In This Issue

- Unearthing New Deal Gems
- GODORT Archives
- Three Responses to the Ithaka S+R Report *Documents for a Digital Democracy*

DttP

Documents to the People

Summer 2010 | Volume 38, No. 2 | ISSN 0091-2085

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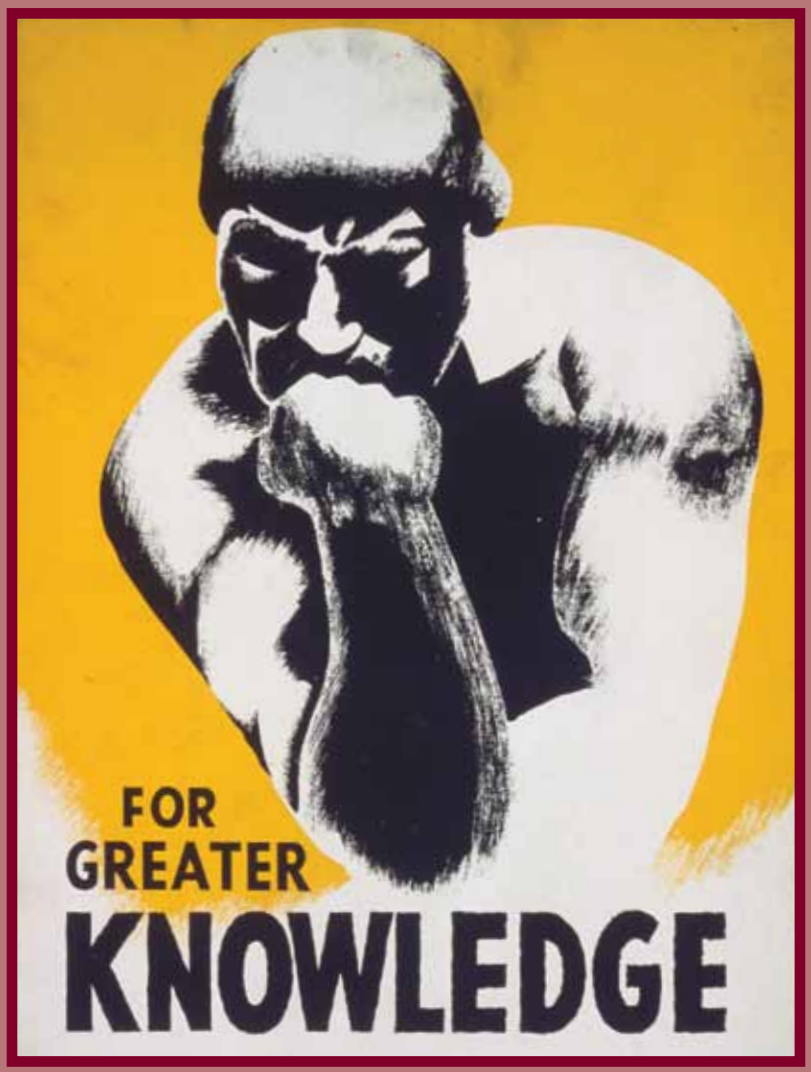

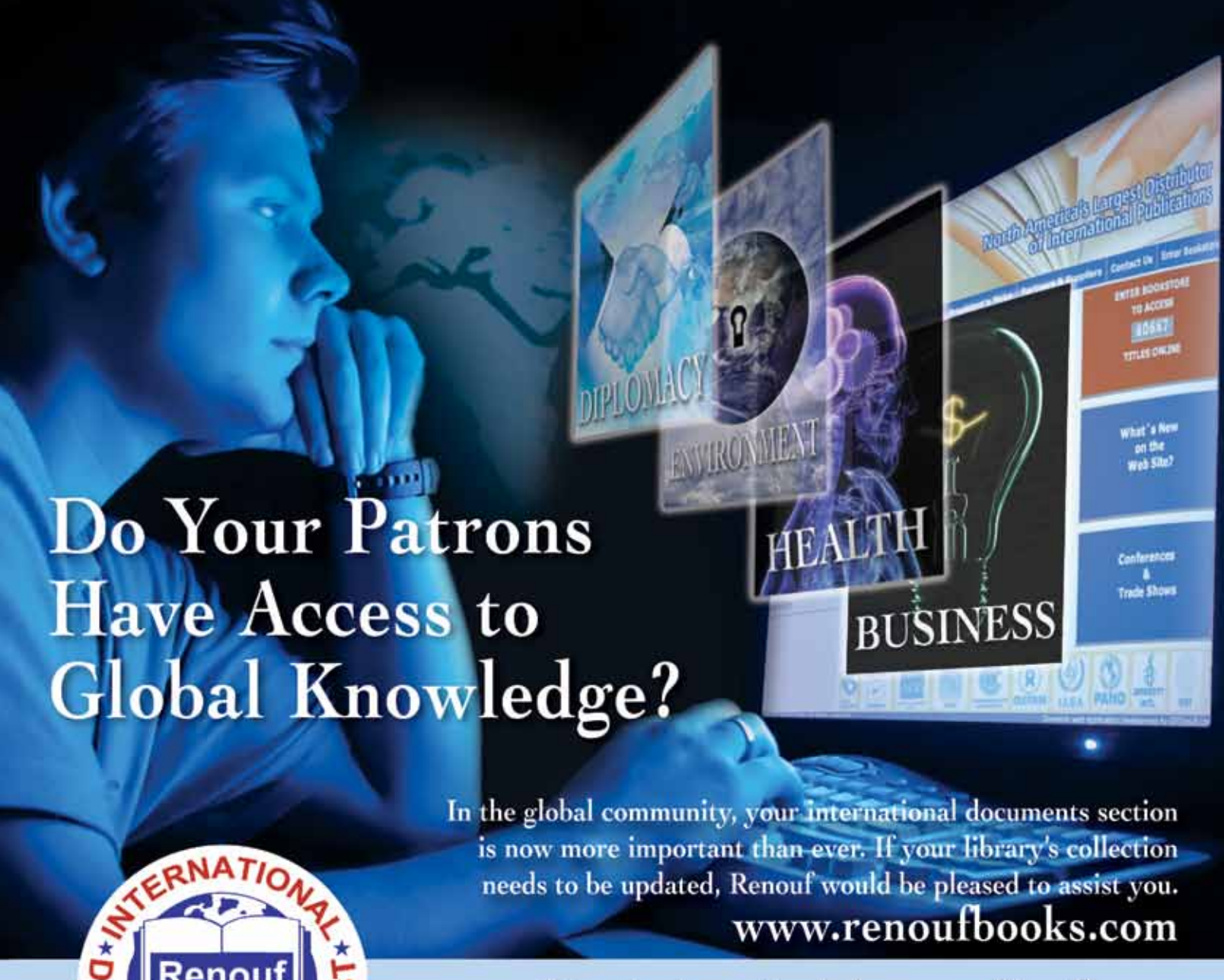

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DttP: Documents to the People (ISSN: 0091-2085) is published quarterly in spring, summer, fall, and winter by the American Library Association (ALA), 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. It is the official publication of ALA's Government Documents Round Table (GODORT).

DttP features articles on local, state, national, and international government information and government activities of GODORT. The opinions expressed by its contributors are their own and do not necessarily represent those of GODORT.

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Distribution Manager: ALA Subscription Department, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. 1-800-545-2433, press 5; fax: (312) 280-1538; subscriptions@ala.org

Subscriptions/Claims: *DttP* is sent free to ALA/GODORT members on a per volume (annual) basis. For subscriptions, prepayment is required in the amount of $35 in North America, $45 elsewhere. Checks or money orders should be made payable to "ALA/GODORT" and sent to the Distribution Manager. Changes of address and claims six months of the date of issue should be sent to the Distribution Manager. To purchase back issues, write to: UMI, 300 North Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Contributions: Articles, news items, letters, and other information intended for publication in *DttP* should be submitted to the Co-Lead Editors. All submitted material is subject to editorial review. Please see the wiki for additional information: wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/DttP.

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

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DttP

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Summer 2010 | Volume 38, No. 2 | ISSN 0091-2085

Columns

4 Editor's Corner—Beth Clausen and Valerie Glenn
6 From the Chair—Amy West
8 Get to Know . . . Chella Vaidyanathan—Julia Stewart
8 Federal Documents Focus—Rebecca Hyde and Lucia Orlando
10 State and Local Documents Spotlight—Barbara Miller
12 By the Numbers—Stephen Woods

Articles

16 Unearthing New Deal Gems
Telling Stories of the Great Depression
Dorothy Ormes

20 GODORT Archives
Preserving Our History
Vicki L. Tate

26 Three Responses to the Ithaka S+R Report *Documents for a Digital Democracy*

- **26** Selectives in the Ithaka S+R Report Model
  Shari Laster
- **30** A Regional's Response to the Ithaka S+R Report, *Documents for a Digital Democracy*
  Kirsten Clark
- **31** A Model for the Federal Depository Library Program in the 21st Century
  James F. Williams

Review

35 Open Government: Collaboration, Transparency, and Participation in Practice
Shari Laster

'Round the Table

38 The Interview: Geoff Swindells, Incoming GODORT Chair (2010–2011)

40 Index to Advertisers

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About the Cover: *For greater knowledge on more subjects use your library often!* Chicago: Illinois WPA Art Project, 1940 (www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/wpapos/item/98509756/).

Editor's Corner

Telling Stories . . .

Beth Clausen and Valerie Glenn

If we do say so ourselves, this issue is packed with something certain to appeal to each and every GODORT member, as well as practical information for all of us who are interested in the organization and its activities.

Chair Amy West, in her farewell column, delivers the news of the passing of the godort@ala.org mailing list and provides instructions and the direction of future, more interactive GODORT communications and connectivity through ALA Connect. This tool is certain to allow for more dynamic information sharing and conversations for those of us interested in GODORT and government information issues. Thanks to Amy for her leadership and her thoughtful columns this year! This issue serves as a transition from one chair to the next—in addition to Amy's last column, we have Geoff Swindells' answers to the now-familiar interview with the incoming chair.

There are three feature articles that are very different in terms of style and subject, yet all share the common theme of storytelling. Dorothy Ormes of New Mexico State University describes two grant-supported, collaborative promotional efforts she was involved with at her library. One effort featured local storytellers performing stories with connections to the Works Progress Administration—and if there was ever an article that made us wish that this publication had audio and visual capabilities, this would be it. Vicki Tate, GODORT archivist, reveals the story of the GODORT Archives—its history, its role in documenting the organization, its current status, and its future—and the need and procedures for GODORT members to contribute to them. Three writers with different perspectives—James Williams, director of an ARL-member regional depository, Kirsten Clark, regional depository librarian, and Shari Laster, a librarian at a selective depository—tell the stories of the possibilities of the depository program within a framework of the Ithaka S+R Report, *Documents for a Digital Democracy: A Model for the Federal Depository Library Program in the 21st Century*. We encourage readers to continue the converstation on ALA Connect so we can get more stories and thoughts related to this report from people with different viewpoints and experiences.

Every summer and winter issue will feature the columns By the Numbers and State and Local Documents Spotlight. Columnist Stephen Woods provides his perspective on and an interesting tracing of statistical resources from print to web in By the Numbers. Barbara Miller reminds us in the State and Local column that Notable Documents nominations are a great way to help promote state publications and depository programs—and perhaps even save them!

Rebecca Hyde and Lucia Orlando provide insight as to the worth and value of government calculators in Federal Documents Focus. Julia Stewart allows readers to "Get to Know…" GODORT member and LibGuides expert Chella Vaidyanathan of the University of Miami.

Don't forget to check out the Washington Report and Tech Watch! They can be accessed via the GODORT wiki.

As always, please let us know what you think about anything you see (or would like to see) in *DttP*! Article proposals or submissions are also welcome at dttp.editor@gmail.com.

Give to the Rozkuszka Scholarship

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

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

Send your check to GODORT Treasurer: John Hernandez, Coordinator for Social Sciences, Northwestern University Library, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL 60208-2300.

More information about the scholarship and past recipients can be found on the GODORT Awards Committee wiki (wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/awards).

