more than 90 percent of this category.

The most important publication is the *Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ)*, which records the activities of the main institutions of the EU, the Council, European Commission, European Parliament, Court of Justice, Court of Auditors, and the Economic and Social Committee. The *OJ*, similar to the U.S. government's *Federal Register*, is published every working day in all official languages of the EU. It consists of two related series (L for legislation and C for information and notices) and a supplement (S for public procurement). There are dozens of annual and periodic reports, such as the *General Report on the Activities of the European Union* as well as other more specialized reports. Also, the European Commission has the responsibility for initiating legislation, which it does in COM documents. These documents explain in detail why the proposed legislation is needed. In addition, the EU publishes many monographs, often research oriented; some of these are copublished with private publishers. Also, Eurostat has produced a large body of statistics. Finally, the EU produces dozens of informational pamphlets that describe its activities.

This collection has one of, if not the, most complete single cataloging systems of EU documents in existence. There is a paper card catalog (author, subject, title) covering the years 1951 through 1989, and an Access electronic file containing titles from the years 1990 through 2003. In the near future, ULS staff will transfer the contents of the paper card catalog into the Access electronic catalog and make it publicly available.

The truly unique part of the EUDC is the "research files." These are folders containing EU documents—many of which duplicate documents in the main collection—such as European Commission or European Parliament reports and documents, Council of Ministers and European Commission press releases, and individual pieces of legislation, filed according to subject.

The files also include clippings from non-EU publications like *Agence Europe*, *European Reports*, and European and U.S. newspapers. These files give patrons access to nearly complete collections of these documents running from the early 1950s until the late 1990s. The size of the "research files" varies enormously according to the topic. Folders for some topics contain relatively few documents. The topic of public health constitutes more than thirty inches of shelf feet, while agriculture takes up more than fifty shelf feet. For each topic area, patrons can trace developments from the very beginning of EU activity in the area.

The ULS will keep the EUDC as a separate, closed-shelf collection, available by appointment only, and materials can be photocopied. As another option, the ULS offers document delivery service for this collection.³ Patrons from anywhere can request copies of a reasonable number of documents from the collection. If the requested document is one the ULS would have digitized in the future, and it is not available electronically elsewhere, it will be scanned and placed onto the AEI. Otherwise, the ULS will provide the patron with the document in either PDF or paper format.

The EUDC gives Pitt by far the largest collection of EU documents anywhere in the Western Hemisphere. Presiding at the ceremony in which the ambassador formally transferred the collection to the ULS, the university chancellor, Mark A. Nordenberg, said the collection "extends our already extensive collection of EU documents" and "solidifies Pitt's international standing."⁴ Rush G. Miller, university librarian and director of the ULS, believes the recent acquisition of the Delegation Collection "marks yet another notable milestone in our long term commitment to the university's European Union Center of Excellence and the European Studies Center. It also continues our mission to aggressively acquire EU documents and make them available to researchers and the public."⁵

Archive of European Integration

The Archive of European Integration (AEI), begun in 2003 and administered by the ULS, is an online archive and repository for full-text materials on the topic of European integration. The AEI is the brainchild of Phil Wilkin, social sciences bibliographer at the ULS. The AEI currently contains 6,609 full-text documents: 2,767 published by private institutions and 3,842 EU documents not available electronically elsewhere. The AEI staff will be continually uploading additional documents in the future, including another 2,500 EU documents that are already digitized.

The OOP of the EU recently announced a multiyear plan to digitize much of the entire EU historic collection since the

early 1950s. These documents will be made freely available on the EU Bookshop and EUR-Lex web sites, and a single search engine will provide access to both simultaneously. The AEI is working in conjunction with the OOP on this project, in that it will digitize only materials that the OOP does not intend to digitize.

West European/European Union Studies at Pitt

Both the EUDC and the AEI bolster the two academic programs at Pitt that deal with Europe in general and the EU. The Center for European Studies (CES), begun in 1984, has been funded under Title VI of the U.S. federal Higher Education Act since the early 1990s. The emphasis here has been on the social sciences and humanities in general. During the 1990s the EU rapidly grew more important and influential. Consequently, the academic emphasis within the CES gradually shifted from a general approach to one focused on the EU. Concurrently, the EU decided to fund EU studies centers in the United States. In 1998 the CES was awarded a three-year grant from the European Commission to establish a European Union Center, one of ten in the United States. Since then the EUC has won two more European Commission grants, and was recently given the name European Union Center of Excellence (EUCE), one of ten centers in the United States. The focus here is on the EU itself, with an emphasis on the study of public policy and the political, economic, and legal integration progress in Europe. Furthermore, the EUCE brings in a steady stream of visitors such as EU officials, ambassadors, and policy makers to the university.

Conclusion

Pitt is only one of several universities in the United States that have built EU Studies programs in the last fifteen years. All indications are that the EU will continue to increase its influence both among its member states and in the international arena. Pitt, along with these other EU studies programs, will try to keep pace with these developments.

Mark C. Scott, Coordinator of Government Publications, University of Pittsburgh, mcs50@pitt.edu.
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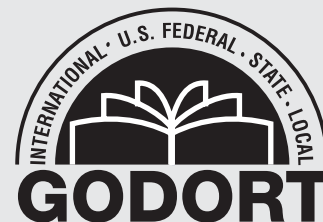
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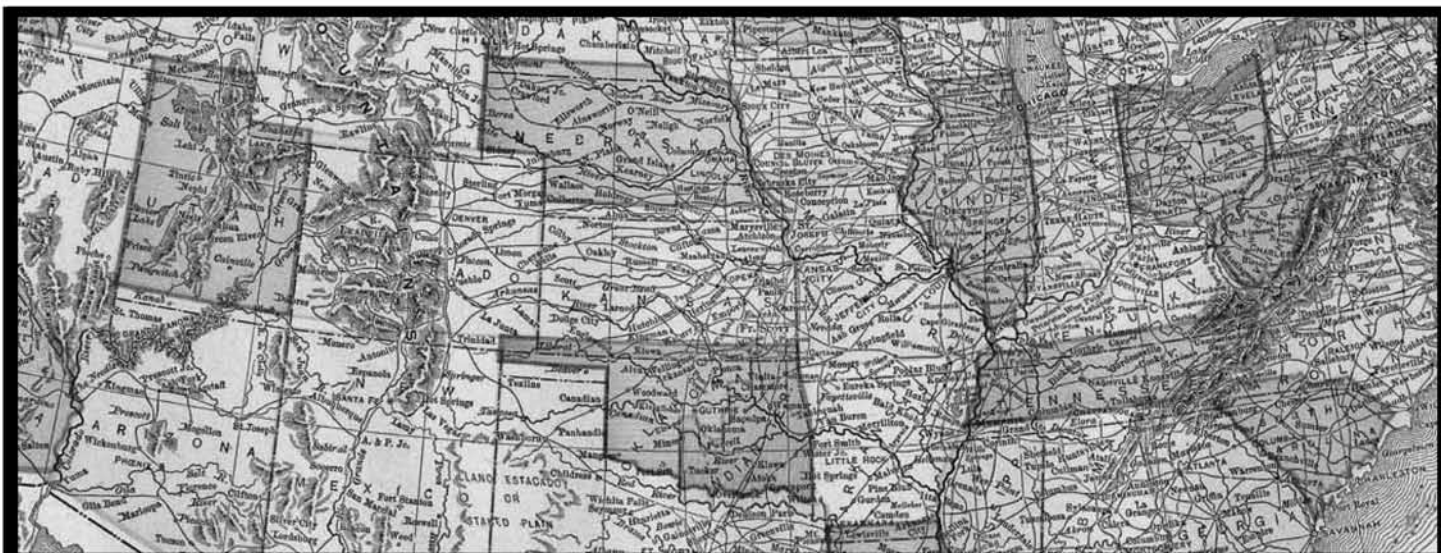
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Connecting Constituents to Government Information

150 Years of Congressionally Designated Libraries

Suzanne Sears

The cornerstone of a strong republic is accountability through knowledge of government activities. This information can be used to hold the government accountable, take advantage of government programs, and enable active participation in the democratic process. In the early 1800s, Congress recognized the need to provide public access to government information by partnering with libraries nationwide. The equitable geographic distribution of depository libraries would ensure that permanent collections of government publications for preservation and educational purposes were scattered throughout the country.

In 1813, Congress recognized the desirability of creating depositories in every state. The authority to decide which institutions would receive government publications was given to the executive office of each state and territory.¹ This system of distribution was haphazard and did not always fulfill the goal of making the publications easily accessible to the public. Some of the institutions that were chosen to receive the publications could not adequately store or provide access to them, making them of little service to the public.

On March 20, 1858, in an attempt to increase the equitable geographic distribution of government publications, Congress passed a joint resolution allowing each representative to designate a library in his district a depository library (11 Stat 368). The following year, Congress gave each senator the authority to designate one depository in his state (11 Stat 379). By 1895, 419 designated depository libraries were receiving government publications. This was out of a possible 507. According to the annual report of the Public Printer, some congressional districts were not represented due to the “failure of their Representatives to make proper designations.”²

The theory behind giving the authority to designate a depository to congressmen was to increase access by providing government publications in every congressional district. The reality was far from ideal, and until the *Depository Library Act*

of 1962 (76 Stat 352) there were calls for reforming the laws to end government waste and provide for more equitable distribution of depositories.

During these early years of the FDLP, depository designations were used as political tools and resulted in arbitrary designations of libraries and inequitable geographic distribution of materials. The early laws did not protect existing depositories from losing their status at the discretion of the senator or representative entitled to make the designation for their area, although it had been the intention to provide some permanency to the designations. As early as 1895, this intention was made clear by the Public Printer:

It has been held that the intention of the law was that a library once designated as a depository should remain on the list until removed for suitable cause, such as failure to care for the books and make them available for public use or persistent refusal to acknowledge the receipt of the books sent. The reason for this continuance of the libraries on the list is obvious. In no other way could sets of the public documents be accumulated. If the designations were to be changed whenever a new Representative came in, many libraries would have comparatively useless fragments of the document set, and no complete collections would exist anywhere.³

Regardless of the intention, by 1912, the reality was that depositories were losing their status. This sometimes happened at the beginning of a congressional session when a new representative or senator dropped one library as a depository

Discuss this article on the wiki:
<http://wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/DttP>

in favor of another. In addition, redistricting every ten years would sometimes result in more than one depository per district. The representative for that district had to choose which depository to keep and which to drop as only one depository per district was allowed.⁴

On June 23, 1913, Congress gave depository libraries a more permanent basis (38 Stat 75). Since that time, a library may voluntarily relinquish its participation in the depository program or the Superintendent of Documents may officially terminate depository status if a library fails to meet the legal requirements of the FDLP. Libraries no longer had to worry about losing their congressionally-designated depository status, but the problems of inequitable access and government waste still existed.

The 1926 annual report of the Public Printer describes some of the problems with the system at that time:

With the subsequent growth and shifting of the population and the various changes in the boundaries of Congressional districts, many depository libraries are not now located so as to serve the districts for which they were originally designated. But other depository libraries cannot be selected under the present law for the new and large centers of population. For example, there are two depository libraries in a small eastern town, while the libraries of two much larger cities in the same district are barred under the present law from designation as depositories of government publications.

