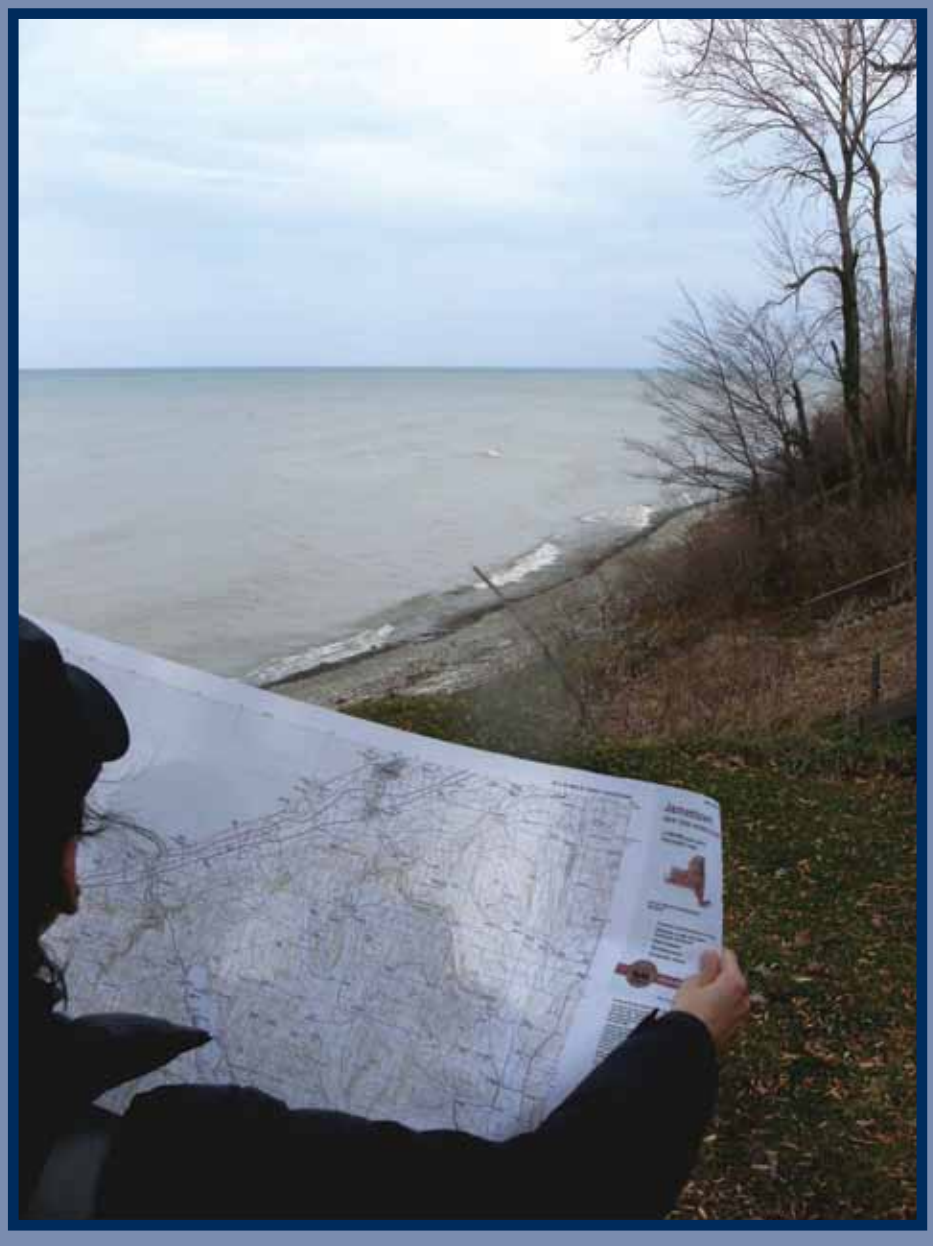
In This Issue

- It Takes a Village to Save the Web: The End of Term Web Archive
- Crossing Institutional Boundaries to Build a Digital Collection
- US Constitution Day as an Opportunity for Outreach Collaboration
- Collaboration in the Management and Disposition of Federal Depository Library Collections

DttP

Documents to the People

Spring 2012 | Volume 40, No. 1 | ISSN 0091-2085



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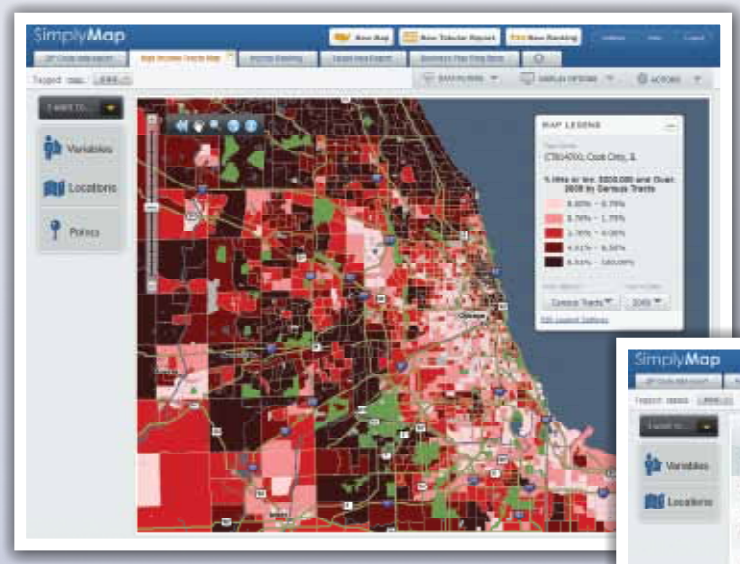

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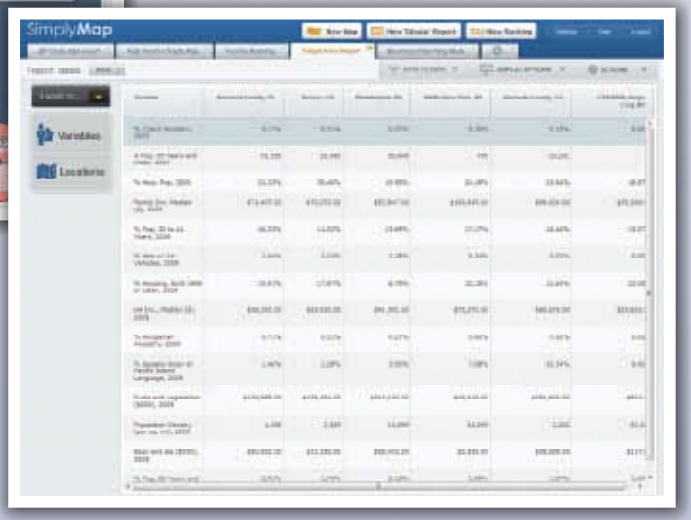