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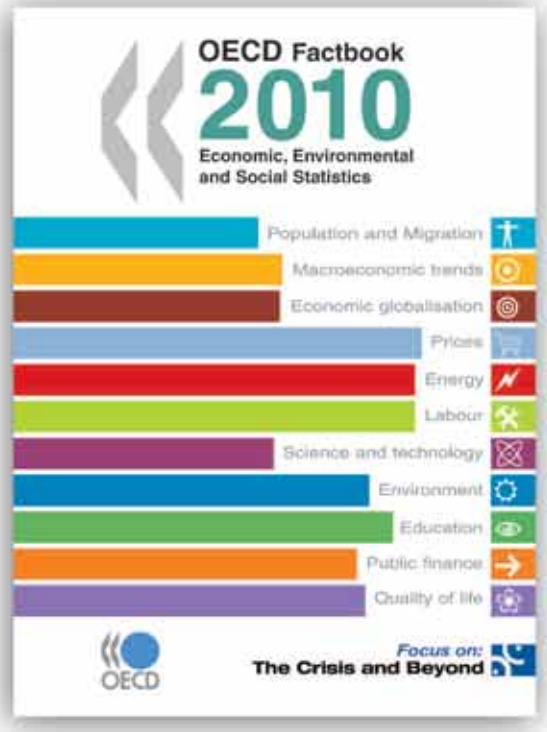

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From the Chair

So Long and Thanks for All the Fish*

Amy West

Hello fellow GODORTers! This is my last column as chair and I'm pleased to announce a change to GODORT's communications infrastructure. If you have not already done so, I want to encourage you to log in to the ALA website (using your ALA member number) and establish and use a member account on ALA Connect to ensure that you receive GODORT information in a timely way. ALA Connect will replace the GODORT announcement list immediately following the 2010 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

In 2007, GODORT decided to set up an announcement list for GODORT members using ALA-supplied software. Because GOVDOC-L was and remains a discussion list for government information issues regardless of a subscriber's ALA membership status, GODORT officers felt that the new list should be announcements only, rather than discussion, and should focus on GODORT-specific content such as agendas for upcoming meetings. However, due to a number of factors, the GODORT announcement list never quite worked as intended. For one thing, only moderators can actually post, so there is manual effort involved in posting every single message. For another, GODORT documentation continued to direct GODORT officers to post materials to GOVDOC-L for some time after the new list went live, so some folks got lots of duplicate posts while non-ALA subscribers of GOVDOC-L continued to see posts of little interest. Further, the list isn't automatically updated with new GODORT members (nor are former members automatically dropped from the list) and this, too, contributed to the problems of the GODORT list.

Moreover, since 2007, ALA has introduced a host of new tools to support (attempts at) seamless in-person/virtual member activity, and at least two third-party social tools, Facebook and Twitter, have gained prominence among members. GODORT has dipped its toes into nearly all of these venues. While each of these tools represents fabulous potential for supporting virtual activity, each has also created a much more complex and fragmented information landscape. The complexity may be out of our control, but the GODORT Steering Committee believes we can take some steps to address the fragmentation issue.

To that end, at the 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago, an Ad Hoc Committee on GODORT Communications was formed, with the following charge:

To identify the range of GODORT communications, define appropriate roles for each of the tools above if appropriate for the purpose, and to define a policy regarding member experiments that may make use of the GODORT identity.

The committee recommendations should

- support and further the intent of GODORT communication;
- facilitate communication by all GODORT members and not serve as a barrier to participation;
- enhance distributed work patterns, as we are an all-volunteer organization;
- maximize automated solutions where possible in order to extend the reach of GODORT-created content as widely as possible with the least amount of manual effort;
- support continued experimentation with new technologies in order to expand virtual, year-round participation in GODORT; and
- eliminate tools if deemed appropriate.

The committee reviewed the use of several existing tools and, at the 2010 Midwinter Meeting in Boston, one of its first recommendations to Steering was that the godort@ala.org announcement list be discontinued and replaced by ALA Connect (connect.ala.org).

ALA Connect will allow greater participation by members because it combines into a single location the option to create posts, participate in discussions, hold votes, hold group chat discussions, and post events to the calendar. Because users may receive notice of changes to their ALA Connect communities by email, it does everything an announcement list does, and quite a bit more.

If you have not yet logged on to ALA Connect to set up your email preferences, please do so. You can elect to receive an email message every time someone posts new content to one of your ALA groups or communities, or you can change the frequency of emails to twice a day, daily, or weekly. You will need your ALA member number and password to log in to ALA Connect as a member, which will allow you to view and participate in member-only areas of the site. Step-by-step instructions for refining your email preferences are available at connect.ala.org/email-help.

I'd like to thank all members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Communications, but I'd especially like to thank its co-chairs who have substantial additional duties within the organization and stepped up to tackle this thorny area. So, thank you Valerie Glenn and John Stevenson! Finally, while the Ad Hoc Committee on Communications will conclude at the 2010 Annual Conference, there will doubtless remain communications issues going forward. If you are interested in helping GODORT navigate through the plethora of communications technologies available, please let your incoming chair, Geoff Swindells, know at your earliest convenience. I feel sure we can accommodate your interests!

* Douglas Adams. *So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish* (New York: Harmony Books, 1985).

Announcing the 5th 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 together 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—use the *Chicago Manual of Style* citation format.
- Photo orientation should be portrait (not landscape).
- Digital photos must be at least 300 dpi.
- File format should be .jpg or .gif
- File name should be lastname_2011.jpg OR lastname_2011.gif

Please submit all images to the lead editors of *DttP* by December 1, 2010. The photo will be on the cover of the Spring 2011 issue. All submitted photos will be posted on the GODORT wiki.

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Get to Know . . . Chella Vaidyanathan

Julia Stewart

Maintaining access to depository government documents housed within academic libraries has become a struggle for some depository coordinators and government information librarians. When weeding and space issues are mentioned regularly at administrative library meetings in all types of libraries, and when most 18 to 23-year-old patrons are leery of any print document over ten pages long, this struggle can seem insurmountable. But Chella Vaidyanthan, United States government and international documents librarian at the University of Miami, has found a way to open the door to accessing government documents by students and other patrons by creating research guides, or LibGuides, accessible through her library's homepage.

"I have been creating research guides, or LibGuides, since 2008," said Vaidyanthan. "With my guides, I am able to easily show students and faculty how to subscribe to blogs and RSS feeds, or how to find YouTube channels from federal or international organizations. The guides are dynamic in nature, and patrons can easily contact me with questions. Patrons, especially college students, like that the information is available 'at their fingertips' through clicking on links."

Providing access to documents that were otherwise unknown to patrons has been the biggest benefit, according to Vaidyanthan. "Most students and faculty at the University of Miami want to use recent government documents that focus on contemporary events. Since several current collections are available online, patrons can rely more heavily on links that I provide on the guides. Particularly, students and faculty find the declassified documents, Congressional Research Service reports, Central Intelligence Agency reports, and Government Printing Office Access resources very useful."

According to Vaidyanthan, teaching patrons how to use the guides has been an excellent way to increase awareness about government documents on the University of Miami campus. "I regularly integrate government information into my library instruction sessions for history and political science, or whenever it is appropriate or relevant to the course content. Because government documents are cross-disciplinary, I have been able to team teach with other subject librarians. Particularly, I have team taught many classes with my colleague, Mei Mendez, the International Studies and Latin American and Caribbean Studies librarian. I have also team taught for the School of Communication, the Master of International Administration program, the Department of Psychology, the School of Education, and the African-American Studies Program."

The time it takes to create a research guide can vary. "Guides can be course-specific or theme-specific," said Vaidyanthan. "It took about a week to create my first research guide. Now it doesn't take that long to create a new one—at the most, a day or two depending on my other library duties. Plus, I spend an hour or so every month to fix the broken links on my guides."

What will research guides look like in the future? "I think that research guides should become more interactive, like wikis. I can easily see the guides serving as a platform that incorporates Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, and other social networking sites to disseminate government information."

Chella's most current research guides to a wide range of government information resources can be accessed through the URLs listed below:

- Federal Government Information—libguides.miami.edu/federalgovernmentinformation
- Florida State Documents—libguides.miami.edu/floridastatedocuments
- International Documents and NGO Resources—libguides.miami.edu/internationaldocumentsandngoresources

Federal Documents Focus

Government Calculators: What Are They Worth to You?

Rebecca Hyde and Lucia Orlando

We all know that the U.S. government produces a voluminous amount of high-quality information—an amount that can be overwhelming and confusing for the average person. However, in the current age of interactivity, many government agencies are striving to make their data and information more meaningful and accessible to everyone. A prime example is online calculator tools that allow anyone to interact with government resources in new and helpful ways. There is an astonishing

variety of federal-agency calculators that cover topics ranging from finances and health to energy use and the environment. Government calculators are worth using as they provide a fun and simple way to transform complicated data into a form that is more easily understood. Whether you are helping college students, children, adults, or yourself, there is likely something useful to you in one of these calculators.

As is true anytime data are used to make decisions, it's important to be aware of the assumptions behind the data. Most of the calculators described here provide information about the data sets, methodology, and core premises used to support these tools. However, it's prudent to check for a link to more information on the website to ensure you understand the limitations of the data before you base decisions on the results. A good example is the BMI (Body Mass Index) calculator from the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi). The "Adult—About BMI" link provides details about this tool, including a brief discussion of factors such as muscle mass that affect the accuracy of the results.

The following are some examples of the wealth of available tools. This list is not exhaustive. To find more tools and calculators, visit USA.gov or your favorite agency website and use their search box to type in your topic and the term "calculator," for example, "fitness calculator."

Money and finances

Have a question about how money works or how to make better financial decisions about investments or your retirement? MyMoney.gov, a website sponsored by the Financial Literacy and Education Commission, consolidates and coordinates education resources from twenty federal agencies that work with money or financial markets. This site provides calculators (www.mymoney.gov/calculators.shtml) that allow you to plan a college budget and student loans, learn the current and future worth of savings bonds, calculate how long it will take to pay off a credit card, estimate your Social Security benefits, or determine your tax withholding. You can compare mortgage payments, and there is even a calculator that can help you decide if you can afford to buy a home and determine the size of loan for which you may qualify.

Meanwhile, don't miss the Inflation Calculator (www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm) from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This calculator, based on the Consumer Price Index, allows you to determine how much a dollar in years past—dating back to 1913—would buy you in today's market. For example if you enter $50.00 and select the year 1944, it shows the buying power of that amount is $615.49 in 2010. And it's not limited solely to present-day comparisons; it also provides the option of comparing two earlier years with each other—again dating back to 1913. For example, $50.00 in 1990 has the same buying power as $11.86 in 1964.

Also eye opening is the Cost of Raising a Child calculator (www.cnpp.usda.gov/calculator.htm) from the Department of Agriculture. This site asks for the age of each child, the region where you live, and how much your family earns to return the estimated costs of raising a child for one year. It also compares the results to the national average. It was surprising to learn that a two-parent family with an annual income between $56,860 and $98,450, with two school-age children living in the Western region, will spend approximately $25,860 per year. Additionally, it allows you to refine your results by entering more accurate values for housing, childcare, and health expenses and then recalculate using those figures.

Health, nutrition, and fitness

Are you asked for medical advice at the reference desk? Healthfinder.gov, a website from the Department of Health and Human Services, is devoted to providing health information from government and nonprofit sources. It contains a full suite of interactive tools and calculators to help with assessing and tracking a person's health and fitness. The calculators (www.healthfinder.gov/healthtools/calculators.aspx) cover topics such as nutrition, diseases and conditions, prevention and wellness, smoking, and men and women's health. The nutrition section provides calculators to help you ascertain your dietary requirements for carbohydrates, fat, fiber, protein, or meals and snacks in general. Additionally, the section on prevention and wellness supplies tools that will help you determine how many calories you burn for specific activities, assess how much water you should consume, learn your target heart rate, and determine if your hip to waist ratio is healthy.

The Department of Agriculture also provides a calorie counter and energy expenditure calculator called My Pyramid Tracker (www.mypyramidtracker.gov), based on the food pyramid, which allows you to register and track your progress for up to one year.

More calculators, quizzes and assessment tools are available from Medline Plus on their Health Check Tools page (www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/interactivetools). Topics are presented in an exhaustive A to Z list ranging from abdominal pain to wounds.

Energy and environment

Let's say you wish to know how much energy you consume at home, what your car is costing you in fuel and its toll on

the environment, or how big your carbon footprint is. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DOE) want to help you. The Energy Calculators and Software page (www1.eere.energy.gov/calculators) allows you to evaluate energy usage for your home, buildings in general, industry, or vehicles.

The Home Energy Saver calculator from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (hes.lbl.gov) uses a ZIP code lookup to return a profile of yearly energy costs for an average energy-efficient home in your area. If you elect to supply your home address and fill out a questionnaire about your home, the site will calculate your home energy consumption. It also estimates potential energy savings based on a detailed list of upgrade suggestions such as switching to a gas water heater, adding insulation, and so on. Each suggestion includes an estimate of what the changes will cost along with the annual savings lifetime annual savings, return on investment, and the length of time it will take for the upgrade to pay for itself. Be sure to note your session ID if you wish to save this information for future reference.

The EPA's Household Emissions calculator (www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html) provides a detailed assessment of your household emissions and offers suggestions for how to reduce them, as well as an indication of how much you can save by taking suggested actions, such as driving your car less, turning down the thermostat, and replacing incandescent bulbs with fluorescent. The calculator takes about ten to fifteen minutes to complete and strongly encourages using numbers from your energy bills to get a more accurate assessment.

Finally, the DOE's "Your Car" site (www.energy.gov/yourcar.htm) includes links to resources about buying a car, alternative fuel vehicles, and strategies for reducing your fuel cost. The fuel cost calculator (www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/savemoney.shtml) allows you to assess the annual cost of driving a car.