On the other hand, many districts apparently do not desire or cannot assume the burden of having a depository for government publications. Only 468 out of the 667 available library designations have been made by members of Congress. The 199 vacant designations cannot, however, be assigned to libraries in other districts. Consequently many important libraries are compelled to obtain government publications by haphazard importuning of Congressmen and the departments.⁵

To address some of the inadequacies in the “designation of suitable libraries as public depositories” and the lack of flexibility of the current depository law, the Public Printer suggested that the Librarian of Congress and the Superintendent of Documents be given the authority to designate depository libraries, at least one for each congressional district, and not to exceed two thousand qualified libraries. An additional recommendation was that “no more libraries be designated than can be properly supplied with Government publications within the annual appropriations made by Congress for that purpose.”⁶

These suggestions were incorporated into S. 4973 (69th Congress, 2nd session), introduced by Senator Johnson of California. This bill failed to pass even though it had approval from approximately “75 prominent libraries.”⁷ In addition, the proposed change in the law was discussed at the American Library Association conference in Toronto in June 1927 and a resolution was passed on June 24 to provide for a “more just and equitable designation of depository libraries in the United States.”⁸

By 1933, 499 libraries were designated as depositories, but the problem of inequitable geographic distribution of these libraries had not been solved. A questionnaire was sent to all designated depositories in 1932 and 1933 in an effort to collect information that could assist in developing a better method of distribution. When asked, “Is the depository privilege of real value,” 460 libraries stated that it was invaluable and 2 stated that it was of no value to the public. However, only 128 libraries stated that they cataloged all of the publications received and only 229 said that the publications were in constant use.⁹

ALA had established a committee to study the depository library problem, but no report had been issued with a possible solution. The Superintendent of Documents summarized the situation as follows:

I believe there should be fewer depository libraries and that the responsibility for proper selection and determination as to the eligibility of a library to become a depository should be imposed upon the State library commission or some other authorized body of the State.

Depository libraries are provided to make Government publications available for the use of the general public and no library should be designated unless it has an organization capable of making the publications available.¹⁰

In 1938, ALA had proposed a field survey of existing depositories and the chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing and the Public Printer approved such a survey. However, the survey was never conducted due to lack of adequate funding.¹¹ The following statements from the Public Printer’s *Annual Report* indicate that the system was still seen as woefully inadequate for the distribution of government publications:

The present depository law is fundamentally the same as that enacted in 1895, with only slight modifications. Although undoubtedly originally written for the purpose of placing Federal public

documents in the libraries throughout the United States, so that the American people could have free access to them in every congressional district, such distribution remaining unchanged has led to waste on the one hand and to unfairness on the other. The framers of the original law could not fully foresee the development of large metropolitan areas and the unevenness in the development of libraries throughout the United States, which have nullified their original intent.¹²

It was hoped that the survey could be conducted in part to protect depositories that had demand and use in their institutions and adequately housed their collections from losing their depository status if the laws were amended.¹³

In 1947, there were 558 depository libraries out of a possible 663. Of these, 125 were receiving everything GPO had made available to depositories. Still, complaints about the inaccessibility of the material and concern over government waste were prominent enough to be reported to Congress by the Public Printer along with a recommendation that Congress provide adequate funding for regular inspections of depositories:

Many libraries have regarded the depository system merely as an opportunity to obtain free publications. Criticisms have reached Members of Congress that depositories are not being maintained as public libraries, as the law provides, and that documents are stored in basements or are lost or destroyed instead of being made available for general public reference. Many thousands of dollars are expended each year to provide depository copies of Federal documents. It is only sound business for the Government to insure that these funds are not wasted.¹⁴

By 1962, there were 594 depository libraries located in all of the states and most of the U.S. territories.¹⁵ More than one hundred years had passed since Congress had been given the authority to designate depository libraries and still the situation was less than ideal. There had been reforms to the law that had increased the efficiency in how materials were distributed, but little had been done to increase the flexibility of depository designations to keep up with shifting populations. Requests from libraries desiring depository status were denied because there was no vacancy for additional designations in their area.

The *Depository Library Act of 1962* was the first major revision of the depository library system since the *General Printing Act of 1895* (28 Stat 601). It is often remembered because it

established regional libraries and created a system for discarding depository publications. However, it also increased the number of representative depository library designations from one to not more than two for each congressional district and the number of senatorial designations to no more than two for each senator. This immediately increased the number of possible depositories from 673 to 1,340.¹⁶ Nonetheless, the number of actual depositories increased slowly over the next ten years. By 1972, 1,074 libraries were designated as depositories and that number increased to 1,365 by 1982.¹⁷

Over time, increases in population and subsequent reapportionment and redistricting have resulted in more than one depository library per district. In addition, some libraries receive their depository designation through “by law” status. Accredited law school libraries, state libraries, land-grant college libraries, federal agency libraries, and a few others are eligible for depository status under certain sections of Title 44 of the U.S. Code. Some libraries that were originally designated by a member of Congress have requested a change in status from “congressionally designated” to “by law” to create an opportunity for another library to receive the congressional designation.

A search of the *Federal Depository Library Directory* in June 2008 showed that of the 1,253 federal depository libraries, 729 have their status through a representative appointment and 171 through a senatorial appointment (see table 1). Today, with an average of three depository libraries per congressional district, the ideal of having equitable geographic access to government publications is a reality.¹⁸

Suzanne Sears, Head, Government Documents
Department, University of North Texas, Willis Library,
suzanne.sears@unt.edu.

Table 1. Congressionally Designated Depository Libraries by Library Type

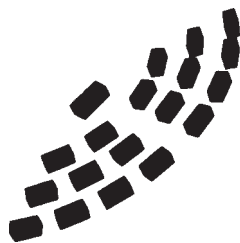
	REPRESENTATIVE	SENATORIAL
Academic Community College Libraries	51	10
Academic General Libraries	453	121
Academic Law Libraries	19	3
Public Libraries	195	31
Special Libraries	10	4
State Libraries	1	2
TOTAL	729	171

Data Source: FDLP Desktop, Federal Depository Library Directory Public View, catalog.gpo.gov/fdlp-dir/FDLPdir.jsp, searched on June 5, 2008.

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Fire in the University of Georgia Libraries

Susan Copony Field

According to GPO records, the University of Georgia (UGA) was designated a federal depository in 1907 along with other land grant institutions in the United States. However, like other institutions later designated as land grants, other sources show UGA was designated a depository earlier.¹ UGA was designated the regional depository for the state of Georgia in 1977. Whether the designation is dated to 1907, 1891, or 1858 many publications in UGA's U.S. government documents collection predate its depository designation, making it a collection containing a wealth of primary source material, historic information, and rare and endangered documents.

The Main Library of UGA consists of the Old Building and the Annex. The collection supports the social sciences, humanities, and business and it houses the majority of the U.S. government documents collection. The Ilah Dunlap Little Memorial Library, the Old Building, was constructed in 1952 and has six floors. In 1974, an Annex with nine floors was added. The six floors of the Old Building are connected to the first six floors of the Annex thus providing seamless access between them.

The Science Library was built in 1968 and is located on the other side of the campus. Its collection supports the physical and life sciences. It houses the publications of U.S. agencies that deal with science and technology. Most maps, with the exception of those published by the Bureau of the Census, are housed in the separate Map Library. These libraries have more than 3.5 million volumes and 5 million microforms in their collections.

In 2003 the second floor Annex in the Main Library that housed the U.S. government documents collection was damaged by fire. This article describes the fire, the damage, the rescue operations, the replacement of materials, the costs and lessons learned.

The Fire

The fire started on Wednesday, July 23, 2003, at approximately 5:40 p.m. At this time of day during the university's summer

session, the building was relatively empty and everyone was evacuated safely. This also meant that there were few people to provide information concerning the cause of the fire.

The fire began on the second floor of the Main Library in the Annex where the U.S., Georgia, UN, and Canadian government documents; British Parliamentary papers; and the Library of Congress classed materials in L-LC were housed. Microfiche, microfilm, microprint, microcard, CDs, floppies, DVDs, videos, and maps were also housed here. The fire alarm on the second floor Annex did not activate. The alarm that worked was located on the top floor of the Annex. Firefighters arrived within minutes after they were notified but took several more minutes to find the actual location of the fire because of the confusion caused by the alarms.

The fire went up into the ceiling where the flames spread rapidly in multiple directions. Because the fire was in an area between the dropped ceiling tiles and the concrete ceiling where there was little oxygen, it eventually snuffed itself out.

Since the flames spread upwards, the worst damage was to the documents on the top shelves in the book stacks and to the microfiche and microfilm in the top drawers of the cabinets. Flames, smoke, and heat did the most damage to the materials. Many boxes of UN documents waiting to be reshelved suffered the worst water damage because the firefighters used water to put out the fire in that area. The Athens-Clarke County firefighters have been trained to fight special types of fires and were sensitive to the types of materials involved and they may have used as little water as possible to put out the fire. In addition there was no sprinkler system in the Annex since it was constructed before sprinklers were required.

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This type of fire generates heavy smoke so that the materials on the second floor Annex that were not damaged by the flames suffered heat, smoke, and soot damage. The smoke and soot were spread at lower concentrations up through the heating and air conditioning ducts to the top floor of the Annex and then circulated downwards through nine floors before the system was disabled. Smoke and soot damage was evident on all floors of the Annex.

Recovery and Aftermath

The recovery efforts began even as the firefighters were exiting the building. There was a disaster recovery company already on campus repairing the flood damage that had occurred earlier in the summer at the Veterinary School and thus they were already under contract with the University System Board of Regents. Staff from this company arrived at the library right behind the firefighters. This provided a unique situation where the library did not choose a disaster recovery company, the disaster company chose the library. The big advantage in this situation was that we had instant professional and experienced help at the very beginning of our recovery efforts.

After the fire was contained that evening, it was too early to start evaluating or treating materials, but the disaster recovery company was able to do several things that most certainly prevented further damage. They disengaged the HVAC system to prevent the continuing circulation of smoke throughout the Annex. If this had not been done, the smoke and soot damage would have been much worse because the circulating system did not shut down automatically as it should have.

The reference department is located directly below the fire area. Plastic sheeting was put over everything—shelves, tables, desks, books, chairs, and computers. This prevented further damage to this area.

The disaster recovery company brought in and set up equipment such as air scrubbers to remove particulate matter in the air, and dehumidifiers and chillers to keep humidity and the temperature down to help prevent the formation of mold. This was absolutely essential since it was July in Georgia.

The Main Library was closed from Thursday, July 24 through Sunday, July 27 to all but authorized personnel. On Monday (July 28), the regional librarian, the head of the Government Documents Processing Unit, the preservation librarian and a staff member from the Preservation Unit began the initial evaluation and recovery efforts. The library was reopened to all staff on Monday, August 4 and was opened to the public on August 18, the first day of fall semester classes at UGA. All floors in the Main Library were accessible to the public except for the second floor in both the Old Building

and the Annex, which remained closed to everyone except staff until June 18, 2004, because of access and security issues.

The UGA Libraries had a disaster plan written in 1991 and revised in 1998 (www.libs.ugs.access_services/security/disaster.html), however, there was no print copy available outside of the library at the time of the fire. There was, of course, an electronic version, but that was in a computer file in the library and could not be accessed. The library's computer systems were completely shut down and inaccessible for a period of time because of fire damage. There was no available list of after-hours contact information for library administrators or department heads.

The most common damage dealt with in almost all disasters is from water, not fire. It was stated on page three of UGA's plan that "Disasters can arise from a variety of sources from natural events . . . to fire and floods. A common element in almost every type of disaster, however, is water damage and this plan addresses itself primarily to this problem."

In UGA's plan, the roles for the library staff in the recovery process were very specific. In our real disaster, the library's recovery team involved with the evaluation and preservation of the damaged materials, was composed of staff members who had worked together for many years and basically understood what needed to be done and how to go about doing it without having to consult specific instructions or directions in a plan.

In retrospect the plan would have been more useful for a different type of disaster, such as a broken water pipe, where the library staff with some outside assistance could do most or all of the recovery work. However, this disaster required extensive outside help and UGA's plan did not prescribe what should happen under those circumstances. Working with a disaster recovery company for a long period of time in a situation that involves a variety of materials as well as extensive repair, restoration, renovations, and remodeling is a very different situation than working with library staff members in a more contained situation. Our disaster plan was a good plan but it did not work well with our particular disaster.

Early into the investigation, the authorities suspected arson as the cause of the fire. It appeared that there were attempts to start fires in three different locations: in the ceiling tiles on the south side of the floor near the shelves containing the *American State Papers* and early U.S. *Congressional Serial Set* volumes, in a section of the U.S. government documents stacks, and in boxes containing UN documents. This meant that we had the Athens-Clarke County police, the University of Georgia police, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the state fire marshall, the state insurance commissioner and the State Arson Unit, as well as reporters and TV crews on the

scene. It also meant that it was four days before the library staff could begin recovery and evaluation efforts because the second floor Annex was a crime scene.

