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- American Indian Access to Government Information

DttP

Documents to the People

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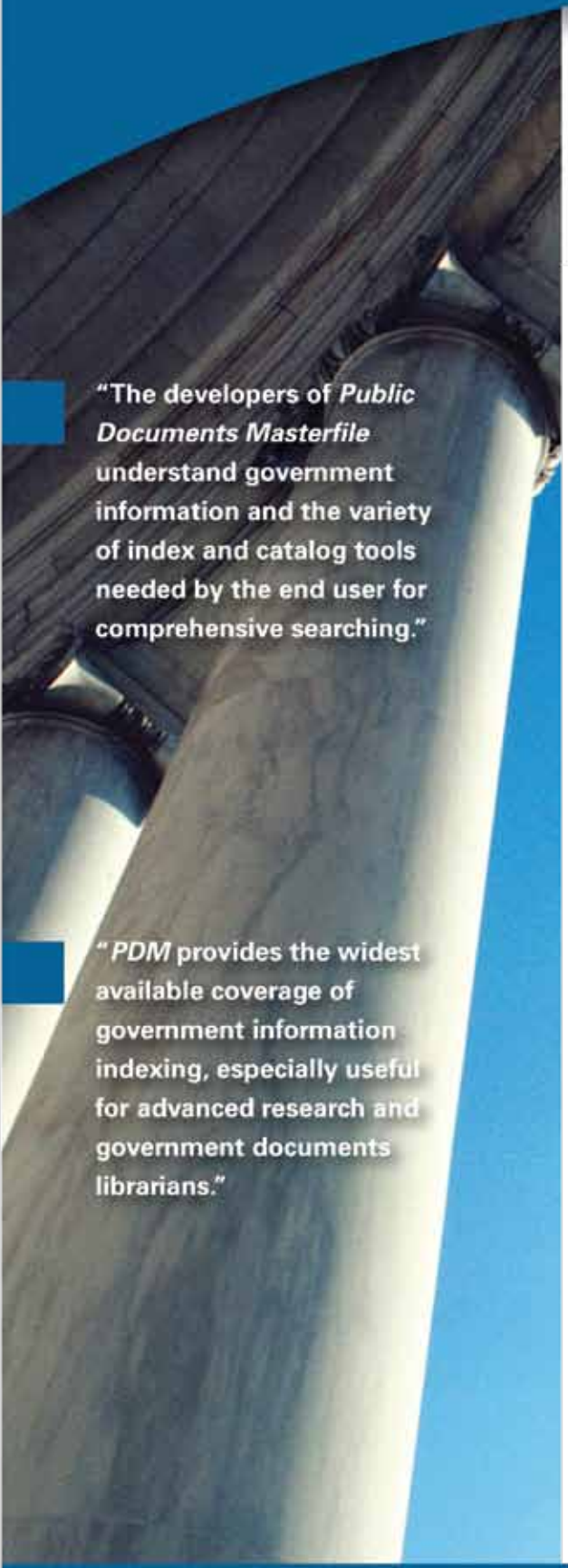

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DttP
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Wanted: Editor, Co-editor, Editorial Team for *DttP*

Interested in editing GODORT's journal? Want to put your stamp on *DttP*? Want to work with friends, influence your colleagues, and (even better) library school students?

Read on . . .

The editor, co-editors, or editorial team is appointed for a three-year term, and is eligible for one renewal, beginning with the Fall 2012 issue of *DttP* (volume 40, number 3) and concluding with the Summer 2015 issue (volume 43, number 2). The Lead Editor receives an annual stipend of $750.

DttP, issued since 1972, is the quarterly journal of the American Library Association's Government Documents Round Table. The purpose of *DttP* is to disseminate information of interest to librarians who provide and promote access to government information and who manage government documents collections. It examines recent developments in document librarianship, including news and reports on international, federal, state, and local government publications. The journal covers issues related to providing reference services and developing collections for libraries of all sizes and types.

For more information about *DttP*, consult the GODORT wiki's section on *DttP* (wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/DttP) and the *DttP* section of the Policy and Procedures Manual (wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/ppm) under the Publications Committee.

This position description is posted using a team or co-editor editor model. As there are other possible models pertaining to the editing, business management, and publication of DttP, applications that address the editorial responsibilities of these models are also welcomed.

A letter of application and CV should be submitted by November 1, 2011 to:

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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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About the Cover: The cover photo is of the 2011 GODORT awards recipients taken during the reception at the Law Library of Louisiana. They are (left to right): Tim Byrne, Lou Malcomb, Laura Harper, and George Dehner.

Editor's Corner

Beth Clausen and Valerie Glenn

We wrote this as we were preparing to go to New Orleans for the 2011 Annual Conference (yes, there is quite a bit of lag time between an issue's content creation and its publication and mailing!). The conference preparation can involve many activities, including writing reports and tracking down the right numbers for those reports, planning visits to vendor booths (including our advertisers and potential advertisers), prioritizing meetings and events when there are competing sessions, and about a thousand other details.

This can be quite overwhelming, as many of you know quite well, and it can leave one very exhausted and more than a little anxious about how everything can be accomplished during a long weekend in a great city where there are other distractions and attractions to experience. It has been said, and we take this to heart, that if we weren't supposed to see the sights and explore the conference city, all conferences would be held in _____ - complete this blank with any city you have been to that you found lacking in good restaurants, music, nightlife, or fascinating local culture and heritage. Obviously, this does not accurately describe New Orleans. There are, of course, guide books to the city, excellent tourism websites, and other resources to help plot the non-conference experience for any of our cities. What is a little different this time around is that it seems that another common standard preparation fare for this conference is the HBO show *Treme*, and the captivating music-infused episodes supplied many ideas for non-conference activities!

One of the best things about preparing for an Annual Conference or Midwinter Meeting is anticipating and planning to see people you see but once or twice a year in person. We were excited to see members of the *DttP* editorial team, column authors, and authors that contributed to the current issue as well as past issues. At Conference and Midwinter, we are fortunate to see our GODORT and non-GODORT colleagues. The longer we are part of this organization, the easier it is to see how all of us work together to build and maintain and grow a vital group. It is also easier to see how we interact as a community and share a history and common experiences. Two features in particular in this issue really bring this home.

One of these is a piece written by legendary documents instructor and textbook author Joe Morehead. He is familiar to many of us who either had his textbook as part of a documents course or have reached for it for clues as to how to answer a reference question. In this feature, he reminisces about working at the San Francisco Public Library in the 1960s. His memoir provides insight into the patrons, librarians, and even some depository operations and resources from that time period. Cass Hartnett, who recently co-authored a new textbook for government documents courses, writes the introductory essay to the feature.

The other feature that reminds us that we are a community with an interest in history is the article written by George Barnum and August Imholtz, which covers nearly a century of paper standards and technical specifications at the GPO. Their article was originally done as part of their work for the GODORT Rare and Endangered Publications Committee. We are honored to share this thoroughly interesting document with *DttP* readers.

The third feature article of this issue documents and explores issues surrounding American Indian access to government information written by Andy Pochatko. Clearly, he is also someone interested in looking back to bring context to a topic that is of both historical significance as well as current relevance.

Kirsten Clark, in her first From the Chair column, looks back a few years to her predecessors and their columns to help her figure out how to move GODORT forward. It is obvious that she acknowledges how important it is to see where one (or an organization) has been in order to move forward. She embraces the work of past leaders and what they have done as well as the Strategic Plan. It is clear that Kirsten is a "can-do" leader. Her action plan may well inspire you to raise your hand to volunteer to be a part of it!

The other columns in this issue are certain to be useful to many of us as we serve our patrons—or maybe use in our daily lives. The Federal Documents Focus column helps unravel the complexities of nutrition and food safety information sources and jurisdictions. Documents without Borders alerts us to an emerging transparency in investment treaties and arbitration investment treaties. In Spread the Word, learn how to use small business marketing information resources to reach out or expand your outreach program. And we are also able to Get to Know . . . Laura Sare and her experience with and perspective on the tenure track path for librarians.

Unfortunately, for various reasons, not all of us can travel, so there are people we won't be able to see. And that is one of the disappointments of Conference. But hopefully, the 'Round the Table feature of this issue will help those who couldn't be in New Orleans keep up with what happened at GODORT events and meetings as well as relevant ALA Council activities.

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PISA: Against the Odds: Disadvantaged Students Who Succeed in School

9789264089952 | July 2011 | 198 pp

PISA, the OECD's Program for International Student Assessment, focuses on young people's ability to use their knowledge and skills to meet real-life challenges. Many socio-economically disadvantaged students excel in PISA. Students who succeed at school despite a disadvantaged background – resilient students – are the focus of Against the Odds. The report shows that overcoming barriers to achievement is possible, and provides students, parents, policy makers and other education stakeholder's insights into what enables socio-economically disadvantaged students to fulfil their potential. Resilient students are characterized by positive approaches to learning, for example, having more interest in science or having more self-confidence. The evidence in PISA shows that positive approaches to learning tend to boost the performance of advantaged students more than that of disadvantaged ones. From an equity perspective, therefore, policies aimed at fostering positive approaches to learning ought to target disadvantaged students more than others.

The Space Economy at a Glance 2011

9789264084643 | July 2011 | 123 pp

Weather forecasting, air traffic control, global communications and broadcasting, disaster management – these and many other key activities would be almost unthinkable today without satellite technology. This book assembles information on the space economy from a wide range of official and non-official sources. Together these paint a richly detailed picture of the space industry, its downstream services activities, and its wider economic and social impacts. Who are the main space-faring nations? How large are revenues and how much employment is there in the sector? How much R&D goes on, and where? What is the value of spin-offs from space spending? Answers to these and other questions are provided in this second OECD statistical overview of the emerging space economy.
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From the Chair

Oh the Places We'll Go

Kirsten Clark

I always find taking that first step into a new responsibility, whether it is a new job or a new organizational position, feels like a leap of faith. Will I do a good job? Am I really the right person at the right time? I've been on the other side of the equation as well. When someone above me steps into a leadership position I wonder what paths we will go down, what priorities will be chosen, where will I fit in?

In the past, I would read "From the Chair" columns as part of my responsibilities as a GODORT member, but now I read them differently, as an educational tool for an incoming chair. So before I take that leap of faith in a tangible form by writing my first "From the Chair" column, I decided to take a look at the paths GODORT has gone down by looking back at what some previous chairs had written to all of you from this very spot.

During 2007–2008, Bill Sleeman was able to pull in the exciting political scene of the time to highlight what GODORT does. My initial thought in reading this was to steal his idea. After all it is four years later and here in my own state of Minnesota we have two potential presidential hopefuls (Tim Pawlenty and Michele Bachmann) making their initial foray into the 2012 presidential election.

Another point of his, though, really caught my eye. In his winter 2007 column, Bill mentioned in talking about GODORT committee appointees, "although it was not possible to appoint everyone who contacted me…."[1] Unfortunately, this is not something I can state today. In being an ex officio member of the Nominating Committee this past year, I saw the struggle that went on to get enough people on the ballot. I also know this struggle firsthand as I try to fill committee member slots within our organization.

Cass Hartnett took over as chair for the 2008-2009 term. In her columns, she focused on many aspects of the government information field but the one that stands out for me was her focus on the need for collaboration within other branches of ALA and other external groups such as the Medical Library Association. During her tenure, we brought together representatives from across ALA to discuss the future of government information. This was a very fruitful discussion, but as with many things within big organizations, the momentum from the meeting was not sustainable. This seems to be the result of GODORT and its members being spread too thin—there are too many things we want to do and too little time to commit to doing them to be able to maintain a high level of collaboration.

Amy West took over as chair in the summer of 2009 and brought new depth to the organization. Her columns emphasized her work-related focus on data, an area that ties in directly with government information, but for which there is no specific unit within ALA. For many of us, our jobs have morphed to be more than a government documents (or information) specialist. We are no less committed to GODORT, but is the current organizational structure meeting the needs of our expanding job descriptions?

The past year I have been chair-elect to Geoff Swindell's chair. In looking through his columns, I see very similar paths of thinking, especially his focus on the GODORT Strategic Plan and how our organization needs to evolve to embrace new technologies and new ways of doing our work. When reading through Geoff's columns, I start to see how my particular leap into the role of GODORT chair can happen and in what direction I would like that initial step to be.

For the past ten years I have been active in various positions within GODORT, from chairing the Cataloging and Legislation Committees to Federal Documents Task Force coordinator to this last year as chair-elect. Throughout this time I have met many GODORT members and been part of many discussions on the future of our group.

What have I heard? Some are saying new librarians don't understand the people who brought the organization forward forty years ago. Others say people don't see the need to change an organization mired in bureaucracy that doesn't allow for forward thinking in a timely manner. For some, there is institutional support for being active in GODORT but no financial support for travel expenses. For others there is no institutional support and no financial support to travel. Some are blessed to have both, but their job duties are so overwhelming that there isn't time for any organizational work. And some have an interest in supporting GODORT through membership dues but government information is only a very small part of their job.

By now you may be wondering where the heck I'm taking all these points. One thing that I have felt is missing the past couple years is a blueprint for GODORT to move forward. But in looking back at what others before me have done, we have the pieces already in place. We just need the backbone on which to move them forward and that is *Planning for the Future of Government Information: The Government Documents Roundtable Strategic Plan 2010–2015 and Beyond* (wikis.ala.org/godort/images/f/fd/GodortStrategicPlan_Final.doc). Geoff started that discussion over this past year, and this is where I want to continue moving forward.

The GODORT mission as outlined in the Strategic Plan has been described in a variety of places but I would like to reiterate it here:

To provide a forum where information professionals can collaborate to ensure the public has free and open access to information paid for, supported by, or developed at government expense.

Within the plan, five- and ten-year goal areas are outlined and are listed below.