Concluding observations

Figuring out how to make informed decisions about how we should allocate our time, money, and attention is complicated. Fortunately, the federal government has many online tools on a variety of topics that can help. These calculators provide quick and easy resources for making assessments, planning a course of action, and tracking your progress toward a goal—all without having to purchase an iPhone application or be subjected to the advertisements and inbox-clogging mailing lists of commercial websites.

State and Local Documents Spotlight

Whither Goest Thou, State and Local Notable Documents?

Barbara Miller

What if you had a marketing tool that cost no money and helped create goodwill between state government agencies and librarians? What if this same tool gave agencies ammunition in times of poor funding, and helped keep librarians up-to-date on new electronic state documents? I know, this sounds too good to be true, but State and Local Notable Documents nominees can do all of that and more!

Notable Documents are annual GODORT awards honoring excellence in state publications (there are also international and federal categories). Every year, a GODORT committee reviews nominees submitted by librarians, and descriptions of winning publications are published in *Library Journal*. The committee depends upon librarians to nominate publications, and each year the nominated titles grow fewer—just when they can do the most good. Couple this opportunity with the recession-driven number of state libraries either under fire or already closing, and that translates into a lack of recognition of the value of state publications by legislators. Because state libraries are often the liaisons to agencies, this could also signal a loss of depository systems in those states. Can you see the potential here, a way to market the value of state documents to our legislators and decision makers? That's right, by nominating state documents that win!

Potential rewards of the awards

Rather than turn this column into a rant about poor participation, I wish to outline the potential rewards to both state agencies and depository librarians from these awards, and to encourage nominations. Let's look at the current situation in state publishing. In addition to the closings and threatened closings of state libraries, many states are considering going, or have already gone, completely electronic with their publications. The halcyon days of full-size glossy publications, many worthy of a spot on a coffee table, are over. What better way to cut agency expenses than to require electronic publishing only, which saves the agencies the cost of printing "free" copies for the state archives, state depository libraries, and other government agencies?

What about the situation in libraries? Although many states have already grappled with the problems involved in

archiving, cataloging and monitoring electronic state documents, many have not solved the problem of how to continue as depositories, which could mean the loss of "new electronic titles" lists. How then are librarians informed of new documents? The State and Local Documents Task Force has created several online tools to help librarians with cataloging and bibliographic control of electronic documents, but a Notable Documents award is the best tool to encourage excellence in state document production and for marketing state publications to state legislators and librarians. We need to let our state legislators know how important these documents are to us before they try to close our state libraries and curtail depository programs. Where else can a state agency be recognized by a national organization (ALA) in a national publication that is read by thousands of librarians across the country?

Award criteria—give winners something to brag about

Let's take a look at the criteria used to select the notable documents. The committee of judges awards points in nine categories. Beyond the technical and style points for such things as accuracy and appearance, as well as successful electronic publication qualities of browsability, ease of use, and inventive search interfaces, we use the attributes of a successful government document. These attributes include lasting value, reference and bibliographic value, contribution to expansion of knowledge (and creativity in doing so), contribution to understanding state government processes, enhancing the quality of life of the reader, and helping them make informed decisions on important issues. How many government agencies would love to have their work extolled for these virtues? How wonderful would it be for them to be able to take this award to their legislators and say "look, we are nationally recognized for these qualities in our publications!" Let's face it, if a state agency has an award for an excellent publication, it might just help them avoid a budget cut next year. Will they let the state know about it? You bet!

Action plan

Check out your state's documents, both paper and electronic. Turn in those nominations this fall. Who turns in nominations in your state? Does everyone assume someone else is doing it? Could members of your state's government documents organization get together to review documents, with everyone selecting an agency to check? Do you have a blog or mailing list to discuss nominees? Get everyone involved, because here is where librarians benefit. We all know it is easy to browse new paper copies as they arrive, but how easy is it to look at a new electronic titles list and never find time to look at the websites? An easy way to make sure you see new state docs is to review them. Here is where the snowball effect takes over.

Notify the agencies whose documents you have submitted, and tell them why you submitted their document for a national award. Notify your state library association of nominees as well. If the documents are electronic, non-depositories can check out the websites. If your document wins, GET THE WORD OUT! In Oklahoma if one of our documents wins, the state library applies for a Governor's Commendation and presents it to the agency at one of their board meetings, along with congratulations. What does this accomplish? It tells the agency that librarians are paying attention to their publications, that we recognize their value. This in turn encourages agencies to continue to publish high quality material. It also can give ammunition to those legislators who want to save state libraries, and if you work it right (as in Oklahoma) it makes the governor aware of excellence in one of his or her state agencies. That might mean fewer budget cuts for that agency. Be sure to let your agencies have a copy of the awards announcement in *Library Journal*, and encourage them to put a note on their website about their award. Put an announcement in your state association newsletter. Best thing about these ideas? They cost nothing! And everybody wins!

Don't worry about overwhelming odds against you. Last year, there were Notable State Documents winners from eleven states, and some states were multiple winners. Winners included state histories from Montana, Nebraska,

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www.ala.org/ala/godort/dttp/dttponline

DttP
Documents to the People

Check out the new and the old! The digital archive, hosted by Stanford University Libraries & Academic Information Resources, contains all issues of the journal published from its inception in 1972 through 2002 (volumes 1–30). The contemporary material, 2003 (volume 31) to present, is hosted on the ALA/GODORT server.

and Wisconsin; flora and fauna studies from Maine and Connecticut; environmental studies from Alaska, Utah, and Oregon; a how-to guide from Minnesota, an agro tourism map from Oklahoma, and a "facts about our state" from Ohio. Couldn't your state be one of these winners?

And while I am at it, does your state library association or your state library have an award for an outstanding state document? Many states are doing this now, and this is another way to encourage excellence in publications. It is also another way to get your librarians reading state documents and browsing state government websites, where they just might find something useful.

In the meantime, nominate the best documents from your state!

By the Numbers

Internet Technology and Data Access: Further Reflections in 2010

Stephen Woods

The U.S. government spent an astonishing $7.9 billion in 2009 on its statistical programs—compared to $4.7 billion in 2004 when I first began writing this column. A significant reason for the growing budget can be attributed to federal statistical agencies trying to address the growing expectations of their users by expanding electronic access to their resources.[1] Karen Evans' testimony before Congress on April 28, 2009, provides some astounding figures that demonstrate the sheer size and the variety of methods people are using to access information. She states that there are currently over one billion users on the Internet with estimates that by 2011, over one-third of the world's population will be active users. It is estimated that there are four billion subscriptions to mobile phones, ten million Twitter subscriptions, and over 200 million users on Facebook. She estimates that four out of every five users are using search engines to find government information in some form.[2] Federal statistical agencies are equally aware of the growing demand from their users and the growing disconnect between what is offered and what is desired. I would like to offer a framework for discussing how agencies have responded to the demands of its users for statistics in electronic format. I will conclude the discussion with a quick look at Data.gov and the Obama administration's response to these demands. Let's explore what happens when governments and e-worlds collide.

The making of an e-book

When the Department of Commerce first published an electronic version of its seminal statistical work, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, it was first distributed to depository libraries as a floppy disk and eventually as a CD-ROM. This resource has retained much of its original structure, providing a convenient relationship with the historical print volumes. The demand by users for more ubiquitous access naturally meant delivering this publication over the Internet. It is impossible to ascertain if a lot of thought went into determining how this should be done, but the easy solution was to scan copies of the book, along with the historical volumes, and deliver them as digital images.[3]

Initially, search and discovery for the user was consistent with the print version. A user still needed to look at the digital image of the index to determine the table number and move within the volume to the appropriate table. A user could also browse broad categories in the hope of finding something of relevance, or at least of discovering which agencies published the type of statistic that the user was looking for. In 2006, the Census Bureau decided to add a search engine, a browse mechanism, and to provide tables in formats that users could manipulate, expanding their use of Internet technology. On the surface, the interface still has the look of the print edition, and provides the user with a familiar search retrieval system. It is interesting to note the minimization of analysis essays and the corresponding emphasis on statistical tables over time. The design of the current interface is organized around tables and the search engine retrieves tables, not relevant essays. It begs the question: will this resource morph into a table-only format because that is what the user wants? Any sophisticated user of this resource understands how valuable essays are for providing context, interpretation, and, most importantly, leading the user to other historical statistical census publications.[4] It will be interesting to see if this resource becomes a wholly different publication and if the agency finds the funds to incorporate the historical tables into this common interface.

E-tables: Deconstructing the book

Deconstructing statistical books and creating a search interface based on the information provided by the statistical tables provides a cost-effective way for government agencies to deliver statistics to users. Two of the prominent federal resources I would like to discuss that demonstrate this functionality are American FactFinder (factfinder.census.gov) and VitalStats (www.cdc.gov/nchs/VitalStats.htm).

It is important to understand that American FactFinder (AFF) was originally developed as a platform to deliver the 2000 Decennial Census data. Since then it has expanded considerably

adding economic census data, population estimates, county business patterns, and a number of other deconstructed publications. The continuity between the previous, tangible, decennial census publications, including the CDs distributed for the 1990 Census, is the specific tables found in the reports. In sum, the AFF platform was a deconstruction of tables from the corresponding paper volumes of earlier census reports.

The National Center for Health Statistics created VitalStats based on the software platform Beyond 2020 (www.beyond2020.com). This resource allowed them to deconstruct tables from a number of their publications and to publish them in a single interface.[5] This interface also allows the user greater flexibility to create relationships between tables and maps, to look at historical trends, and to identify sets of data to download for manipulation. Finally, e-table resources provide a more efficient mechanism for distributing the agencies' data then an e-book model.[6]

However, the development of e-table resources also comes with a cost. First, e-tables are designed with the assumption that the user only needs a number or some representation of that number; consequently they assume that the user has some skill at interpreting what the numbers mean contextually. Second, if the user wants to use this resource, he or she must learn how to efficiently create and find the statistic. Third, if users become comfortable with the interface, they expect the historical statistics from that agency to be available in the same format. Finally, users who are familiar with the paper counterparts expect to find a one-to-one relationship between the online resource and its paper counterparts.[7]

Online analysis tools: Deconstructing tables

It didn't take long for agencies to see the value of creating resources that provide users with the ability to create and discover statistical numbers from variables within tables to multiple surveys. The Census Bureau's Data Ferret (dataferrett.census.gov) is the best example of a statistical resource that allows a user to search for relevant variables from twenty-one surveys and variable databases from other organizations. There are also a number of international government organizations using Nesstar (www.nesstar.com), a similar type of software, to deliver statistical data. While this type of resource is extremely robust, it also comes with challenges for the user as well as for the publishing agency.

First, the user is confronted with a fairly complicated interface that can be difficult to navigate, but is certainly worthwhile once they understand how to manipulate and create the statistic or map. Second, if a user does become proficient with the interface, there is an expectation that all of the statistical agencies will provide access to their historical data as well as data from all of their statistical endeavors. The cost for ingesting historical data into these products can be pretty high, and often there are statistical challenges for creating trend data of which the user may be unaware. This is something the publishing agency needs to address—particularly because they are accountable for the data.

Mashups and clearinghouses

Internet technology and the demands of users have created growing expectations that government statistical agencies will work together to develop applications that can create information by combining various media and information from multiple agencies and sources. These applications are called data mashups. Rather than the user creating information, there is an expectation that an agency, or possibly an entrepreneur, will create information relevant to a user's needs. This creates many challenges for federal agencies not only with issues of privacy, but also having to do with the decentralized nature of the federal government. These types of resources are also difficult for federal agencies to maintain, given the tension between the slow budgetary process and the speed of technological changes.

The Clinton administration, in 1997, was the first to take advantage of the web to create a centralized site for promoting federal statistical information. FedStats (www.fedstats.gov) was initially a Yahoo-like index directing users to broad subject categories and promoting major statistical agencies. Later, a search engine was added to enable users to discover statistical surveys as well as relevant agencies. However, the site never seemed to incorporate some of the new web applications, particularly social software.

President Obama's chief information officer, Vivek Kundra, announced in the summer of 2009 the official release of Data.gov as the administration's centralized clearinghouse for data published by federal agencies.[8] Operating out of the Office of Management and Budget, there were high hopes that if agency compliance was tied to its budget, the response rate would be optimal. Touting political phrases heard throughout the campaign, Kundra promised that Data.gov would democratize data, providing a more open and transparent government, and tap into the ingenuity of the American people. Data.gov provides fairly detailed and consistent metadata for federal statistical and non-statistical resources. One of the interesting applications for this clearinghouse is the addition of social software that allows users the ability to comment on the utility of each resource. Whether or not agencies will be held accountable to respond to these comments is not clear. It will be interesting to see whether or not providing open access to federal statistical data will encourage further development of

useful statistical mashups.