The documents a depository library receives through the FDLP remain the property of the federal government. When the library director told UGA's risk management department that the documents were not owned by UGA but by the federal government, the first reaction was that they were not covered by UGA's insurance. However, this situation was resolved when it was determined the documents were covered under a policy that insured materials housed in a university site or building but that were not owned by the university.

The disaster recovery company proved to be indispensable in the initial recovery efforts. It very quickly mobilized equipment and supplies and hired approximately three hundred temporary employees.

The company provided its workers and the library staff with masks, gloves, chemical sponges, and other supplies that were used for cleaning smoke and soot damaged materials as well as pallets and shrink wrap, sheets of plastic, newsprint, and cases of kneaded art erasers.

It had little or no experience with libraries so there were some instances when it and the library staff did not agree on methods or procedures to follow. For example, the focus of the disaster recovery company seemed to be on the appearance of the books and on the fire odor. The library staff considered these secondary concerns to the preservation of the books. Suggestions to use ozone and thermal fogging procedures that might have been good for carpets but would have caused further harm to the already fire-damaged books were rejected.

Materials Evacuation

Everything in the fire-damaged area had to be moved out as quickly as possible so that the destruction and reconstruction of the second floor Annex could begin. A building, about ten miles from campus that UGA had recently acquired, was selected as the off-site storage facility. The shelving from the fire-damaged area was disassembled, moved to the off-site storage facility, cleaned and reassembled. Materials with little smoke or soot damage were identified and quickly moved out of the second floor Annex so that they could be moved and cleaned. The disaster recovery company did the record keeping for all the materials that were moved. The workers labeled the materials using the company's inventory system and did not use call numbers. Moving documents to the off-site storage facility was not done in a logical sequence because of the many different stages of fire recovery efforts that were being done at

the same time by numerous teams so some type of accurate recording keeping was essential.

The 102 microform cabinets containing the GPO and LC-classed collections were also moved to the off-site storage facility with microfiche, microfilm, and microcards still in them. These materials were to be evaluated at a later time.

The constant strong and overpowering fire odor prevailed everywhere on the second floor Annex. It was hot and uncomfortable with no air conditioning. The spaces were dark with temporary lights hanging at intervals from the ceiling and compounded by the soot on all surfaces making everything look black. There were the remains of books, pieces of glass, melted light covers, desks, computers, and chairs scattered everywhere. Everything was in chaos.

The disaster recovery company erected a plastic tent around the area containing the fire-damaged materials. Inside the tent the company installed air blowers and dehumidifiers so there was a constant roar of noise inside the tent. Ducts and hoses were scattered in a variety of places on the floor so you had to be careful to step over them. It was inside this tent the library evaluation teams worked two-hour shifts two times per day for more than two months.

Preservation 101

On Monday, July 28, the university librarian arranged for library preservation experts from Atlanta to visit Athens to advise us on the recovery process. There is not much in the preservation literature describing the processes and procedures for evaluating fire-damaged print materials and the consultants themselves did not have much experience with fire, heat, soot or smoke-damaged books.

There is even less information concerning the damage that fire, heat, soot, or smoke has on microfiche and microfilm. The only helpful information that I obtained was that silver halide, the archival microfiche format, is more susceptible to heat damage than is the diazo microfiche.

After much discussion, several decisions were made. Print documents damaged only by smoke or soot would be cleaned. Those print documents damaged by the fire were to be cleaned and sent to the library's bindery to be rebound or placed in a phase box. Microfiche that had been visibly damaged by the fire or heat were to be replaced. All other microfiche would be cleaned and placed in new sleeves.

Based on these decisions, the preservation librarian and other library staff members created the *Second Floor Disaster Recovery Guidelines*. About thirty staff and student volunteers were trained to use these guidelines. These staff members were referred to as the "Dirty Hands Gang" and were recognized

for their contributions to the fire recovery effort at the library's ASSET Awards ceremony in 2004. Begun in 1992, the ASSET Awards Program (Acknowledging Staff, Skills, Effort, and Time) is designed to provide recognition for the outstanding contributions that are made in the UGA Libraries each year.

Print materials were evaluated and placed in one of three categories depending on their condition: 1) destroyed: burned and wet or completely burned; 2) rebind: partially burned or heat damaged; and, 3) clean and/or put into manila envelopes or binders: smoke or soot damaged. Documents identified as destroyed were placed in containers for disposal. Documents to be rebound or put into new manila envelopes or binders were moved to the off-site storage facility where they were cleaned before being processed further. The biggest challenge in this process was record keeping. We did not create any records for those print documents sent to be rebound or those placed in new manila envelopes or binders.

If the title of a destroyed document could be determined, its SuDoc number and title were recorded. In many cases, an entire shelf of documents was destroyed and few individual titles or SuDocs could be determined. In this case the range of the SuDoc numbers was recorded beginning with the first and last SuDoc number that could be identified.

There was no way this process could be automated because there was no access to any computers on the second floor Annex. The holdings records for the bulk of the documents in the U.S. government documents collection were in a paper shelf list housed in the basement. Most of the documents were not barcoded so we kept records the old-fashioned way with pads and pencils, later transferring the data to spreadsheets.

Losses and Replacements

The insurance company needed information about the cost of replacing the destroyed documents. We used an October 2001 Depository Library Council report by Mary Redmond entitled *Resources on Costs of Replacing a Federal Document Depository Library*

Collection to determine this (www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/council/drepcost.htm). At this time it contained the most complete and current information about the value of a collection.

Print: We estimated that of the 440,000 print items shelved on the second floor Annex, approximately 40,000 were destroyed. Of these 8,100 were U.S. government documents.

As of April 2007, by using a variety of methods, we had replaced approximately 2,100 print documents. The GPO Bookstore in Atlanta closed the end of August 2003 and the manager suggested that we select documents from its inventory to replace our documents. It was so soon after the fire that there was no list of destroyed documents to work with but I knew that certain areas of the collection had been hit hard so I was able to obtain some replacement documents.

We ordered documents through GPO's Online Bookstore and its Congressional Sales Office. The most successful methods for replacement have been to request documents using

Fire Costs

The cost of the fire was estimated at \$1.5 million on July 24, the day after the fire. During the trial of the alleged arsonist, which began in April 2005, the cost of the fire was estimated to be \$17.5 million. This was for a fire that was contained in less than one half of one floor in the library building.

Costs related to the fire included:

- repairing, renovating, and reconstructing the entire second floor Annex
- replacing 70,000 ceiling tiles in the library building that were damaged by smoke and soot and could not be cleaned
- cleaning the walls, floors, tables, and other equipment damaged by soot on all floors of the Annex
- cleaning all the books shelved in the Annex
- shelf-reading the entire book collection housed in the Annex because the books were taken off the shelves when they were cleaned and were not always returned to the shelves in call number order
- replacing 102 damaged microfiche and microfilm cabinets
- replacing cabinet holding CDs and DVDs
- replacing all the book shelves in the second floor Annex
- cleaning approximately 3 million microfiche and placing them in new sleeves
- moving damaged materials to an off-site storage facility, cleaning, and erecting shelving, and cleaning the damaged materials
- installing a sprinkler system on the second floor Annex
- rewiring the computer system located in the Annex that served all of the computer equipment in the library
- rebinding of 20,380 volumes (as of December 2007)

the national *Needs and Offers List* and the disposal lists sent to me by the selective depositories in Georgia. Several libraries that relinquished their depository status have been a wonderful source for replacements. Depositories, such as Clemson University, that have been involved with digitization projects have also been a good source.

There were 102 microform cabinets on the second floor Annex that contained an estimated three million fiche—both GPO fiche and commercial collections such as the *American Statistics Index*. Approximately 300,000 microfiche were destroyed—the largest number (88,000) from the *American Statistics Index* followed by 55,000 from GPO and 36,000 from the Department of Energy (DOE). The destroyed microfiche were mostly in the top two drawers of the cabinets, although because of the pattern of the fire, some of the microfiche filed in the back of the drawers were also destroyed. The microfiche suffered very little water damage.

All of the cabinets and their contents were moved to the off-site storage facility to be cleaned and evaluated for damage. The decision was to replace all of the toasted or burned microfiche and to clean the rest and put them into new microfiche sleeves. Because no one was able to provide a definitive answer about the effect of heat or smoke on life expectancy of microfiche and microfilm only time will tell if the right decision was made.

Replacing the destroyed microfiche became problematic for several reasons. GPO did not have the fiche masters but the Library of Congress did. The majority of the GPO microfiche distributed through the FDLDP is diazo. Our contact at the Library of Congress indicated that it could duplicate the microfiche as silver halide and not diazo. This presented a problem because the *Instructions for Depository Libraries* state that silver halide microfiche should not be stored in the same cabinets as diazo or vesicular microfiche (www.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/instructions/index.html). In order to accommodate our request, the Library of Congress purchased a duplicator for diazo microfiche and is in the process of providing replacement diazo.

The DOE did not have the masters for its microfiche *Contractor Reports* (E 1.99), but they agreed to work with GPO and the Library of Congress to duplicate them for us. This is an ongoing project.

There were discussions concerning the fate of the microfiche and microfilm cabinets damaged in the fire. One side wanted to clean, repair, and paint the damaged cabinets; the other suggested purchasing new cabinets. Eventually all the cabinets were replaced with new ones. The new cabinets had three divided sections in each drawer whereas the old cabinets had only two so we gained valuable shelving space. An unex-

pected consequence was that because all of the cabinets were purchased from the same company at the same time, they are all alike and a great improvement over the old cabinets that were a variety of styles and colors.

The Main Library houses census maps, however the map cases were not in the direct path of the fire and the maps inside were protected by the cases. None of the maps were destroyed but they did acquire a fire odor that still lingers.

The cabinet housing the CDs and diskettes was made out of pressure board. Even though it was charred in the fire, the contents were protected because it was located outside the area with the worst fire damage. These cabinets contained about 3,000 CDs and diskettes. In order to assess the condition of these, they were tested to determine if they were still readable. It was discovered that only thirty of these were unreadable. The decision was made to clean and repackage them into Tyvek sleeves. Most of the destroyed CDs have been replaced by requesting copies from other depository libraries. Approximately 700 videos housed in a study carrel near the origin of the fire were destroyed. Most of these have not been replaced.

UGA has Readex's *United States Government Publications: Non-Depository* (1953–1981) collection on microprint. Of the approximately 1,200 microprint boxes in that collection, 660 were destroyed. The boxes did a good job of protecting the microprint contents as only twenty-five microprint sheets were destroyed. The boxes containing the earlier collection were made out of cardboard; the ones containing the more current collection were made out of plastic. Most of the plastic boxes melted or were damaged by the heat and had to be replaced while the cardboard boxes only needed to be cleaned. A library in Atlanta had just replaced some of its microprint collection with microfiche. They donated their microprint boxes to UGA and we are in the process of repacking the microprint in this collection. If this collection had been destroyed, it could not have been replaced since the masters were destroyed in a fire at Readex in Chester, Vermont several years ago. This collection is not available in microfiche.

Collection Assessment

On November 1, 2004, staff from the preservation departments at Emory and SOLINET (Southeastern Library Network) came to UGA to examine the print material that had been cleaned and/or rebound to determine if exposure to the intense heat and smoke of the fire might result in a shortened lifespan. The following information has been summarized from their report.

At this point, approximately 13,000 volumes had been rebound. Upon examination of some of these volumes, it was

noted there was a black staining that had migrated through the new adhesive and mull (spine lining fabric on the back of the text block). This stain could be the result of burning plastics and other nonorganic materials that caused oily soot that adhered to the damaged volumes. These oils and other burn byproducts are damaging to paper and are likely weakening the adhesive bond to the paper. It is safe to assume some documents that were rebound will not last as long as they would have without the fire damage. The spines of some volumes were charred as were the tops of many text blocks. In some examples, this charring was evident down into the text.

Additional evidence of accelerated deterioration includes black staining appearing on the mull of newly rebound books, audible cracking of damaged adhesive when volumes are opened, and heavy soot deposits remaining on page edges and along foldout creases.