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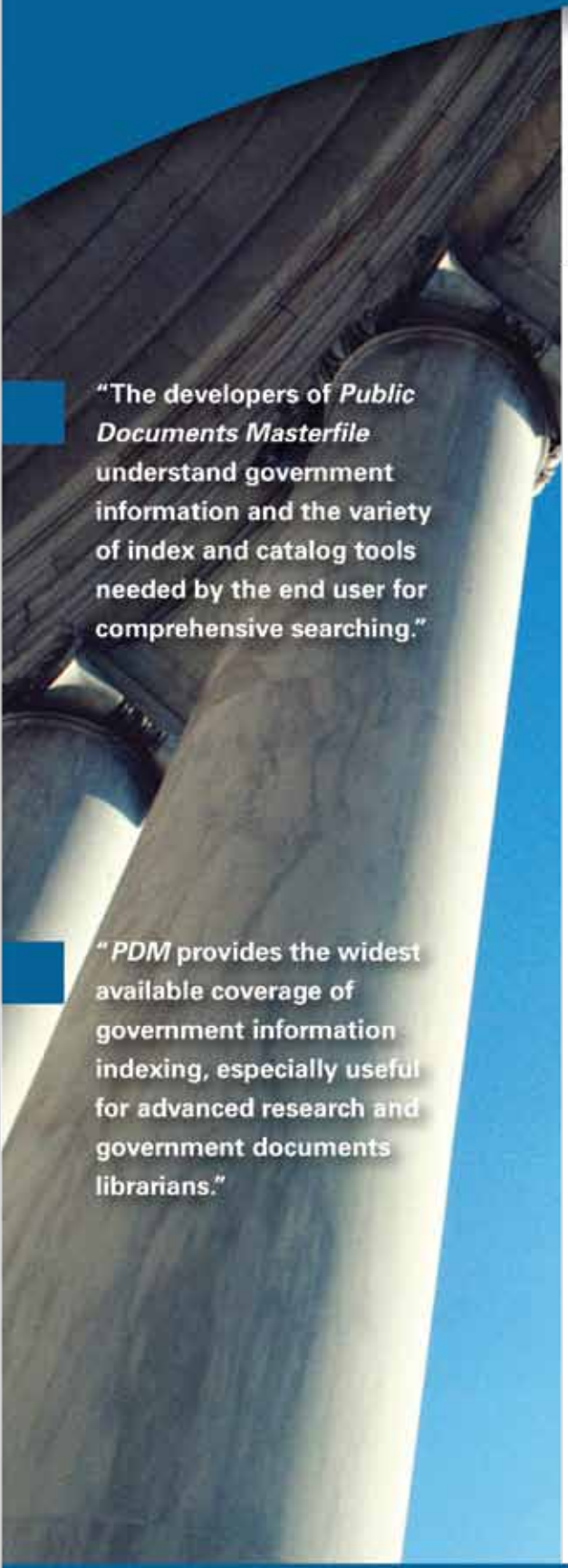

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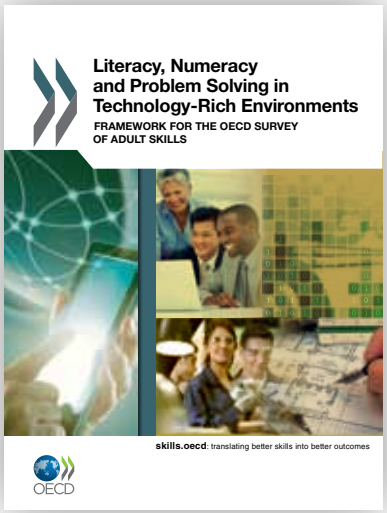

Literacy, Numeracy and Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments Framework for the OECD Survey of Adult Skills

February 2012 | ISBN 978-92-64-12880-4 | 60 pp.

The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) is an international assessment of adult skills managed by the OECD. Implemented by 25 countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia, PIAAC is compiling one of the richest sources of data regarding the skills that adults use in their work, home and communities and related information, including family background, education, employment, income, civic participation and health. In general, assessment frameworks provide an agreed definition of what should be measured and guide the construction and interpretation of tasks included in the assessment. For PIAAC, this means determining the definition of such key concepts as “literacy”, “numeracy” and “problem-solving in technology-rich environments”.

National Accounts at a Glance

February 2012 | ISBN 978-92-64-12498-1 | 129 pp

National Accounts at a Glance presents information using an “indicator” approach, focusing on cross-country comparisons; the aim being to make the national accounts more accessible and informative, whilst, at the same time, taking the opportunity to present the conceptual underpinning of, and comparability issues inherent in, each of the indicators presented.

This book includes OECD’s unique StatLink service, which enables readers to download Excel® versions of tables and graphs. Look for the StatLink at the foot of each table and graph.

The range of indicators reflects the richness inherent in the national accounts dataset and encourages users to refocus some of the spotlight that is often placed on GDP to other economic important indicators, which may better respond to their needs. The publication is broken down into six key chapters, and provides indicators related to income, expenditure, production, government and capital respectively.

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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 was taken by John A. Olson, librarian for maps/GIS/geography, earth science, and government documents at Syracuse University and the winner of our recent cover contest. The photo includes a 1986 US Geological Survey topographic map of Jamestown, N.Y (scale 1:100,000, 30-minute series) and was taken on the south shore of Lake Erie depicted on the map.

Editor's Corner

Collaboration—A Theme That Reflects our Past, Present, and Future

Beth Clausen and Valerie Glenn

Collaboration is a term that we hear in libraries all the time—almost to the point that the term itself seems to have lost a lot of its impact. It is nearly always included in an argument as we propose initiatives to improve services or efficiency, we read it in our libraries' strategic plans, our departmental mission statements, or in the city manager's vision of the city we serve. It is difficult to imagine that there are many library workers who don't include an objective or statement in their performance goals or review that involves collaboration.

So it should not come as a big surprise that last summer, as we searched for a theme for the spring 2012 issue, collaboration and collaborative projects in government information emerged as a theme that would be meaningful to readers. We also decided it may be a theme to garner interest from potential authors and our columnists because collaboration is more than merely a fashionable word in the government information community. After all, just because a term has become overused doesn't mean the meaning behind the term cannot remain strong and appropriate. Collaboration is at the heart of the history of permanent public access to government information and current projects involving government information and libraries, and because of current and past efforts (as well as many we cannot yet imagine), collaboration will remain a hallmark of our field.

It would be difficult or perhaps nearly impossible to imagine what the state of access to government information in the United States would be without the ultimate network of collaborative and cooperative efforts that have been and remain the FDLP. Government agencies could not have gone it alone, GPO could not have gone it alone, an individual library could not have gone it alone and expect to have provided information to the public as the program has done so successfully for scores of years. Although depository programs in states have been uneven in their robustness, it is safe to say that they also have relied on collaboration among government agencies, the depository coordinating agency, and the libraries who get the information to their users. Similarly, IGOs rely on collaboration to successfully have their information reach researchers, readers, and interested parties. As these depository and distribution systems transition into the future, there will be many evolutions and perhaps these will become unrecognizable compared with what we have today or have needed in the past. But what is clear is that collaboration will continue to be key in keeping the public informed and able to access government information. Roles will change—expand, constrict, disappear—and players of those roles may change, but collaboration will remain constant.

In this issue

Because collaboration is so central to our work and achieving our goals (on *DttP* as well as our day jobs!), we are particularly pleased to present this issue to our readers. As mentioned above, we thought this theme would garner great interest from authors and our call for proposals was met with a number of submissions that was record breaking for this editorial team. Appropriately, especially for an issue on collaboration, a team of authors (Tracy Seneca, Abbie Grotke, Cathy Nelson Hartman, and Kris Carpenter) explicate the massive and critical End-of-Term Web Archive project in their article "It Takes a Village to Save the Web: The End of Term Web Archive." Shari Laster describes the amazing work among Ohio libraries, through GODORT of Ohio, for "Crossing Institutional Boundaries to Build a Digital Collection," which works to digitally preserve and provide access to War Relocation Authority publications. A trio of authors (Jian Anna Xiong, Melissa Hubbard, and Walter D. Ray) discuss their efforts to work together within the same library to use US Constitution Day as a linchpin of ambitious cooperative outreach efforts with great success. It will be surprising if these articles don't lead many readers to look for collaborative ventures to move government information access into the future. They demonstrate that collaboration can be with others who are local or from afar and that projects can vary in terms of scale and still meet with success. As a bonus that is incredibly relevant to this issue, Judith C. Russell updates readers about the exciting cooperative efforts of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) with an update to her winter 2010 article.

The columns you will find in this issue are certain to not disappoint. Kirsten Clark updates us on the progress being made in specific goal areas of the GODORT Strategic Plan and includes insight on the interest in ALA, beyond GODORT, on government information and the FDLP in particular. We thank Julia Stewart for helping us to Get to Know…Jane

Canfield who is the federal depository coordinator at the BibliotecaEncarnacion Valdes, Pontificia Universidad Catolica in Puerto Rico.