5 Years

Goal Area I: Open Culture

GODORT welcomes all members and participants.

Goal Area II: Outreach

GODORT members are the leading advocates for access, dissemination, and awareness of government information and actively work with other ALA groups and organizations beyond the library community.

Goal Area III: Membership

GODORT offers members a variety of ways to participate in and contribute to the organization.

Goal Area IV: Balanced Focus on All Government Information

GODORT is an organization committed to providing access and information equally for all types of government information.

Goal Area V: Structure (Committees/Meetings)

GODORT has an organizational structure that supports its mission and goals while allowing it to be flexible and responsive to change.

10 Years

Goal Area VI: Expanded Outreach

GODORT members are the leading advocates for access, dissemination, and awareness of government information and actively work with other ALA groups and organizations beyond the library community.

Goal Area VII: Development of Financial Resources

GODORT is a financially solid roundtable able to support numerous programs, pre-conferences, and projects important to the vision of our organization.

Goal Area VIII: Explore Becoming a Division in ALA

As an ALA Division, GODORT can pursue activities related to its mission on a larger scale. Divisional participation will communicate to the library community that all types of government information are relevant to many different areas of librarianship.

There is our backbone for moving into the future. In order to accomplish each of these goals, we must research, discuss, and ultimately decide the steps that will take GODORT into the future.

What would I like to see accomplished this year? With your help, many amazing and wonderful things. My personal nature wants me to say let's tackle it all, but I do realize that this is unrealistic. So I leave you with these specific action items.

Move forward on the Strategic Plan. The Ad hoc Committee listened to the members and created a plan that provides several avenues for people to stand up and help out in moving the organization forward. Not everything will be accomplished, but strong work this year will allow for continued movement forward in the next ten years outlined in the plan.

Solidify our policy on virtual membership. We've talked about it. Some committees have put some aspects of it into place but there is no cohesive policy.

Find the balance point. There is a balance point between providing enough structure to ensure that the organization can move forward while still providing enough flexibility to move quickly on new ideas. We have not yet found that point but I hope we are closer to it by summer 2012.

In the end, I am going to steal Bill's idea of capitalizing on political news except bring it to the state level. In Minnesota right now, there is a budget battle brewing between a Democratic governor and a Republican legislature. The state faces a governmental shutdown at a level never before seen in Minnesota history and these two groups have, at the time of this writing, less than four weeks to figure it out. Minnesotans are worried about their jobs, their services, and their quality of life.

Luckily, GODORT is not dealing with such fundamental life needs or on such a drastic timetable. However, we are dealing with a time where we no longer have the comfort of people volunteering for the organization at the same level and the same ways as before. We have to spend less time focusing just on government information. After all, we are no longer the only group interested in promoting government information and wanting to be part of that conversation. We are all worried about what GODORT should look like in the next year (or ten).

I am tired of just worrying about it. Are you? I am ready to do something about it. Are you?

Reference

1. Bill Sleeman, "From the Chair," *DttP: Documents to the People,* 35, no. 4 (Winter 2007): 6.

Get to Know . . . Laura Sare: Tenure-Track Government Documents Librarian

Julia Stewart

It can be easy to espouse opinions about the good and the bad of the university tenure system, especially when, like myself, one does not participate in it. Many librarians go over and above the research call to assist professors applying for tenure at their universities, but what would it be like to be a government documents librarian on a university tenure track? Would professors have more respect for those librarians? Would job security be at the same level as professors? Is there time to write peer reviewed articles when you are also responsible for reference desk rotation?

Laura Sare, government documents librarian at the Sterling C. Evans Library of Texas A&M University, College Station (TAMU), can answer these questions and provide solid insight into her experience on the tenure track.

"TAMU hires librarians on tenure track to show that it is a major research institution that has top quality librarians," said Sare. "I wanted to work at an academic institution with a larger depository collection, and most of the institutions fitting that type of library have tenure requirements. I chose to come to TAMU because of the opportunities I would get with my job."

Sare's library has a mentoring program in place to help new librarians navigate through campus tenure expectations.

"My library provides each tenure track librarian with two mentors to serve as guides through the process. My mentors gave insight into the library's history and culture, but were also available to review article drafts or other tasks related to tenure. There is also a library mentoring committee that hosts lectures on how to design a poster for a poster session, or provide tips for presenting at conferences. It has been very useful."

Funding for library research activities and conference travel is available at TAMU.

"My favorite thing about tenure track is the funding we get for travel, continuing education, and for research," said Sare. "I have so many more opportunities to grow and improve myself and my skill set. There is also a committee we can petition that provides funds for research support so that we can hire student workers for a research project, for example. I still try to be frugal in my selection of travel destinations, as well as things like taking public transportation instead of renting a car. But, I find the amount of funding to be enough to fulfill what I need to do for tenure requirements."

According to Sare, the tenure track would be best for a librarian with good time management skills who can accept constructive criticism.

"To succeed in a tenure track position, you have to have good time management skills, especially if you are required to publish. It can be hard to find the time to write. In addition, you also need to accept criticism well. It is sometimes difficult to spend so much time writing an article then to have reviewers "bleed" all over it. But, for the most part, the reviewers have improved my articles with their suggestions, and made me a stronger writer. You also have to like challenges, and work well with others."

TAMU provides tenured librarians and professors the same job security status.

"The tenure system for the librarians at TAMU has the same rank as the teaching faculty, so we have the same job security as the rest of the faculty. I don't think we should get any special dispensation because we are at the library," said Sare.

Sare continues, "As a librarian, tenure track or not, I still focus on what the faculty, staff, and students at the university want, as well as the community users who need government information. The only effect tenure has is that I have written and presented on collections. I may have done that anyway if I was at a non-tenure institution, but with tenure track, I am going to take the extra step to share my research in a public format."

Sare's tenure review is scheduled for the fall of 2012. Given the support, her scholarly record, and work at TAMU, this process should be very favorable!

DttP Online!

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

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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 accessible via the GODORT wiki.

Federal Documents Focus

Food for thought

Rebecca Hyde and Lucia Orlando

> "The Interior Department is in charge of salmon while they're in fresh water, but the Commerce Department handles them when they're in saltwater. I hear it gets even more complicated once they're smoked."
>
> From President Obama's State of the Union Address, January 25, 2011 (1.usa.gov/f2YDT2)

At the end of a busy day most of us barely have enough energy to decide what to make for dinner, much less examine the nutrition information printed on the package of macaroni and cheese we just grabbed. Eating is a simple act, but what constitutes good nutrition is astonishingly complex and often controversial. The plethora of laws and agencies that oversee the quality and safety of this vital resource is overwhelming. To make matters worse, the amount of conflicting advice can make even the savviest consumer tremble. It's hard to find simple, understandable nutritional information from reliable sources, including the federal government. The good news is it is getting a little easier thanks in part to increased public health campaigns like the anti-obesity movement and a renewed focus on food safety. Put aside your skepticism about the former food pyramid for a moment, and take a few minutes to examine some sources that will help you assist your patrons find and understand reliable nutrition and food safety information.

Federal agency soup

It's comforting to know that even our highly-educated President finds the tangle of federal agencies with jurisdiction over food perplexing. Developing and enforcing regulations affecting the growth, production, transportation, preparation and marketing of food is an enormous undertaking. This responsibility falls primarily to two major federal agencies that oversee and enforce regulations governing our food supply: the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA). The FDA oversees 80 percent of the US food supply, including food safety, the regulation of food health claims, food additives, ingredients, animal feed, and ensuring the accuracy of food labels (www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/Transparency/Basics/ucm242648.htm). It's often easier to consider what the FDA doesn't regulate: They are not responsible for meat, poultry and some egg products—all of which are regulated by the USDA. The FDA and USDA act as the lead agencies regarding most food, but other agencies also have jurisdiction over our food supply. For example, the US Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) manages seafood inspection and works with the FDA on seafood safety issues (www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is also concerned about food safety with particular attention to agricultural issues, pesticide application, and residues in food (www.epa.gov/agriculture/tfsy.html).

The FDA and the USDA also take the lead in providing nutritional information. Every five years, these agencies jointly publish "Dietary Guidelines for Americans" (www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines). Don't let the simple title fool you; federal law requires that all dietary guidance from federal agencies and federal food programs like school lunches be consistent with this document.

The nutritional advice in "Dietary Guidelines for Americans" is often met with heavy criticism from both industry and health groups. In an effort to preempt attacks aimed at the scientific basis of the report, the 2010 document, released in January 2011, included the creation of two new websites to help both ordinary consumers and knowledgeable researchers understand the guidelines' scientific foundation. The website, Dietaryguidelines.gov, a work in progress as of this writing, aims to provide consumer-level nutritional advice and educational materials. The Nutrition Evidence Library (www.nel.gov) is a collection of publicly available research studies, evidence summaries, and research protocols used to establish and update the 2010 dietary guidelines.

Public awareness campaigns

Public health agencies and the medical profession have long understood that chronic diseases like diabetes, obesity, high cholesterol, and hypertension can be treated or prevented entirely by changes to the quality and quantity of food we consume. Programs like health and nutrition-related initiatives such as the National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse (NDIC), Healthy at Any Size, and We Can! strive to provide sensible, easy to understand nutrition information. First Lady Michelle Obama's involvement in the high-profile "Let's Move!" program (www.letsmove.gov), along with other anti-obesity initiatives, has galvanized efforts to reduce the number of significantly overweight children and adults. As a result, a wide range of state, local, and federal agencies are increasing

cross-agency collaboration in order to combat the problem of food-related diseases. You don't have to be overweight to benefit from the practical tools and advice provided through these programs.

The FDA and USDA have updated dietary guidelines and are working to simplify the core message about making better food choices. One way they've done this is through MyPlate.gov (www.choosemyplate.gov). A colorful graphic of a place setting makes it easy to identify suggested portions of each food group. For example, the plate serves as a reminder that half your daily intake should consist of fruits and vegetables. The new MyPlate website should be fully functional by winter 2011.

Nutrition facts label

Unless you happen to be a food chemist, the now ubiquitous nutrition facts label is often the only way to know the nutritional composition of a food. Unfortunately, while the label looks relatively straightforward, it can be difficult to interpret, much less understand how to apply the facts and figures to your life. The FDA puts a significant amount of work into explaining the label (www.fda.gov/Food/LabelingNutrition/ConsumerInformation), including a twenty-eight minute professionally produced video aimed at adults. A simpler and more entertaining campaign called "Spot the Block" (spottheblock.com) is aimed at children ages nine to thirteen with the goal of encouraging this age group to read the label. The campaign was developed in partnership with Cartoon Network and includes animated characters from their popular *Chowder* television show. The humorous rap song titled *Dishin' the Nutrition* is worth listening to even if you don't like rap music. With clever lyrics such as "Before you eat your food or quench your thirst –You gotta Spot the Block, get your food facts first!" it's certainly worth a quick download.

Food Safety

As mentioned above, the FDA, USDA, EPA, and Department of Commerce all bear responsibility for ensuring our food is safe. Recent outbreaks of food-borne illnesses have made both consumers and these agencies extra vigilant about how our food is harvested, processed for sale, and prepared in restaurants or at home. Start your research about food safety at www.foodsafety.gov, a site created in conjunction with the White House, FDA, Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, USDA, and the National Institutes of Health. The site is geared toward consumers and includes food recall information, along with information about signing up for RSS, Twitter, or Facebook alerts; inspection guidelines and enforcement; as well as safe handling instructions for meat, seafood, and produce. It goes a step further in supplying information about food poisoning, as well as a link to report problems with food, food purchased in restaurants, or pet food.

The FDA and the USDA also maintain information on their agency websites. One particularly useful page is the Food Product Dating fact sheet (www.fsis.usda.gov/Fact_Sheets/Food_Product_Dating/index.asp). If you have ever wondered about the arcane dates stamped on cans, or what terms like "Best if Used By" and "Sell by" mean, or whether it is still safe to consume something with an expired date, then you won't want to miss this site. The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (www.fsis.usda.gov) is also the home of "Ask Karen," an automated response system that allows users to query or browse their knowledge base. It's helpful for answering questions like "is food safe after the date expires?" or "what's the difference between food poisoning and food-borne illness?" A live chat service is also available thirty hours a week.

The FDA's Food Safety site (www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety) is an important site if you are looking for food safety programs, regulations, and reports. It's not geared toward the ordinary consumer but does have information about food allergens; regulations; and food safety facts for specific products like soft drinks, eggs, cheese, and vegetables. Both the FDA and USDA sites are good sources of information and data for those times you assist more experienced researchers looking for detailed reports and data about contaminants, issues surrounding specific foods, or detailed safety guidelines.

Everyone needs to eat, but figuring out what to eat and how much to consume becomes complicated very quickly. One doesn't need to know all the ins and outs of the federal alphabet soup to have a reasonable certainty that the food purchased in a grocery store or restaurant is safe. For the curious, there is a lot of information on the how and why of food policy and regulation on agency websites. The next time a patron comes to the reference desk with a question about why certain foods are served in their child's school cafeteria, which agency to consult about an outbreak of food poisoning, or how to interpret a particularly complex nutrition label, knowing where to start should be a piece of cake!

Documents without Borders

Investment Treaties and Arbitration

Cyril Emery

The world of foreign investment can be an uncertain one. For example, it is not hard to imagine that a US oil company might be wary about investing heavily in the necessary infrastructure (roads, pipelines, rigs, etc.) to drill oil in a developing country. Although the company might have a contract with that country, political changes could wipe out the investment by, for example, nationalizing the oil industry or making it illegal for foreign companies to export natural resources. Foreign investment treaties aim to overcome these uncertainties in order to encourage investment and development.

Despite their public nature, much of the documentation related to these treaties and the disputes arising under them are kept confidential. Librarians can hope for more transparency soon, however, due to recent efforts by the United Nations Commission for International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), for which I am the librarian, and the European Union (EU).