Print documents that had smoke and soot damage were moved at least twice and then cleaned. This process was done by the staff of the disaster recovery company who probably had little training in handling books. Some of the handling done during the cleaning process may have resulted in abrasion and additional damage and it is also possible that some chemicals used to clean the documents may have left residues and stains on their covers. And of course, printed pages in documents that were subjected to fire damage can become brittle. The life expectancy of these documents has been seriously compromised because brittle paper is more susceptible to damage from use and handling.

It is difficult to determine the life expectancy of the damaged print documents. Given average use, it is reasonable to assume that the life of the documents exposed to the high heat and charring has been diminished. The rate of deterioration cannot be predicted, as it is heavily dependent on the degree of future use and on the storage environment.

Service Impact

Reference service for the U.S. government documents collection is the responsibility of the reference department in the Main Library. The U.S. government documents reference resources housed in the reference area were not damaged so reference service for the collection continued uninterrupted.

All of the U.S. government documents were moved to the off-site storage facility and were retrieved on request several times per day. Access services discovered very early in this process that it was hard to manage the number of requests it was receiving. The library's systems staff developed an online request form that allowed access services to know what was being requested, by whom and when. It also provided status

information on the document requested (found, missing, and so on). Records of documents that were destroyed or that had been sent to be rebound initially were not entered into the library's processing system or online catalog so if a document was not located during the first search at the off-site storage facility, the requestor was referred to the library's Interlibrary Loan Department so that the document could be obtained from another library.

Current Status

The repair, renovation, and reconstruction of the 23,000 square feet of fire damaged floor space began in January 2004. This process was finished as of June 18, 2004, and the entire second floor of the Main Library was reopened to the public with a somewhat different look. The carrels and old office area in the Annex had been removed, thereby providing more shelving area. All of the ceiling tiles and floor had been replaced. New shelving was installed in the Annex because the shelving damaged in the fire was declared scrap metal. A sprinkler system was installed on the second floor Annex and currently there are plans to install a sprinkler system in the rest of the library building.

The library administration decided to relocate several collections to make better use of available space. For example, on return from the off-site storage facility, the U.S. government documents collection was placed on the second floor of the Old Building, where it was when I first came to work at the library in 1970, and not returned to the second floor Annex.

New microfiche cabinets were purchased and placed on the second floor in the Old Building. These cabinets contain the GPO microfiche collection as well as some of the commercial microfiche collections that had been housed in the Annex. Also the GPO CDs and DVDs were placed in a new cabinet and relocated to the Old Building. The map cases that survived the fire were moved to the Old Building. The British Parliamentary Papers, Georgia documents, and the UN documents remain in the Annex but were moved to different areas.

We now have a better sense of physical loss as bibliographic and holdings records are being updated or created to reflect destroyed and rebound documents. Replacement of destroyed print and microfiche documents continues and will continue well into the future.

Some documents have significant charring or stains. A fire odor is detectable at certain times in the stack area or when a microfiche drawer is opened or when a document in a phase box is used. There may have to be a second round of treatment involving ventilation or rebinding. Documents that were rebound or cleaned may suffer further deterioration and need

Lessons Learned

- Have a copy of your disaster plan and telephone tree available off-site.
- Check to be certain that your institution's insurance policy covers the U.S. government documents in your collection.
- Consider everything a learning experience.
- Live one day at a time—especially in the beginning.
- Expect the unexpected.
- Learn to roll with the punches.
- Keep notes on all discussions and keep copies of all correspondence especially for cost estimates.
- Realize that disasters affect everyone differently and expect a variety of reactions.
- Involve as many interested library staff as possible in the recovery process.
- Understand that this creates more work for library staff from many departments and in many different ways including: the paging of documents from off-site storage; the ordering of replacement documents; the processing of the documents for rebinding; the changing and updating of bibliographic records; requesting of documents through interlibrary loan; the inventory of equipment and materials; negotiating the purchase of new equipment and materials and establishing special funds to pay for postage, and so on.

to be checked and reevaluated on a regular basis. We also have discovered that the metal plates and rings in binders holding some documents are beginning to rust and will need to be replaced.

Prior to the fire, access to the library was not restricted in any way. No identification was required to enter the building for either the university community or the public. There was some concern that this policy should be changed, but after discussion at the university level, the decision was made to continue the open-access policy that was in place before the fire. The library did install security cameras at the entrance to the building and on the floors in the Annex.

Thanks

The support and concern from everyone at the university and the public were greatly appreciated. The staff members at the FDLP and the U.S. GPO, including the superintendent of documents, were there for me. The staff of all the depositories in Georgia let me know that they were ready to assist in any way that they could and many depository librarians from around the country also called with offers to help. I cannot begin to thank everyone individually but wanted all of you—those who appeared in front of the library during the fire itself,

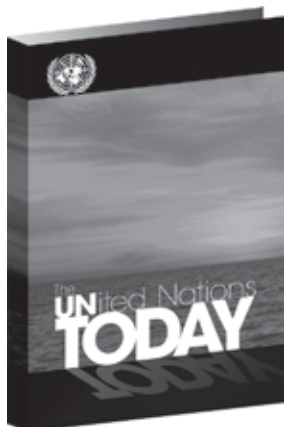
those who called, e-mailed, volunteered to help in so many ways, provided replacements for fire-damaged documents, and were just there when I needed advice or a shoulder to cry on—to know that you have my everlasting gratitude.

Susan Copony Field, U.S. Regional Depository Librarian, retired, University of Georgia Libraries, scfield@uga.edu.

Notes and References

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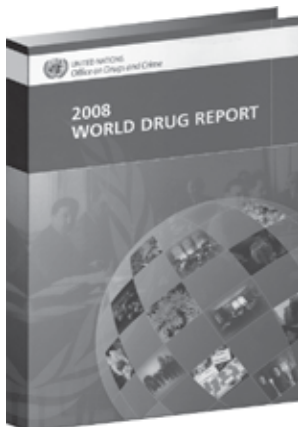
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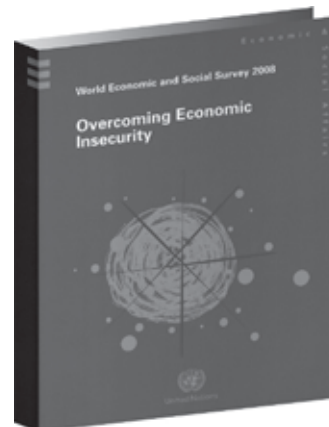
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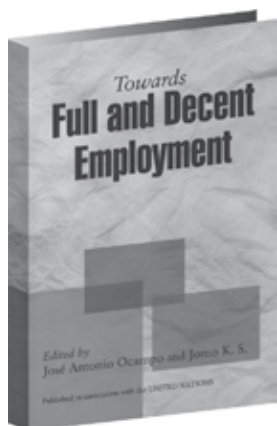
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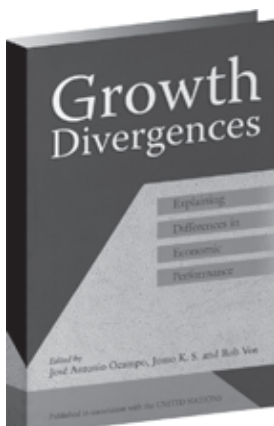
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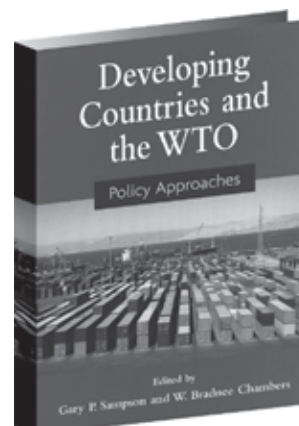
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The Unitary Executive and Presidential Signing Statements

Rebecca H. Byrum and Cheryl Truesdell

In his second term, President George W. Bush issued two controversial signing statements that released a storm of protest from Congress and reached the attention of the media. In one such statement, President Bush asserted that the executive branch was not restricted by the ban on cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment outlined in the *Detainee Treatment Act* if it interfered with the president's "authority to supervise the unitary executive branch."¹ In the reauthorization of the *USA PATRIOT Act*, President Bush contended that he could ignore its reporting requirements for the purpose of congressional oversight for the same reason.² In addition to these controversial statements, the phrase *unitary executive* often appears in George W. Bush's signing statements, and can also be found in statements from presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. This raises several questions. To what does unitary executive refer? Why is the phrase used so frequently in recent presidential signing statements? And, should this cause concern?

Signing statements are not a new political invention as they have been used in some form since at least President Andrew Jackson's administration. However, studies have shown a significant rise in their use, particularly to register constitutional objections, dating from the Reagan administration.³ The sheer number of challenges contained in President George W. Bush's signing statements has signaled this administration's intent to interpret presidential prerogatives with unprecedented liberality and to assert this interpretation to its fullest extent.

Presidential signing statements are issuances put forth by the president upon signing a bill into law. Recent studies of signing statements have categorized them into two, and sometimes three, distinct types. The most often used statement is the rhetorical statement, defined as one in which a president "attempts to draw the public's attention to something positive or negative largely to benefit his office, favored constituents, or fellow partisans."⁴ Constitutional statements highlight what the president understands as a constitutional difficulty with a section of the bill he is signing.⁵ Political statements are those

directing departments and agencies in how the law will be carried out.⁶

This article sets out to discover what the unitary executive is and how it relates to signing statements. It also provides a history through government documents of the inclusion of presidential signing statements in West Publishing Company's *U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative Notes (USCCAN)* and the reasons behind the decision.

The Unitary Executive Theory

Swirling around the debate over whether presidents can or should issue signing statements is a theory of constitutional interpretation called the unitary executive theory. The theory is related to the historical term *unitary executive*, which is derived from Federalist Paper no. 70 written by Alexander Hamilton.⁷ In the Constitution, Hamilton and the other framers vested power in three branches: legislative power to Congress (consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives) in Article I, executive power to the president in Article II, and judicial power to one Supreme Court and inferior courts in Article III. The executive power under the president is described by Hamilton as unitary because it is vested in one person, while the legislative and judicial powers are vested in several. As Lee Liberman explains, the Constitutional Convention reasoned that a unitary executive would "assure energy, secrecy, and dispatch in the execution of laws; promote the accountability of the President to the nation; and would guarantee that the executive branch would be strong enough to resist encroachment by the legislative branch."⁸

Thus, the unitary executive theory envisions a strong president who will oversee the execution of all laws and departments. Professor Steven Calabresi and Kevin Rhodes have writ-

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ten that all presidents, from Washington forward, have guarded and exerted their authority to execute laws through their control over the executive department.⁹ Their assertion is that, while the elucidation of the unitary executive theory might be relatively new, the theory has been practiced since the beginning of the nation.¹⁰ The phrase unitary executive appears in several signing statements by Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, but most especially those by George W. Bush.¹¹

Unitary executive theory also argues that the Constitution's vesting clause (Article II, Section 1) and the "Take Care" clause (Article II, Section 3) create what Calabresi and Rhodes call "a hierarchical, unified executive department under the direct control of the President," which places him in control of all officers in all agencies who use executive power.¹² It is this aspect of unitary executive theory that is behind the typical phrasing in Bush's signing statements that often read "the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch" or something similar. This type of phrase indicates that the president has sole authority over every aspect of the executive branch.¹³

Another tenet of the theory is that of coordinate construction, which maintains that the president and Congress have the ability to interpret the Constitution along with the federal courts.¹⁴ The theory supports the idea that if the president is to take care that the laws are faithfully executed and the Constitution is the supreme law, then the president may not execute a part of a law that he thinks is unconstitutional. Presidential signing statements of George W. Bush often include the phrase "the executive branch will construe [provisions of the bill] in a manner consistent with the constitutional authority of the President," which denotes this coordinate construction.¹⁵

Not all agree with this theory, of course. Law professors Lawrence Lessig and Cass Sunstein wrote in 1994 that the framers gave power to the legislative branch to configure the executive branch. They argue that the framers did not delineate a clear hierarchy in the executive branch with the president "at the summit" as the unitary executive theory implies.¹⁶ Similarly, Professor A. Michael Froomkin disagrees with Calabresi and Rhodes's assertion that the unitary executive theory "follows naturally from any reasonable reading" of the Constitution.¹⁷

As might be expected, members of Congress are not sold on the theory, either. Senator Edward Kennedy characterized the unitary executive theory as "bizarre" and "very radical."¹⁸ During Justice Samuel Alito's Supreme Court nomination hearing, Senator Richard Durbin stated, "It appears that if Judge Alito is approved for the Court, he will join Justice

Thomas and Justice Scalia as only the third Supreme Court Justice who has announced public support for this fringe theory called the unitary executive theory that gives more and more power to the President and less restraint of law on his activities."¹⁹ Senator John Kerry also weighed in during the Alito hearing, maintaining "that if the unitary executive theory means that the President can ignore laws that Congress passes, it necessarily expands the scope of Presidential power—and reduces the scope of Congress."²⁰ Clearly, the power struggle between the executive and legislative branches can be evidenced in the arguments around the unitary executive theory.