Lucia Orlando and Rebecca Hyde use Fed Docs Focus to help us focus our attention on more efficiently and effectively leveraging Twitter and Facebook in a professional capacity and have already helped one *DttP* editor adjust some of the agencies she follows! Cyril Emery walks us through some challenges and successes of international information projects that rely heavily on partnerships and distributed contributors in Documents without Borders. Melanie Blau-McDonald points out the opportunities for outreach and collaboration afforded by the fact that 2012 is an election year as she encourages us to Spread the Word about government information resources.

And don't forget to check out 'Round the Table to see what you may have missed at the Midwinter Meeting in Dallas in January.

Give to the Rozkuszka Scholarship

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

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

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

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

Free GODORT Webinar: Lions, and Podcasts, and Videos! Oh My!

While tangible print documents have dominated traditional government sources, the US government has always produced information in a variety of formats. This session is intended to introduce librarians to the rich variety of online government audiovisual material. Come and learn how to point your patrons to folk music recordings, historical videos, and more (there might be lions!) The webinar will be presented by Kathryn Yelinek of Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania as part of the e-Learning Interest Group's project. Exact date and time of the webinar will be announced on GovDoc-L.

Vote on Proposed Bylaws Changes

At the Midwinter Meeting, Steering voted to send proposed bylaws changes to the membership. These changes will be included on the spring ballot, and members who are in good standing as of January 31, 2012, will be eligible to vote. Text of the proposed changes, along with an overview of and rationale for the proposed changes is available on the wiki at wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/GODORT_Bylaws.

From the Chair

Where are we now?

Kirsten Clark

Today as I sit down to type out this issue's "From the Chair" column, I am listening to Christmas music and the refrain of "It's Beginning to look a lot like Christmas" is currently running through my head. It's a bit of a joke song right now in Minnesota as there is surprisingly no snow on the ground and none forecast for the rest of 2011. South and east of here though, people are getting hammered by a holiday blizzard. Guess Mother Nature can't make up her mind as to the correct weather conditions for each geographic area. My cross country skis are getting pretty rusty here; give me my snow!

Next to me, there sits a gingerbread latte and a container of peppermint fudge—a little (okay, a lot of) sweetness to get the column-writing and creative thoughts flowing. Also, they just taste so darn good. It was a bit of a compromise in deciding on these two treats. I could have gone for the peppermint mocha and actual gingerbread. Or, perhaps a peppermint latte and gingerbread fudge.

So what does the weather, and food and drink choices have to do with a column for *DttP* other than upping my word count? Every day we are faced with choices, ones that we can control and others that we can try to control. If I thought it would help any, I would be doing a snow dance right now. In the case of the weather, what is given to me is what I have to deal with, so I will be taking some walks out in the crisp winter air for the upcoming holidays instead of cross country skiing through the snow drifts. It's a little bit easier with the food and drink; I can choose one path over another. Tomorrow the mocha and gingerbread might be the right combination, or perhaps I'll go with a full onslaught of peppermint and chocolate with the mocha and fudge. The choice is mine.

While trying to balance the role of chair of GODORT with my regular job of government information and regional depository librarian at the University of Minnesota, the choices I must make have not been easy. I'm sure past chairs would say the same thing. But this year there seems to be a new underlying tension that I have not noticed in years past, regarding the future of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), and the future of GODORT. In each I have a role as do other GODORT members.

A question I get more and more is "why isn't GODORT making a choice on a stance about the future of the FDLP discussions and on these individual initiatives?" and "why isn't GODORT jumping into the fray as ACRL has with their recent opinion?" My answer continues to be, based on the many discussions that have occurred over the past couple years at the annual conferences and midwinter meetings as well as at Federal Depository Library Conference meetings and in individual correspondence with members, how can a group that is so divided take a stance on this issue? Those who want to take a stance want it to be a stance that favors their own opinion (normal human instincts). In an organization with so many variations of opinions, it is impossible to move forward with a cohesive stance without some faction of GODORT crying foul.

The thing is this difference of opinion isn't something that came up in the year or two with the advancement of these initiatives. This has been building for years. GODORT has not been able to offer a "future of government information" stance at the round table level for years. With this comes the inevitable perception that GODORT no longer owns the conversation within ALA. However, this may also be a sign that GODORT has helped raise the profile of government information on national and local levels.

Until recently, ALA's view on government information was left in the hands of government documents librarians—principally members of GODORT. We fought to show our relevance within our libraries and it was not as big a step to show our relevance within our library association. We had the background and the knowledge to work on resolutions and focus on issues relevant to print and digital government publications collections. This is no longer the case. Other groups have rightly joined in the conversation with their own opinions. Some members of GODORT are not happy that the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) offered an opinion on the recent decisions of the Superintendent of Documents. Guess what? ACRL is a division and it has the right to issue its own opinions and many depository libraries are academic libraries with members in ACRL.

For years we wanted library directors and deans to notice the government publications many of us hold in our libraries. We have fought to be held to the same level of cataloging and access that other collections in the libraries are and we were able to get their attention. The past couple of years, the Government Printing Office (GPO) has deliberately

invited library directors and deans to the depository library conferences. At the recent depository library conference, the number of libraries that mentioned they were cataloging their legacy collections was much higher than what I have heard in the past. Directors are putting resources into creating greater access to their print collections. On the other hand, some directors are questioning even more why there is a need for their print collections and the financial obligation and staff support to support it. The point is, because of these larger issues, opinions, and conversations, government documents are on the radar of library administrators—many of whom are members of ALA.

What then are we as GODORT members going to do about these issues? Personally I don't see us as a group coming together any time soon on a uniform stance regarding the current issues within the FDLP. However, we are the Government Documents Round Table. While depository libraries and their issues are tied to the organization, we have to be more than that. We cannot get bogged down in being associated with only the FDLP. That leaves us with making GODORT more flexible and representative of the role of librarians who work to provide access to government information so that we can strengthen the connections within our parent organization, the ALA, and within our own libraries, and not be seen as that group that can't decide what it thinks about the future of the FDLP.

This means we must look at our organization and where we want to go into the future. As I have mentioned in my previous columns, GODORT has a Strategic Plan (wikis.ala.org/godort/images/f/fd/GodortStrategicPlan_Final.doc) and this is a focus of my year as chair. Going back to my first column, I mentioned briefly the key five- and ten-year goals of the plan. Below are the five-year goals again with some information on how GODORT is working on these areas.

Goal Area I: Open Culture and Goal Area II: Outreach

Soon the GODORT Education Committee will be offering our first virtual training session to ALA members as a way to provide outreach and education to all members, regardless of their background. This is something GODORT has been talking about for several years and it is now becoming a reality. For this first round, several GODORT members have come forward with ideas of programs and provide the potential for this being not only an outreach opportunity but also a source of revenue. In the past, GODORT's main source of income has been the pre-conference format; the virtual webinar and workshops bring us to a higher level of visibility within ALA and the potential to increase GODORT's revenue.

In addition, this year GODORT is endorsing programs from several other sections of ALA, including MAGIRT (The Nuts and Bolts of Map Scanning: Building Your Map Scanning Toolbox) and the RUSA History Section (Mining the Gold from the 1940 Census). GODORT has also endorsed an as yet unnamed Committee on Legislation, Subcommittee on E-Government Services program on e-government use in workforce recovery. The GODORT program will look at Resource Description and Access (RDA) from not only the technical side, but also from the public side of government information, both of which cross over with many other areas of ALA.

Goal Area III: Membership and Goal Area V: Structure (Committees/Meetings)

This spring there will be bylaws measures on the ballot to provide flexibility in creating and updating committees, task forces, and discussion groups within GODORT to allow for more timely organizational change to meet the in-time needs with regards to timely issues, regardless of the topic. These changes focus on simplifying the *Bylaws* and moving information to the *Policies and Procedures Manual*. These changes do not look at taking away any current Committee or Task Force structure; rather, they allow for an easier-to-read document that will give members and those interested in GODORT a better sense of what we are about and how they can participate.