What are investment treaties?

Investment treaties are agreements between countries designed to encourage private investment. The most common type, Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs), involve just two countries. BITs became popular in the 1990s, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) indicates that more than 2,500 of these agreements exist worldwide.[1] The treaties promote investment by establishing protections for the private companies from one country that want to invest in the other. A common element of these treaties is a clause establishing an impartial dispute settlement mechanism, typically arbitration. These clauses allow investors to potentially recoup losses caused by a country's actions, for example nationalization of an industry. This enables the company to avoid having to resort to the courts in that country where, as a foreign company, getting an impartial trial might be difficult.

New at UNCITRAL

During the last two sessions of UNCITRAL's working group on arbitration and conciliation, delegates and specialists from around the world have considered the creation of an international legal standard adding transparency to arbitrations arising under investment treaties. Historically, the arbitrations conducted under BITs and similar treaties were generally confidential. Over time, however, consensus has developed that there should be greater public access to aspects of these proceedings, because openness would "enhance the public understanding of the process and its overall credibility."[2] The working group has not decided on the form of a legal standard in this area, but if one is adopted lawyers, researchers, librarians, and the general public would have access to a large new set of arbitration cases and awards. Discussions are ongoing about where these materials might be published, but it could be in a registry managed by the UNCITRAL secretariat, the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) or the Permanent Court of Arbitration.[3]

New in the EU

EU members are major players in foreign investment; they are currently party to about 1,200 BITs.[4] As I mentioned in a previous column, the Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force in 2009, has fundamentally changed the way the EU works, especially in the field of foreign affairs.[5] Following the adoption of Lisbon, the foreign affairs for all EU member countries are controlled to a much greater extent at the EU level. The European Commission, hoping to harmonize the way in which the EU approaches foreign investment, has proposed a regulation that would put it in greater control of existing and new investment treaties.[6] In its communication explaining the regulation, the Commission indicated it would also like to see the publication of arbitral awards.[7] The European Parliament, however, has indicated that the proposed regulation gives the Commission too much power, especially as it would allow the Commission to withdraw authorization for BITs it deems incompatible with EU law.[8] Any final regulation will probably be the result of negotiation between the Commission, Parliament, and the Council of the EU.

Research resources

While investment arbitrations have traditionally been conducted confidentially, a number of awards and decisions have become public over the years and have been collected on the very fine ita (Investment Treaty Arbitration) website (ita.law.uvic.ca).

The best source for the underlying BITs is the UNCTAD Investment Instruments Online site (bit.ly/UNCTADIIO).

It includes a database of more than 1,800 BITs and also has model BITs and data on the adoption of these agreements.

Finally, ICSID includes some of its awards and decisions on its website (icsid.worldbank.org). It also provides important statistical publications on the settlement of disputes.

The opinions expressed in this column are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations.

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Spread the Word

Marketing Information: Opportunity for Outreach to Small Businesses

Melanie Blau-McDonald

Helping small businesses with practical, actionable marketing information can be a valuable service, and one you can build on for ongoing outreach to the small businesses of your community. These important constituents may even become your champions or part of your cheering section.

Large and even medium-sized firms can afford to hire market segment specialists, leaving small businesses and even entrepreneurs scrambling to put together appropriate marketing plans. A marketing plan begins with data about your target market and many times this data involves geographic and demographic components. E-zines and books may offer marketing plan strategies, pre-packaged templates and the like, but for high-quality, free data, you can turn to the federal government and its vast information resources. The catch is that few business people will be either familiar or facile with these sources—that's where you come in.

Go-to source: Statistical Abstract

There are many places to find demographic data on the web. One of the easiest to navigate, and also most comprehensive summary of statistics, is the US Census Bureau's *Statistical Abstract* (www.census.gov/compendia/statab). There are more than thirty Browse sections along its left-side navigation, starting with Accommodation, Food and Other Services and ending with Wholesale and Retail Trade (see figure 1). Most of these sections offer a sub-menu that opens when you mouse over the main heading. The center section highlights various tables and changes frequently. The menu choices on the right side of the page try to narrow things down or aggregate things up, such as Popular Sections, e.g. Population, Income, Births & Deaths and Labor force or Summary Statistics which give aggregated data for the United States, Historical Statistics, State Rankings and Thematic Maps.

Your customer's need, for example

For this example, we're going to stay on the left side menu as that gives you more control over how quickly you

Figure 1. The Browse options for the Statistical Abstract of the United States show the breadth and wealth of this resource (www.census.gov/compendia/statab).

can get to relevant content. Let's say you're working with an attorney (or doctor or hairdresser or plumber…) who wants to know whether or not she should hire a part-time law student who speaks another language. She will want the law student to help write advertising copy in another language as well as translate during client meetings. Does this make economic sense? She has seen her competitors place advertisements in English and Spanish but Vallejo, California seems more diverse to her than just these two language groups. Is there a way she can learn about language diversity in Vallejo?

Languages Spoken at Home in Vallejo, California

> Moving your mouse over Population from the Browse Sections menu, you will see the top choice is Ancestry, Language Spoken at Home, which you will select. There are four choices here, but for this outreach and need, Table 55—Language Spoken at Home-Cities with 100,000 Persons or More (tinyurl.com/26pks4b) is the table to use as it is organized alphabetically by city name. Scrolling down to Vallejo, California, and following the data across, we see that 41.1 percent (45,181 people) of the population over five years of age, speaks a language other than English at home (tinyurl.com/26pks4b). Of that number, 18,461 speak Spanish, but even more speak an Asian and Pacific Island language—22,978. Now, it's true that Spanish is one language while the Asian and Pacific Island language column represents multiple languages, but it may be that based on the type of practice and how many competitors are going after the Spanish-speaking population; it may make more sense to hire a Mandarin, Korean, or Japanese-speaker. But this is based on only speculation of which Asian languages might be represented. Let's try to get a more accurate picture of the data for your patron.

Getting at the information another way—The American Community Survey

The American Community Survey is a Census Bureau program, and it is conducted more frequently than the decennial census. One-year, three-year, and five-year estimates are published annually at American FactFinder (AFF), along with a comparison chart of the estimates (tinyurl.com/22knaw2). Essentially, there is a tradeoff between sample size and currency of the information as the five-year estimates have a larger sample size but are also the oldest data sets.

We want to find a breakdown of Asian groups in Vallejo. We start at the home page of AFF (tinyurl.com/ufd9) and

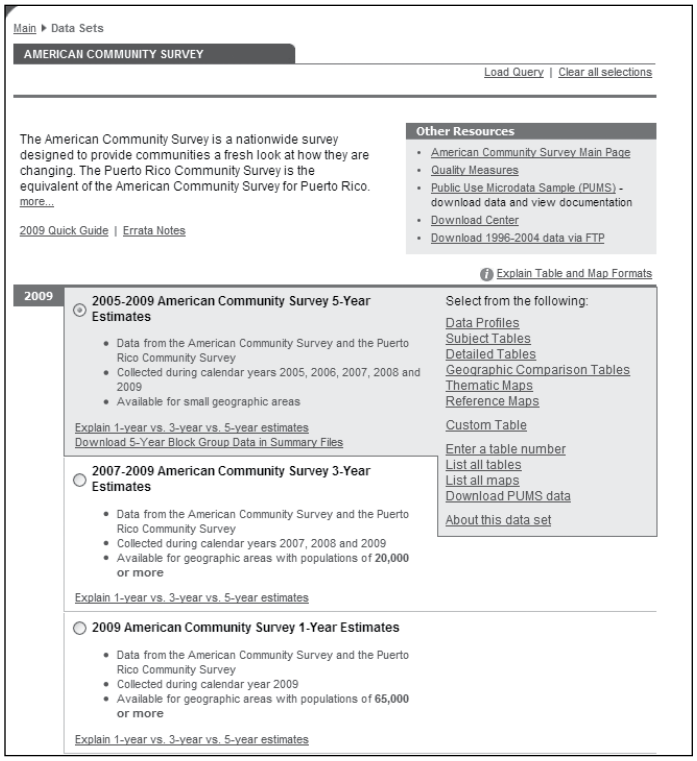

Figure 2. The default, the 2005–2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, offers many options for getting your patron the right information (tinyurl.com/6ewveyc).

select Data Sets from the left menu. A sub-menu will open and we want the American Community Survey. For greater accuracy, select the default, which is the 2005–2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (see figure 2). On the right, select List all tables. Scroll down to "B02006 Asian Alone by Selected Groups" (tinyurl.com/6ewveyc). Select "Next" and on the screen that opens, select your specific geographic region. Most geographic divisions are an option, from the entire nation down to your school district or Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). When you select your top geographic type from the drop-down, the areas that appear below will be of the subsets available within the first set. For the first drop-down, I selected Principal City. Then for a State choice, select California, followed by the MSA Vallejo-Fairfield. For your final selection, click on the specific city – in this case, Vallejo. Click "Add" and your selection will appear in the Current "Geography Selections" box (see figure 3). Select "Show Result" and the data table for Vallejo will appear.

Our surprising results

Of a total estimate of 27,988 Asian residents listed on AFF, Filipinos make up 22,153, which is about 79 percent of the

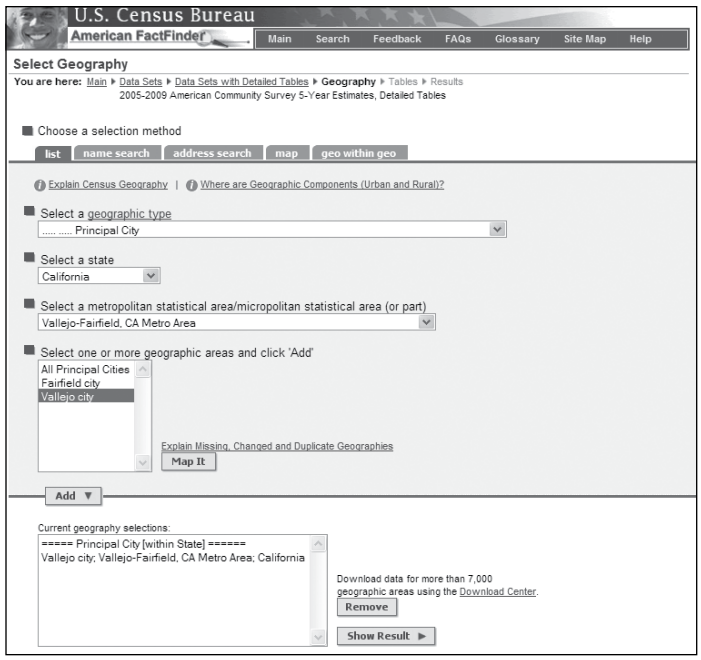

Figure 3. Selecting geography involves going from largest area to smallest geographic area (tinyurl.com/6x3kfr7).

Asian population of Vallejo, California. The next largest Asian ethnic group is Chinese, making up an estimated 5 percent of the total Asian population (see figure 4). These are truly estimates, with a confidence value of 90 percent +/- the margins of error shown in the table. Despite these estimates' accuracy, you can see that it would make the most sense to target your marketing toward the Filipino population as the other ethnic group's respective percentages are relatively small.

Other marketing-type demographics

The same procedure can be used to find information on ages of the population, home ownership, number of children in household, and more. Many of these data sets are useful to more than one type of small business. This information could be used for small business outreach in the form of an annual series of programs. These programs could highlight these different pieces of demographic data and how they could be used in small business marketing. A quarterly program might look something like this:

1. Marketing data by age—Do you market to baby boomers? Seniors?
2. Marketing data by marriage status—Do you market to singles? Families with children living at home?

B02006. ASIAN ALONE BY SELECTED GROUPS - Universe: TOTAL ASIAN ALONE POPULATION
Data Set: 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Survey: American Community Survey

NOTE. Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.

For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see Survey Methodology.

	Vallejo city; Vallejo-Fairfield, CA Metro Area; California	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	27,988	+/-1,268
Asian Indian	1,588	+/-614
Bangladeshi	0	+/-132
Cambodian	101	+/-130
Chinese , except Taiwanese	1,423	+/-368
Filipino	22,153	+/-1,301
Hmong	0	+/-132
Indonesian	18	+/-27
Japanese	464	+/-175
Korean	250	+/-166
Laotian	132	+/-169
Malaysian	0	+/-132
Pakistani	14	+/-23
Sri Lankan	8	+/-13
Taiwanese	10	+/-16
Thai	121	+/-127
Vietnamese	1,059	+/-578
Other Asian	591	+/-239
Other Asian, not specified	56	+/-71

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

Figure 4. AFF tables can provide fairly detailed information for your patrons (tinyurl.com/6g5xuyk).

3. Marketing data by ethnicity—Do you need to be marketing in more languages than English?
4. Marketing data by income—Are you only interested in the largest market segment where you are or the largest income levels? Do you know the answers?

Not easy for a novice

Clearly, the average library patron is not going to find this information on their own. This is where you, the library professional, can offer unique, free, and demonstrably valuable services to your patrons. By reaching out to this community, you will be able to add small businesses to your cheering section!

Why, He's Just a Boy

The Early Days of Professor Joe Morehead

Cass Hartnett

This past year, six colleagues and I attempted the task of drafting an introductory government documents textbook. When the time came to reflect on our completed work, I asked a co-author "What's on your mind now that the book is finished?" Her response echoed my thoughts exactly: "An intense respect for Joe Morehead." Morehead, for those *DttP* readers new to the profession, wrote the book on government documents, quite literally. His *Introduction to United States Public Documents*, with variant titles over the years, has been a standard text since 1975. In the early days of *DttP*, librarians looked forward to his incisive and entertaining column, "A Quorum of One"—which we can all now read online via the *DttP* archives. Professor Morehead has written more than 160 articles, more than one hundred reviews, and has earned career-capping awards. He is so well known in the field that even this introduction seems superfluous.