The theory seems to have been conceived by members of the Federalist Society and articulated by Professor Calabresi. The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies was formed in 1982 by Calabresi, Lee Liberman (mentioned above), and David McIntosh while they were law students. Taking its name from the Federalist Papers, the society is a group of conservatives and libertarians who are interested in creating a "network that extends to all levels of the legal community."²¹ The Federalist Society was, and is, interested in "judicial restraint, executive powers, [and a] strict interpretation of the Constitution."²² Many society members found their way into the Reagan administration's Justice Department, including Attorney General Edwin Meese, Samuel Alito, and Calabresi, who was an attorney in the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC).

The OLC, in pursuing its mission to provide legal advice to the president, is often aggressive in protecting what it perceives to be the powers of the president given to him by the Constitution, whether the president is Republican or Democrat. Since 1986, the OLC has written and used signing statements to counter encroachments it finds in legislation awaiting the president's signature. It was in this milieu that a concerted effort by the OLC, promoted by unitary theorist Calabresi, was made to elevate the visibility and accessibility of signing statements to the courts and lawyers.

As Calabresi and fellow Justice Department employee John Harrison saw it, a presidential signing statement was a legitimate part of a bill's legislative history and was a better "guide to the interpretation of statutory language" and legislative intent than congressional reports. They contended that the congressional reports are often written by congressional staffers but signing statements "represent an *entire* branch's view" of a piece of legislation.²³

Legislative Histories

The term legislative history denotes the documents generated during the process of enacting a bill. These publications

include House and Senate documents, floor debates recorded in the *Congressional Record*, committee hearings, committee reports, and presidential messages at signing or veto.²⁴ The importance of legislative histories has been in helping judges, in the case of ambiguous language or meaning, construe the intent of Congress when it passes legislation. This legislative intent might be the basis for the court's interpretation of the law in question.

The use of legislative histories by the courts was seen by unitary theorists as one way in which activist judges could dilute the power of the executive branch in favor of the legislative branch. To combat this usurpation, according to Calabresi, it was important to make sure that the president's views and interpretations of legislation were as accessible as those of Congress. Adding the text of presidential signing statements into the legislative histories used by judges and lawyers was seen as a perfect way to do that. Calabresi's contention was that while presidential signing statements have always been printed in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* and in *Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States*, most lawyers and judges did not have immediate access to them. At the time, they were mentioned only as a cross-reference in the legislative history section of the widely used and privately published *USCCAN*.²⁵

As reported by Charlie Savage in *Takeover: The Return of the Imperial Presidency and the Subversion of American Democracy*, Calabresi and Harrison brought the idea to Attorney General Edwin Meese to suggest to West Publishing Company that it publish presidential signing statements in the Legislative History section of *USCCAN*.²⁶ Proponents of the unitary executive theory posit that since the Constitution gives the president the authority to propose legislation (Article II, Section 3) and to sign or veto all bills (Article I, Section 7) then the president is a participant in the legislative process and his or her understanding of how bills will be enacted or construed is as efficacious to court determinations as are congressional understandings. They argue that, based on this theory, presidential signing statements should be afforded the same weight as congressional materials in legislative histories when used by the courts to decipher intent.²⁷

The Galebach Files

Documents from the files of Stephen Galebach (detailed below), which were made available by NARA during Samuel A. Alito's Supreme Court nomination process, outline how the plan was accomplished. Calabresi and Harrison's memo was followed by requests for information by Kenneth Cribb, the

counselor for the attorney general, to various other offices in the Justice Department asking for clarification of the signing statement process. A memo from James Spears points out the relative unavailability of two foundational presidential documents in the pre-Internet era. The October 28, 1985, memo from Ralph Tarr is especially interesting in its description of how signing statements were drafted as it gives a glimpse into the process prior to the OLC's push to 'mak[e] fuller use' of signing statements.²⁸ The actual letters to and from the West Publishing Company are also part of the file. The final document is a memo from Samuel Alito in which he outlines a proposal whereby OLC would use signing statements to "address questions of interpretation" of legislation in order to give the president's perspective.

The following is a chronological listing, with annotations, of a portion of the contents of the Files of Stephen Galebach, 1985–1987, available from NARA's web site.²⁹

Partial contents:

Calabresi, Steve and Harrison, John. "Presidential Signing Statements." Memorandum to Attorney General. August 23, 1985.

This is the initial recommendation for West Publishing Company to include presidential signing statements "in the same fashion as they publish Congressional Reports." The backup plan was to get a "wider publication and distribution through the Government Printing Office." Calabresi and Harrison cite "activist courts, ideologically [sic] motivated congressional staffers and lobbying groups" as the impetus for making presidential signing statements more widely available. They state that "[t]he President's signing statement represents the basis on which a necessary participant gave his consent to legislation. It is even better than a committee report because it represents an *entire* branch's view of the matter."

Cribb, T. Kenneth. "Presidential Signing Statements." Memorandum to Charles Fried, acting solicitor general. September 3, 1985.

Mr. Cribb, the counselor to the attorney general, is requesting Mr. Fried's views on the attorney general's project of increasing the use of signing statements by the department "as well as lawyers, judges and commentators."

———. “Presidential Signing Statements.” Memorandum to James M. Spears, acting assistant attorney general, Office of Legal Policy. September 3, 1985.

Mr. Cribb is requesting that the Office of Legal Policy draft a letter to the West Publishing Company asking them to publish signing statements and to prepare a memo that would set forth “issues associated with the use of signing statements as aids to interpretation.”

———. “Presidential Signing Statements.” Memorandum to Ralph Tarr, acting assistant attorney general, Office of Legal Counsel. September 3, 1985.

Mr. Cribb is asking for a brief description of how signing statements are drafted and suggestions for improving the process. He also asks if they are “accessible through any of the normal tools of legal research.”

Tarr, Ralph W. “Equal Access to Justice Act Policy Guide.” Memorandum to James M. Spears, acting assistant attorney general, Office of Legal Policy. October 23, 1985.

In this memo, Mr. Tarr states that “it should be the policy of this Department, and of the Executive Branch generally, to encourage courts to view signing statements as authoritative statutory history. As they unambiguously represent the view of one of the three participants in the lawmaking process, such documents at least should be treated on a par with congressional reports, and are clearly better indicators of statutory intent than floor statements of individual legislators.”

Spears, James M. “Presidential Signing Statements.” Memorandum to T. Kenneth Cribb, Jr., counselor to the attorney general. October 25, 1985.

This memo provides an analysis of “the use and weight of Presidential signing statements as aids to legislative interpretation.” In responding to the question about the availability of the statements, Mr. Spears writes that they are available in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* and in the *Public Papers of the Presidents*. “However,

these references cannot be considered readily available and are probably unfamiliar even to many attorneys.” He proposes that he draft a letter to the attorney general requesting West Publishing Company to print them in the *United States Code Congressional and Administrative News*.

Tarr, Ralph W. “Presidential Signing Statements.” Memorandum to T. Kenneth Cribb, counselor to the attorney general. October 28, 1985.

Mr. Tarr is responding to Mr. Cribb’s request for information regarding signing statements. At the time of the writing of this memo, the requests for signing statements usually were made by the agencies, and often drafted by them, when an enrolled bill had been circulated for comment. He proposed that the OMB set up a more structured approach to signing statements and that the statements could be used as a threat to gain more concessions from Congress. The suggestion is also made to have them included in Title 3 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* and the *United States Code Annotated*. Mr. Tarr concludes with, “Although we do not expect signing statements to become major Presidential instruments, we do believe that they are presently underutilized and could become far more important as a tool of Presidential management of the agencies, a device for preserving issues of importance in the ongoing struggle for power with Congress, and an aid to statutory interpretation for the courts.”

Meese, Edwin, III. Letter to Dwight D. Opperman, president and chief executive officer, West Publishing Company. December 13, 1985.

In requesting that Mr. Opperman include signing statements as part of the legislative history of acts of Congress in *USCCAN*, Mr. Meese claims that the courts “have repeatedly recognized the importance of presidential signing statements in statutory construction.”

Opperman, Dwight. Letter to Edwin Meese III, attorney general. December 26, 1985.

Mr. Opperman's reply to Mr. Meese is one of gratitude for the suggestion and an acknowledgment that the signing statements will appear in *USCCAN*.

Alito, Samuel A. Jr. "Using Presidential Signing Statement to Make Fuller Use of the President's Constitutionally Assigned Role in the Process of Enacting Law." Memorandum to the Litigation Strategy Working Group, February 5, 1986.

Mr. Alito is presenting a draft of a proposal for 'making fuller use of Presidential signing statements.' The main objective 'is to insure that Presidential signing statements assume their rightful place in the interpretation of legislation.' Problems include possibly creating a new office to handle the statements, the fact that the statements would not be 'warmly welcomed by Congress,' and possible friction between the newly formed office and the departments and agencies.

Conclusion

Understanding the relationship between presidential signing statements and the developers and the development of the unitary executive theory adds context to the debate about signing statements themselves. Unitary executive theory's main premises are that, unlike the judicial and legislative branches, the executive is controlled by one person, the president; all members of the executive branch are under the direct control of the president; and the president, as well as Congress and the courts, can interpret the Constitution.

Presidential signing statements have been employed by many presidents throughout history, but especially by those who adhere to unitary executive theory. In using signing statements the president can explain his or her views on the implementation of the law just signed and signal these intentions to the rest of the executive branch. Also, they can be used to express the president's views on the constitutionality of certain parts of the law, especially to resist the perceived encroachment by Congress on presidential authority. While not all proponents of signing statements are unitary theorists, they do share in common a view of a very strong executive branch.

By adding signing statements to the *USCCAN*, the main source of legislative histories for judges and lawyers, the president's views on the constitutionality of parts of the law can reach the courts. Whether signing statements have been successful in swaying the courts is a topic for a future discussion.

Rebecca H. Byrum, Government Information Services Librarian, Valparaiso University, becky.byrum@valpo.edu and **Cheryl Truesdell**, Associate Library Director, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, truesdel@ipfw.edu.

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- executive” used a total of seventy-six times: Reagan used it once in a signing statement; George H.W. Bush used it once in a speech, once in a veto message, and four times in signing statements; and George W. Bush used the term once in a letter to Congress, seven times in executive orders, and sixty-one times in signing statements.
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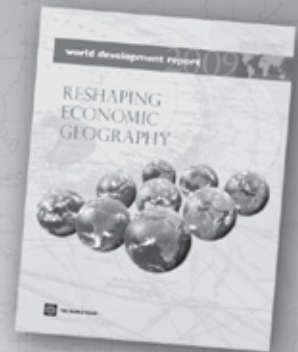
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Imagine a world without acronyms. If you work with government information, it is pretty hard to do. Something about government just seems to spawn the extended use of acronyms. Of course it is much easier to say GPO than U.S. Government Printing Office, or FDLP instead of Federal Depository Library Program, or FDsys for whatever FDsys is short for.