Goal Area IV: Create a more balanced focus on all government information

While the focus of many GODORT members is on the federal information front, GODORT still needs to look at the international and state and local level of government information. As government information access is looked at on one level of government, it translates into similar focuses at other levels. I think all of us can discuss the budgetary changes at the city, county, state, and regional level that affect us just as much as they do on the national level. As GODORT moves forward, this is definitely an area that needs support.

These are small, but strong, steps that I feel will help GODORT be seen as more than just depository libraries or the group that can name esoteric governmental agencies just by their acronyms. The world of government information continues to grow, the involvement of groups other than GODORT in deciding the boundaries of that world will continue to grow, and GODORT needs to be able to grow with it.

Get to Know . . . Jane Canfield

Julia Stewart

Jane Canfield, Federal Depository Coordinator Biblioteca Encarnación Valdés, Pontificia Universidad Católica, Puerto Rico

The 2010 Census indicates that the US population is becoming increasingly multilingual, with more and more citizens speaking English as a second language. Could this shift in population growth affect the production of and budgets for government documents in languages other than English?

Jane Canfield, federal depository coordinator, Biblioteca Encarnación Valdés, Pontificia Universidad, Católica in Puerto Rico, can speak directly to this shift, having worked as a school librarian in Puerto Rico for more than thirty years, and as a depository coordinator since 2007. Jane's user population of students, professors, and the community is almost 100 percent native Spanish speaking.

"My users would nearly always prefer to have information in Spanish. My primary document requests are in the areas of political science and social sciences for education and health information. My highest use of Spanish documents is by the community patrons and they are requesting census data, which is re-published by the Puerto Rico Census Office in Spanish. Most university-level material from the government is only available in English."

Canfield is active in her community and has found ways to promote her depository collection on and off the university campus.

"I offer government document workshops to many university classes, and I actively promote government documents through individual reference help, library exhibits, and presentations to various community organizations," said Canfield. "I have contacts within the municipal government and have had opportunities to take documents to community events. I am looking forward to making a presentation to the local American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) this spring. "

Canfield has found the Spanish-language government documents produced by the GPO to be excellent.

"The resources I use in Spanish are excellent," said Canfield. "Translation into Spanish can be difficult because there are significant vocabulary differences from one culture to another. I would like to see more promotional resources for the depository library program in other languages and more materials in other languages,particularly in health, mental health, and social security."

During her thirty years in Puerto Rico, Canfield has been able to master enough Spanish-speaking skills to assist her native Spanish-speaking patrons.

"A good sense of humor is important when working with a possible language barrier. I have lots of funny examples of my horrendous mistakes in Spanish which help to put my audience more at ease about asking questions and dealing with information in English," said Canfield.

"The ability to be flexible and compassionate with speakers of another language is important. An understanding of other cultures and a good knowledge of world geography is also helpful. It is critical to have good reference interview skills in both languages to best determine what information a native Spanish speaking user truly needs," Canfield continues. "I also make all of my library presentations bilingual in English and in Spanish, and I give handouts to my audience. Incorporating visual images can aid in the understanding of the information I am presenting."

From personal experience, Canfield can speak to the challenge of language acquisition.

"While I believe that immigrants to the United States should learn English, as I have mastered Spanish with some fluency while living in Puerto Rico, I still believe that having documents in your native language can ease the transition into a new place and culture," said Canfield. "Having government information available in other languages can foster good will toward the United States and make it easier for people from other countries to learn about the United States from a reliable source. In addition to more publications in Spanish, I would like to see government information made available in Chinese and other Asiatic languages as there are tremendous numbers of immigrants who speak these languages."

Bilingual resources can benefit a community in multiple ways, according to Canfield.

"I think that government information could make the American population aware that we are blessed with wealth, despite the current economic crisis, and with a democratic form of government still envied in much of the world," Canfield continues. "We should remember that immigrants have historically contributed much to the United States."

In her spare time, Canfield stays busy with library related projects, but still finds time to relax.

"I am currently helping to catalog a collection of books which belongs to a convent in the area and will be made available to researchers and the community when it is complete. I also like to read, bake different types of bread, make quilts and stay active with my rescue dog and three rescue cats."

Federal Documents Focus

Socializing on the Job: Using Social Media for Current Awareness

Lucia Orlando and Rebecca Hyde

Keeping up with federal agency publications, press releases, and updates feels a lot like running uphill on roller skates. Many librarians utilize RSS readers to stay aware of government information, including tracking press releases and news items. While these tools are helpful, they are not designed to gather feedback or otherwise sustain a conversation the way social networking sites do. Using social networking sites as a current awareness tool, much the same way we use RSS feeds to track news and publications, also enables librarians to become more effective at utilizing these tools in a library setting. Those tiny symbols that link to social media sites on our library webpages tell users we want to connect with them and help us convey that the library is more than just a place to find books. In other words, there are very good reasons to check these sites over the course of a workday.

While there are a number of social media sites you can utilize to stay abreast of news or engage with other librarians, this article will focus on Twitter and Facebook—two of the most common platforms. Both are social networking tools that can enhance your professional life in different ways. In the authors' view, Facebook is most useful for publicizing news items, especially those accompanied by photos and videos, whereas Twitter is unrivaled as a fast, mobile way to raise your awareness, and that of your users: awareness of your users, awareness of breaking news, and to promote content and events.

Twitter

The casual conversations with other GODORT members between conference sessions, at happy hour, or over lunch can be the best part of ALA conferences. Talking with fellow librarians helps recharge our professional batteries and reminds us of what we love about our jobs. Hearing about new services and outreach they tried this year, and what is working for them and what isn't, is frequently the highlight of these gatherings. With Twitter, these interactions don't need to be confined to conferences. By carefully culling the list of those you follow on Twitter, you can select a mix of librarians as well as government agencies, political figures, and policy organizations to keep you updated and excited about your job all year round. Did you miss a story or announcement about a big change in a government agency? Chances are one of your Twitter followers will point it out. Is a colleague implementing a cool new service? You can try it too, without waiting to hear about it five months down the line. You may have to endure some cat pictures, baking projects, and vacations along the way, but you'll get to know your colleagues better, all while conversing with and learning from them all year round.

Twitter is a microblogging service that limits comments to 140 characters or less (including spaces!). It encourages brevity and personal connection. Each 140 character or less comment you make is referred to as a tweet. Your Twitter "handle" is the nickname you choose for yourself, always preceded with an @ symbol. Hashtags (#) on Twitter symbolize a general category of tweet. Conferences usually have their own hashtag that everyone appends to tweets about a conference. Search #alamw12, for example, to find everything tweeted about the recent ALA Midwinter Meeting. If you set up a Twitter account, your homepage will display a chronological list of "tweets" from everyone you follow. Unlike Facebook, where you must be friends with someone to see most of their information, many people use the public account option on Twitter, allowing anyone to read their tweets. The upside of an open Twitter account is that it makes it easier to find and interact with other Twitter users. Because you are revealing generally less data about yourself in your profile, there are fewer privacy implications than with Facebook. For those who would rather not broadcast their thoughts to the world, Twitter offers the option of a locked account, giving you control of who can see your Twitter updates.

To get started on Twitter, think about how you'd like to use it and what type of information you'd like to see on a regular basis. If you only want official news, consider only following government agencies and policy organizations. If you decide to branch out and follow other librarians, think about the amount of information you want to receive in your stream. Some people tweet regularly, while others tweet very little or not at all—electing to use Twitter to gather information rather than engage in dialogue. Both are great uses of Twitter, but thinking about how you want the tool to work for you is a good way to help you decide who to follow.

If you're looking for government agencies and organizations to follow, the Twitter search function is a good place to start. A search for "government" brings up a list of recent tweets mentioning "government," but look on the left hand column and switch from "tweets" to "people." The top "people" in this search include USA.gov (@usagov)

and the US Department of State (@statedept) along with other agencies, political commentators, and organizations. Following official sources will mean you will be hearing news as it breaks and may provide the opportunity to interact with government officials. Virtual town hall meetings, such as the one held by The White House (@whitehouse) in summer 2011, allow constituents to have questions answered through Twitter (askobama.twitter.com). Twitter is also becoming a venue for more and more political news releases, such as when California's governor Jerry Brown used it to link to the first official announcement of his new tax plan in December 2011 (bit.ly/rzzBVy).