In many librarians' minds, Morehead is associated with the graduate program at the State University of New York at Albany. There, for a quarter century, he educated the thronging masses of budding librarians (including my brother, Tim Hartnett). However, Morehead's vita reveals numerous adventures beyond Albany and the banks of the venerable Hudson River, where he started a documents interest group still in existence today. He's lived in locales from Connecticut to Kentucky and served his country in the Air Force during the Korean War.

Most of his colleagues never would have pegged Morehead as bicoastal, but he is, having moved to San Francisco in the mid-1960s for his first professional position and then staying in the area to earn his doctorate. Step back in time now as Joe hilariously describes the cast of characters at his first job, far away in the exalted Bay Area of the 60s, before Morehead paid his dues educating us. Now he is ready to relive some moments—some unusual moments—from his formative years working with the public and with library staff who we know, from experience, are unpredictable people. Things were different then, when urban libraries were peppered with more flashers than with flash drives, when collections were guarded by "husky pages" rather than automated security systems. One does not have to watch the television show *Mad Men* to recall that cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption were viewed differently in the past. So make sure an ashtray (I mean paperclip holder) is within arm's reach, settle down with the "drinkypoo" of your choice (mine being a double latte), and enjoy this stroll through Morehead's back pages, where he shares some universal government documents librarian experiences. We thank Joe Morehead for a lifetime of scholarship, writing, and teaching about government information.

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At the San Francisco Public Library

A Personal Chronicle

Joe Morehead

In recalling the following events of several decades ago, I have changed the names to preserve the privacy of the people who are mentioned herein. Most of what transpired is as clear to me as if it had happened last week; in a few instances, I may have been betrayed by an errant memory. But all in all, I have adhered to the essential facts and the fundamental truth of the incidents related below. The years covered are 1964 to 1967.

One has to keep in mind the period encompassed by this memoir: no CDs, no Google, no Internet, etc. Microfilm was the hi-tech medium *du jour*, used for preserving newspapers, conducting a patent search (a major chore, by the way), and a few other applications. Still, in retrospect, it was an exciting time to work at the main building of the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL), a system with numerous branch libraries, on Larkin Street opposite the Civic Center. Upon its demise, it was converted into the Asian Art Museum.

When I was hired for my first job after completing library school, the Reference Department was responsible for all subjects (as defined by Melvil Dewey) except music and literature. The work was variegated and difficult, but what a superb learning experience it was. After I had been there about a year, a major reorganization combined science and government documents (a random union) into one department, thus allowing me to specialize after a hectic year of wide-ranging questions. I feel fortunate that I was given that opportunity to be both a generalist and a specialist. The reader will see that I make no mention of the turbulence that informed this decade. This is a story in microcosm: one institution, one city, one point of view, one selective account.

Typical visitors

We had certain types of patrons who can be found, I am convinced, only in a large metropolitan public library. We learned to recognize them as we would our next door neighbor. Many would wait patiently at the stately doors of the library before we opened for business at 9:00 a.m. Some would seek information, others shelter. The latter group was epitomized by a middle-aged woman my colleagues called Princess, who wore rags and never bathed. She camped out in the Periodicals Department on the top floor of the library, an extremely warm and stuffy room during sunny days (SFPL was not air conditioned). I felt terribly sorry for the librarians and non-professional help who had to put up with the fetid odor. In this instance, as in other matters, library policy was sometimes tolerant to a fault. Years later, in my teaching of courses in legal research, I came upon a federal district court case that held that people like Princess could be banished from a library as a nuisance and even health hazard to staff and other patrons. Another patron would come into the reference department from time to time with the caustic smell of chemicals on his person. He always went straight to the shelf where a book on explosives was housed, photocopied a few pages, and left.

A shriek from one of our patrons would announce the presence of one who exposed himself. The typical flasher would station himself at the top of the great staircase where he performed his striptease. Invariably he was soon apprehended by a guard and escorted from the premises. To the staff veterans, he was little more than a diversion to be reported. To

the newcomer from library school, well, he was not part of the curriculum nor even mentioned in a professorial aside.

Promptly once a month, a man would come to the documents department seeking foreign trade data. After several attempts to bring him various sources, he found the FT-410 Census series, US export and import statistics, to his liking. We bonded with this gentleman, to the extent of saying "Here comes Mr. FT-410," and we were ready with his monthly tables. Never mind that these data were several months behind in printed form.

The staff

The people who phoned us or trod the corridors were not the only characters at the SFPL. One of my colleagues was, by virtue of initiative and knowledge, personally responsible for the local government collection; whenever patrons came to one of us looking for information on Bay Area and environs history, Phyllis was called upon to address their requests.

I recall in particular the demand for the Hetch-Hechy Valley reports, a subject of intense research interest and a dramatic story involving the great John Muir, who wandered among the Sierra Nevada mountains and equated nature with divinity. Invariably Phyllis would go into the stacks by herself and return with the appropriate volume. She treated these tomes, which (in my opinion) should have been housed in Special Collections, as her own private library. "Her" holdings were listed in a special catalog in our office, in Phyllis's handwriting. But she was a dear, lovable woman despite her proprietary proclivities.

Sadly, Phyllis, like so many Americans of that time, was a heavy smoker and eventually died of lung cancer in her early fifties. She was one of a number of librarians who were hired without a library school degree. In those days, getting a good job in a library was as easy as reaching the low lying branches of an apple tree in autumn.

Another character was the assistant city librarian. During World War II, Hank had been a prisoner in the Pacific Theater for three years. He had a reputation as a macho guy, but he rarely interfered in the day-to-day operations of the Main. He told anyone who would listen that playing professional football was the highest achievement to which our species could aspire and, at his level of administration, the budget—not without reason—was his most important function. Books were like shoes, Hank used to say, just another commodity in need of managing.

Perhaps because I was a Korean War vet, or more likely because I was one of the few men on the staff, he asked me to compile a bibliography of books by prisoners of war in that Theater. I was in awe of anyone who had spent three years as a POW in some rotting jungle gulag. The task also gave me a chance to be excused from desk duty for maybe three days while I scurried about the library consulting all the basic bibliographical sources I could remember from library school and some new ones I learned on the job.

I came up with about one hundred entries, many of them privately published, typed them up in alphabetical-by-title order, as directed, copied the pages, and sent the original to Hank. I was pleased because I learned a lot about sources and because I sent the photocopied pages to the *Bulletin of Bibliography*, where they were accepted and became my first published work, an achievement for which I was inordinately and unduly proud.

Then there was my boss, Janet, a woman who glided about while seeming always to carry several index cards in her hand to be inserted into the catalog. She was a careful, competent librarian, but she treated the government documents collection, which ordinarily did not circulate, as if it comprised sacred texts. The primary corporate borrower of federal documents was a large, prominent San Francisco law firm. Because I had helped them track down some hearings and held them to be picked up at the desk, I became their go-to guy. Janet was glad to have a designated "expert" on board, for indeed her first interest was maintaining and building the science collection, in which federal documents, as I mentioned, were housed as an adjacent but separate entity when the library's departments were reorganized.

It became routine for the firm to call in advance, give me what information they wanted, and ask me what a convenient time would be for a courier to pick up the materials. The task was easier than it might have appeared, given a congenital dislike by librarians for the masses of federal government publications shelved by an unwelcome classification scheme.

By the time a representative of the legal firm arrived, the documents were marked and parked behind the reference desk. I recall a particular afternoon in which a young man, likely a rookie hot out of law school, identified himself, showed his ID, and said that I was holding documents for his firm. At that hour Janet was at the desk and I was helping another patron nearby, close enough, however, for me to hear the exchange. She looked up from his wallet to his face and exclaimed, "Oh, you aren't old enough to be an attorney."

The transaction was nonetheless consummated, Janet reluctantly turning over the publications to this young man after he signed for them. After our baby-faced, well-scrubbed lawyer left, Janet said, with a disapproving frown to no one in particular, "Why, he's just a boy!"

Of course there were the pages, a bevy of indispensable

helpers, who retrieved books and other materials—the library had a "closed stacks" policy—for the waiting public (customers, patrons, users, clientele—none of these terms ever seemed quite adequate), saw that the materials were put back in their appropriate locations, and performed other non-professional tasks as assigned. A few of the pages knew more about the collections than the librarians, and for a newly-hired professional some became mentors.

And there were the clerks, also crucial to the smooth functioning of the library. I recall the woman who for some years had been checking the Daily Depository Shipping Lists against the boxes of federal documents, which revealed a staggering mix of the efforts of the agencies that comprised the federal publishing industry. SFPL was a widely subscribed depository. Indeed, our *Serial Set* holdings were the envy of the large academic libraries in the surrounding counties and were visited by scholars all over the Bay Area and beyond. I made it a point to examine all publications she inscribed into our special catalog. After she assigned the Superintendent of Documents class notation to every piece that appeared in the cartons and was verified on the Shipping Lists, most of the materials were placed in the hallowed stacks of our segregated collection. This worthy clerk was my mentor through a whole cycle of documents, which began to show up again in the endless repetition of the serial literature. In a few months I had learned more about the library's federal government holdings than anyone else among my professional colleagues.

Oddities

Our diverse dramatis personae included our singing janitor Antony, a short and powerfully built man of Italian descent. His creditable tenor rang with the magnificent arias of Puccini, Rossini, Verdi, and other composers while he went about his daily duties. The same tolerant attitude that pervaded SFPL generally allowed Antony to sing in a soft background. His music complemented the general hum of business, and his vocal talents helped ease the frustration of periodic invasions of hordes of junior high school students, all of whom were given the same assignment having to use the same source. Of course, this always occurred after the local school libraries had closed in mid-afternoon. No one from the top down seemed to think it peculiar that Antony was allowed to give voice to his melodic favorites; that this behavior was unusual among libraries was of no concern to those in charge.

One week we went on strike, picketing the Port of San Francisco, because we were in a category under the rubric of the Teamsters called "Miscellaneous," and that powerful union, with our indispensable help, effectively closed down the city until the mayor and Board of Supervisors capitulated and awarded everyone a modest pay raise. How exhilarating it was to be part of a Greater Cause (money), and how odd the system that linked us with the Teamsters.

Phone and phony questions

On phone duty we typically sat two behind the reference desk, each librarian back-to-back, surrounded by ready reference volumes selected to answer most questions. Sometimes the work became competitive: Who among us could reach the phone most swiftly when a line was free? One of our merry pages, observing the speed at which various librarians answered the call first, ran a contest for the title "Fastest Finger in the West." Alas, I never even got to the quarter finals in that event.

We had four phone lines and we worked in shifts. Some days and evenings, the telephone traffic was exceedingly heavy, and it seemed as if we would never catch up with our importuning callers. With but a smattering of reference sources around us, we performed surprisingly well; few things in library land equal the pleasure of knowing that you have succeeded in the "information transfer process," one user at a time.

Inevitably, some queries required leaving the phone and seeking the source among the shelves or stacks. On more than a few evening shifts, when our staff was reduced and we had to manage walk-in as well as phone-in questions, we were obliged to say we would call back and conduct a search. I remember one instance in which a local newspaper columnist asked me to read Abraham Lincoln's famous but controversial letter of condolence to Mrs. Bixby on the death of her five sons in battle. I had to wander into the stacks to find a biography of Lincoln with a good index. When I located the information and began reading, I could hear the clack and bing of his typewriter as he instructed me to speak very slowly. In this instance, and in general, no credit was given to us. To a very few columnists, like this scribe, librarians were mere serfs, an inferior species. I have tried in vain to recall the context in which the Bixby quote appeared in the next day's paper, but I know it was not as eloquent as Lincoln's letter.

Answering homework questions was to be avoided. If someone called, typically in the evening, and asked, in a faux kid's voice, for the five (or six, or seven) causes of the Civil War, we would advise the caller to come into the library, we would give our business hours, and we would tell him or her what department they were most likely to find that information. Sometimes the request required a judgment call owing to a lack of certainty as to its legitimacy. Naturally, we tried not to do students' homework. Let the little slackers make an effort to come to the library, with or without their enabling parents.

In my tours of duty, the atypical callers were many and varied and often lightened the day. I recall a guy who said, "Jeez tanks kid, you is a genius," because by sheer luck the answer was within a page or two of the *World Almanac* that I had open on my desk, having used it to respond to the previous caller.

We all experienced the Saturday Morning Sot(SMS), who by 10 a.m. was sufficiently in his cups to have us settle an argument as to the year in which Babe Ruth hit sixty home runs or some other sports trivia. Every time the SMS called, you could hear in the background the tinkling of glasses and the ring of the cash register, all mingling with his slurred words.

My favorite recollection is that of a woman who called one evening to ask if she could take alcohol to mitigate the discomfort of a root canal procedure endured earlier that day. She said that she was given an antibiotic and read its name. I consulted one of the most useful books in the collection, the *Physician's Desk Reference (PDR).* Librarians were careful to quote the *PDR,* paying special attention to the information on interactions. When she heard the bad news that the combination of her specific medication and any spirituous beverage was unwise if not dangerous, she appealed to me in a whiny voice: "Can't I have just one little drinky-poo?" As her pleas grew more plaintive, I finally said, "Ma'am, why didn't you ask your dentist about what was unacceptable?" She replied, "Honey, I wouldn't trust that son of a bitch as far as I could throw him!"

Dissatisfied customers

On occasion, our clients would show great anger. I recall one incident at about eight o'clock on a quiet watch when a thin, wiry man wandered in and approached the desk, and when I looked into his eyes I saw a person quite likely on drugs. The sole customer in what was the science/documents department at that time, he asked for a copy of the *California State Constitution*, a document we had readily available on a nearby shelf of reference tools. I got him the latest edition, which included the most recent pocket supplement.