Have you ever tried to not use acronyms when you are talking or writing about government information? It's really hard. We all probably use acronyms more than we realize. We also forget that not everyone knows what all those acronyms mean. Government acronymese is not a foreign language, but it is a dialect that takes some getting used to. In fact, getting a handle on all the acronyms is one of the biggest challenges for new government documents librarians. New documents librarians have told me that it usually takes two to three meetings before they could begin to understand what was being said in depository librarian meetings because of all the acronyms and jargon used. At one meeting I ran, responding to such a comment from a newbie, I attempted to translate for the less experienced attendees. Every time someone said something that included an acronym for a government agency or program or whatever, I would announce what the acronym stood for. Of course, after doing this several times, everyone at the meeting was very careful about using acronyms. Even so, there were still acronyms that slipped out throughout the meeting. I don't actually recommend doing this in meetings. It is very distracting, takes away from the discussion, and can cause hard feelings from people who don't like to be interrupted.

I usually do try to avoid using acronyms when I am writing. I gave some thought to trying to write this column about acronyms without using any acronyms. That would have been tough and would have prevented me from using some of my favorite acronyms, like GIPWOG.

I was recently composing some text for a Library Tools web page at OSTI and used a couple of acronyms that I thought should be okay.¹ However, they did not make it

through review and I was told that I had to use the full names for MARC and OCLC. Now I was thinking that because this was a Library Tools page, the people using it would probably be librarians or library staff who should know what MARC records are and what OCLC is. The more I thought about it, the more I was convinced that there are probably a lot of librarians who are very familiar with MARC and OCLC, but who couldn't tell you what these acronyms stand for. This is understandable since many reference librarians tend to drift off when the discussion is about cataloging. OCLC made it more difficult by changing its name, so anyone saying OCLC stands for Ohio College Library Center should get partial credit, if not extra credit just for being that old. It is fun to ask a librarian what MARC stands for and watch them try to figure out what the A could possibly be.

Now I feel compelled to return to the FDsys. I think I can say that FDsys is a name that depository librarians love to hate. It is bad enough that many have a hard time grasping what FDsys will actually do for depository libraries, but it has an awkward name. Wouldn't it be easier to understand for non-techies if the name didn't sound so techie? What if it had a friendlier name? What about something like Franklin? You all remember Franklin. That is what the CGP is not called. Oops, sorry, that is what the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications is not called.

For a while we were led to believe that the CGP would be called Franklin, named after that patriotic printer, Ben Franklin. Rumor has it that the powers that be at GPO decided that Franklin would be a better name for FDsys. So the CGP stayed the CGP and FDsys became . . . FDsys. That's because the powers that be don't always be. After some movement at the top of

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GPO, Franklin was out. Now don't you think you would have a much better feeling about the FDsys if, whenever you heard it mentioned, it evoked an image of kindly old Benjamin Franklin?

Speaking of images evoked and the FDsys, I would like to say a word about the demise of the Master Integrator. The Master Integrator was the vendor who was to "integrate various components, technology and applications of FDsys functional clusters and subsequently deliver a world-class Information Lifecycle Management System."² For me, every time I heard the phrase Master Integrator I got a mental image of a villain from a Buck Rogers serial with a cape, a bald head, and a bull whip. Something about this image gave me a warm feeling about the Master Integrator. Sadly, it was announced at the 2008 Spring Depository Library Council Meeting that GPO and the company acting as the Master Integrator had decided to go a different route in the final development of FDsys and the Master Integrator was no more. Let us all mourn the passing of the Master Integrator.

Of course, the acronym for the Master Integrator is MI. This is actually used in the solicitation from GPO on FedBizOpps.gov for the Master Integrator. However, I don't recall ever hearing the Master Integrator called anything but the Master Integrator. I think the name holds a lot of power and confidence. Maybe that is what they should have named FDsys.

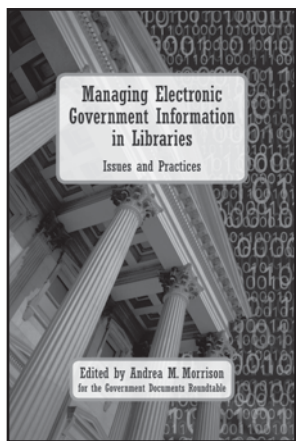
I suspect some of you are still wondering about GIPWOG. No, GIPWOG was not the beast that sort of killed Gandalf in *Lord of the Rings*. For those of you who have not already done a quick web search to find out about GIPWOG, it is a National Institute of Standards and Technology Digital Media Group working group in which GPO participates. GIPWOG is the Government Information Preservation Working Group. Its mission is to provide government agencies with information to make decisions for using technologies in digital data storage or preservation strategies. Storing digital media deep in the Mines of Moria with a gipwog guarding over it might be a good preservation strategy.

Tim Byrne, Information International Associates, Inc.,
DOE/Office of Scientific and Technical Information,
byrnet@osti.gov.

Notes

1. Office of Scientific and Technical Information, U.S. Department of Energy.
2. Solicitation Number: Reference-Number-GPO-FDSYS-01-2006.

Managing Electronic Government Information in Libraries: Issues and Practices



Edited by Andrea M. Morrison, for the ALA Government Documents Round Table (GODORT)

Written by government information practitioners, this practical guide to managing electronic government information is a must have for librarians, library administrators, scholars, students, researchers, and other information professionals. This volume details the benefits, challenges, and best practices of managing digital government information for librarians in academic, public, special, and school libraries.

Price: \$55

ALA Member Price: \$49.50

232 pages

6" x 9"

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INFORMATION

Review

Who Needs to Know? The State of Public Access to Federal Government Information. Patrice McDermott. Lanham, MD: Bernan Press, 2007. \$19.95. ISBN: 9781598880502.

The publication of Dr. Patrice McDermott's book, *Who Needs to Know? The State of Public Access to Federal Government Information*, is certainly timely, not just for those in the information arena and the public, but also for elected officials. It is well written, concise, and provides a look back at the wide ranging subject of "government information."

Both individuals new to the world of government information and related policies and well-seasoned (and in some cases, weary) veterans of the information wars would do well to read this book. It explores public access-information and gives plain-language explanations of laws, the fights that led to their passage, and ways they could be better. The book provides an excellent background about and current focus on the *Freedom of Information Act*, *Paperwork Reduction Act*, and *the E-Government Act of 2002*; the current state of access issues; and who is accountable for the information the government produces and provides.

McDermott is known as a strong and articulate advocate in the government information policy arena. She readily admits that debates about controls on government information have been going on for decades. Indeed, many of the issues she discusses have carried over from the last century and in some cases, have become more troubling in the electronic age.

Testimony from almost twenty years ago noted that "Budget constraints, threats to national security, and exploding technological advances have

dramatically changed the way in which the U.S. government has collected and disseminated its information."¹ What's the expression . . . what is old, is new?

It is a given in today's world that the day you buy the latest and greatest technology, it is obsolete. Indeed, because of burgeoning technologies books about, well, technology can be out of date even as they leave the press. McDermott's book, published in late 2007, devotes a chapter to the issue of "sensitive, but unclassified" (SBU) information, a term that came into use in the 1970s, McDermott says that SBU, "information to which access would be restricted even though not classified as 'secret,'" was used "by agencies mostly for scientific and technical information used in research and scientific publication" (124).

In her discussion of SBU, she notes that "as this book goes to press there is a process in place to rein in the proliferation and use of control markings such as SBU" (146). As of May 2008, a new designation—controlled unclassified information (CUI)—has been put forth by the government. Markings for material designated CUI signal that it contains sensitive information and that safeguarding and dissemination controls apply. The CUI framework would replace individual agency control markings—"sensitive but unclassified," "for official use only," and more than a hundred other designations. The CUI designation was produced after a yearlong government study of how to replace the "sensitive but unclassified" category. What more can you say other than, let the process begin!

Early on, McDermott says that "we are losing our access to the history of our government" (22). In the big

scheme of things, this is also a problem in our everyday lives. Our way of communicating is either texting (by the younger generation) or the soon to be outdated e-mails. They are rarely kept for posterity, historical purposes, or just . . . because. How will future generations get a sense of who we were or what we did here; will they turn to preserved blogs to determine how we lived? What will the information we do leave behind say about us? McDermott rightly calls it a "vanishing trail" (22).

One problem we already face is trusting that you have the original, authentic, or final approved version of a document. In this age of digitized documents, sometimes the draft is posted early and never replaced. Sometimes the final documents are posted without any record of what came before. There could be different versions remaining on the web. And, it can be so easy to change digitized documents.

McDermott concludes: "The elected—and appointed—branches of our government have central roles in ensuring its openness and accountability. But, ultimately, it is up to us, the American public, to keep our republic" (259).

The value of McDermott's book, as well as her extensive work in this arena, is the articulation of the many information and technology issues facing the United States in the early twenty-first century. It is yet another reminder of how we got here, where we are, and how much remains to be done by all involved in this discussion.—*Sandy Schwalb, U.S. Department of Defense, Wordsmith368@yahoo.com*

continued on page 43

2008 Annual Conference Wrap-Up, GODORT Highlights

June 26–30, 2008, Anaheim, CA

Once again GODORT members met, ate, drank, and enjoyed the beautiful setting of the Desert Palms Hotel before getting down to business. GODORT hosted two successful preconferences at Cal State Fullerton and Chapman University. We returned to Chapman to recognize award recipients in a beautiful setting with eighty degrees and a light breeze. The reception was exceptional and the speeches commending our award winners were top-notch. For more information about our award winners, please visit the site at: www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortawards/awards2008.cfmv.

One of the central conference discussions was the possibility of becoming a virtual committee and doing all work between conferences. As you may recall, virtual membership is an issue that has been discussed for the past two conferences, but ALA has not come up with specific guidelines for implementation.

The **Bylaws & Organization Committee** continued to review several proposed updates to the PPM Chapters covering Conferences (1), Awards Committee (10), Development Committee (14), and Publications Committee (21). Three proposed bylaws changes were approved by the Steering Committee and will be placed on the ballot in the spring.

The **Development Committee** discussed the upcoming GODORT vote of its bylaws change proposal to make the Development Committee chair a two-year appointed position and to increase the membership of the committee by one. Minor changes were added for

the Proposal to Solicit Donations from Vendors and those changes were given to the Bylaws chair to be incorporated as PPM changes for several committees. Potential procedures were discussed for the annual solicitation fund drive and the committee touched bases on procedures in carrying out the GODORT Silent Auction.

The **Education Committee** hosted a discussion of training for non-specialists in government information. The report from the Education Assembly indicated that the ALA Presidential Task Force on Library Education has issued draft Core Competencies of Librarianship, and that group is seeking comments by July 31, 2008. The competencies do not particularly reference government information, and the committee suggests that GODORT should provide feedback to the task force recommending the inclusion of core government information competencies required for every librarian. The committee discussed the (specialist) government information core competencies survey, which will be disseminated in late September to government information librarians, federal librarians, library information science instructors in government information, and others as a way to gain insight into core competencies for new specialists and general reference librarians. Preliminary survey results will be released to the community shortly after the conclusion of the survey period. The **GODORT Handout Exchange** has migrated to the GODORT wiki, and the committee seeks new content for the Exchange:

wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/Exchange. The committee discussed challenges in soliciting programs for GPO's OPAL presentation program.

As usual, prior to the conference, members of the **Legislation Committee** had been working with members of the ALA Committee on Legislation (COL) Ad Hoc Subcommittee on E-Government Services and with staff at the ALA Washington Office to prepare a resolution on the *E-Government Reauthorization Act* of 2007.

At its first meeting on Friday, June 27, the Legislation Committee worked on the draft of this resolution. The committee also heard from ALA Executive Board member Francis Buckley about a forthcoming resolution about the FDLP. The first joint meeting with the ALA Committee on Legislation—Government Information Subcommittee (COL-GIS) on Saturday was devoted to a discussion about how best to bring all the relevant stakeholders together to assess the future of the FDLP. Ric Davis, Acting Superintendent of Documents, began the meeting with comments entitled "What Will the Future of the FDLP Look Like?" Dan Barkley, COL-GIS Co-Chair, then reviewed the recent history of ALA policy on the FDLP. The majority of the meeting was an open forum on what participants want and need from the FDLP in the future, and about the next steps for advancing the discussion. The conversation will be continued on the GIS Wiki (www.wo.ala.org/giswiki) and the next phase of the conversation will begin by looking at both the legacy (tangible) col-

lection and digital issues. These two areas will be looked at both in terms of what can be accomplished now under current law and what would require Title 44 revision. At its third meeting, the Legislation Committee edited the Resolution on the *E-Government Reauthorization Act of 2007* (S.2321) and voted to approve it. The committee also reviewed a draft of the Resolution on Improving the Federal Depository Library Program and Public Access to Government Information and directed the chair to forward the committee's comments to the mover of the resolution, ALA Executive Board member Larry Romans.