As specialists in government information, we need to be cognizant of the ways that user demands shape the way government agencies publish their numbers. We will need to be as savvy with new resources as we are with those resources buried in the historical paper collection. Finally, it is vital that we direct our users to analytical resources produced by these agencies that will help our users interpret and contextualize the numbers they are using.

Notes and references

1. Office of Management and Budget, "Statistical Programs and Standards," www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/statpolicy.html.
2. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security, *Government 2.0: Advancing America into the 21st Century*, 111th Cong., 1st sess., April 28, 2009.
3. It would be impossible to look at every agency's statistical publication in this column. However, if you were to compare how the Center for Disease Control and Prevention decided to present results from its seminal statistical publication *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR) series, you would find many similarities.
4. It has been interesting to watch the evolving developments of the digital version of the Decennial Census of Population and Housing (www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/decennial/index.htm).
5. As near as I can ascertain, the paper counterparts are: Volume 1 and 2 of the *Vital Statistics of the United States, Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vital Health Statistics, and Advanced Data from Vital and Health Statistics*.
6. Good examples of e-table resource by International Government Organizations are the statistics databases of the International Labour Organization (tinyurl.com/c6rdyx) and Undata (data.un.org).
7. *World Development Indicators* is a perfect example of a product where the tables in the paper do not match the tables in the electronic version.
8. Nicholas Thompson, "And Data for All: Why Obama's Geeky New CIO Wants to Put All Gov't Info Online," *Wired* (June 18, 2009), www.wired.com/politics/onlinerights/magazine/17-07/mf_cio.

DttP Student Papers Issue

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

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

Papers must be nominated and forwarded by a faculty member. Required length: 2,000–3,000 words. Please see our style guidelines at: wikis.ala.org/godort/images/b/b8/Instructionsforauthors.pdf

DttP is a professional journal. Class papers that do not conform to editorial guidelines should be reformatted to receive consideration. All papers must be submitted by August 1, 2010. Selected papers will be printed in volume 39, issue 1, Spring 2011.

If you are teaching government documents course or know someone who is, please contact:

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Unearthing New Deal Gems

Telling Stories of the Great Depression

Dorothy Ormes

When I came to New Mexico State University (NMSU), Las Cruces, in August 2008, I embarked on my first position as a government documents librarian. Soon after I started, I walked into a very exciting opportunity that allowed me to combine my interest in the arts with documents librarianship and also to use my skills as a professional storyteller. Two of my new colleagues at NMSU Library, Mardi Mahaffy, humanities librarian, and Sylvia Ortiz, business librarian, had written grants, one for fall 2008 and a second one for spring 2009, to create events highlighting the seventy-fifth anniversary of the New Deal's Federal Art and Writers' Projects in New Mexico. The fall project, focused on New Deal-era visual arts of New Mexico, was funded by the Southwest Border and Cultures Institute and the NMSU Library. The spring program, Soul of a People: Voices from the Writers' Project, was more extensive. Funded by the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH), it was sponsored by ALA as a nationwide outreach initiative to celebrate the Works Progress Administration's Federal Writers' Project. The grant called for a series of five programs, one of which should be a community cultural celebration. As the government documents librarian, I was called upon to provide displays of government documents related to each one of the programs. As a storyteller I was asked if I had any ideas for the spring event in particular. This gave me the motivation to delve into NMSU Library's one-hundred-year-old documents collection and find some gold.

In early fall of 2008 I determined a basic time line of events during the Great Depression and began to research in the *Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications* to see what I could find hidden on the shelf. The collection had only been cataloged from 1976 forward, but because NMSU is a land grant university with a collection dating back to 1907, I knew that it would have many uncataloged documents from the 1930s. By cross-referencing information in the *Monthly Catalog* for the years 1932–35 and checking the index for materials related to the Works Progress Administration (WPA), Federal Emergency Relief Act, and Public Works of Art Project, I was able to pinpoint specific Superintendent of Documents (SuDoc) call numbers for individual documents related to the New Deal. I checked the collection for these items and also looked for specific congressional materials from that period.

Through this sleuthing in the *Monthly Catalog* I discovered an uncataloged document, *Public Works of Art Project Report,* tucked away in the Treasury Department section. What a find! Not only did it have basic information on the program itself and listings of individual artists from the specific states, but it also contained pictures of artwork that we did not have available from any other resource. Working with our library staff, I was able to copy and enlarge two photos from the document for display in the government documents unit. These continue to be displayed in our office.

We had recently purchased the digital *U.S. Congressional Serial Set* from Readex and I was excited about combing that resource for information as well. As I gleaned information through keyword searching, I eagerly matched it up with *Serial Set* volumes that were on the shelves. This activity satisfied my own research purposes to make a connection between the old tangible materials and the PDF files accessible online. It also helped me to target *Serial Set* volumes for display. For me it was a lesson in how to use these resources to complement one another as well as to appreciate the unique value of the paper documents, especially when it came to drawings and maps.

The library's systems staff set up a large flat-screen monitor in the documents unit so that I could run a continuous PowerPoint slideshow. The presentation emphasized the online *Serial Set*, specialized paper documents in the displays, and the Library of Congress American Memory website (tinyurl.com/o7axb). For the fall event, Celebrating Community: the 75th Anniversary of the New Deal Arts Projects, I added color images from the American Memory website of posters "By the People, For the People: Posters from the WPA 1936–1943," and other artwork that had been gathered by a former

government documents librarian during the early stages of the grant-proposal formulation.[1] The fall event was a great success. The library had an exhibit of New Deal artwork in the special collections area and a presentation by NMSU history professor Jon Hunner. Government documents were displayed throughout the library and the slideshow ran continuously in the government documents unit for a couple of weeks. The displays were an opportunity to exhibit classic government documents such as the *Congressional Record*, older *Serial Set* and *Monthly Catalog* volumes, as well as more unusual documents such as those containing statistical information on employment during the New Deal and the *Public Works of Art Project* report that contained the photos we had enlarged. A few examples of individual items that were displayed are:

- *Public Works of Art Project*, December 8, 1933–June 30, 1934
- *United States Statutes at Large*, 73rd Cong., 1933–1934
- *House Reports on Public Bills* 1-279 with exceptions, 73rd Cong., 1st and 2nd sess., SuDoc no.:Y1.1/2:Serial 9774
- *Historical Map of the Old Northwest Territory* (created by WPA artist F. Rentschler) [reproduction]
- *Report on the Works Program—Works Progress Administration,* March 16, 1936
- *Monthly Catalog, United States Public Documents*, nos. 463–74 July-June 1933-34
- *Expenditure of Funds of Federal Emergency Relief Administration,* SuDoc no.:Y1.1/2:Serial 9904
- *Congressional Record,* v. 77, pt. 7, 73rd Cong., 1st sess., March 4, 1933–June 16, 1933

This was just the precursor to a much more extensive event in the spring, Soul of a People: Voices from the Writers' Project. While I was concentrating my efforts on preparing the fall exhibits, I also noted information about the Federal Writers' Project and the value of the collection to trace that history for future reference in planning the spring displays. Much of the material I found included general information about the New Deal initiatives and the people involved as well as statistics on the unemployed. The *Soul of a People* event in the spring was supported by a grant from NEH. This was a much more extensive series of presentations to bring focus to the Federal Writers' Project. We planned a series of five separate events both on and off campus highlighting different aspects of the Writers' Project and culminating in the airing of a documentary television program sponsored by ALA in collaboration with NEH.

The first of the five presentations was a community event scheduled for early April. This event, the *Great Depression Road Show*, was planned collaboratively to include as many culturally significant aspects of the Great Depression as possible. We highlighted foods, dancing, quilting, everyday items used in the home, children's games, folklore, and oral histories. We also invited local elders to bring memorabilia and talk about their own experiences, and we set up a room with recording equipment to collect oral histories. I concentrated my efforts on creating a storytelling presentation based on the material from the Federal Writers' Project.

Upon first arriving in New Mexico I had joined a group of storytellers, the Storytellers of Las Cruces. This group has a history of activity going back to the 1920s. It is currently made up of mostly amateur tellers who volunteer to tell stories in the Las Cruces community. I invited members of the group to join me for the *Great Depression Road Show*. Meanwhile, I had started looking for stories. Many I found in the general collection in edited books of the WPA collections. I also searched the American Memory website for material. There I found a WPA collection of oral histories in "American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936–1940" and considered some of these as I was deciding what to include in the storytelling.[2]

I specifically looked at histories from New Mexico but unfortunately I was not able to use all that I found. The first story that I looked at is somewhat familiar to all of us, the tale of Billy the Kid, who is famous for his exploits in the Las Cruces area. On the American Memory website "American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project," I searched by state, chose New Mexico, and from a list of 218 items chose narrative number 24 entitled "Billy the Kid," an oral history from 1937 in which Francisco Trujillo tells his memories of an 1877 encounter with the famous outlaw in southwestern New Mexico.[3] This and many other stories tempted me, but in the end I decided to concentrate on women's tales from the WPA because all of the volunteer tellers were women.

I had already found two books and was combing them for a story that I could tell in English and Spanish. I also suggested stories to the other women and gave them copies to read. I had to consider the balance of the event, and I assigned specific stories based on whose talents I thought would be best for each particular narrative. Because we were recreating history, I asked the women to wear a suggestion of a costume.

The most important resources used from the American Memory site were the slave narratives, "Born in Slavery: Slave

Florence Hamilton

Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936–1938."[4] Because there are two very talented and enthusiastic African American members of the Storytellers of Las Cruces, I looked for a way to include them. These women agreed to recreate two slave narratives that were collected during the Depression. The stories refer to the latter days of slavery in the mid-1800s. Sarah Gudger, a 121-year old North Carolina slave, was beautifully portrayed by octogenarian Florence Hamilton. In her story, Sarah Gudger describes a famous meteor shower that took place in 1833.[5] Storyteller Sarah Addison told the story of Tempie Cummins from Jasper, Texas, who suffered hardship as a slave child. Tempie recounts the day that her mother discovered they were free: "When mother hear that she say she slip out the chimney corner an' crack her heels together four times an' shouts 'I's free, I's free!' Then she ran to the field and tol' all the other slaves an' they quit work."[6]

Sarah Addison asked me if she could also tell one of her favorite stories, "The People Could Fly." This folktale is well known as told in a 1985 literary version by Virginia Hamilton.[7] I did not want to include anything that wasn't directly related to the WPA, so I began to do some research about the story to see if I could find a connection. Using a basic Google search for "flying Africans," I found the website *The New Georgia Encyclopedia*, where I discovered that stories of the flying slaves had been collected by the WPA in Georgia.[8] As described in the text on the website, the folktale is about slaves from the Ebo (Igbo) tribe of Nigeria who rebelled and according to white people's accounts were drowned in a swamp. The African American folklore is that they flew away (to freedom). *The New Georgia Encyclopedia* referred me to the Savannah Unit, Georgia Writers' Project, Work Projects Administration's *Drums and Shadows: Survival Studies among the Georgia Coastal Negroes*, a book that I had at home in my own library. Using a Google Books search I was able to find the book partially digitized on Google Books through a partnership with Forgotten Books (www.forgottenbooks.org), including the pages that describe instances of flying.[9] The opportunity to email the link to the storyteller saved time for both of us and I gave her the go-ahead to tell her adaptation of the tale as an upbeat finish to the event.

I told two bilingual stories for the event, one based on a folktale and another based on an oral history. The folktale was a very short story entitled "How Witches Came to Have Brooms."[10] The second story that I chose to tell was from the book *Women's Tales from the New Mexico WPA, La Diabla a Pie*, edited by Tey Diana Rebolledo and María Teresa Márquez. It is a story from northern New Mexico and the action takes place near Albuquerque. The story was collected by one of the Writers' Project writers, Lou Sage Batchen. Originally a schoolteacher from Missouri, she came to New Mexico to collect the stories and because she did not know Spanish she used interpreters.[11] She quickly discovered that the New Mexico natives were very suspicious of her. They had a joke among themselves that she was "Diabla a Pie," a devil on foot, a play on the acronym WPA. Even with the hardship of not knowing the language and being in an unfamiliar place, Lou Sage Batchen persevered and left behind an extensive collection of local New Mexico lore.[12] I chose to tell a version of the life of La Curandera (the healer), Jesusita, taken from two of the collected oral histories from *Women's Tales from the New Mexico WPA: Diabla a Pie*. It is the story of a woman who is a victim of witchcraft, is healed by a Native American shaman, and becomes a healer herself. The story reflects the unique blend of mixed European, Hispanic, and Native American cultures in New Mexico and the tensions among them. Both stories, collected in 1940, tell of life in northern New Mexico during the late 1800s.[13]

Sarah Addison

We also included another story, told by Loni Todoroki, about Silly Sally, a schoolteacher who attached herself as a sidekick to some of the local outlaws near Deming in southwestern New Mexico. This was taken from the book *Outlaws and Desperados: a Federal Writers' Project Book*.[14] As a bridge between stories we took advantage of the talents of local musician Bob Burns, who sang familiar songs from the Great Depression such as "Brother Can You Spare a Dime" and "Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out." After all the hard work of preparation we had an hour-long performance of stories and music, *Slaves, Sidekicks and Healers: Women's Stories from the WPA*.