If you're interested in following other government documents librarians, a good place to find them is by looking at the list of people following GODORT (@godort). Click on a user name and look at their recent tweets to quickly determine if they are someone you would like to follow. If they interest you, examine the list of people they follow to find other interesting people. Often, following people will prompt them to follow you back, especially if you have an open feed and they can see who you are and what interests you. Twitter can be surprisingly effective for obtaining assistance with difficult reference questions, which makes building a robust contingent of government information librarians a smart idea. This simple tool will often provide you the latest information more quickly than govdoc-l or other mediums.

If you are interested in using Twitter as a tool for outreach, be sure to read the fall 2011 edition of *DttP*'s Tech Watch column at wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/TechWatch_Fall_2011.

Facebook

Don't abandon your Facebook account just yet. The number of government agencies with a Facebook presence is steadily increasing, which means it's getting easier to use those status updates as a way to stay current with agency activity. While Facebook shouldn't be the only way librarians keep current with government information, it's still a very useful tool that is becoming more helpful over time. In addition to informing yourself, it's easy to forward posts to your Facebook friends or to add content to your institution's Facebook page.

Bear in mind that Facebook attaches specific meanings to common terms such as "friend," "like," and "page," which gets confusing. A Facebook page allows an organization to create a dedicated webpage for connecting with users and is different from your personal account. One measurement of a successful Facebook Page is that people tell their friends about it by "liking" the page or passing along news items posted there. This is different from a personal page where only a network of friends typically sees a post. The updates that appear on your personal status page are meant to highlight the most recent news from friends. Unfortunately, Facebook doesn't allow adding "liked" pages to profile lists to prioritize them. This makes tracking and managing news feeds cumbersome, but not impossible. Tell Facebook you want to see more updates from either a person or a page by hovering your cursor to the upper right of a specific posting and look for the down arrow. Click on the arrow and select "Highlight this Story."

Regardless of whether you elect to post to the official page for your institution or solely to your personal newsfeed, developing original posts takes time. Consider reposting interesting agency status updates—it will significantly reduce the amount of work involved in crafting unique posts and also serves to raise awareness of government information. Furthermore, the size and scope of agency mandates often make it difficult for agencies to tailor their posts to specific populations. This is where you can add a few words to make the news item more relevant and effective for a local audience.

The following are a few examples of agencies with engaging content you can use to keep up to date or pass along to your Facebook friends. To find more, search for agency names on Facebook and be sure to take a look at the top forty-five "most likable" government pages identified by OhMyGov! at bit.ly/skolV5.

The Census Bureau's regular reports and data releases make them a must-have source of information for anyone interested in demographic and business information. Be sure to take a look at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), FoodSafety.gov, NASA, the USGS, and even the Marine Corps. The Library of Congress (LOC), along with reading rooms and sub-agencies, like the Law Library of Congress and National Digital Information Infrastructure & Preservation Program (NDIIPP), commonly highlight both current and historical documents, announcements about new blogs, and updates to current blogs. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and LOC both post photographs, as well as manuscripts, works of art, and little known facts about intriguing items in their collections.

Lastly, keep track of the activities of some of our elected leaders. The White House's Facebook page provides links to televised speeches, press releases, and other newsworthy items. Many of these posts are picked up and circulated widely by news organizations and ordinary citizens alike. While some members of Congress have pages, overall that body has

been slower to adopt Facebook. In response, Facebook created "Congress on Facebook" to not only facilitate finding pages of members of the House and Senate but also summarize political news posted by legislators on this medium.

Heeding the call to connect with users and maintain contact with colleagues is easier said than done, but social media tools like Twitter and Facebook can help. Unlike a blog post or e-mail message, where fully conceived ideas and thoughtful commentary are often expected, social media allows for quick bursts of thought and simple reposting of interesting stories and comments. Whether you choose to use these tools in an official capacity for your library, in a professional development capacity, or a combination of both, using them regularly will serve to increase your familiarity and fluency with social media.

Documents without Borders

Challenges in International Information Projects

Cyril Robert Emery

Information projects that consolidate thematically connected information from around the globe have the potential to transform research by establishing one-stop shopping for interested users. For example, in a recent column, I discussed WIPO Lex (www.wipo.int/wipolex), an ambitious database attempting to create a globally comprehensive collection of intellectual property law information.[1] It is not surprising that databases like this require the efforts of many partners and contributors with localized and specialized knowledge to gather needed resources. WIPO Lex, for example, relies on information submitted by World Intellectual Property Organization members and other countries.[2] This type of collaboration, while often yielding excellent results, can also create challenges and gaps for the providers and users of these databases.

I was recently at a conference for UN and international organization librarians where I attended a presentation on the very impressive World Digital Library (WDL, www.wdl.org) project. The WDL was initiated by the Library of Congress and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and is designed to make "available on the Internet, free of charge and in multilingual format, significant primary materials from countries and cultures around the world."[3] The WDL accepts contributions from any library, museum, archive, or cultural institution that chooses to submit content.[4] While there is no question that this has been a successful initiative, it is probably no surprise given the voluntary nature of the project that the quantity and quality of contributions can vary greatly depending on contributor or geographic region. For example, of the roughly 4,000 items now posted in the WDL, more than 2,000 were contributed by the Library of Congress. Furthermore, there are currently far more submissions related to Europe (more than 2,000) than any other region. Finally, because of the nature of the submission and curation process, the materials presented for a particular culture or country are not necessarily the most representative. For example, one librarian noted that the only sound recording available from Scotland was of a military band playing "Amazing Grace."[5]

With so many potential contributors, the WDL may someday become a truly comprehensive resource. In contrast, other collaborative international information projects have decided to limit their contributors to carefully vetted experts, even though it may mean fewer submissions and additional lag-time. The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Secretariat maintains a database of jurisprudence related to UNCITRAL texts known as CLOUT (Case Law on UNCITRAL Texts, bit.ly/uncitral_clout). This database is based on contributions of case law abstracts by volunteer national correspondents designated by those states that have adopted relevant UNCITRAL texts.[6] Even though the UNCITRAL Secretariat and contributors have worked together to increase output, there are still many qualifying cases that are never reported by national correspondents.

Like CLOUT, the Law Library of Congress's Global Legal Information Network (GLIN, www.glin.gov) has a limited contributor base. GLIN is a searchable database of primary legal information from around the world. Contributions have to come from official sources and contributors have to meet certain standards set by GLIN members.[7] While GLIN is a valuable source for sometimes hard-to-find national legal information, these requirements mean that it is far from comprehensive and many countries with generally easily accessible online legal information do not appear since they are not contributors. Nonetheless, GLIN is impressive for its ability to continue to attract and disseminate a large volume of

submissions each year (more than 10,000), especially considering that it was established in the early 1990s, and one might have expected the interest in contributing to have waned.[8]

GLIN highlights another potential problem with large international information projects, namely, information overload with relatively little context. GLIN is extremely useful for an advanced user, but it can pose issues for general users because relatively little context is offered related to the primary materials in the database. Simply being able to find the text of a Honduras law does not really enable one to determine how that law might operate or how it fits into the larger legal culture of Honduras. For this reason, I have always been impressed by the approach of GlobaLex (www.nyulawglobal.org/Globalex).[9] Rather than inundating users with information on specific laws in foreign jurisdictions, GlobaLex offers a general overview of the legal system in a huge array of jurisdictions and the information needed for users to conduct their own research. The overviews for each country are contributed and updated every few years by specialists with knowledge of the laws and structure of that jurisdiction. Of course, the quality of the overviews depends heavily on the specialist, but overall this approach keeps the database timely and useful despite frequent changes to the specific laws in any jurisdiction.