In the second joint meeting with COL-GIS, both committees discussed GPO's study of regional libraries, *Regional Depository Libraries in the 21st Century: A Time for Change?* After general discussion, the committees focused on that report's first recommendation regarding GPO's initiative to create machine-readable bibliographic records for the pre-1976 legacy collection. The committees suggested that GODORT, working with such groups as the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), and other interested or appropriate groups, develop two documents, one for educating members within ALA and one seeking congressional support, outlining the benefits of supporting this initiative. COL-GIS then offered revisions to the resolution on the *E-Government Reauthorization Act* and voted to endorse it. Both committees reviewed the FDLP resolution and the Legislation Committee reiterated its suggestions from the previous meeting. COL-GIS then discussed their recommendations for the resolution.

Membership Committee finalized the summary of results of the membership survey. The summary was presented at the Membership Meeting. Questions about survey results should be directed to new Membership Committee Chair Rebecca Hyde. During the committee meeting, the group also discussed comments from the survey relevant to its work and brainstormed ideas for committee action in response to select clusters of comments particularly regarding virtual membership and participation, and reaching out to new members.

The **Nominating Committee** discussed possible PPM updates for future submission to the Bylaws & Organization Committee.

Rare and Endangered Government Publications Committee discussed everything from brittle paper to disappearing digital documents. The committee is developing a survey of depositories' holdings of New Deal federal publications, a universe of more than a thousand titles. To get a sense of the burden completing a survey of even a sample of these documents would place on respondents, committee members will conduct a pilot survey of twenty-five titles and discuss the results and next steps at Midwinter. PARS (Preservation and Reformatting Section of ALCTS) will be consulted to take advantage of their experience with preservation assessments.

Also, the committee and the **State and Local Documents Task Force** are beginning a wiki of projects that provide permanent public access to state government information in digital format. Fifteen states are already assigned to volunteers and the project description is being revised.

The **Program Committee** continued work on the preconference and program for the 2009 Conference. The

preconference will center on urban planning (and city plans as collectible documents). The program will be GODORT's first foray into a youth services-themed session, with the help of the Gov Docs Kids Group.

The **Publications Committee** continues to be very busy with the recently published book edited by Andrea Morrison, *Managing Electronic Government Information in Libraries: Issues and Practices*. All proceeds from the sale of this book go to GODORT. Please see pg. 36 for more information. *DttP* editor: This position is appointed for a three-year term, and is eligible for one renewal. The term begins with the Fall 2009 (volume 37:3) issue of *DttP* and concludes with the Summer 2012 (volume 40:2) issue. Please see: ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortpublications/dttpeditor08final1.doc for the full position description. GODORT Occasional Papers: Materials to be considered for inclusion in this series must pertain to some aspect of government information. The occasional papers will serve as a place for members to publish lengthy articles as well as other materials such as bibliographies, short articles, reports, preliminary research, and so on, and as these will be solely electronic publications length will be less of an issue. The Publications Committee continues to solicit submissions and proposals. Papers can be sent to James Jacobs, incoming chair, at jrjacobs@stanford.edu.

Federal Documents Task Force (FDTF) had two speakers: Daniel Cornwall from the Alaska State Library who presented on his EPA Tagging Project and Acting Superintendent of Documents Ric Davis, who gave an update on GPO's activities since the ALA Midwinter Meeting. There was a discussion of the FDTF virtual membership

pilot project. FDTF solicited volunteers but has not received enough responses for a quorum. The consensus at the meeting was to continue trying, and suggestions were given for new ways to solicit volunteers. There was an open discussion of the GPO report *Regional Depository Libraries in the 21st Century: A Time For Change?* Ric Davis and Cynthia Etkin from GPO were present to engage in a dialogue with FDTF about the report.

International Documents Task Force hosted a program speaker to begin discussions about cooperative collection development for international documents. Also discussed was the possibility of a preconference in 2010 focusing on European Union documents.

State and Local Documents Task Force developed a strategic plan that will be shared with the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning.

This group will have an article in *DttP* updating you on their activities (see p. 42). For the complete minutes, please see the GODORT web site at: www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortminutes/index.htm —*Aimée C. Quinn, GODORT Past Chair*

ALA GODORT Councilor's Summary

2008 ALA Annual Conference

June 26–July 2, 2008, Anaheim, California

During ALA Council and related meetings, one highly significant resolution on the *E-Government Reauthorization Act of 2007* was discussed and passed unanimously, another important resolution was passed related to Council transparency, and revised guidelines on Council resolutions were submitted and accepted. ALA Council and ALA-APA Council meetings occurred as follows: Council I, Sunday, June 29, 10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.; ALA-APA Council, Monday, June 30, 10:15–11:15 a.m.; ALA Council II, Tuesday, July 1, 9:15–12:45 p.m.; and Council III, Wednesday, July 2, 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m. as scheduled (approximate ending time, 10:30 a.m.). ALA Council Forums were held Monday, June 30, 8–9:30 p.m. and Tuesday, July 1, 4:30–6 p.m.

The resolution on the *E-Government Reauthorization Act of 2007* (S.2321), 2007–2008 CD #20.9, had five resolves, two of which follow. RESOLVED, that

the American Library Association “urge Congress to re-emphasize its commitment to support the role of libraries in the delivery of E-Government services,” “support the measures outlined in the *E-Government Reauthorization Act of 2007* (S.2321) for the Director of the OMB to provide guidance and best practices to ensure availability of public online federal government information and services. Additional resolves highlighted the critical role that public libraries have in e-government services, urged Congress to authorized sufficient funding, and asked that the law ensure federal agencies’ compliance with the OMB guidelines as outlined.

Additional Council business of interest to GODORT was the presentation of a “Resolution on Improving the Federal Depository Library Program and Public Access to Government Information,” moved by Larry Romans, executive board member, and seconded

by Francis Buckley, also executive board, and Kevin Reynolds, Tennessee Chapter councilor, at the initial ALA Membership Meeting, where it passed unanimously. Prior and following, the draft was reviewed by the GODORT Legislative Committee, chaired by Kevin McClure, the ALA Committee on Legislation’s Government Information Subcommittee (COL-GIS), chaired by Michele McKnelly, and COL, chaired by Camila Alire. As a result, Larry Romans formally requested that this resolution be referred back to COL for further study and input before and during Midwinter 2009. The status of this resolution was discussed briefly at the GODORT Membership Meeting.

Further details on Council will appear in the Councilor’s Report forthcoming in *DttP* 36:4.—*Mary Mallory, GODORT Councilor*

Strategic Plan Update

Kristina Bobé and Linda Johnson

In the summer of 2007 GODORT Chair Aimée Quinn and incoming GODORT Chair Bill Sleeman established the GODORT Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning Committee (GAHSPC) with the approval of Steering. The official charge for GAHSPC is as follows:

The purpose of the Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) will be to create a vision and strategic plan for GODORT that will serve to direct GODORT's future efforts to grow the organization. Increasing and retaining membership, while central to the planning effort, is not the sole goal of this effort and all areas including organizational structure and the services provided are to be considered. The plan should provide GODORT with goals for five years and ten years out. These goals should be in line with the articulated strategic planning goals of the American Library Association. The SPC will be appointed by the Steering Committee and will exist for approximately 18 months, producing a final document by ALA Midwinter of 2009. The SPC will conduct as much work as possible between ALA conferences using a collaborative electronic work environment.

Although the existing strategic plan created sometime between 1987 and 1990 provided guidance and vision for many years, the technical and organizational environments outside GODORT as well as GODORT itself have naturally evolved. Thus, a re-envisioning of this plan in response to external and internal changes was long overdue.

Committee members are:

- Linda Johnson, Co-Chair, University of New Hampshire

- Marianne Ryan, Co-Chair, Purdue University
- Marcy Allen, Pennsylvania State University
- Kristina Bobé, Georgetown University
- Robin Haun-Mohamed, Government Printing Office
- Jim Noel, MARCIVE, Inc.
- Bill Olbrich, St. Louis Public Library
- Kelda Vath, Tacoma Public Library
- Cassandra Hartnett, Ad Hoc Member, University of Washington
- Bill Sleeman, Ad Hoc Member, University of Maryland School of Law

Considering the geographic distances separating the committee members, finding a shared communication space was a vital first step. A Google Groups account was the answer to fostering collective dialogues among group members, as well as allowing for sharing of files and documents. Each posting to the group can be received, commented upon, and expanded by the committee in a true collaborative electronic work environment.

To lay the groundwork for creating a new strategic plan, the committee reviewed library literature. Strategic plans are continuously being devised by organizations and libraries, so it follows that the planning process of others could inform ours. We discovered or confirmed some of the key elements for our work:

- Involvement or "buy-in" of stakeholders; the success of any plan is directly connected to the inclusion of stakeholders in the process.

- The value of a transparent process.
- Environmental scanning—including changes in the external environment and using that information to inform the plan.
- Flexibility of the plan for a timely response to future developments.
- The changing shape and nature of digital collections.
- Technology as a moving target.
- Funding sources are dynamic; also, the shifting value and pricing of resources.
- Realistic achievable goals developed from a combined vision.

Setting to work at ALA Annual in 2007, the committee originally planned to present its final strategic plan report at Midwinter 2009. However, given the ambitious plan to gather information and widely consult, combined with the full schedules of committee members, the timeline was adjusted such that the final draft is to be presented at Midwinter 2010. After comments to that draft are received and incorporated, the final report will be submitted at ALA Annual in 2010.

GAHSPC has implemented a variety of information-gathering environmental scans to better understand its constituents, their issues, and their concerns. One is the recent membership survey conducted by the GODORT Membership Committee. Others are the open forum at the most recent Depository Library Council (DLC) meeting in Kansas City, to be followed by another open forum at the fall DLC meeting in the Washington, D.C. area. Yet another is the short e-mail survey to members still in ALA but no longer members of GODORT. By providing

a variety of ways for members to share their ideas—from public forums to anonymous paper and electronic surveys—we seek to encourage input and representation from a maximum and wide range of voices and perspectives.

In addition to the proactive gathering of data, committee members are reviewing a range of documents. These include national information-related reports such as the Pew *Internet Information Searches That Solve Problems: How People Use the Internet, Libraries, and Government Agencies When They Need Help*.¹ Another is the OMB Watch and the Center for Democracy and Technology's *Hiding in Plain Sight: Why Important Government Information Cannot Be Found Through Commercial Search Engines*.² Both reports, published in December 2007, address issues critical to GODORT: how people search for and find government information and the many reasons why people are frustrated in their searches.

Looking forward to the project ahead, some of the issues for the GAHSPC committee to address are:

- **Structure:** How can we optimally develop our fundamental organizational structure? Some feel there may be too many GODORT meetings and committees, creating schedule conflicts with non-

GODORT meetings that may be of equal (or greater) interest. It is true that GODORT meetings are not mandatory and the choice is up to the individual to attend whatever they find most appealing; nevertheless, key information discussions could be missed with the current arrangement. How to balance the desire to cover so many issues with new ones emerging all the time, combined with the need for organizational flexibility and a lean meeting schedule, is a recurring question.

- **Programming:** What is, or should be, the role of the update sessions at the ALA Annual and Midwinter Meetings? These again compete with other meetings but are important as they frequently announce the latest news from various agencies. Additionally, these sessions can sometimes result in competition with program planning for speakers.
- **Liaisons:** What is the best model for liaisons when it is often difficult to fill these positions? Is it more important to have liaisons to external organizations to foster outreach rather than liaisons to our own groups? Could communication among GODORT groups be accomplished in another manner?