During the *Great Depression Road Show* I set up a PowerPoint slideshow on the front desk of the Las Cruces Branigan Cultural Center, our partner and host for the event. In the PowerPoint I included slides from the American Memory website as well as a demonstration of the online *Serial Set*. The daylong event drew about five hundred people. Sarah Addison and I reprised two of the stories later in the fall of 2009 as an introduction to a showing of the documentary television program, *Soul of a People: Writing America's Story*, produced by Spark Media. This was the culminating event of the grant project.

The work on the Federal Art Project provided an avenue to pinpoint arts-related documents in my collection and show how government documents record the history of the arts in the United States. Focusing on the Federal Writers' Project for the *Soul of a People* events gave me an opportunity to combine my interest and experience in storytelling with my knowledge of the resources provided by a federal depository library. This became a unique way to promote the extraordinary resources that are available to the public through the New Mexico State University Library government documents collection. It was a deeply satisfying experience for me to be able to combine my love of storytelling with my work as a government documents librarian and share an important period of history with the community of Las Cruces.

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GODORT Archives

Preserving Our History

Vicki L. Tate

The GODORT Archives was originally organized in 1979 by then-GODORT Secretary, Philip Van de Voorde. How do I know this? Because a copy of the original memo, dated November 2, 1979, from Van de Voorde to the GODORT Steering Committee, requesting guidance in developing the GODORT Archives, is available in the ALA/GODORT Archives at the University of Illinois.[1] By 1985, when Van de Voorde stepped down as the first official GODORT archivist, there were eighty-six linear inches of materials.[2] Today, there are over twenty-eight boxes of materials relating to GODORT activities housed at the Archives Research Center in Urbana, Illinois.[3] This is the official residence of the materials for the archives, and where the majority of materials are kept.

In addition, many of the materials that have been donated in the last ten years reside at the University of South Alabama, where I am the depository librarian and head of the Government Documents/Serials Department. Appointed to my first two-year term by GODORT chair Ann Miller, I have been the GODORT archivist since 2000. All of the materials that I have received have been decluttered and reorganized into groups (by committee, task force, or special projects) and arranged by year. Eventually, these files will join the rest of the materials at the University of Illinois.

What is available in the GODORT Archives? Mostly items one would expect to find from a volunteer organization: correspondence, reports, minutes of meetings, memos, working papers, manuals, directories, and items related to special projects. For example, the entire collection of materials from the "Documents to Documents Project" for 1973–79, 1980–83, and 1984-85, which was spearheaded by Margaret Lane and the State and Local Documents Task Force, has been donated.[4]

If you want to find the specifics of what exists in the archives, there are finding aids for the six different series available by searching the ALA Archives website (www.library.illinois.edu/archives/ala). If you search using "GODORT" as your subject term you should retrieve the most relevant files. The majority of the materials available in the archives come primarily from the 1970s and 1980s, with some limited items from the 1990s, and even less from this past decade. The advent of the Internet age has changed how we, as an organization, conduct our business, with less reliance on paper to document our work and more reliance on web access. Consequently, this has affected the ability of the archives to accurately reflect the body of work produced by the organization.

History of the development of the GODORT Archives

When the ALA Archives was originally developed for the association and its various divisions and round tables in the late 1970s, there was little guidance as to what was appropriate for inclusion. This was remedied by Maynard Brichford, who was the university archivist for the University of Illinois at that time. In a memorandum, dated August 18, 1983, addressed to all ALA round table officers, Brichford outlined what should and should not be included in the transferring of "noncurrent records of continuing value to the Round Table Archivist for shipment to the ALA Archives."[5] This memo was the basis for all future criteria for the disposal of organizational records and was included in its entirety in GODORT's first Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM) in 1983–84. Section VII "Records and Archives" of the PPM, specified: (1) what should be forwarded to the successor of an office (all materials necessary for the completion of unfinished business); (2) what should be discarded (blank forms; papers that had been published; memoranda and notices relating to plans for meetings, programs, and so on; atendance lists; and replies to questionnaires if the results had been recorded and preserved); and (3) what should be sent to the GODORT archivist (official records;

transcripts of meetings; minutes; material relating to the history of the Round Table; letters defining policies or explaining procedures).[6] These guidelines, with some minor changes, have been a part of all editions of the PPM ever since.

After serving five years as the official GODORT archivist, Van de Voorde was succeeded by Sharon Egans, as indicated by a letter of appointment from then chair of GODORT, Diane H. Smith.[7] Egans served in that capacity until around 1991, when the position remained unfilled for several years. The date of the change in office is unclear because there is nothing in the archives to indicate a replacement, and the annual listings of GODORT officers in the September issues of *DttP* have no listing of an archivist from 1991 to 1995. The next time an archivist is mentioned was in the September 1996 issue of *DttP*.[8] Raeanne Dossett was appointed by then chair of GODORT Diane Garner to serve as the third GODORT archivist.

The mid-1990s was a time of great change in the way GODORT conducted its business. Paper was no longer the only method for exchanging information. The Internet was just beginning to be utilized by the organization as a means of conveying information to its members. At that time, the main GODORT website was available through the University of California, Berkeley's "Resources of Use to Government Documents Librarians" page, while the different task forces and committees had their own webpages on various servers at universities across the country. Taking advantage of the versatility of the new technology, each group had its own interpretation of how its presence on the web should be conveyed. It was becoming clear that there was no uniformity of style or of content. The collection of various webpages did not have the feel of a cohesive group. This lack of consistency and standardization prompted the GODORT Steering Committee, at the 1996 Annual Conference in New York City, to establish an ad hoc committee to explore GODORT's use of the web.[9] The main charge of this newly-formed committee was to recommend specific guidelines for style and content, as well as long-term maintenance of the website. As chair of the Publications Committee, Ann Miller was appointed as chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the GODORT Web Presence. Committee members included the GODORT archivist, Raeanne Dossett, along with representatives from the Federal Documents Task Force (Cynthia Etkin), International Documents Task Force (Mike McCaffrey), State and Local Documents Task Force (Deborah Hollis), Government Information Technology Committee (Jocelyn Tipton), the Editorial Board (Anna Sylvan), and the past chair of GODORT (Diane Garner).

One year later, the committee's final report was submitted to the second Steering meeting at the 1997 Annual Conference in San Francisco, where its general recommendations were accepted by the group.[10] In its conclusion, the report recommended that:

1. GODORT continue maintaining the pages at "friendly institutions" but suggested that a static page on the ALA server be created to centralize access to the distributed pages.
2. All task forces and committees should create a web presence by the 1998 Annual Conference, utilizing the general style guidelines contained in the report.
3. An official post of GODORT web manager should be created and appointed by the next Annual Conference.
4. And finally, guidelines for archiving the materials on webpages should be utilized in the PPM.[11]

What those web archiving guidelines should be were not spelled out in the report's conclusions, but Dossett did address this issue in the section of the report concerning Archiving:

> Reports, columns, resolutions, committee activity and other documents which fall under the GODORT PPM Chapter 4 should be permanently accessible via the GODORT main page, or the appropriate committee, task force, or office page. Just as the individual committees, task forces, and officials are responsible for forwarding material to the Archivist, they are also responsible for maintaining the archival elements of their individual web pages.[12]

In an ideal world, all of the relevant information for the organization would always be accessible to its members from somewhere on the organization's website. But in the real world, with material constantly being added and withdrawn, that is not the case. Dossett suggested that committees wishing to archive pages should consider taking a "snapshot" of the content, which could then be submitted to the archivist along with other appropriate material.

As a result of this report, the official position of GODORT web administrator was created. Because the web administrator would be working closely with the Publications Committee, that committee was charged with developing a job description. Andrea Sevetson, who was already the editor of the PPM and essentially had been the de facto webmaster for the organization for several years, was appointed as the first official GODORT web administrator for a three-year term starting in 1998.[13]

Under her management, she initiated the practice of providing printed versions of webpages and periodically sending them to the GODORT archivist.

The new web-archiving guidelines were eventually added as part of the Publications chapter in the 2001 edition of the PPM. It specified that the web administrator was responsible for scheduling the record retention for archival purposes. It further specified that "committees should send to Archives materials not residing on GODORT server as appropriate."[14] Once material was scheduled for removal from the website, a snapshot was needed to preserve the content. The best way to do this was to print out the information and send it to the archivist in a timely manner.

Even with the addition of the guidelines to the PPM for archiving web-based information, questions remained on how GODORT should preserve the digital content of its website as well as what should be preserved. This concern led to the adoption of a motion at the second Steering Committee at the 2007 Midwinter Meeting in Seattle to form an ad hoc committee charged with determining what information should be kept electronically and whether all "publications" produced by a committee or task force should be preserved.[15]

As the current GODORT archivist, I was asked to chair the committee, which included the GODORT web administrator (Lesley Pease, and later Starr Hoffman upon her appointment as new web manager) and representatives from Education (Suzanne Sears), Publications (Barb Mann), and Bylaws (John Stevenson). We looked into whether other units of ALA had addressed this issue but found little guidance with which to work. Printing webpages for depositing in the archives remained the standard way of archiving content. Even the ALA Website Advisory Committee (WAC), which was also looking into the issue, agreed that archiving was an area of concern, but had not yet established any policy in this regard.[16]

The GODORT Web Archives Ad Hoc Committee presented to the Steering Committee at the 2008 Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia a three-page report with a list of suggestions that further delineated, with specific examples, what should be maintained on the web and what need not be archived.[17] With little discussion, it was endorsed by the Steering Committee.[18]

The report gave four guidelines for web archiving:

1. Archiving consists of either keeping the content on the web and having it maintained by the appropriate webmaster, OR by converting the electronic version to paper format which would then be maintained by the GODORT Archivist.
2. All archiving of web content should take place when changes are made to the webpage.
3. Webpages should be reviewed and updated on a regular basis, normally every three months.
4. Archiving should be done by the webmaster responsible for the upkeep of the webpages, with the contact information clearly stated on the webpages so corrections and suggestions can be directed to the appropriate person.

The report admitted that until a cybercemetery exists that would allow electronic information to be stored in its original format, the only feasible methods of archiving GODORT webpages were to either download them to a CD-ROM or to print them off on paper (with the latter method being the preferred one). Valuable historical information could be lost without these forms of archiving, and even the use of CD-ROM technology may be questionable in the long run.

Sources of official GODORT information

In trying to gather relevant information for this article, I used the three primary sources for all things GODORT:

1. *DttP: Documents to the People*, the official publication of GODORT
2. GODORT website, the official means of communicating
3. GODORT Archives, the official repository of the organization

For its first twenty-five years or so, *DttP* was the organization's official means of communicating to its members. It published the minutes of GODORT's meetings, listed the directory of its officials, and provided the materials used for conducting business. But GODORT members normally had to wait three to six months to receive this type of information. Immediacy was not its strong point, but keeping a record of governmental activities was.

In 1999, under the editorship of John Shuler, *DttP* was given a new look and a change in editorial content. It became less about the reprinting of committee minutes and more about providing columns and articles on a variety of topics of interest to those working in the field of government information. This change came about for a variety of reasons, but primarily because *DttP* was no longer the only means of communicating to the membership. Information that was formerly the purview of *DttP* was transitioning to the GODORT website.

By the turn of the century, the GODORT website was becoming the official source of organizational communication. Content that used to reside on servers across the country had been migrated to the ALA server. The lack of timely

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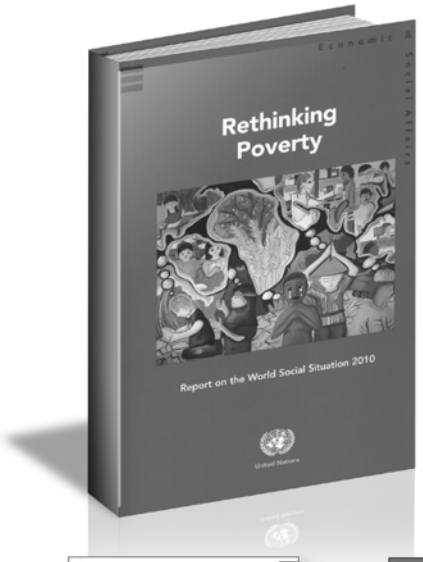
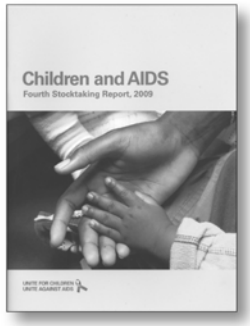
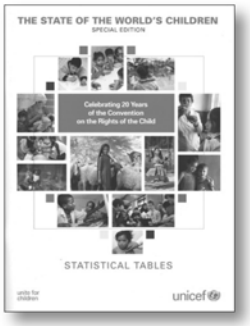


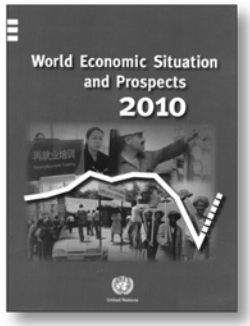
Report on the World Social Situation 2010: Rethinking Poverty

The 2010 issue of the Report on the World Social Situation focuses on the challenge of achieving poverty reduction. The Millennium Development Goals seek to halve, by 2015, the level of extreme poverty that existed since 1990. The Report begins with an overview of global, regional and selected country poverty trends over the period 1981-2005, critically examines the conventional policy framework and popular poverty reduction programmes, argues that a commitment to eradicating poverty and to enhancing equity and social integration requires consistent actions directed towards sustainable economic growth, productive employment creation and social development, entailing an integrated approach to economic and social policies for the benefit of all citizens. It recommends consideration of the policy approaches that have dominated the disclosure on growth and poverty thus far.