The potential benefits of global information projects for researchers are huge. Having someone else undertake the very difficult task of compiling information from a variety of countries can save time and enrich academic endeavors. Researchers using these databases and organizations or libraries undertaking these projects, however, should always recall that compiling information from around the world will require collaboration with others and that the quality and quantity of resources available via these projects will depend entirely on the strength of those collaborations.

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

Notes and References

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Spread the Word

Election Year=Outreach Opportunity

Melanie Blau-McDonald

Election-year outreach

An election year gives you many opportunities for outreach activities whether you are in a public, academic, or special library. Dividing your patrons into their respective niches, with regards to interest in the election, makes it easier and more straightforward to come up with engaging programming ideas. Contacting election-related groups will result in improved marketing of your program and help direct your development of relevant content. Preparing the content is then a matter of reviewing the many government website options and paring down the data torrent to a helpful stream. Let's get started.

Table 1. Public library patrons with potential election-year programming ideas and partners.

Audience	Potential Partners	Programming Ideas
Middle school children	Scout troops	Register to vote (mock), non-partisan candidate information (definitions), ballot initiatives in plain English for their grade level.
	Teachers	Tie-in to classroom work on civics. Join in to the National Student/Parent Mock Election (tinyurl.com/7jp5omz).
	School clubs	Mock election at school where you assist in the preparation. Register to vote (mock), non-partisan candidate information (definitions), ballot initiatives in plain English for their grade level.
High school students	Teachers	Mock election at school where you assist in the preparation. Register to vote (mock), non-partisan candidate information (definitions), ballot initiatives in plain English for their grade level.
	Houses of worship	Non-partisan candidate information (definitions), ballot initiatives in plain English for their grade level.
	Clubs	Non-partisan candidate information (definitions), ballot initiatives in plain English for their grade level.
Business people	Chamber of commerce	How to register to vote, where the candidates stand on the issues, and local and statewide ballot initiatives in plain English.
Women	League of Women Voters	How to register to vote, where the candidates stand on the issues, and local and statewide ballot initiatives in plain English.
General	Civic groups/clubs, e.g. Shriners, Knights of Columbus	Where the candidates stand on issues, becoming a poll worker, and local and statewide ballot initiatives in plain English.
Veterans	Local VFW, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (iava.org), the American Legion	Where the candidates stand on torture, troop deployments, veteran's benefits, and local and statewide ballot initiatives in plain English.
Hispanics	League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)	In 32 states, LULAC runs a voter registration program so instructions, sample ballots, and local/statewide issues explained in Spanish would all be starting places.
Senior citizens	Senior citizen centers, AARP, retirees groups such as Ohio Retired Teachers Association	Where the candidates stand on issues such as balancing the budget, Medicare and Medicaid, becoming a poll worker, local and statewide ballot initiatives in plain English.

Chart your possibilities

You know your library and its patrons. If you've done election outreach before, try to expand your reach this year by connecting with at least one new group. If you're new, contact various partners first and put on a program with the group that is most interested and willing to help.

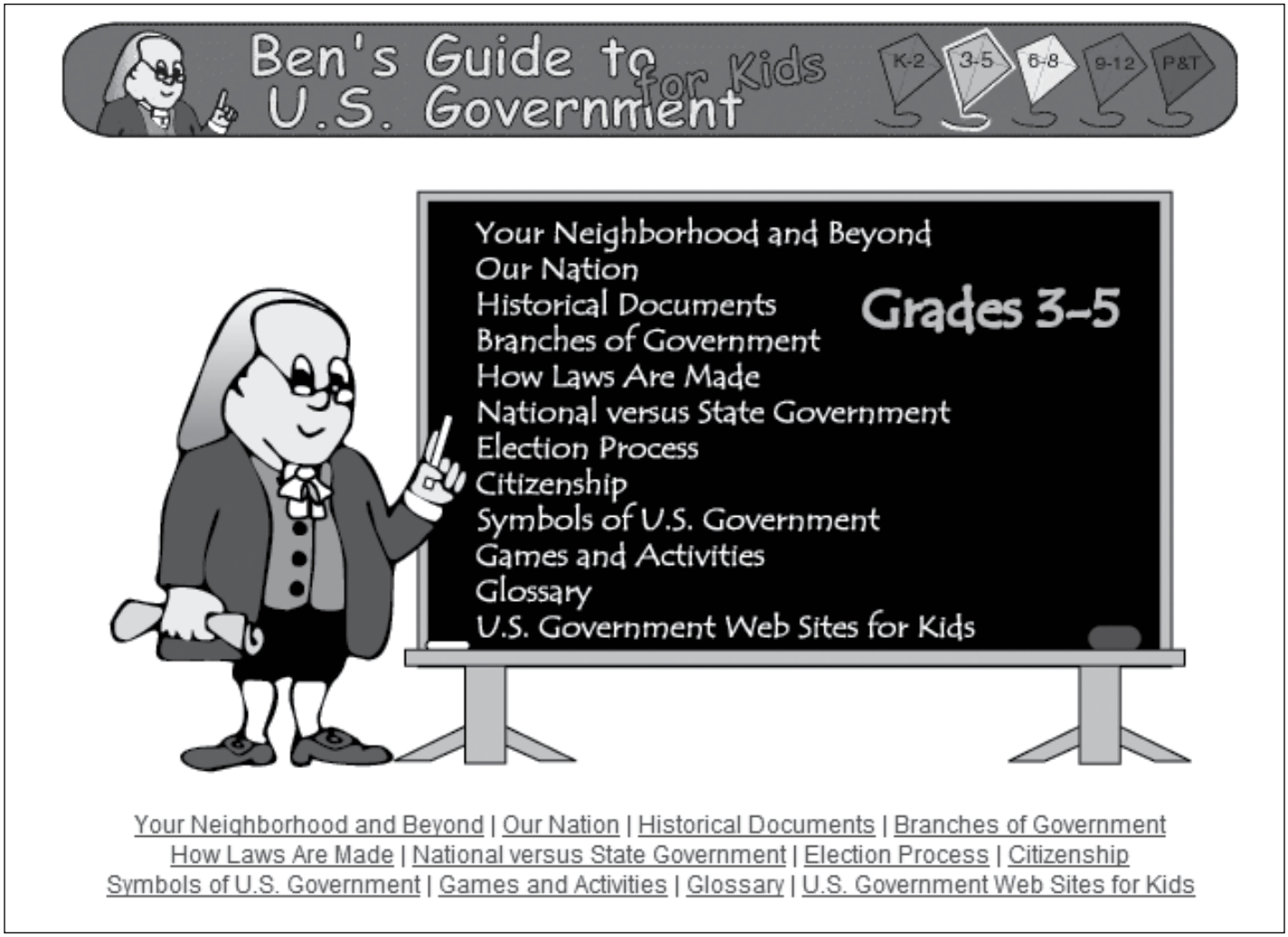
Table 1 is just a sample of what a program possibility chart would look like for a public librarian doing outreach.

Partner up

Once you have some programming ideas, contact potential partners to refine the specifics of a welcome program for them. For example, in an academic setting there is likely to be a variety of student groups that are working on a voter registration campaign. Meet with these students and talk about what you could offer in the form of a program covering absentee ballots (many students will need to vote this way), state websites with ballot initiatives, and websites with non-partisan information. Be sure and listen to them about what they want. Working with customers about what they need establishes a relationship for future partnerships. Once people see what you can do for them, they'll be hooked.

A public library will want to work with local retiree groups. Retirees are experienced voters but they often find it difficult to acquire the information they want in our current, digital environment. Recently, a retiree approached me and asked if we would sponsor an election program that would explain the effects of a statewide ballot initiative on the state employees' pension plan. He is a pretty savvy individual but was finding very little information in the newspapers and on local television. Newspaper election coverage in your area may be pretty sparse, due to newspaper closings and the

Figure 1. Ben's Guide to US Government for Kids, grades 3–5.



increased reliance on electronic news channels for many in the United States, which might leave older Americans outside of the information loop. You can help close this gap.