He went to a table and started to look at the contents. The library did not have the luxury of a subscription to a private publisher's volumes of the annotated series, with all its helpful bells and whistles. After a spell, my patron with eyes cold as coins returned to the desk where I had buried my face in the current issue of *Publishers Weekly*. He pointed to a section of the *Constitution* and said, "What does this mean?" I said I was not an attorney, and even if I was, I would not be allowed to answer legal questions as that would be practicing law without a license. Before I concluded this standard soliloquy, he spewed forth a profusion of profanity that would have made a lexicographer blush, and left in a rage. When incidents like this occurred the best security to have, other than immediate access to a guard, was to share one's tour of duty with a husky page who lifted weights.

Farewell to all this

In 1967 I decided to go back to school. I needed an advanced degree so that I could eventually preach what I had practiced. I earned my doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley, but had to go where the jobs were to get the best faculty position available. Thus I ended up at the State University of New York at Albany's School of Library Science, as it was then known. I taught there for more than thirty years before I retired.

The memory of the city by the Golden Gate, one of the most beautiful of municipalities, will always stay with me, for it was there, working at Main, that I learned the ways and means of federal information, enjoyed with my wife the spectacular ambience of the city and the manifold pleasures of the state, and made some enduring friendships.

Joe Morehead, Professor Emeritus, Department of Information Studies, State University of New York at Albany, jhm@albany.edu.

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.

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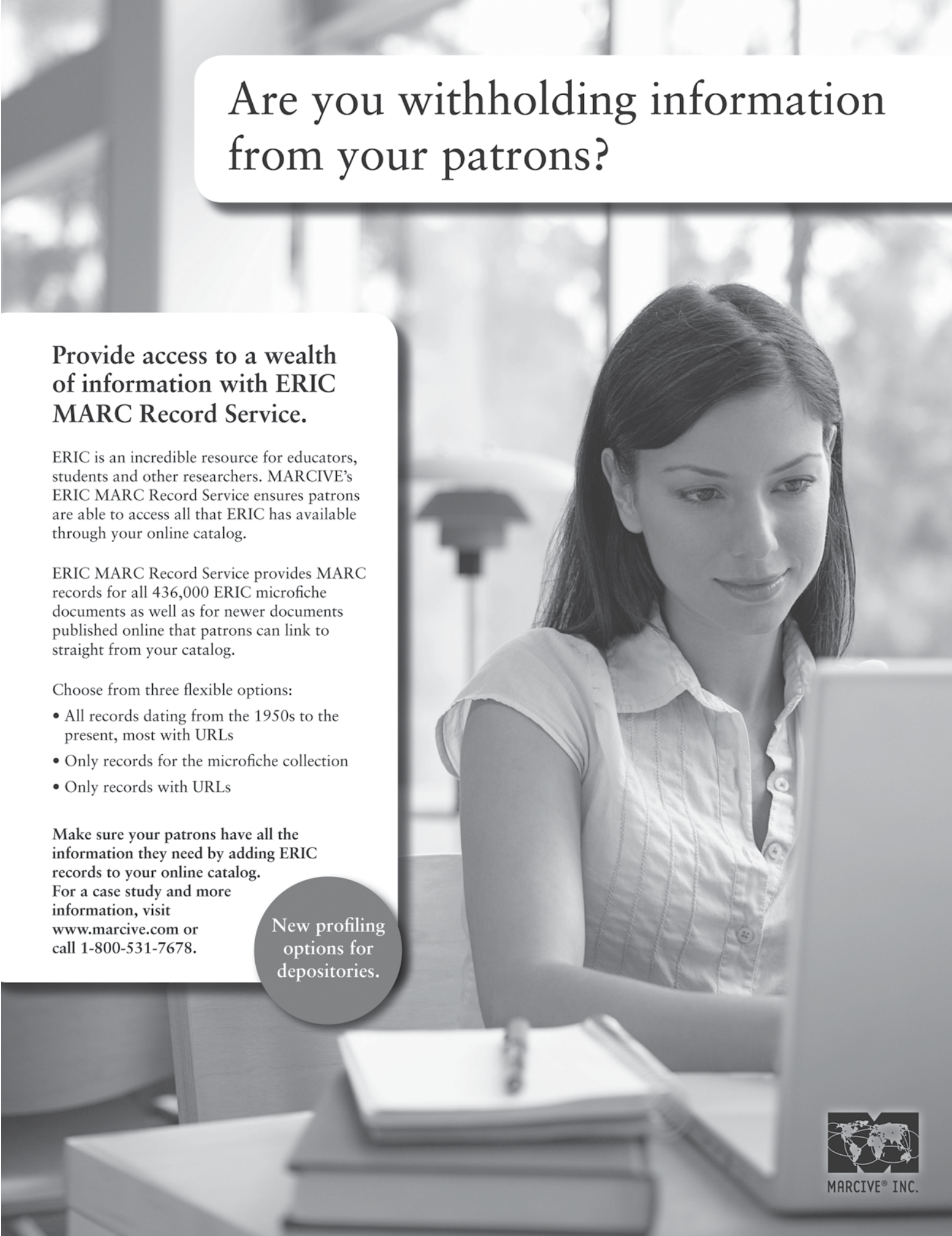

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Paper Standards, Public Printing, and Preservation

Some Historical Notes on the Government Printing Office's Paper Specifications, 1895–1980

George Barnum and August Imholtz

In 1895, Public Printer Thomas E. Benedict wrote in his annual report that, "the early bookmakers . . . endeavored as far as was within their power to make it possible for their books to be preserved for posterity. Their example might well be followed by our Government . . . The life of most books produced here [at GPO] during recent years will be of short duration, owing to the perishable character of the paper used."[1] Benedict was commenting unfavorably on the long-practiced method of obtaining paper for the public printing at lowest bid on the open market, not condemning the market system per se, but complaining loudly of the " . . . questionable methods used by certain bidders to secure contracts."[2] More than a hundred years later, his remarks are prescient not only of the ongoing vagaries of government contracting, but in light of the understanding gained in the last half century of the potential for nineteenth century paper to deteriorate.

Public Printer Benedict wrote this report in the same year that Congress began several years of reforms to the contracting system for paper, which had effects beyond the realm of doing business with the government. *The Printing Act of 1895*, in addition to directing the centralization of virtually all government printing and dissemination of public documents, gave GPO the authority to set and employ quality standards for obtaining paper from the marketplace.[3]

GPO's entire institutional history sounds a theme of reconciling the needs and requirements of the government with the demands of the free market. The creation of the Office in 1861 was a reaction by Congress to decades of "questionable methods" on the part of contractors and serious waste and abuse of public funds. The attempt was seen as generally successful, enough so that thirty-three years after the creation of the Office as the Congressional printer, the remit was extended to all three branches. As the Public Printer makes clear in 1895, the "questionable methods" didn't simply disappear, they moved down the supply chain. By standardizing the purchase of paper for printing, and eventually centralizing the purchase of all government paper (such as stationery) in GPO, Congress was seeking to apply a similar remedy, creating a bureaucratic mechanism by which quality and value could be measured.

The 1895 act established a Paper Commission composed of top GPO and Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) officials, to establish a benchmark against which bids and deliveries could be measured: " . . . [the Commission shall] compare every lot of paper delivered by any contractor with the standard of quality fixed upon by the Joint Committee on Printing and shall not accept any paper which does not conform to it in every particular . . . "[4]

In addition to the concerns over value for dollar, the quality of paper used for printing was of increasing importance as GPO's production grew increasingly mechanized. Faster and more mechanically sophisticated presses required consistent strength, finish, and conformity to size in order to deliver a quality job on a tight schedule. The office perennially prided itself on being the best in the world at delivering excellent work quickly.

In the nine decades after the office's creation, GPO's capacity and output steadily increased. Expansion of government, expansion of GPO's authority, wars, and the growth of the nation in general all created steadily increasing demand for government printing. The technological advances of the industrial revolution and beyond gave GPO the capability to produce larger quantities faster. In the years after World War II, the expansion of facilities and equipment eventually gave way to a reliance on printing capacity and services obtained from commercial print shops under contract to GPO.

In this era of growth and innovation, and of a very large

workforce in the "Big Red Buildings," measures to assure quality and consistency of product were essential. By the 1920s, the JCP standards for paper, directed by the 1895 act, were well established and followed, and the actual development of technical specifications was delegated by the JCP to a new section at GPO. The Testing Section was created in April 1922 by Public Printer George H. Carter and quickly expanded to conduct research not only on paper, but type metal, inks, binding materials, adhesives, and other compounds used in the plant. The section staff published the findings of their research in the broader professional literature, and the section served as a model in the printing industry for many decades.[5]

Following the establishment of the Testing Section, the paper specification became increasingly sophisticated. By the mid-1950s, the specification described eighteen-to-twenty distinct classes or categories of printing paper, more than twelve million pounds of which was purchased annually. Each category was specified as to composition (rag or wood pulp and chemical fillers), finish, size, weight, and acidity, according to use and other factors.[6]

The Testing Section and the JCP issued ten revisions to the paper specification, the most recent published in 1999. As the bulk of GPO's production has moved out of the plant to contractor printers, the specification has shifted somewhat in its focus, but remains a valuable tool in obtaining and maintaining high levels of quality in printed products.

Paper and preservation of collections

Public Printer Benedict's comments about paper quality in 1895 were more right than he had any way of knowing. Prior to the nineteenth century, paper was made from textiles: rags pulped or ground to a slurry, formed into paper that was relatively stable chemically, and physically quite strong and pliable. By the 1840s, demand for paper for the burgeoning publishing industry, driven by improvements to printing machinery, led to the development of paper made from ground wood pulp, which was far less costly to manufacture and could be produced in far larger quantities. Paper based on wood pulp had a number of attributes quite different from rag paper:

- cellulose fiber (which wood pulp is composed of) is less strong;
- wood fiber contains up to 25 percent lignin (an acid) that destroys cellulose over time;
- alum (aluminum sulphate), was added to wood pulp as a sizing agent for the paper (improving its strength and surface quality for receiving ink). In the presence of water and heat, aluminum sulphate creates sulphuric acid, with highly destructive results for the paper, and
- chemicals and such as bleaches and other sizing agents may have been added to improve appearance.

Over time, owing to the alum sizing and the presence of moisture, wood pulp-based paper becomes highly acidic, and grows discolored and brittle. These effects, although noted earlier, were not really attributed to the rise of wood pulp paper until after World War II. By the 1960s, paper companies developed methods for producing alkaline paper—in which chemical composition is altered and buffers are added to thwart the chemical reaction resulting in the production of acids and thus the embrittlement of the paper. By the 1980s, alkaline paper could be produced less expensively than acid paper.

In the 1980s, libraries began advocating publishing industry standards for paper permanence, and raised awareness about the danger of the "slow fires" that were a major concern of every library with a significant collection of books printed after 1840. In 1990, GPO produced a plan for expanding the use of alkaline paper, which was later incorporated into legislation mandating that the majority of government publications be printed on alkaline paper. Libraries and archives became the center of activity for preserving collections threatened by the nearly inevitable deterioration of nineteenth and twentieth century publications.

For library collections, mitigating the damage to collections by treating carefully selected items is an approach used most widely when the object itself is of high value. Such treatment, however, is costly, and carries a variety of associated risks. In general, libraries deacidify books of extraordinary value or importance, on a piece-by-piece basis. Although mass deacidification has been experimented with, it has not become a widely adopted, cost-effective approach. In most cases, transferring the intellectual content of publications to a new, more stable medium has been the treatment of choice. Thus millions of individual issues of newspapers, printed on highly acidic paper, have been transferred to microfilm in the last thirty years, as have large collections of scholarly books. While not beloved of researchers, microfilm has proved a highly manageable, and highly stable, reformatting medium.

With the advent of digital media, attention is again being focused on reformatting of older materials, with the dual goals of preservation and expansion of access. While many legitimate questions still exist about the durability of digital objects, it is increasingly held that content in digital form will be able to be transformed or migrated forward over time, as technology advances without significant loss. Unlike microfilm, which in some cases restricted rather

than expanded access, material converted to digital form is able to be widely shared, with little or no constraint based on the location of the object. Thus, as librarians begin to accept digitization as an acceptable alternative for preservation reformatting, collections never examined previously for reformatting come under the lens of digitization projects.

In assessing the aggregate of the Federal Depository Library Program as a candidate collection for digitization, there has been a call for the determination of priorities and "what should be digitized first?" In 2004, GODORT's Rare and Endangered Government Publications Committee (REGP) asked for a report on the history of the GPO *Paper Specification*, with the intent of making a correlation between the application of the specification over time, and recommendations for priorities in digitization.

Although the *Paper Specification* specified paper composition and initial acidity from at least the 1950s onward, it is extremely difficult to draw conclusions much beyond the very broadest understandings. The *Paper Specification* does demonstrate that the range of printing paper used by GPO from the 1890s on conforms quite closely to papers in common use for similar purposes (book and pamphlet printing, for example, and newspaper/broadside printing) in the United States. The specifications themselves provide ample data that could be studied in detail to compare GPO's paper selection to what is known about particular kinds of publications.