Publisher: United Nations
Sales Number: E.09.IV.10 ISBN: 9789211302783 Pages: 204 Price: $22.00







Facts for Life, Fourth Edition

Publisher: United Nations Children's Fund
Sales Number: E.09.XX.24 ISBN: 9789280644661
Pages: 212 Price: $15.00

African Women's Report 2009: Measuring Gender Inequality in Africa - Experiences and Lessons from the African Gender and Development Index

Publisher: United Nations
Sales Number: E.09.II.K.3 ISBN: 9789211251128
Pages: 260 Price: $40.00

World Economic and Social Survey 2009: Promoting Development, Saving the Planet

Publisher: United Nations
Sales Number: E.09.II.C.1 ISBN: 9789211091595
Pages: 240 Price: $60.00

Children and AIDS: Fourth Stocktaking Report, 2009

Publisher: United Nations
Sales Number: E.09.XX.23 ISBN: 9789280644746
Pages: 52 Price: $15.00

The State of the World's Children: Statistical Tables - Special Edition

Publisher: United Nations Children's Fund
Sales Number: E.10.XX.2 ISBN: 9789280644456
Pages: 48 Price: $15.00

World Economic Situation and Prospects 2010

Publisher: United Nations
Sales Number: E.10.II.C.2 ISBN: 9789211091601
Pages: 204 Price: $30.00

information available to the membership was no longer the issue it had been. Accessibility to a wider range of information became the norm. This ease of access to current information that it provided GODORT members gave the GODORT website the advantage that *DttP* lacked.

While the change from the reliance on paper to digital has been great for a large number of reasons, from a strictly preservation standpoint, this change has not been nearly as successful. Much of the early content in the mid-1990s that was posted on the GODORT website has been lost. Files deemed out of date were removed to make way for more current information, without regard to their historical significance. Some files were lost when migrating from one server to the next, making them no longer accessible. Or with the changeover from one webmaster to another, what was once considered significant for inclusion was interpreted differently from a new perspective.

A case in point arose while I was tracking down information for this article. While reading through back issues of *DttP*, I ran across the reference to the before-mentioned Ad Hoc Committee on the GODORT Web Presence. From this source I could find information on its creation, minutes of its meeting, and the adoption of its report—but not the content of the report.

The next logical source for finding the text was the GODORT website. Surely, given its emphasis, it should be available for viewing on the Web. But if it had been posted on the Web at the time of its release, it is no longer available there. Nor is it in any of the "snapshots" printed from the web from that time period. There is a mention of the ad hoc committee in a couple of different committees' minutes still available on the GODORT website, but no sign of the actual report.[19]

The last source to try was the GODORT Archives. In hopes that someone had the foresight to donate it to the archives as part of the required turnover of committee materials, this was my last chance to find it. Sure enough, in the finding aid for the Series 43/1/6, in Box 14 is the file labeled "Committees and Task Forces: Ad Hoc Committee on the GODORT Web Presence, 1996–97." Finding this was like winning a grand prize, because without the report, I would have been unable to ascertain its conclusions or its recommendations.

As shown above, each of these three sources play a role in preserving our legacy. All of them are only as good as our contributions to them. If we want to ensure that our accomplishments stand the test of time, we need to be cognizant of this when fulfilling our responsibilities as officers and active members of the organization. These responsibilities do not simply end when we leave office, but when we leave "the office" to the organization by donating the required files to the archives.

One would think that because the necessity for archiving the materials related to conducting GODORT business is clearly spelled out within the PPM, that these guidelines would be sufficient to guarantee that materials important to the history of our organization would not be lost. Sadly this has not been the case. While some officers have faithfully followed this policy, providing a good foundation of material in the archives, others have ignored it to the detriment of the GODORT record, leaving gaps in our history.

Furthermore, even the current retention policy, which has allowed for a greater depth of its content on the GODORT website, does not preclude the need to continue contributing to the archives. While the official materials reside on the website, there are still "gray" materials, such as correspondence, internal memos, handouts, and position papers, that may not be appropriate postings for the website but may still hold relevancy for future researchers. Anything that is important to the recounting of GODORT history should be retained and added to the archives.

Donating to the GODORT Archives

When the time comes to forward materials to the GODORT Archives, there are some preliminary steps you should take to prepare your files for proper transferral.

- Review the guidelines as specified in the current PPM.[20] For paper or other tangible materials (photographs, audiocassettes, CD-ROMs) see the guidelines in Chapter 1, Section III, Part C "Records and Archives." For web archiving guidelines see Chapter 22, Section IV, Part C "Archiving." For more specific examples of the type of materials to retain for archiving purposes, see the list of suggestions given in the Web Archives Task Force Report.[21]
- Remove all strictly personal materials from the files. Only GODORT-related materials should be included.
- All materials should be kept in letter-size file folders.
- Label the files with the contents, committee, and year. The file heading may be as broad (e.g., "Annual Conference, 1999" or "International Documents Task Force, 2000–2006") or as narrow (e.g., "Publications Com., Notable Documents Panel, 1998–1999") as needed to accurately reflect the contents.

When the materials are ready for transfer, send them to the current GODORT archivist. The address should always be available through the GODORT Directory of Officers. Do not send them directly to the ALA Archives because all materials added to the Archives require an ALA Archives Records

Transmittal form before they can be included in the collection.

If you are donating a large body of materials documenting a long history of service to GODORT and would prefer the materials to remain together as a unified collection, please specify this when you make your donation. Otherwise, the material will be reorganized and divided out into related groups and time periods.

If you wish to use the materials in the GODORT Archives for research, you will need to make your request in writing to the ALA Archives. An email form is available on the website for your convenience.[22] You will need to specify when you plan to visit their facilities and which series of files you wish to use so they can pull the appropriate materials and have them ready for you.

I hope this overview of what the GODORT Archives is and how it has evolved has been helpful in illustrating the importance it has for our organization. It is more than just an accumulation of paper, yellowing with age. It is the history of an active organization, filled with dedicated people who come together to work for improving access to government information at all levels.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Melissa Salrin, reference specialist at the ALA Archives, for the immeasurable assistance she gave me in the preparation of this article.

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Three Responses to the Ithaka S+R Report *Documents for a Digital Democracy*

In December 2009, Ithaka S+R released the report *Documents for a Digital Democracy: A Model for the Federal Depository Library Program in the 21st Century* (www.ithaka.org/ithaka-s-r/research/documents-for-a-digital-democracy). The report, funded by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), sparked much discussion during the fall meeting of the Depository Library Council, when an earlier draft was available, and at the recent ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston. Due to the strong interest surrounding the report, the editors decided to ask several librarians to write their response to the report's contents.

Following are responses from a regional depository librarian, a selective depository librarian, and a regional library director. The perspectives could be more diverse—we are aware that all of our authors are employed in an academic library setting. To expand the viewpoints to reflect the documents community interests as a whole, we encourage readers to post their responses to the report and to these articles in GODORT's ALA Connect space.

—bc and vg

Selectives in the Ithaka S+R Report Model

Incentives to Participate

Shari Laster

Shari Laster is Government Documents/Reference Librarian at the University of Akron, which is a selective depository library.

It is clear that the FDLP must adapt to an environment in which the primary channels for information discovery are Internet search engines and bulk data portals, surpassing library online public access catalogs and lists of links to resources. The need for ongoing, coordinated description and preservation efforts for digital government information continues to grow. At the same time, citizens need access to information in a format that matches their needs, whether a teacher uses digitized historical publications in a classroom, a researcher studies the development of principles and practice within the federal government, or a citizen needs a question answered by a resource in an easy-to-use format. Depository libraries and government information librarians are the experts on how to meet these needs in the communities they serve within the constraints of their operating budgets.

In describing its proposed model, the Ithaka S+R report presents five key needs in service of the goal of creating "a world in which *government information is seamlessly available to the range of potential users without charge at their point of need and is preserved appropriately for future generations.*"[1] The first key need requires that the FDLP accommodate current changes in format and dissemination. Much of the burden for this requirement falls on GPO, although as individuals and institutions, librarians can act as advocates for the release of government information in appropriate formats. This key need extends to the incorporation of dynamic formats which would include machine-readable data formats such as XML. FDsys will meet these needs in large part through Release 1.C4 and will eventually include the capability to ingest materials from external contributors, although it is not clear whether FDsys will ingest spatial data.[2] A partnership with Data.gov could meet many of these requirements, but significant advances in web harvesting technology would be necessary to accommodate the capture of less structured information. Meeting the need for long-term preservation will ultimately require cooperation between GPO and depository libraries, just as it does under the current model.

Meeting the second key need, to coordinate retrospective digitization projects, may ultimately depend on the availability

of funding. While many FDLP participants are passionate about increasing access to historical materials through digitization, projects funded locally must ultimately consider local priorities. Increased coordination will help reduce duplication of effort, particularly if digital collections ingest materials from other projects directly or through digital deposit via FDsys. It seems unlikely, however, that every historical government document would be caught in the net of voluntary digitization projects. Without the inducement of external funding, items that are less critical to the missions of these motivated institutions could easily escape or be digitized at an access level only.

The cost burden for the third key need, preservation of the historical print collection, continues to fall on depository libraries. It is possible that under some of the drawdown options for regionals described in the report, this burden could become more equitable between libraries. However, as the number of copies of an item decreases, locating, tracking, and preserving the remaining copies become more important. Libraries that remain regionals may find that their preservation role becomes an even greater priority than it is now. Allowing selective depositories to share this burden through carefully coordinated housing agreements has the potential to create a more equitable preservation model.

Potential limitations of applying lessons from the success of journal digitization and preservation projects to government documents digitization and preservation projects deserve more consideration and research. On first glance, it seems that these two material types are quite different. While journals, abstracts, reports, and monographs abound in government documents collections, there are also outreach and training materials, kits, posters, images and audiovisual materials, announcements, Braille materials, data sets, manuals, and even puzzles and games currently held by depository libraries. Together, all of these materials contribute to the public understanding of government history and activity. While these materials are candidates for digitization, they are often considered ephemeral or present format-based challenges for digitization. They may be of lower priority to institutions that can afford to fund digitization, and they may need to be retained in tangible formats as preservation objects in greater numbers, or under different conditions than monographs and serials.

Maintaining access to prospective publications in appropriate formats is the fourth key need. The report emphasizes print on demand, which is an increasingly successful model in the commercial world. There are significant challenges to a print on demand program for the FDLP that would need to be addressed prior to launch, including preparation for and response to heavy or ongoing demand for certain products, retention and disposal requirements, and funding, particularly for large requests of historical materials. This need puts most of the burden for change on GPO, although selective depositories will need to adapt procedures and, in many cases, collection development policies in order to adjust.

The final key need, for a redefined role of government information librarians as service and outreach specialists, reflects the responsibilities government information librarians already have in areas including information literacy, civic knowledge, and research support. A second component to user-facing functions is the development of tools to access and interpret government information. Already these tools are appearing in growing numbers from nonprofits and private individuals, but there are needs that can be met by libraries in this area. Overall, while GPO may have some role in guiding growth in the area of outreach, the resources must come from depository libraries.

As described, the Ithaka S+R model would affect the operations of many selective depository libraries. The model takes two approaches to the current challenges faced by the FDLP. For adaptation to changing conditions in materials' formats and distribution, the model recommends a prospective approach of nurturing digitization partners and projects, creating more partnerships with federal agencies, and meeting current best practices for digital preservation. For adaptation to ongoing cost reduction pressures at depository libraries, the model recommends more flexible selection options for tangible materials and a broader vision of the role of government documents librarians.

One looming issue, and a major catalyst for the report, is the inevitability of a reduction in the number of regional depository libraries. For selective depository libraries affected by libraries that relinquish their status as regional depositories, discarding government documents through the disposition of materials process will be radically altered. Under the current model, and under current law, selectives must receive approval to discard materials. Should that selective's regional library relinquish its status, disposition of materials may be supervised by another regional or by GPO, or the selective may wait in limbo, unable to discard items.