- **Virtual Membership:** Is there a place for virtual membership and meetings in GODORT given the fact that ALA is exploring such options? Many members are unable to attend conferences primarily due to lack of funding but have much to contribute to GODORT.

As the guiding document for an evolving organization, the importance of the strategic plan cannot be underestimated. Using a mix of information-gathering techniques, the hope is to draw a road map of where we are headed, never forgetting where we have been and not overlooking where we are now. A healthy strategic plan is one that responds to change and is appropriately assessed. Once it is completed, the next generation of GODORT membership can and should look ahead for innovative ways of maintaining a strong, thriving, and responsive organization.

Please feel free to contact any of the GAHSPC members whose contact information is listed on the GODORT web site at: www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortdirectory/strategicplanning.cfm.

Endnotes

1. www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/Pew_UI_LibrariesReport.pdf
2. www.ombwatch.org/info/searchability.pdf

Proposed Bylaws Changes

Members will have an opportunity to vote on proposed bylaws changes on the Spring 2009 ballot. The proposed changes would increase the size of the Development Committee from four to five members and extend the commit-

tee Chair's appointment to two years, strike a sentence that refers to a task no longer performed by the Conference Committee, and update the name of an organization referenced in the Rare and Endangered Government Publications

Committee's bylaws section. The proposed changes will be linked from the GODORT wiki and be announced on GODORT@ala.org.

ALA/GODORT Wants You!

This is a great time to be active in GODORT. With the challenge of keeping government information accessible, meeting the information needs posed by e-government, the upcoming election, and the next decennial census, the rapid development of electronic networks on the state and local levels, and new challenges in the area of international information resources, now is the time you can make a significant contribution. Get involved in GODORT today. Volunteer to run for one of these offices by contacting a GODORT Nominating Committee member:

- Assistant Chair/Chair-Elect (3 years)
- Secretary (1 year)
- Treasurer (2 years)
- Awards Committee (2 years)
- Bylaws Committee (2 years)
- Nominating Committee (2 years)
- Publications Committee Chair/Chair-Elect (2 years)
- Federal Documents Task Force Assistant Coordinator/Coordinator-Elect (2 years)

- Federal Documents Task Force Secretary (1 year)
- International Documents Task Force Assistant Coordinator/Coordinator-Elect (2 years)
- International Documents Task Force Secretary (1 year)
- State and Local Documents Task Force Assistant Coordinator/Coordinator-Elect (2 years)
- State and Local Documents Task Force Secretary (1 year)

Whatever you're interested in, there's a place in GODORT for you. If you want to be a candidate for office, please contact the chair of the Nominating Committee or one of the Committee members directly. Join us in making GODORT an even more effective organization.

The GODORT Nominating Committee includes: Marcia Meister, Chair (mmeister@lib.ucdavis.edu); Beth Clausen (b-clausen@northwestern.edu); David Griffiths (dngriffi@uiuc.edu); Marilyn Von Seggern (m_vonseggern@

wsu.edu); Esther Crawford (crawford@rice.edu)

Interested In Depository Library Council?

The Depository Library Council is an advisory board to the Public Printer of the United States. Are you interested in being considered for possible nomination or do you wish to suggest someone else for consideration as a nominee? If so, please fill out the online application form at www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortcommittees/godortnominating/dlcfom.htm before December 1, 2008. Please note, resumes cannot be substituted for the application form. The GODORT Steering Committee will select up to five names at the Midwinter Meeting. Names of the selected nominees will be forwarded to the ALA Executive Board for their consideration and submission to the Public Printer. Please contact a member of the GODORT Nominating Committee with any questions.

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Notes

1. House Committee on Government Operations, Subcommittee on Government Information, Justice,

and Agriculture, *Federal Information Dissemination Policies and Practices Hearing*. 101st Cong., 1st sess. Apr. 18, 23, July 11, 1989, 383–84.

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Steering Committee 2008–2009

For complete contact information, see www.ala.org/ala/godort/godortdirectory

GODORT Officers

Chair

Cass Hartnett
Univ. Washington Libraries
phone: 206-685-3130
cass@u.washington.edu

Assistant Chair/Chair-Elect

Amy West
Univ. of Minnesota
phone: 612-625-6368
westx045@umn.edu

Secretary

Kathy Brazee
U.S. Government Printing Office
phone: 703-548-1779
kbrazee@comcast.net

Treasurer

Jill Moriearty
Univ. of Utah
phone: 801-581-7703
jill.moriearty@utah.edu

Immediate Past Chair

Bill Sleeman
Univ. of Maryland School of Law
phone: 410-706-0783
bsleeman@law.umaryland.edu

Councilor

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

Publications Committee Chair

James R. Jacobs
Stanford Univ.
phone: 415-725-1030
jrjacobs@stanford.edu

Task Force Coordinators

Federal Documents Task Force

Sarah R. Gewirtz
College of St. Benedicts/St. John's Univ.
phone: 320-363-2601
sgewirtz@csbsju.edu

International Documents Task Force

Brett Cloyd
Univ. of Iowa
phone: 319-335-5743
brett-cloyd@uiowa.edu

State & Local Documents Task Force

Kris Kasianovitz
Univ. of California, Los Angeles
phone: 310-206-8746
krisk@library.ucla.edu

Standing Committee Chairs

Awards Committee Chair

Jim Church
Univ. of California, Berkeley
phone: 510-643-2319
jchurch@library.berkeley.edu

Bylaws & Organization Committee Chair

Valerie D. Glenn
Univ. of Alabama
phone: 205-348-4971
vglenn@ua.edu

Cataloging Committee Chair

Patsy Inouye
Univ. of California, Davis
phone: 530-752-1656
pcinouye@ucdavis.edu

Conference Committee Chair

Carol Hanan
Univ. of Central Arkansas
phone: 501-450-5251
chanan@uca.edu

Development Committee Chair

Stephen M. Hayes
Univ. of Notre Dame
phone: 574-631-5268
Stephen.M.Hayes.2@nd.edu

Education Committee Chair

Jennie Burroughs
Univ. of Montana
phone: 406-243-4549
Jennie.burroughs@umontana.edu

Government Information Technology Committee (GITCO) Chair

Gretchen Gano
New York Univ.
phone: 212-998-2662
gretchen.gano@nyu.edu

Legislation Committee Chair

Kirsten Clark
Univ. of Minnesota
phone: 612-626-7520
clark881@umn.edu

Membership Committee Chair

Rebecca Hyde
Univ. of California, San Diego
phone: 858-534-4175
rhyde@ucsd.edu

Nominating Committee Chair

Marcia Meister
Univ. of California, Davis
phone: 530-752-9874
mlmeister@ucdavis.edu

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Amy West, *see information under GODORT Officers, Assistant Chair/Chair-Elect*

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Chicago Public Library
phone: 312-747-4508
serekson@chipubliclib.org

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Strategic Planning Committee (ad hoc)

Linda Johnson (co-chair)
University of New Hampshire
phone: 603-862-2453
linda.johnson@unh.edu

Marianne Ryan (co-chair)

Purdue University
phone: 765-494-2900
marianne@purdue.edu

Announcing the Third Annual Cover Contest

Put your photo on *DttP*!

We had such fun with the photos we received for the previous contests, and we already had requests for another contest, so here we go again!

Put your favorite government comic book together with its superhero . . . industrial guides with your neighboring factory—the sky (and perhaps TSA) is the limit!

Details:

- Photos may be of state, local, federal, foreign, or international publications out in the field.
- All photos submitted must include citation information.
- Photo orientation should be portrait (not landscape).
- Digital photos must be at least 300 dpi.
- For hard-copy submissions, please make sure the return information is available so we may return the photo.

Please submit all images to the Lead Editor of *DttP* by December 1, 2008. The winning photo will be on the cover of the spring 2008 issue. All submitted photos will be posted on the GODORT web site/wiki.

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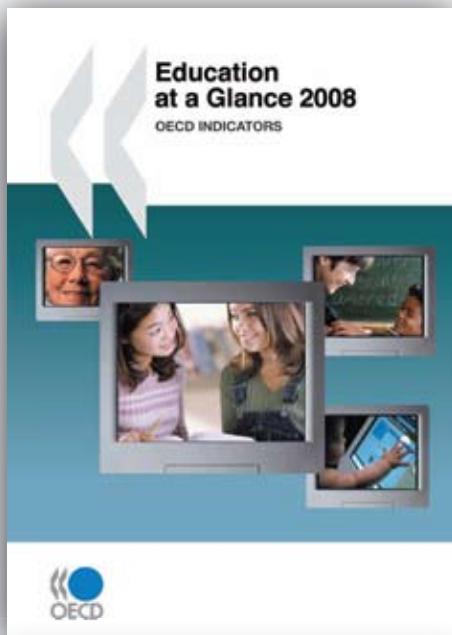
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18 Wheatherstone
Lake Oswego, OR 97035
e-mail: dttp.editor@live.com



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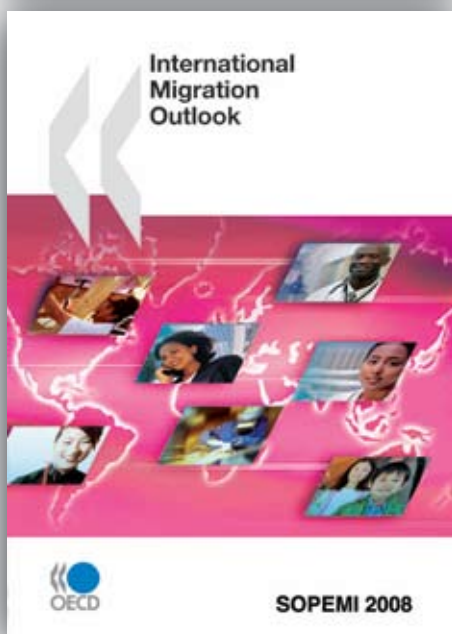
Education at a Glance 2008: OECD Indicators

September, 7½ x 10, 450 pp, Paper, 978-92-64-04628-3

The 2008 edition provides a rich, comparable and up-to-date array of indicators on the performance of education systems and represents the consensus of professional thinking on how to measure the current state of education internationally. The indicators look at who participates in education, what is spent on it and how education systems operate and at the results achieved.

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- Information on the skills of 15-year-olds in science
- An analysis of the socio-economic background of 15-year-olds and the role of their parents
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- Data on the returns to education
- Information on the governance of higher education institutions
- An analysis of efficiency in the use of resources
- Data on the impact of evaluations and assessments within education systems
- A comparison of the levels of decision-making in education across countries



International Migration Outlook: SOPEMI - 2008 Edition

September, 7½ x 10, 320 pp, Paper, 978-92-64-0456-51

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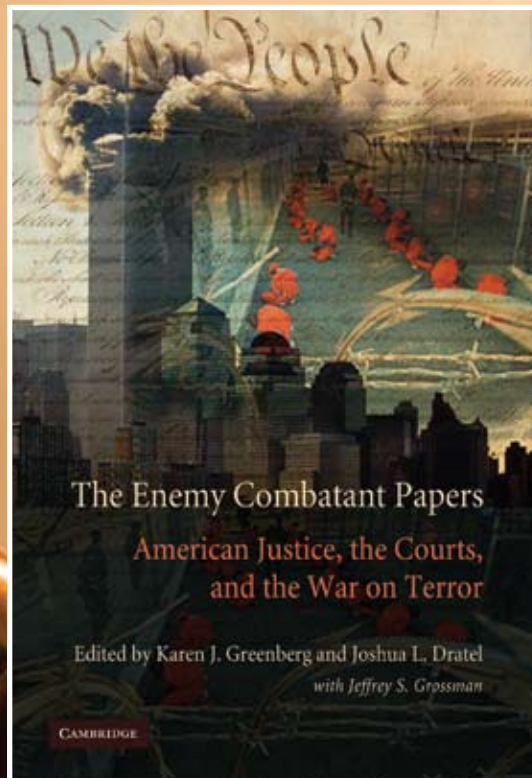
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