However, the *Specification* is not particularly useful in pointing us to particular areas in the collections in our depository libraries on which to lavish extra attention because of increased risk. Throughout the period from 1895 through 1991, GPO output grew year by year, and employed all the variety of paper available in the open market. In the 1950s, for example, GPO was purchasing more than thirteen million pounds of paper annually. Although the *Paper Specification* for that time gives a useful range of variables for the types, material and chemical composition, initial acidity, and finish, in only a single case (in 1956 and 1957) can a specification be matched with a particular printed product—a specification is given for all-rag content stock for *Supreme Court Decisions*.[7]

Conclusion

When we began this investigation, it was our hope that the *Paper Specification* documents still in existence at GPO, and the conditions imposed by the standardization they reflect, would enable the REGP to point to classes of documents in need of greater attention or higher priority as digital reformatting decisions are made. Our discoveries, while not supporting that hope, reveal several key points:

- **Documentation on the *Paper Specification* is not as extensive as hoped**. In particular we were unable to locate records of the Joint Committee on Printing related to the *Paper Specification* either at GPO or the National Archives. More thorough investigation might turn these records up.
- **The published standards offer a rich opportunity for further research**. There is clearly some documentary material in active files at GPO and in GPO's historical collections that could be profitably analyzed by researchers in printing history of the history of science and technology. Likewise, there is opportunity for further research into the impact of the JCP and the *Paper Specification*, although the records of the JCP on the topic are not well assembled and organized.
- **As printing processes became more mechanized and GPO became more industrial, GPO's use of paper was consistent with practices in the American printing industry.** GPO purchased paper on the open market, and its specifications reflect the state of the industry.
- And finally, **the *Paper Specification* probably does not provide clear markers for areas in which to concentrate preservation reformatting activity**. A methodology using the Paper Specification as a yardstick would likely be labor intensive and potentially less accurate than the alternative, which is surveying actual depository library holdings.

George Barnum, Agency Historian, Congressional Relations Specialist, United States Government Printing Office, gbarnum@gpo.gov. **August Imholtz,** retired Vice President, Government Publications, Readex, imholtz99@atlantech.net.

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American Indian Access to Government Information

Andrew M. Pochatko

There once was a time, before the advent of written language, when information was only communicated orally. Come forward to the present day, and information is available everywhere in multiple formats, as is well evidenced by the Government Printing Office (GPO), the most prolific provider of information in the world. The primary goal of disseminating government information is making it accessible to the public.[1] The United States government has determined that the most efficient medium for that dispersal is via the Internet. Despite the burgeoning of online government information, barriers to accessing electronic government information still exist. American Indians, although many are living on government-managed lands, often lack adequate access to electronic government information.

This article begins by briefly reviewing the literature on American Indian access to government information. It then covers historical problems of access to government information, before examining contemporary American Indian usage of electronic government information and why barriers still exist to these communities. The last section is prescriptive, offering international examples of how governments and libraries have attempted to cope with the information needs of indigenous peoples.

American Indians and government information

Little has been written about the information-seeking habits of American Indians, let alone their usage of government information. Awareness of Amerindian library usage came about largely from the American Indian movement in the 1970s.[2] By 1983, Marilyn L. Haas had written a handbook, *Indians of North America: Methods and Sources for Library Research*, focusing on how to locate information about American Indians. Haas briefly treated government documents, but only as sources of information about American Indians, not as a category of library materials sought out by them.[3]

Indeed, much of the recent literature still focuses on government documents as historical sources about American Indians. One study in 2006 reviewed governmental sources on finding tools, federal laws and policies, treaties, statistics, history and culture, and contemporary issues.[4] A more recent study focused solely on Congressional hearings as information sources.[5]

With a greater awareness of the interrelationship between anthropology and librarianship has come a greater emphasis on the preservation of indigenous knowledge. Walter Ong synthesized research about how traditional, oral cultures organize their information based exclusively on memory.[6] More recently, Hester W. J. Meyer directed the research of Ong and others toward the sharing of information between cultures and the problems entailed therein.[7] Much of the research about the interaction between indigenous peoples and libraries, though, comes out of New Zealand and the experiences of its Māori peoples. Lorraine (Te Rohe) Johnston reviewed library initiatives undertaken in New Zealand directed to the benefit of Māoris. Her 2007 article offers valuable advice for US librarians as they strive to improve access to native populations.[8]

Government documents and access: A brief consideration

Government documents have long been considered "hidden collections" within libraries, simply because most patrons are unaware of their existence.[9] This problem is further compounded by the fact that many librarians, too, are unaware of the breadth of information provided by the US government. The FDLP improved access to government or information by distributing print publications to libraries.[10]

The Clinton era, however, marked a shift in government information policy, as more information was "born digital;" that is, created as electronic files on the Internet.[11] Subsequently, the US government has invested much money in the design of Internet portals to facilitate searching across a range of government agencies.[12] The most popular of these portals is USA.gov, which resembles Google in its simplicity. Users may also access federal government information via GPO's new FDsys.

Problems with access

American Indians face several challenges in accessing government information. The federal government has an unfortunate history of withholding vital information from Indian populations.[13] While "born digital" materials are thought to alleviate concerns about transparency, several issues still exist.

First among these access barriers is poverty. The US Census Bureau counted 4,961,000 American Indians and Native Alaskans living in the United States in 2009.[14] In 2008, about 116,000 American Indians or Native Alaskans lived on incomes of $20,000 or less; nearly 1,192,000 American Indians or Native Alaskans received food stamps.[15]

Limited access to the Internet is related to poverty. While a National Telecommunications and Information Administration survey, "Digital Nation," identified ambivalence as the most common reason why some people don't own a computer, the fact that it was "too expensive" was cited by 26.3 percent of respondents as the second most commonly cited reason.[16] The same report noted that, as of October 2009, only 42.6 percent of American Indians or Native Alaskans had access to broadband Internet. As of the same year, the Census Bureau found that, of 804,000 American Indian and Native Alaskan households, just over 53 percent (or 429,416 households) had in-home access to the Internet.[17] Meanwhile, 530,000 American Indian and Native Alaskan households sought Internet access outside the home. Finally, 274,000 households had no Internet access at all.[18] The clear implication is that, for many American Indians and Native Alaskans, access to the wealth of "born digital" government information is difficult or impossible.

Faced with such high barriers to Internet access, American Indians must rely on government agencies such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for access to government information. The history of troubled relations between this agency and American Indians owing to the corruption of BIA officials is well documented.[19] Even today, though relations have improved and more American Indians are involved in the agency, the BIA remains remote from the peoples it serves. For example, the Oneida Indian Nation, the Onondaga Indian Nation, and the Seneca Indian Nation, all based in New York, are served through the Cherokee Agency of the BIA, which is based in North Carolina with a regional office in Tennessee. The Cherokee Agency website provides online contact information, which is of limited value to populations where Internet access is anything but guaranteed.[20] No information about local contacts is provided.

Reservations have often been located on lands that the dominant white culture did not want until valuable natural resources were discovered on them. Due to their remoteness, reservation libraries are often disconnected from the larger regional libraries that serve as FDLP depositories. Poverty on the reservations makes travel to these regional depositories largely impracticable.

Poverty also leaves reservation libraries often woefully underfunded. Furthermore, many reservation libraries lack professional librarians.[21] This sometimes means that while library staff know the information needs of the people, they may lack the means to provide that information, a problem that is compounded for government information by its unfamiliarity to many people.

This is not to say that American Indians are not seeking training in library science. A 2000 study found that, while American Indians are getting graduate-level training in librarianship, most seek jobs outside the reservation because there is little economic incentive to stay.[22]

Isolation and poverty have also limited the opportunities for American Indian libraries to serve as selective federal depository libraries. Charles Bernholz and Rachel Lindvall found that American Indian libraries were often bypassed because they lacked the required staffing and infrastructure, including Internet access, to qualify.[23] When they published their study in 2005, there were no American Indian libraries in the FDLP. Shortly thereafter, however, three tribal college libraries came onboard as FDLP selective depositories: Fort Peck Community College and Salish Kootenai College, both in Montana, and Little Priest Tribal College in Nebraska.[24] While progress has been made, many other tribal reservations remain unserved in other states.[25]

"A different way of knowing"

The last, and often overlooked, barrier to American Indian access to government information is cognitive. Simply stated, the way American Indians mentally organize information is different from that of other Americans. This difference stems from the strong oral tradition that plays a powerful role in shaping the identities of many American Indian tribes.[26] Indeed, orality is a characteristic of many indigenous societies worldwide.[27] It is also a concept many librarians still struggle to understand.[28]

In his classic study, *Orality and Literacy*, Walter J. Ong contrasted the characteristics of oral-based cultures versus chirographic cultures. Oral-based cultures, Ong said, emphasize formulaic thinking and situational thinking.[29] In formulaic thinking, the individual often relies on the repetition of key phrases or motifs in oratory. Situational thinking is thinking based on concrete experience, rather than abstract thinking. Writing ultimately affects how people cognate information.[30]

Though many American Indians have been forced to attend American schools, their oral traditions endure and affect their knowledge. In her 2008 study of the management of indigenous knowledge, Amanda Stevens called it "a

different way of knowing." The problem, then, is that government information is organized around a Western classification system that is often unintelligible to native populations. This problem is vividly demonstrated by the hierarchical arrangement of the many government bodies issuing information. As American Indians conceive of information as a holistic system, they would have to change their thinking to wade through the government information milieu.[31]

American Indian e-government usage: The need

Information scientists who have studied the information poverty of less developed nations have noted striking parallels on American Indian reservations. A 2007 study found that tribes often need economic and business information as well as legal information.[32] This is an outgrowth of their autonomous status within the United States: the federal government, beyond the BIA, does not actively aid American Indians in obtaining information needed to promote development.

By their native status, American Indians are entitled to certain tax credits. Anyone who is familiar with Internal Revenue Service policy, however, knows the dynamic nature of tax law. The need for economic information has also grown as many tribes have expanded commercial activities, such as building casinos and renting tribal lands.

As for legal information, the jurisdiction of the tribe extends only to reservation boundary lines. Under the decision of the US Supreme Court in *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe*, 435 U.S. 191 (1978), American Indian tribes must pursue charges against non-Indians through the offices of state attorneys general. Often times, states dismiss charges and fail to notify the victims involved.[33]

Legal matters extend beyond simply courts. American Indian tribes have been subject to numerous treaties historically. Today, many of these treaties with the United States government remain in force, though perpetually ignored. Much of this information is available through documents such as the *US Congressional Serial Set*.[34] Such documents, too, provide a further sense of the tragic history of the American Indian.

The Future of Access

To provide American Indians better access to government information in the future, US government agencies need to understand the knowledge modes of American Indians. Agencies must be open to consideration of alternate information classifications, including perhaps the development of an Amerindian classification system. Such a program would not be unique, as the National Library of New Zealand has collaborated with Māori librarians and information specialists to develop the Māori Subject Headings Project to serve New Zealand's indigenous population.[35]

Information portals designed in consultation with American Indians would be a great boon, allowing the consolidation of resources pertinent to American Indians in one website instead of across several agencies.[36] Additionally, while language revitalization has been a priority among tribes since the 1970s, a recent survey found that e-government websites often lack language translation features.[37] Tools facilitating the translation of government websites into native languages would signal a greater willingness to promote outreach to native communities.

Infrastructure improvements on reservations would help more American Indian libraries prepare to qualify as selective depositories in the FDLP. While three tribal libraries serve as depositories today, many states with large native populations, such as Oklahoma, Arizona, New York, and Alaska, are without tribal depository libraries.

The federal government must also address promotion to native populations. While accessing government information can pose bewildering problems to most Americans, those problems are easily compounded on the reservation. While the BIA is in regular communication with tribal peoples, other agencies, such as the Department of Commerce or the Library of Congress, must engage in more intentional outreach to native populations.

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, all Americans face the challenges of the digital age, a time when the way we think has been altered by the digital landscape. Indeed, we are overwhelmed with information every day. But on the reservations, where American Indians struggle to maintain their heritage and adjust to modernization, many people are gasping for information.

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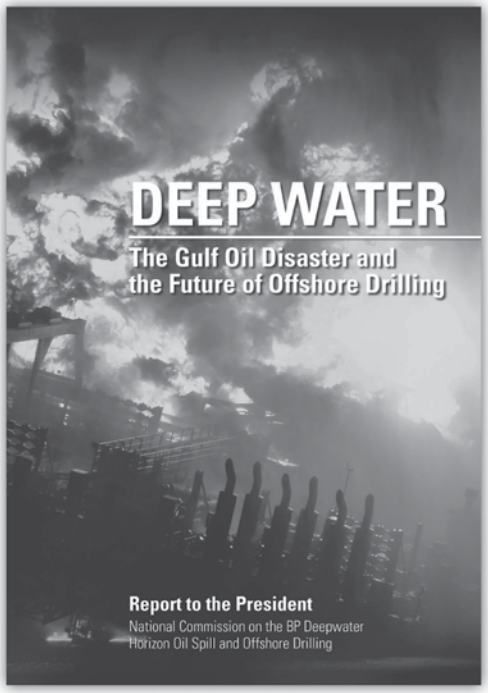
Official Report on the BP Oil Spill Disaster

Deep Water: The Gulf Oil Disaster and the Future of Offshore Drilling



National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling

On April 20, 2010, the Macondo well blew out, costing the lives of 11 men and beginning a catastrophe that sank the ***Deepwater Horizon*** drilling rig and spilled nearly 5 million barrels of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico. The spill disrupted an entire region's economy, damaged fisheries and critical habitats, and brought vividly to light the risks of deepwater drilling for oil and gas—the latest frontier in the national energy supply. Soon after, President Barack Obama appointed a seven-member Commission to investigate the disaster, analyze its causes and effects, and recommend the actions necessary to minimize such risks in the future.

The Commission's report offers the American public and policymakers alike the fullest account available of what happened in the Gulf and why, and proposes actions—changes in company behavior, reform of Government oversight, and investments in research and technology—required as industry moves forward to meet the nation's energy needs.

"What the commission has done is put together the most comprehensive narrative of what happened, both before and after the April 20 event. The commission has employed excellent investigators and has presented its findings in a clear, readable, insightful tale."

- Achenblog, Joel Achenbach, Washington Post January 6, 2011

"The document released Wednesday by the presidential commission investigating last spring's oil blowout in the Gulf of Mexico is a riveting and chilling indictment of "systemic failures" throughout the oil business and of the federal agencies that allowed themselves to be captured by the people they were supposed to regulate."