It is often the collection itself that motivates the library to devote staff hours to government information needs. Collections do not need to be in print in order to require curation; digital libraries and data collections require devoted time from specialized staff, and any model for government information collection that follows these examples requires the same. However, in an environment in which library users depend almost exclusively on freely-accessible or vendor-provided government information resources, some libraries may divide

expertise about government information resources by topic or specialty, while others may allow the formal expertise role or expectation to lapse entirely. For example, in an academic library, responsibility for instruction and research support with government information could be divided among subject specialists. A public library might train all reference service providers to access and use the most frequently requested government resources. In any case, once the step is taken to reallocate staff time related to government information needs, the depository library in question could conceivably find that it has little incentive to remain a participant in the program; this may fit local needs but could prove to be detrimental to government information access at a larger scale.

Undoubtedly, libraries of all types, sizes, and locations will continue to participate in the FDLP, even in an environment of significantly reduced print distribution, extensive and accessible digital resources, and the self-serve approach often sought by library users. Based on local needs, administrative priorities, and a spirit of public service, these libraries will take advantage of the opportunity to maintain local services along with print or digital collections. However, selective libraries that face difficult financial choices do have the option, as they have always had, to leave the program.

Decisions about how to allocate resources in order to best meet user needs can only be made by library administrations. Given the proposed model of the FDLP, does it matter for the program if some smaller selectives choose to withdraw? I think it does, and that it is in the best interest of the program to maintain a robust, diverse, and active membership. Government information librarians provide specialized service to their constituents, but they are also in an excellent position to advocate for the government information needs of an informed citizenry. They ensure that users have the opportunity to access and understand this information, even when it resides outside of the walls (or network) of the library.

As for retaining participants that are not directly motivated to continue to manage print collections and that do not have the means or desire to manage digital collections, the model described in the report counts on the reduction of negative incentives, primarily costs associated with the maintenance of print collections. It also counts on the increase of positive incentives, primarily the ability for libraries to reallocate funding to improving advanced services, access tools, and materials discovery.

Libraries that are already motivated to continue participation in the FDLP will unquestionably benefit from the shift to greater electronic availability. However, the changes in incentives described in the report may be insufficient for a library that would prefer to reallocate funding to other priorities. GPO could find that in order to sustain the participation of smaller selectives, it may need to increase services such as negotiating free access to government databases produced under a cost-recovery model, working with IMLS to develop funding opportunities at all scales for both digitization projects and digital collections, and perhaps even providing more extensive technical training and support to individual or consortium libraries on an as-requested basis. Few of these opportunities for expansion, however, are open in the context of the need to manage the transition to digital materials, without a substantial increase in congressional funding.

Already, individuals who have Internet access have little desire to depend on depository libraries for many of their government information needs. As the role of the FDLP is redefined to better meet the needs of libraries and users alike, government documents librarians continue to be experts and advocates for GPO's core mission: "Keeping America Informed." They are the hands and eyes of the GPO, and developing an environment that allows teetering library administrations to justify continued participation remains one of the FDLP's many priorities.[3] While funding is an inescapable need, and the strain on regional depositories is a pressing issue, maintaining a strong network of libraries with a demonstrated commitment to government information is in everyone's best interests.

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World Bank Announces Open Access to Data Sets

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A Regional's Response to the Ithaka S+R Report, *Documents for a Digital Democracy*

Kirsten Clark

Kirsten Clark is the regional depository librarian at the University of Minnesota and current chair of the GODORT Federal Documents Task Force. The University of Minnesota is a member of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC).

Since the passage of the 1962 legislation that created the current regional and selective depository system, those interested in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) and its future have worked to improve upon the law. On the GODORT wiki there is a page outlining the discussion papers and reports about this topic (wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/Future_of_the_FDLP_Resources). The singular thread that intertwines through all these resources is simple—the program needs to be revitalized. The Ithaka S+R Report, *Documents for a Digital Democracy*, may be seen by some as yet another item to be added to the list yet I see that simple response as a huge mistake. The model described is a call to action. It moves us forward to meet the current and future demands of government information discoverability and preservation while still providing access to tangible documents collections. However, my endorsement is certainly not enough to sway many members of the depository community. I don't have enough room here to go into every point I'd like to make, but below are four key ones that may help you to understand my point of view.

Institutional support

The fact that this report is sponsored by directors from a majority of regional depository libraries shows a positive shift in support for the future of the depository program. This support has not always been as vocal or strong in the past, but now directors are very interested in this issue. They want action, and they are willing to provide the resources to make things happen. As has been seen for years with the ups and downs in GPO funding, the same cannot be said for other funding sources, such as the federal government, where the community and GPO have looked for support of depository initiatives for many years.

The sponsoring groups do not include all types of depository libraries, but in my discussions with public, small academic, special, law, and tribal selective libraries in my region, most depositories want the regionals to provide leadership in moving the program forward. With the support of many regional libraries' administrations, the eventuality of action is more certain.

Program flexibility

There is not a single library, depository or not, that can be everything and do everything for all. This is where I see flexibility as key to any movement forward, and the frequent mention of flexibility in the report shows it is also a huge part of the proposed model. The report does focus on the collections aspect of the program. This is the tangible part of the depository and the aspect that is at the center of most conversations I have with my own library administration and with selective library directors and librarians.

Some practitioners argue that by adding flexibility to the current system, we will lose collections necessary to ensure permanent, authentic, public access to government information. However, greater flexibility can lead to greater involvement and greater investment in these very issues by focusing a library's area of interest. As outlined in the report, being able to have some libraries focus on print, some on digital copies, some on collecting born-digital documents, and some on access (cataloging), together we can potentially create a more robust permanent and authentic system that can easily respond to users' needs.

The report also describes a change in librarian focus from government documents to government information. Most libraries are already on that path. The report does not explore to the same extent as the collection piece how much value-added service the regionals provide. Yes, a regional is a collection of last resort for its state or region, but the regional depository is also the expertise and knowledge of the staff and the leadership role they play for their entire state(s). The regional is the training of other librarians, the reference service provided to all, and the consultation with selective depository and other libraries on government information issues both historic and new. By adding flexibility with regard to depository collections, it potentially opens up more time for the other areas of regional activity, and this comes across in the report. However, I do not yet have a clear sense of how noncollection-related regional services fit into the overall model.

Developing coordinated collaboration

The glue that holds together these first two points, support and flexibility, is collaboration. Collaboration is present throughout the report, and I welcome the many examples described as well as additional ones that have come up in the conversations before and after the report's release. There are examples in the

areas of digitization, reference, collection management, and training that truly show the forward thinking already present in the depository library system.

What is missing, though, is coordinated collaboration. Many of the projects presented and discussed at conferences and meetings (and I can throw projects I have worked on in the past into this category, too) work well for one library but are not sustainable for the long run without multiple groups and libraries working together along with strong funding sources. The need for leadership is the backbone in moving forward with any new model, and leadership in coordination is integral to success. This point is brought up several times when the authors describe the leadership role ascribed to GPO in ensuring we are working toward common goals and priorities.

Compromise

Institutional support, flexibility, and coordination seem like a strong combination toward creating a new model for the FDLP. There is, however, one more element that needs to be added, and that is compromise. While the report alludes to compromise in several places, most notably around discussions of legislative change, it is never formally included as part of the plan. We will not move forward on any plan until we all learn to compromise.

Ask any library director, regional librarian, selective depository librarian, or user what their vision of the FDLP is, and you will get the same number of responses as you have responders. Everybody has their own opinion based on their own history and circumstances. A library director is balancing the cost and value of the depository library with the plethora of other institutional demands on the library. A regional librarian is balancing the service provided to their institution's primary clientele with that of the public and the selective libraries in their region. The selective depository librarian, where the depository library responsibilities are usually a small percentage of the job description, is balancing these responsibilities with other demands on his or her time. As for the users, they just want easy access to information when and where they need it, and it doesn't matter if it's through a depository library or not.

We are all coming at this situation from different angles but by working together we can establish common ground. Depository librarians and staff have the knowledge of the collections and a direct understanding of the needs of our users. Depository library directors and administrations have the resources to support needed changes to the program. GPO connects us all. I see in this report these basic tenets and a starting point. Continued compromise must happen as the future unfolds, and new circumstances necessitate trying new paths.

As a regional depository librarian, I see the positive aspects of the program every day: when I help a member of the public find an elusive government form they need so they can have a roof over their head, when I help the student understand why an amendment was added to a law that is directly affecting the environment around them, and when I help a faculty member track down a health report from nearly one hundred years ago that will help in fighting disease in the future. I also see the things we need to do to ensure that similar questions can be answered a hundred years from now too. The question is do we need fifty regionals and 1,200 selectives working on our own or in small groups, managing both collections and services—or, do we need 1,250 depositories, regionals and selectives dividing the labor, so together we can preserve and protect historic, current, and future government information resources for everybody?

Kirsten Clark, Government Information and Regional Depository Librarian, Government Publications Unit Head, The University of Minnesota, clark881@umn.edu

A Model for the Federal Depository Library Program in the 21st Century

Comments from an ARL/Regional Depository Library Director

James F. Williams

James F. Williams II is the Dean of Libraries of the University of Colorado. The University of Colorado is a regional depository library and a member of the Association of Research Libraries.

Introduction and recognition

With the publication of *Documents for a Digital Democracy: A Model for the Federal Depository Library Program in the 21st Century*, the library community owes a debt of gratitude to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) for taking a leadership and investment role in organizing the ARL/COSLA/Ithaka S+R study. Further, the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) should be recognized for its investment in the study, and those ARL library directors whose institutions

additionally invested must also be recognized. Moreover, the study could not have been completed without the GPO's support as a resource to the Ithaka S+R group.

Special recognition must also be given to Roger Schonfeld and Ithaka Research Services for the thorough, masterful analysis and recommendations regarding moving the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) forward. The study represents a foundational document that provides a solid basis for action on the broad topic of the FDLP's future.

Perspective

By way of a disclaimer, the perspectives shared in the following comments are personal and do not represent those of ARL or the twenty-two ARL library directors who also operate regional depositories. The bottom-line reason for the investment in this study was to keep information published by the U.S. government freely available to the citizenry of the United States. To quote James Madison: "A popular Government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but as Prologue to a farce or a Tragedy; or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance. And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."[1] The good news is that we have a federal law that provides that protection (Title 44 of the U.S. Code). The other good news is that the library community is making good progress on convincing our federal agencies to provide such guarantees for open, online access to federally-funded research. So, our grand challenge is to make efficient, technology-enhanced, open, online access to information published by the U.S. government equally important to federally funded research.

Of course, the secondary purpose to invest in the Ithaka study was to provide a forum for discussion on how to move the FDLP forward if indeed we are not going to start all over with a new strategic design for the program. That is, the secondary purpose for the investment in the study was to provide a forum within which to explore the means to make the FDLP more effective, efficient, relevant, and contemporary in the current negative economic, yet technology-rich and resource-sharing, information culture.

Moving forward

Moving beyond the Ithaka analysis and recommendations, the following near-term construct is suggested, again with ARL serving as a major facilitator. The comments will focus on three levels of activity: national, regional, and local.

National level

At the national level, as the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) considers modernizing sections of Title 44 that have become outdated, or do not meet today's needs regarding resource sharing and the sharing of responsibilities within the FDLP, the JCP's examination should especially include a thorough review of its broad plenary authority under section 103 of Title 44 (where Congress reserved broad authority to the JCP to allow it, the JCP, to address contemporary issues and concerns). Section 103 states: "The Joint Committee on Printing may use any measures it considers necessary to remedy neglect, delay, duplication, or waste in the public printing and binding and distribution of government publications."

At the national level, the library community must continue to rely upon the GPO to provide free copies of government information to the nation's citizenry. In this vein, the library community must encourage GPO in its current efforts to develop systems and delivery mechanisms that have a bias for digital preservation and access. Further, because there is not agreement on what constitutes a complete collection of government information, there is yet the need for a blueprint for collaborative retrospective cataloging and digitization of critical documents that exist in print-only format. That blueprint should include a process to deposit standards-based digitized files to FDsys by digitization partners in the research library community. That blueprint should remain on ARL's strategic agenda, and it could include ARL's facilitation of a ramped-up Google digitization project through the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) libraries.

At the national level, instead of pursuing an executive order on deposit, ARL should take a facilitating role in assisting GPO to assume a higher-level coordinative partnership with those federal agencies that have a public dissemination mandate; this activity should be based on ARL's capacity to shed more light on existing law and regulations that support access to digital publications through FDsys.

At the national level, the library community needs to consider new business models for the FDLP partnership that include such things as (1) ARL's facilitation with GPO to make the Catalog of Government Publications the central discovery tool for digitized government information collections; (2) ARL's facilitation of a GPO/ARL-Regionals partnership to populate the Catalog of Government Publications with legacy cataloging records for both print and electronic resources; and (3) ARL's facilitation with GPO to develop incentive-based relationships with OCLC regarding retrospective catalog-record creation.