State resources—Start there

Each state will have a portal covering all aspects of voting, from the "how-to" guides to the local and statewide topics. The 'how-to' guides will include registering, absentee ballots of various types such as the uniformed and overseas citizens voters, and their instructions. There are also instructions for conducting a registration drive and obtaining the requisite number of registration forms. Although the forms are available online, you do need to print them out and send them in the physical mail, so it may be easier to pre-order a printed set for your event. Other technical how-to guides involve how college students register, deadlines, identification required, how to check your registration online, voter assistance availability for disabled persons, and definitions and rules associated with a provisional ballot.

At the state level, you will not find information on local level candidates and ballot initiatives, but you will find the most broadly applicable voter information. Discuss with your partners if you want to add local level content to your program. Voter registration occurs locally with state guidelines and laws, which is another good reason to start there.

It's helpful for voters to know what to expect on Election Day. While each state's website differs, it's nice if you can find the offices up for election and give that out at your program. For example, Ohio's provides a list as taken from the "2012 Ohio Voters Information Guide" (tinyurl .com/8y3bs9s). For many programs, helping people register and knowing what to expect on the ballot will be enough.

Some states provide many more resources. For example, California has a statewide initiative with schools called "My Vote Student Mock Election" (tinyurl.com/259f9v), which is based on a national initiative, the National Student/Parent Mock Election (tinyurl.com/6jdhl5). There are many resources you can use regardless of location, such as their ideas page for creating your own mock election (tinyurl.com/7ddbd9m). Here is one example: "One of the schools in our small district set up voting booths (made by the high school wood shop classes) exactly like an actual booth. They had the students sign in where their names were registered, just like an actual polling place. The students were very excited to enter the booth with their ballots and vote in secret. With the Student Mock Election process each and every student had the opportunity to vote and feel like they were part of something important."

Some of these programs are very detailed and elaborate, down to training of student poll workers. By all means, if you already have a program you can tie into, do so. Otherwise, work with the resources (volunteers, time, space) you have in your location.

Statewide ballot measures: A must for adult programs

States will also make available information about other items on the ballots such as measures, referendums, and initiatives. California provides an RSS feed for following the qualification process for ballot measures. They also list ballot measures that have already qualified and give you full-text access to the measures (www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/qualified-ballot-measures.htm).

Federal resources

If you have trouble locating your state resources, a complete list of state links is maintained at USA.gov, "State and Territorial Election Offices" (tinyurl.com/29x7g5a).

Also at USA.gov, under "Explore Topics," there is a section for "Voting and Elections" (tinyurl.com/338ccf). This is the first-level portal to everything about our election process. The "Learn about Elections and Voting" section includes more content that you can include in any program, including educational materials such as a "Kid's Guide to the Election Process" (tinyurl.com/73plaj3), information about the Electoral College (www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college), and federal campaign finance law (www.fec.gov/law/feca/feca.shtml), plus many others.

Check and prepare

Some of the items mentioned above are a bit dated visually, although not textually. The Kid's Guide is a link to Ben's Guide to US Government for Grades 9-12. Figure 1 shows the topics for grades 3–5, which includes election information. Other grades are selected by choosing a different kite in the upper right corner. Unfortunately, the high school page looks similar, which may turn off that age group. To make things more interesting for an upper-level student, I would suggest you have them investigate and crunch some numbers in campaign finance at the Federal Election Commission website (tinyurl.com/d69v3s), which has a wealth of data sets available.

You don't need to be political

Supporting people's right to vote does not mean you have to get involved in politics. Your role is, as always, to support access to information, regardless of race, religion, age, or socio-economic level. Government websites at the state and federal levels can help you do just that. And, like always, your patrons will thank you for your help.

DttP Online!

www.ala.org/ala/godort/DttP/DttPonline

DttP
Documents to the People

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

It Takes a Village to Save the Web

The End of Term Web Archive

Tracy Seneca, Abbie Grotke, Cathy Nelson Hartman, and Kris Carpenter

The End of Term Web Archive (EOT Archive) collaboration began in May of 2008, when the Library of Congress (LC), the Internet Archive (IA), the University of North Texas (UNT), the California Digital Library (CDL), and the US Government Printing Office (GPO) agreed to join forces to collaboratively archive the US government web. The goal of the project team was to execute a comprehensive harvest of the federal government domains (.gov, .mil, .org, and so on) in the final months of the Bush administration, and to document changes in the federal government websites as agencies transitioned to the Obama administration.

This collaborative effort was prompted by the announcement that the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), which had conducted harvests of prior administration transitions, would not be archiving agency websites during the 2008 transition.[1] This announcement prompted considerable debate about the role of NARA in web archiving and the value of archiving websites in their totality. It also came just as the International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC) held its 2008 General Assembly. All five project partners are IIPC members, and were able to convene an immediate meeting to discuss what actions should be taken. With little time and no funding, the five EOT Archive project organizations responded together with the range of skills and resources needed to build the archive.

The EOT Archive (eotarchive.cdlib.org) includes federal government websites in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. It holds more than 160 million documents harvested from 3,300 websites and represents sixteen terabytes of data. This article will outline the steps taken to build the archive, detail the innovations that made the project successful, and convey plans for the forthcoming 2012 end-of-term collection.

Background

As stated above, all five EOT Archive partners were already active in the IIPC, an organization with a strong role in helping national libraries harvest and preserve their nations' web publications (netpreserve.org). Most partners either had the direct capacity to archive web content, or had support for doing so.

IA has been harvesting and providing access to web content since 1996. It conducts broad crawls of the Internet (www.archive.org), hosts the Archive-It service to enable other organizations to archive materials (www.Archive-It.org), and provides services for large-scale, comprehensive captures of specific web domains. The IA had previously conducted the 2004 Presidential Term Web Harvest in partnership with NARA, and has also collaborated with other libraries, archives, and memory institutions to preserve web content of national importance.

LC has been curating thematic collections of web content since 2000, including coverage of national elections, the war in Iraq, and the events of September 11, 2001 (lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/lcwa/). LC also enabled organizations nationwide to begin archiving web-based materials through its National Digital Information and Infrastructure Preservation Program (NDIIPP), which funded a number of web archiving initiatives

including the Web-at-Risk, The Web Archivists' Workbench, and the K-12 Web Archiving program (www.digitalpreservation.gov). LC continues to play a key role in promoting Internet preservation through its National Digital Stewardship Alliance program (www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsa).

UNT is also among the early leaders of web archiving, having founded the CyberCemetery in 1997. The CyberCemetery provides permanent public access to the websites and publications of defunct US government agencies and commissions (govinfo.library.unt.edu). In addition to having the capacity to conduct large-scale web harvests locally, UNT has contributed extensively to the assessment and study of web archive curation activities, and has actively contributed to tools in support of web archiving.

CDL is engaged in large-scale web harvesting, both in support of collections for the University of California and on behalf of other organizations. CDL hosts the Web Archiving Service, which enables librarians and archivists to archive websites, and was funded in part by the NDIIPP program (webarchives.cdlib.org/). CDL has been actively engaged in shaping web archiving standards and in helping to integrate web content selection into bibliographer workflows.

While GPO was not directly engaged in web crawling when the EOT Archive project began in 2008, GPO administers the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) and has a strong interest in government publications. They joined project calls to stay informed about the work.

Among them, these five organizations have been directly involved in content selection and curation, shaping policies around web archiving, shaping the underlying standards and tools that make web archiving possible, and designing and building technology to support web archiving. All of these strengths were drawn upon in the course of the project.

Selection and curation

The 2008 end-of-term harvest did not start with a blank slate; a number of web archiving efforts had previously captured US federal government domains, and there were additional sources of information for identifying the websites within the scope of federal government domains. The project began by compiling the known sources for a seed list to build the archive.

A seed list is a list of URLs that very often corresponds to the home page addresses for particular websites. These are the URLs that a web crawler takes as the starting point to direct the harvest of any given group of websites. Some websites are complex enough to require more than one starting point, and some government agencies are complex enough to have a series of seed URLs associated with them.