New York Times editorial, January 7, 2011

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GODORT 2011 Annual Conference Highlights

Amy West

While members continue to wrestle with financial constraints on travel and GODORT continues to look at technological and virtual meeting solutions to those constraints, GODORT had a very active conference.

At Steering I, treasurer John Hernandez reported that GODORT finances are in good shape, and for the first time, the Rozkuszka Scholarship was paid from the fund rather than the GODORT operating budget. Steering discussed the report of the GODORT Task Force on Online Learning. The group's report and plan call for creating a series of continuing education sessions for ALA members. The report will be available via ALA Connect.

Federal Documents Task Force (FDTF)

FDTF held a program in conjunction with the Education Committee. Speakers representing programs of the Census Bureau showed how to effectively use the Economic Census (Andrew Hait, statistician/economist Census Bureau) and the new version of the American Fact Finder (Tai Istre, Louisiana state data resource officer). After that, Superintendent of Documents Mary Alice Baish gave an overview of trends and issues confronting GPO. GPO and FDLP program updates were provided by Ted Priebe and Robin Haun-Mohamed, both of GPO.

State and Local Documents Task Force (SLDTF)

Most of the discussion in the meeting centered on how state and local documents are handled electronically in everyone's state and locality. This discussion will be continued on ALA Connect. There was a discussion about the State Agency databases on the wiki and this will be shared with project volunteers. If anyone wants to volunteer to cover a state please contact Daniel Cornwall at dnlcornwall@Alaska.net. Advocacy on the state level was discussed, and that spawned a request for action by Steering. Finally, the task force discussed the future of virtual and physical meetings at Annual and Midwinter.

Request for action

- SLDTF requests that GODORT ask ALA Advocacy to establish a list of state level library advocacy contacts. This list could include information such as association URLs and legislative tracking.

International Documents Task Force (IDTF)

Discussion centered around the impact of the economy on staffing, priorities, collection development, and programs. Suggestions for additions to the IDTF wiki were solicited. Digital collections were discussed in terms of Archive-It and the California Digital Library (CDL) web archive. The efforts of the CDL to collect web publications from regional and satellite offices of International Intergovernmental Organizations were of particular interest. The question of holding virtual Midwinter meetings was brought up and engendered lively discussion. This needs further conversation.

Bylaws & Organization

The draft 2010 PPM chapters on the wiki are being updated with additional comments. The goal for a final 2011 version is greater clarity and consistency. PPM chapters are being reorganized to have common structure, consistent language, and similar section headings. The PPM will need further revision as decisions are made about virtual participation and other issues.

Cataloging

The committee discussed the implementation of the new cataloging rules known as Resource Description and Access (RDA). Committee members conferred with GPO and vendor representatives regarding local issues in preparation for the January 2013 implementation timetable. GPO representatives discussed several topics including details regarding current budget related staffing initiatives. GPO continues to work on the historic sheflist project. They are focusing on serials titles, and are also working on authority headings for names and subjects. GPO staff have been training with the RDA Toolkit for several months. Two new catalogers have been hired. Indexing and cataloging activities remain a core GPO priority. Training is another major initiative for GPO staff. The committee discussed the need for tangible training sessions that could be held in conjunction with the DLC meeting in October. GPO indicated that a summit meeting on the depository library program was being planned for DLC.

Also discussed were activities for the 150th anniversary of GPO. Committee members expressed interest about any plans to recognize the fiftieth anniversary of the Regional Depository Libraries program. GPO representatives would like

to hear additional ideas on these events.

Development

The Development Committee continued fundraising strategy work. Mark Huber, ALA assistant director of development joined the group to discuss:

- Results from GODORT's first e-mail and letter fundraising campaign;
- Strategies and timing for next mailing and for a sustainable *DttP* communication to members;
- Web presence for Development and integration into GODORT's web presence, and
- Budget authorizations to take to GODORT Steering.

Education

In addition to the jointly held program with FDTF, this committee had an outreach update by GPO's outreach librarian Kathryn Brazee Bayer. The update will be posted on the GODORT wiki. The group also discussed GODORT online programming for which Steering approved. The process will be initiated with a free one-hour webinar in the spring. Competencies for Government Information Specialists were discussed, and the draft label will be removed from the document if committee members are satisfied. Education will be meeting online-only for Midwinter 2012 and Lynda Kellam was approved as Education Committee webmaster.

Government Information Technology Committee (GITCO)

GITCO did not meet officially, but Geoff Swindells facilitated a discussion on a possible revision of GITCO from a formal committee to an interest group. Because GODORT doesn't currently have an interest group structure, GITCO would need to recommend to Bylaws that interest groups be added to the bylaws. GITCO would then need to initiate the action to become an interest group if the committee wishes to move the idea forward.

Legislation

The co-chairs agreed to research issues related to the recent executive branch memo requiring the streamlining of public government websites and to work with the Washington Office on next steps. The joint meeting with COL-GIS included an update from GPO and extensive discussion concerning a draft resolution about the defunding of statistical agencies.

Membership

The committee discussed projects such as the GODORT Buddy Program and the GODORT Facebook page. The migration of the committee's archival web content on the ALA website was discussed, followed by a spirited brainstorming session on ways to celebrate and promote GODORT and its fortieth anniversary.

Nominating

Nominating discussed the positions for which nominations will be solicited for the 2012 ballot. Finding candidates is complicated by the fact that many members cannot attend two conferences each year. The chair will query Steering regarding positions for members who would like to serve but cannot attend conferences.

Program

The 2012 Annual Program brought forward by the Program Committee was approved at Steering II. The program will focus on RDA and government publications looking not only at the implications for cataloging but also at the effect on the public catalog for patrons. Tentative speakers include someone from GPO, the Library of Congress, and a public services librarian from an RDA beta site. Also discussed, and later approved for sponsorship in name only by GODORT Steering is the RUSA History Section program on the 1940 Census to be released in 2012. Discussions of GODORT's fortieth anniversary celebrations at next year's Annual Conference began.

Publications

DttP co-lead editors Beth Clausen and Valerie Glenn were thanked for their fantastic job. They have one more year of their term, and will, by July 31, inform the chair of their decision of whether or not to take on another term. If the Notable Documents chair steps down, a replacement for him will need to be found. The GODORT occasional paper series is going well. The editorial board received three submissions this year, two of which have been published on the GODORT wiki. The board hopes to publish the third soon. The committee also discussed the e-learning report and supported the notion of going through ALA if at all possible for the pilot webinar.

Rare and Endangered Government Publications (REGP)

There was not a majority quorum, so no official votes were taken. It was agreed that the 2011 Midwinter minutes will be approved on ALA Connect before Midwinter 2012. The committee discussed the migration of REGP material to the wiki. Most of the meeting was devoted to discussing REGP's role and responsibilities. Topics included:

- Ways of keeping better communications in between conferences, including methods of keeping non-REGP members informed of activities and concerns.
- The viability of virtual meetings.

- If REGP should be disbanded and elements of its duties parsed out among other committees and task forces.

It was decided that while a Midwinter virtual meeting is possible (and could be voted on by members in between Annual and Midwinter), REGP's greatest role is as a clearinghouse of information where elements from different parts of ALA can share ideas and update members of other committees on issues that are of mutual concern. In short, one of the greatest strengths of REGP lay in its liaison with other committees and their reporting back and discussing their committee's concerns with REGP membership. Central to this information sharing is increased communications in between the conferences not only by those within the committee, but with liaisons and individuals interested in the preservation of government publications. There was an update on the ASERL Centers of Excellence at the University of Kentucky (WPA Project) by Sandee McAninch.

Web Managers

Archival content from the ALA site must be moved to the wiki by July 8. The site will be moved to the Drupal content management system on July 18 and there will be a two week review process. This will allow the committees to review the new site and check to make sure the forms work properly. The go-live date is in late August.

The ALA site will contain basic information on each committee and task force. This will include:

- committee name;
- name and contact information of chair;
- link to appropriate section of the Bylaws;
- link to the appropriate section of the PPM;
- link to the appropriate section of the directory; and
- link to the wiki.

Business Meeting

Membership approved two resolutions:

- "Resolution on Government Printing Office FY 2012 Appropriations" from the Legislative Committee.
- "Resolution on Defunding of Statistical Agencies" written by ALA Committee on Legislation, Government Information Subcommittee.

Membership approved in principle one resolution:

- "Resolution to Continue Opposition to the Use of Section 215 of the USA Patriot Act and the Use of National Security Letters to Violate Reader Privacy" from the ALA Committee on Legislation and the Intellectual Freedom Committee.

Steering II

SLDTF requested that GODORT ask ALA Advocacy to establish a list of state level library advocacy contacts. This list could include information such as association URL and legislative tracking. Chair Geoff Swindells will write a letter to support this program.

Development asked that GODORT allocate $3,000 for the financial support letter for the fall term. Passed.

Steering approved the RDA and Government Publications program. GODORT will ask the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) and Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) for support.

CUAC Report

The Cartographic Users Advisory Council (CUAC) had its 2011 annual meeting June 16–17 at the USGS Library in Reston, Virginia. Twelve federal agencies participated in the meeting to share information about their current and future activities related to geospatial data products and their distribution. The presentations will be on the CUAC website (cuac.wustl.edu). During the CUAC business meeting, CUAC proposed to have a national conference in 2013 on how and what to do with libraries' current print map collections. They would like to hear from GODORT how the GODORT community manages current/existing paper map collections when the collections are moving toward a digital archive world. Any programs, ideas, or discussions that you would like to see regarding this topic at this national conference in 2013 should be sent to Marcy Bidney (mma17@psu.edu) or Joy Suh (hsuh1@gmu.edu) who are the GODORT liaisons to CUAC.

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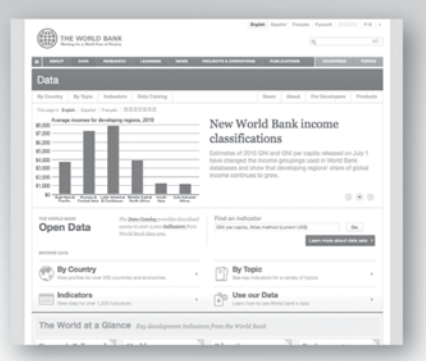

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Councilor's Report

2011 ALA Annual Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana

Despite the disappointing economy, the Annual Conference was well-attended: ALA executive director Keith Michael Fiels reported that more than 20,000 members and vendors registered. To provide access to details not in this report, my "Actions Taken by the ALA Council at the 2011 ALA Annual Conference Annotated to Include Votes by the GODORT Councilor" posting on ALA Connect will link to Council documents on the ALA site.

The first ALA Council meeting included many reports, all of which should be available from the "Council Documents" section of the ALA website (www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/council/council_documents/index.cfm). The Future Perfect Presidential Task Force's report, Envisioning ALA's Governance in the 21st Century (CD#44), presented by Brett Bonfield generated considerable discussion. The task force, consisting of members who had not served on ALA's Council, began its work with a blank slate. They were charged only with answering the question: "If there were no governing body currently in place, what structure would you envision that reflects ALA's goal of an engaged and collaborative membership, the effective use of new technologies, and the changes in outlook and expectations occurring with the new generation of people working in libraries?" The task force proposed changes in the following areas: revising requirements and member options associated with conferences; merging council and the executive board; committing to diversity through resource allocation and structural change; integrating ALA with its state chapters; increasing transparency, accessibility, and open communication; and legitimizing governance by increasing voting percentages and member engagement(emphasis in the original).

To improve participation, the report suggests providing additional options for virtual conference attendance, live video and audio streaming of all conference sessions, and hosting conferences in additional cities. The elimination of ALA's Council and expansion of its Executive Board and integration of ALA and state library associations to allow members to join both at the same time were also suggested.

Some councilors expressed concerns regarding the proposed integration of ALA with state chapters. While legislators in some states accept their state library associations' views on local issues, the ALA is seen as radical and suspect. There was some discussion of ALA's representative structure and the necessity of having an Executive Board or Council when electronic communications could support broader input. The last section of the report notes declining voter percentages (less than one fifth of the membership voting) and observes that in 2011, 10,990 people logged in but only 9,613 ballots were cast.

In the first session, ALA Council also approved a measure urging support of Out-of-School Time library programs in all libraries for children and teens.

In its second session, ALA Council referred the report from the Presidential Task Force on Equitable Access to Electronic Content (EQUACC) to the Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) (CD#41.1). The task force was directed to study the challenges and potential solutions for libraries regarding improved electronic content access, distribution and preservation systems, and infrastructure. EQUACC offered several recommendations including: the provision of staff and financial resources for an environmental scan on the current state of affairs; economic analysis of licensing models for e-content; and resources allotted to the Public Information Office to publicize library and e-content issues. Documents are available from the EQUACC's ALA Connect site (connect.ala.org/equacc). The task force requested over $80,000 in additional ALA funds and the establishment of a permanent home for issues regarding equitable access to electronic content within ALA. The task force recommended that the group's work be extended to the 2012 Midwinter Meeting to oversee its transition into a permanent advisory committee, by which time the group is expected to draft principles for Council review.

Round Tables continue to be a way for members to gather around common interests: Council approved the establishment of the Games and Gaming Round Table. Council also approved revised guidelines for the ALA Intern program from the Orientation, Training, and Leadership Development Committee.