At the national level, the library community should encourage GPO/FDLP to be an active partner in the current discussions led by the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) to create a blueprint for a North American network of print

repositories to leverage regional and local print management efforts (www.crl.edu/archiving-preservation/print-archives). Likewise, the library community should encourage GPO/FDLP to be an active partner in current professional discussions to evaluate combining large-scale virtual and print repositories as surrogates for library collections.

And, at the national level, the library community needs strategic agreement between the JCP and GPO on the limited number of libraries needed to serve as partners with GPO in the area of collaborative collection development, retrospective cataloging, the retrospective digitization of print collections, training, and direct user services. Here again, the broad authority that Congress reserved for the JCP applies: authority for the JCP to address contemporary issues and concerns, concerns today that include strategic drawdown on the number of designated regional depositories.

Regional level

At the regional level, the library community should set aside any further discussions about federal subventions to fund mandated responsibilities for government documents operations. There is a critical need for consensus on best practices for deselection, vested with regional library coordinators. Once that consensus has been reached, then the regionals need to develop proof-of-concept, aggressively streamlined deselection processes for selective depository libraries, while working with those libraries on active decision support for deselection (for example, the regional based at the University of Colorado-Boulder

Join Us in Washington, D.C.! GODORT Events at the 2010 Annual Conference

The 2010 GODORT Reception and Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday evening, June 27, at the U.S. Naval Observatory (USNO). Due to policy procedures, the USNO must have the names and birthdates of all attendees seventy-six hours before the event. GODORT is simplifying this process by providing a short survey on SurveyMonkey that will collect the needed information, in order to submit all names to the USNO at the same time. Please visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/2010godortreception and answer the questions to register (and remember to register all friends and colleagues who wish to attend). This will be a great venue to honor our award recipients, so please plan on attending and watch for further information on times and directions to the USNO.

Please join us as we recognize this year's award winners:

- Sandee McAninch, University of Kentucky (James Bennett Childs Award)
- Greater Western Library Alliance/TRAIL; Maliaca Oxnam, Project Coordinator, University of Arizona (LexisNexis/Documents to the People Award)
- Liza Duncan, New York State Library (Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award)
- Lindsay Braddy, University of Missouri—Columbia (W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship)
- William V. Ackerman, "Indian Gaming in North Dakota," *American Indian Quarterly*, spring 2009, 33, no. 2 (Margaret T. Lane/Virginia F. Saunders Memorial Research Award)

GODORT Program

Monday, June 28, 2010

Archivists and Librarians: Together We Can Save Congress

"Saving Congress" sounds like a task for citizen-activists and reform-minded politicians, but saving the information output of our national legislature if the goal of a dedicated cadre of librarians and archivists. Librarians may focus their efforts on the published record, while archivists concentrate on congressional papers, but in these times of heightened political engagement, changing barriers to access, and trends away from reference specialization, our need to work together has never been greater. Nothing short of the legacy of Congress is at stake.

Speakers: Cass Hartnett, University of Washington, and Linda Whitaker, Arizona Historical Foundation.
A complete listing of GODORT activities at the Annual Conference is available on the GODORT wiki.

uses cell phones and laptops to make real-time, same-day, massive deselection decisions).

At the regional level, there needs to be even more encouragement of GPO to aggressively complete the full rollout of FDsys plans, including harvesting and the local ability by libraries, other nonprofits, and vendors to develop application programming interfaces (APIs) to pull content from FDsys, all in the interest of enhancing the use of existing digital content. Perhaps ARL should facilitate discussions between the regionals and GPO about priorities regarding the FDsys rollout.

At the regional level, the library community should continue its active and vocal support of GPO's approach to authentication of born-digital documents as a satisfactory proof-of-concept that eventually extends to the digitization of retrospective print collections. In this same vein, GPO should adopt and support a metadata standard for born-digital documents that includes provenance. And, at the regional level, ARL should continue its active support of GPO's coordinating role in the development of new user-focused discovery tools; perhaps this coordination should include the development of a clearinghouse for APIs or a registry of digital projects (a registry that could point to a possible new role for HathiTrust).

Local level

At the local level, the library community needs cost-recovery-based training programs for local librarians, provided by selected regionals. These training programs (where participants are charged) should focus on documents resources, their access and use, and on new tools of discovery, outreach, and marketing for government information (for example, the regional at the University of Colorado-Boulder led the effort to train nine hundred librarians in five states over the course of two years, supported by an IMLS grant). Perhaps the time is right for an interagency agreement between GPO and IMLS to support a new series of training programs the outcome of which should be new, sustainable models for cost recovery in the area of training. And, at the local level the need still exists for active participation by selective libraries in collaboration with regionals to create measurable multiyear state service plans.

Conclusion

The way forward for the FDLP will require continuing advocacy, leadership, and facilitation by all participants at the national, regional, and local levels. As the number of regionals and selective libraries continues to decline, the Ithaka S + R Report should be used as the platform upon which strategic discussions can be held with ALA/GODORT, the American Association of Law Libraries, ACRL, COSLA, GPO, and the ARL regionals on a blueprint to strategically reduce the number of libraries designated as regional depositories and to redefine the scope-of-work of the new Federal Regional Library Network and its partnership with GPO. ARL's possible facilitation role here would be the development of a collaborative strategy for voluntary separation from the FDLP.

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This paper is based on a presentation on the Ithaka Study at the fall 2009 meeting of the Association of Research Libraries.

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Review

Open Government: Collaboration, Transparency, and Participation in Practice. Daniel Lathrop and Laurel Ruma, eds. Cambridge, MA: O'Reilly Media, 2010. $44.99. ISBN: 978-0-596-80435-0.

State of the eUnion: Government 2.0 and Onwards. John Gøtze and Christian Bering Pedersen, eds. Copenhagen: AuthorHouse, 2009. $21.99 (free online). ISBN: 978-1-449-04729-0.

The U.S. government operates on the principle that its citizens should have access to information about government decisions, functions, and activities. The practice has sometimes been less robust than the principle, but overall, the direction of progress has been toward greater transparency and access. In recent years, the Obama administration has promised the dawn of a new era in government transparency, where citizens can use technology to access information about government spending, data produced by government agencies, and even lists of visitors to the White House. Citizens can also participate in forums, describe their priorities to the administration, and interact with civil servants on a wide range of issues. The idea of using technology to connect citizens and governments is certainly not new, nor is it unique to the United States. On the other hand, questions of how to leverage technology to connect government with citizens, how to adapt civil service functions to work with technology and with the level of external input it affords, and the extent to which government can be open, are still being answered.

Open Government: Collaboration, Transparency, and Participation in Practice focuses on openness and transparency within the U.S. government. Through essays by the "goverati" and other technology-savvy civil servants, case studies of successful projects to create tools that help citizens track government activities, and thoughtful commentaries on principles of openness and democracy, this collection captures the current possibilities and problems that technology has brought to government management and practice. External and internal pressures are forcing the government to evolve, but the ideal shape of a government that works effectively with the public under the guidance of principles of openness is as yet unknown. Still, innovation coupled with technological development has created windows into the workings of the U.S. government that would have been nearly unimaginable a decade ago.

Tim O'Reilly's concept of "government as platform" is a theme throughout this work. Encouraging both internal and external innovations in government principles and practice requires making appropriate adaptations to the tools that help democracy function, along with willingness on the part of both agencies and citizens to experiment, make mistakes, and learn for the future. The expectations of both sides, however, need to be tempered to meet realities of how meaningful change can be accomplished and how the lives of citizens will be best improved by government activity.

In a similar fashion, *State of the eUnion: Government 2.0 and Onwards* examines these issues in the United States and worldwide. Case studies include examples from Australia, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Germany, and other countries. Many of these essays and case studies focus on the need for bureaucratic cultural change to accompany technological developments. Moving to an open government model can mean a shift in balance from a solely representative democracy to something like a partial direct democracy, in which informed citizens can choose to direct government activity. This inclusiveness can bring about an expansion in expertise available to government decision-making, along with greater public trust.

This work demonstrates a wider variety of experience that extends to the theoretical level. One of the most interesting contributions, provided by Lawrence Lessig, asks a relevant and insightful question: When are the means and the ends of transparency, as it is traditionally understood, at odds? For example, the cause-effect relationship between politicians and financial contributions is of necessity murky, and no amount of data, data analysis, or data explanation can make it clear. The benefit of certainty as to whether a specific contribution was a decisive factor in a vote can be sufficiently less than the cost of establishing that certainty. More lasting changes are needed to affect the relationship between well-funded special interests and elected officials: reform must accompany transparency.

These books have a great deal in common, including some overlap in contributors and topics. Both present the diversity of opinion and experience that exists throughout governments and those who track them. Some of the contributions are more technologically focused than others, although most chapters are accessible to readers with any level of technological background. The quality of the chapters varies, but most are well-written and only a few

are prone to overuse of jargon. For the most part, these books are geared toward those who work directly in government, particularly those in information technology and communications roles, but there is more than enough content to occupy government information activists, open government reformers, and civil servants who have a less direct role in working with the public.

Getting an insider's view of the relationship between technology and the government helps readers to understand the shifts now taking place. Both books help explain why change takes so long, and why it does not always meet the needs it was intended to address. For librarians, these books offer a starting point in the conversation about the role of librarianship and libraries in contributing our expertise to the issues at hand.—*Shari Laster, Government Documents/Reference Librarian, University of Akron, laster@uakron.edu*

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AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE

05/10

The Interview: Geoff Swindells, Incoming GODORT Chair (2010–2011)

Each year we ask our incoming GODORT chair a few questions so you can get to know a bit more about his/her likes and dislikes.

Favorite Spot in Evanston/ Chicago:

My favorite spots (almost) always have to do with food. Having spent my college years in the Bay Area, my favorite spots tend to be funky, eclectic eateries along the lines of Mama's Royal Café in Oakland, California. Here in Evanston, my weekend routine almost always includes breakfast at The Lucky Platter on Main Street. Try the Montana Hash! On those rare occasions when I'm not eating, you'll often find me wandering through the new modern wing of the Art Institute of Chicago, though I do wish that they'd bring back Chagal's stained-glass "America Windows." I could sit and look at those luminescent blues all day long.

Favorite pastime:

Did I mention food and modern art? Well then, there's also reading crime fiction, or listening to music (pretty much anything and everything except contemporary country and western), or watching movies, or walking along Lake Michigan looking for signs of the Asian carp.

Favorite TV shows:

Anything involving David Simon. Otherwise, I'm pretty much a news junkie, so it's going to be things like *Washington Week*, and the *PBS NewsHour*, and the BBC's *World News*. Of course, there's always *Seinfeld* reruns.

Favorite book:

Today it's probably a tossup between *Union Dues*, and a collection of short stories called *The Anarchists Convention*, both by John Sayles. But I'll change my mind tomorrow.

Favorite movies:

God, who knows? *Bob Roberts*, *Key Largo*, or perhaps Carl Dreyer's silent film *The Passion of Joan of Arc* (with Richard Einhorn's score). Anything by John Huston, John Sayles, John-Pierre Melville, or Jim Jarmusch. Or excessively long, big budget, disaster movies, preferably those that include both earthquakes and locusts.

On your reading list now:

I'm working my way through the University of Chicago Press' reprints of the "Parker" novels by Richard Stark (Donald Westlake). I've read half-a-dozen so far, and have more than a dozen more still to go. The Parker character is one of those amoral anti-heroes, like Patricia Highsmith's Tom Ripley. Great fun. I'm also reading George Lewis' fascinating history of the African American experimental music in Chicago and New York, *A Power Stronger Than Itself: The AACM and American Experimental Music* (also U of C Press). It's taking me awhile though, since I'm also trying to listen to as much of the music he chronicles as possible. Next on my list is James Boyle's *The Public Domain: Enclosing the Commons of the Mind* (Yale University Press).

Favorite coffee drink:

Nothing fancy, just an endless supply of "Auggies' Blend," shipped from Porto Rico Importing Company, on Bleecker Street in NYC.

Favorite type of food:

Outside of breakfast, then I guess Italian, any and all regions. I'm constantly in search of the next variety of risotto, or a great gnocchi.

Favorite conference town:

San Francisco, hands down: the taquerias along Mission Street, City Lights Books, the San Francisco Mime Troupe.

Favorite vacation spot:

Berkshire County in western Massachusetts. There's Jacobs Pillow, Mass MOCA (Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art) and Tanglewood, all within a short drive. Heaven! And just east of the Berkshires in Northampton is the best bakery in the universe, Hungry Ghost Bread, where you can get fresh poetry with your loaf of olive and semolina fougasse.

Historical figure you'd like to meet:

Probably Emma Goldman, or Shirley Chisholm, though she's not exactly "historical," or perhaps Hannah Arendt. Tough, independent, brilliant, politically-engaged women. Who wouldn't want to meet them?

Pet peeves:

Just one: apathy.

What inspires you about your job:

Perhaps the thing that inspires me most about my job is being able to help others fulfill their role as active, engaged citizens. Pretty sappy, I know, but true nonetheless.

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— Ahmad Shah Massoud
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