The third Council session included GODORT contributions to the work of ALA Council. A resolution developed by both ALA's Committee on Legislation and the Intellectual Freedom Committee and endorsed in principle by GODORT was moved as part of the Intellectual Freedom Committee's report and passed. *Resolution to Continue Opposition to the Use of Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act and the Use of National Security Letters to Violate Reader Privacy* (CD#19.4) "resolved, that the American Library Association: 1. Continue to support reforms that protect reader privacy and civil liberties, especially the freedom to read without fear of

government surveillance. 2. Continue to oppose the use of Section 215 of the *USA PATRIOT Act* and the use of National Security Letters to violate reader privacy. 3. Support the passage of legislation which includes such reforms as heightened protections for library and bookseller records; judicial review of FISA orders, NSLs and their associated gag orders; and the sunset of the *USA PATRIOT Act's* NSL authorities, as proposed in S. 1125, the *USA PATRIOT Act* Improvements Bill. 4. Express its thanks and appreciation to the members of Congress who work to protect reader privacy."

Two resolutions prepared by the GODORT Legislation Committee were among the five moved by Charles Kratz, chair of the ALA Committee on Legislation, in his report to Council. The resolved clause of the first, *Resolution on Government Printing Office FY 2012 Appropriations* (CD#20.8) states, "That the American Library Association urge Congress to reaffirm the United States Government Printing Office's (GPO) mission in providing no-fee permanent public access to government information by fully funding the GPO appropriations for FY 2012 at the level requested by the United States Public Printer." The second was *Resolution on Defunding of Statistical Agencies* (CD#20.9). This resolution "Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA): 1. Urge the U.S. Department of Commerce to reinstate full funding for the U.S. Census Bureau's Statistical Compendia Branch and its publications and data products; and 2. Urge the Congress to ensure full funding for these critical statistical publications and data products." Both were endorsed by GODORT and the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) and were passed without additional discussion.

Members may find it amusing that the report which consumed the most time in Council was the *Report of the Presidential Task Force for Improving the Effectiveness of ALA's Council* (CD#45). Task force Chair and former ALA president Jim Rettig presented the report on Monday but, after some discussion, Council voted to postpone until the final Council session on Tuesday. The task force offered a dozen practical recommendations, each of which was discussed. Recommendations were made to encourage participation and information sharing while making ALA Council more efficient through preparation for business ahead of Midwinter Meetings and Annual Conferences. Suggestions included making the "What's Happening" document distributed to Council members more comprehensive by including more content regarding the work of ALA Committees and Council Committees. Divisions provide a great deal of content for these documents. While the report doesn't mention it, Round Tables have contributed in the past and should do so when there are issues to be discussed at ALA sessions. Ultimately, Council voted to direct the ALA executive director to develop a proposal and budget to enable the ALA Council to conduct a self-assessment of its effectiveness.

The issue in the *Report* that generated the most energetic discussions was Recommendation 4.1: "Council should abide by its own policy stated in policy 5.5.4: "Matters and reports of a purely informational nature will be distributed to Council in writing. Oral reports will be confined to matters requiring Council action or which are requested by the Council or by the Executive Board." The Task Force used the Freedom to Read Foundation's (FTRF) report as an example, resulting in a firestorm of comments by those who wished to have an oral report given. One councilor stated that the FTRF's charter requires it to report to ALA's Council while others noted that Council isn't violating its rules as Council may choose to invite whatever oral reports it wants and the FTRF report has been requested for many years. A motion to amend the report by deleting reference to the FTRF's report was defeated and ALA Council agreed to continue to receive an oral report from the FTRF by consent.

To keep ALA Council mindful of ALA's Strategic Plan, Council voted to amend provision #6 of the "Content" section of Policy 5.3 to state "Resolutions should clearly support ALA's Strategic Plan as well as its mission and/or its core values" and to require "A supplemental explanation consisting of one or more expository paragraphs should accompany every resolution clearly stating how the resolution supports ALA's Strategic Plan as well as its mission and/or its core values. This supplementary explanation is not a part of the resolution proper."

Memorial resolutions were presented to ALA Council by ALA president Roberta Stevens followed by a moment of silence. Edward Swanson, who served GODORT as parliamentarian in the 1990s, was listed first. Memorial resolutions were also presented for Patricia Wilson Berger, Christy Tyson, Peg Oettinger, Norman Horrocks, Virginia Mathews, Diane Gordon Kadanoff, Linda Jean Owen, Herbert Goldhor, Ursula Meyer, and Lane S. Thompson.

Council approved a new resolution endorsing the United Nations' May 16 *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right of Freedom of Opinion and Expression* (CD#51). Another late motion, to make ALA Connect the Association's official online document distribution channel and archive (CD#52 Revised), was withdrawn to allow ALA staff additional time to refine the system. Its agenda completed, Council adjourned.

John A. Stevenson, GODORT Councilor, john.a.stevenson@gmail.com

Awards Nominations due December 1, 2011

The GODORT Awards Committee welcomes nominations of documents librarians recognized for their contributions and achievements to the profession. Awards will be presented at the 2012 Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, and will be selected by the Awards Committee at Midwinter in January 2012.

James Bennett Childs

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

ProQuest/GODORT/ALA *Documents to the People*

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

Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award

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

Guidelines for all award nominations are available from the GODORT wiki (wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/AboutAwards). Nominations will be accepted via e-mail. Please send nominations to Awards Committee chair Andrea Sevetson (asevetson@hotmail.com) who can also be reached by phone, 541-992-5461.

Research and Scholarship Applications due December 1, 2011

The GODORT Awards Committee welcomes applications by December 1, 2011, for the Catherine J. Reynolds research grant, the Margaret T. Lane/Virginia F. Saunders Memorial Research Award, and the W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship. Awards will be presented at the 2012 Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, and will be selected by the Awards Committee at Midwinter in January 2012.

NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds Award

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

ProQuest-NewsBank/Readex ALA/GODORT Margaret T. Lane/Virginia F. Saunders Memorial Research Award

This award will be given annually to the author(s) of an outstanding research article in which government information, either published or archival in nature, form a substantial part of the documented research. Preference may be given to articles published in library literature and that appeal to a broader audience. The award is not restricted to articles in library journals. This award is to honor the memory of two women who worked with endless enthusiasm to make the ideal of citizen access to government information a reality. The award winner receives a plaque and a contribution of $2,000 from ProQuest and NewsBank/Readex.

W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship

The W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship provides financial assistance to an individual who is currently working with government

documents in a library and is trying to complete a master's degree in library science. This award, established in 1994, is named after W. David Rozkuszka, former documents librarian at Stanford University. The award recipient receives $3,000.

Guidelines for all award nominations are available from the GODORT wiki (wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/AboutAwards). Nominations will be accepted via e-mail. Please send nominations to Awards Committee chair Andrea Sevetson (asevetson@hotmail.com) who can also be reached by phone, 541-992-5461.

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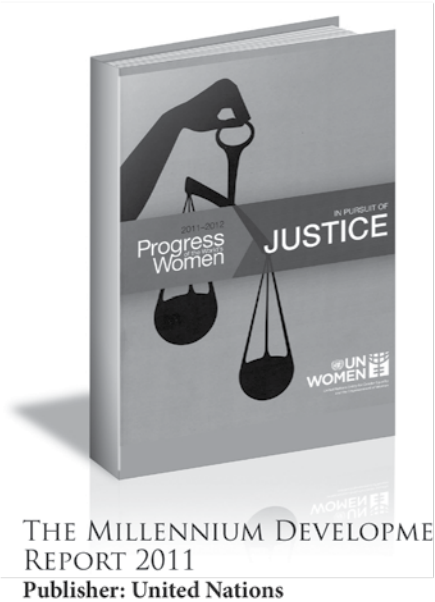

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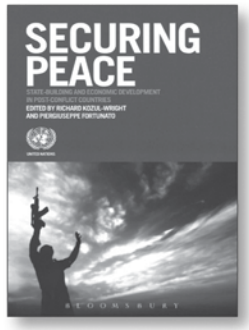

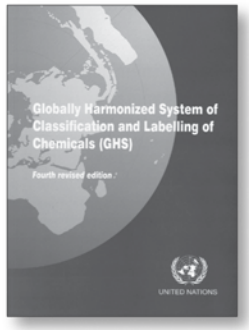

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On October 4, 1957 the Soviet Union successfully launched the first earth-orbiting satellite in human history. Sputnik 1 hurtled through space at 18,000 miles per hour, completely circling the planet every 90 minutes. Paving the way for human space flight and flaunting Soviet know-how before a watching world, it sparked a heated race between two superpowers and served notice that the U.S.S.R. had bested the United States on a technological front—one rife with implications for national security. The event jolted a nation into action, leading to U.S. superiority in space and adding the phrase "a Sputnik moment" to the American lexicon.

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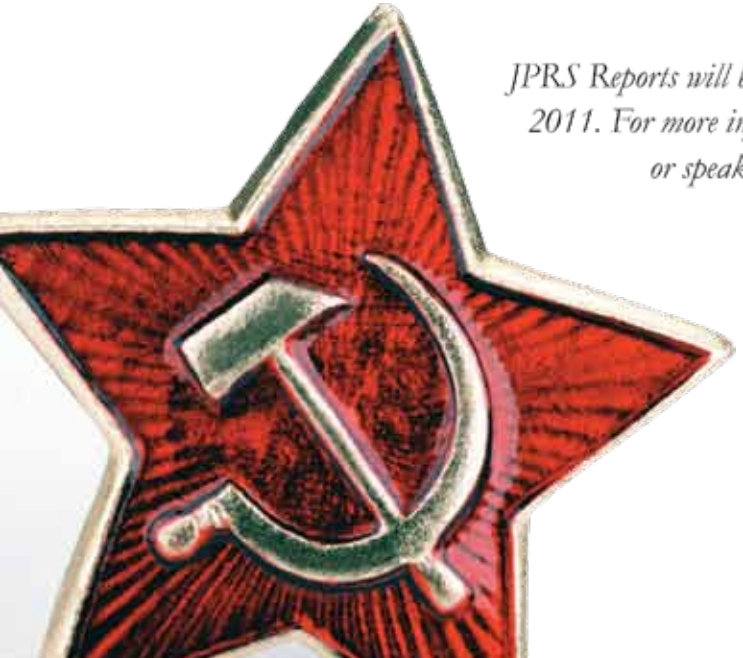

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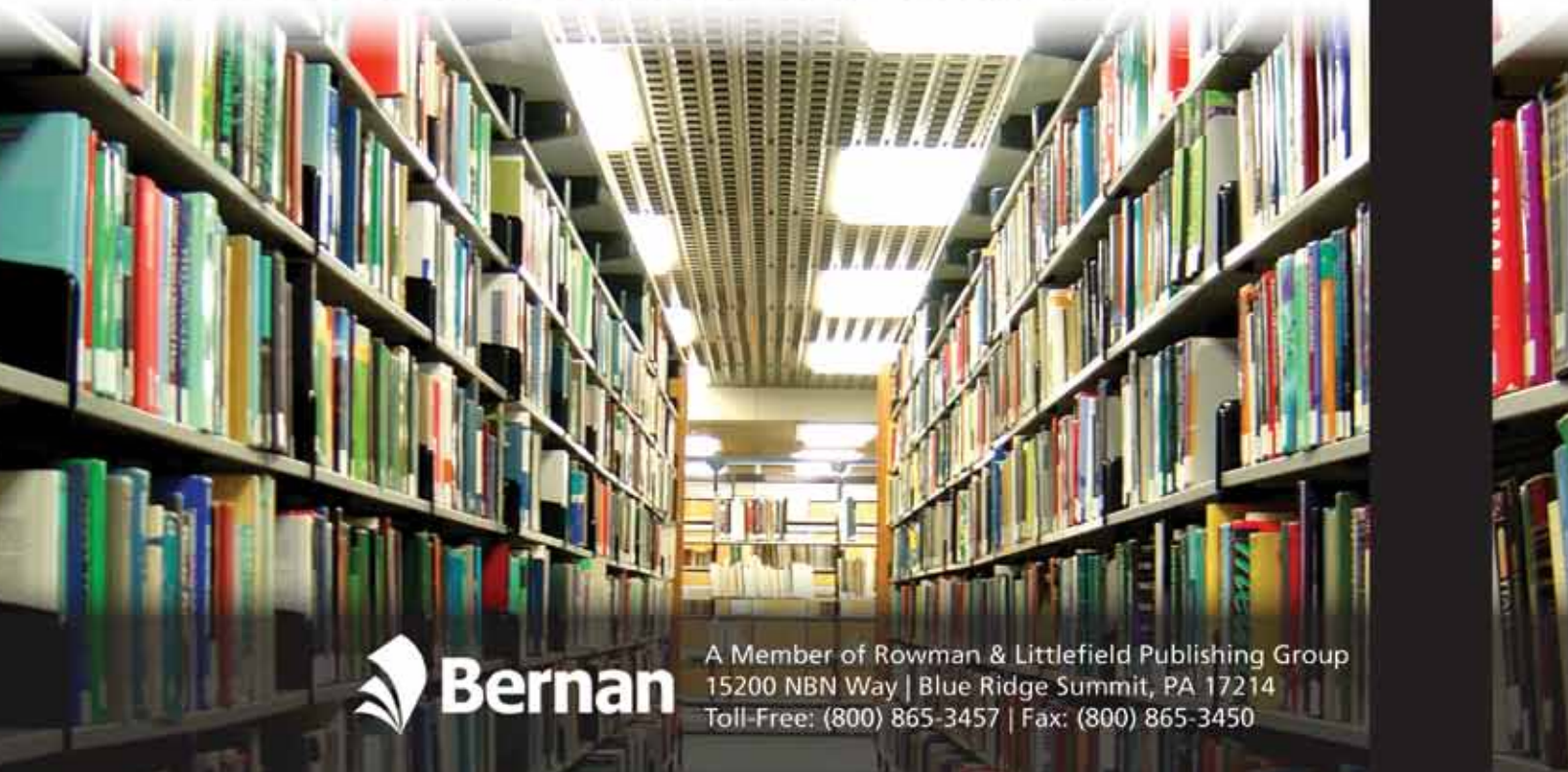

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