The National Institutes of Health are a good example of that; within the nih.gov domain there are additional subdomains, such as nhlbi.nih.gov, along with related domains, such as cancer.gov. The project partners had a few existing sources to draw from, including a list derived from the usa.gov website and a seed list used in Stanford University's WebBase project (diglib.stanford.edu:8091/~testbed/doc2/WebBase/).

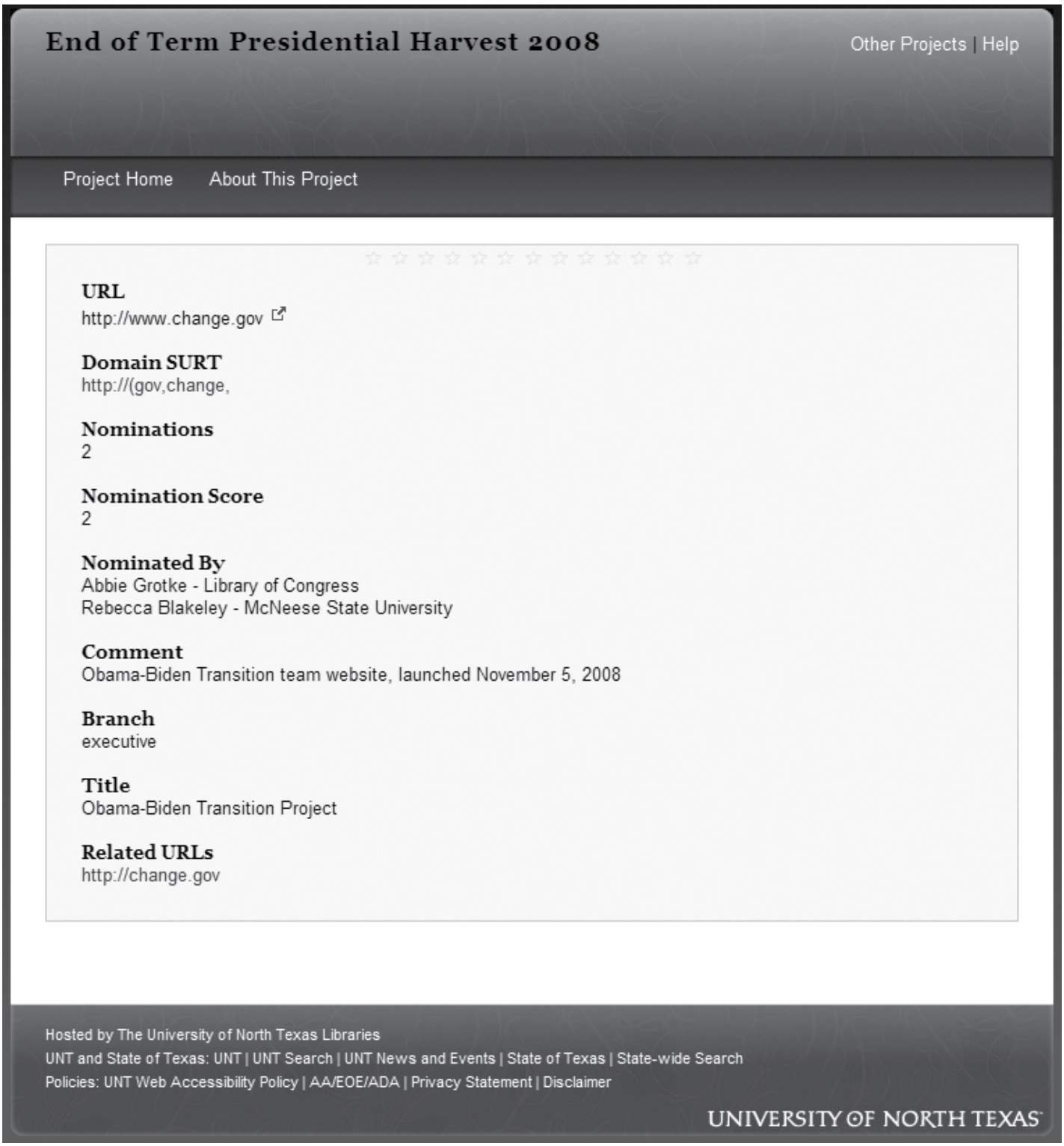
Note that all of these lists showed some variation in the number of "websites" considered to constitute the US government web presence. The *State of the Federal Web Report* issued in 2011 by the .gov Reform Task Force identified 1,489 domains and 11,013 distinct public websites in the executive branch alone.[2] This report represents the first detailed survey of web domains that some federal agencies have done, so it certainly unearthed sites that were not identified in any of the 2008 lists. However, despite their familiarity, the definition of a "website" can be hazy; many of those 11,013 websites would have been included in the 2008 EOT Archive as components of larger sites.

The lists assembled offered only limited metadata; in some cases no metadata beyond the site name associated with a URL was available. Furthermore, these seed lists had been used in other projects of sometimes significantly different scope. They included some .gov addresses used by state and local governments, as well as older URLs that were no longer functional. The lists also included a great many sites operated by the federal government outside the .gov domain, including .mil, .org, and even .com. UNT served as the gathering point for these lists, assembling them into a database built for the project.

Owing to the quality issues with this collection of seed lists, the project team agreed that some degree of curation was needed before the list could be used to run the first harvest of sites. The project team also agreed that the job was more than any one organization could take on, and that this could be a good opportunity to "crowdsource" the project to a wider community of government information specialists. Working with input from LC and CDL, UNT built the URL Nomination Tool, which would allow volunteers to review the list of URLs and mark them as either in scope or out of scope for the project.

By marking items out of scope, a curator could indicate that the URL was either no longer functional or that it was not a federal government site. By marking an item in scope, a curator could indicate that the site would be particularly vulnerable to significant change during the transition to a new administration, and that it should be harvested

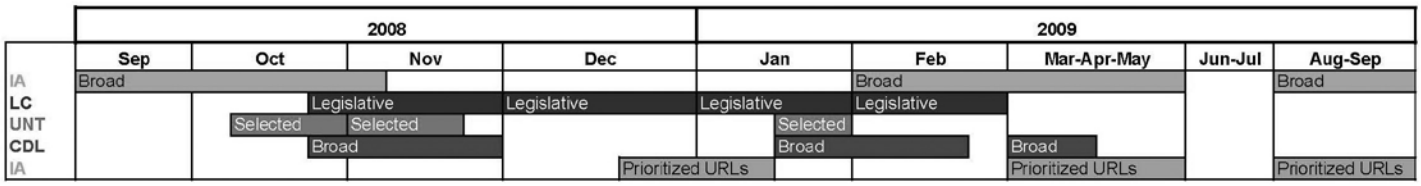
Figure 1. URL Nomination Tool entry.



with greater frequency and depth. Seed URLs were given one in scope point for each source list they appeared in, so for example, if www.whitehouse.gov appeared in all five source lists, it got an in scope score of "5," which could be increased or decreased by the curators' votes. Curators could also add URLs that did not appear in the combined list.

The Nomination Tool also enabled curators to supply metadata for seed URLs, including site name, agency name, branch of government, and comments that might be useful for the crawling team. Curators

Figure 2. Timelines for website crawls, by partner.



could search for specific URLs or browse URLs alphabetically by domain and subdomain (see figure 1).

The Nomination Tool was introduced at a GODORT meeting at the 2008 ALA Annual Conference, and further outreach was conducted to draw participation from e-mail lists. Participation, however, was relatively low; the Nomination Tool ultimately held 4,622 URLs, with participation from twenty-nine nominators. Curators voted on approximately 500 of the URLs in the tool. It is possible that by providing so many URLs by default, curators interpreted the list as being complete, and were less inclined to provide votes or metadata. Even so, the Nomination Tool became a critical source for all partners to draw upon, both in the harvesting phase, and in the construction of the archive access gateway.

The harvest

As the harvest of web content began in early September 2008, each contributing partner envisioned slightly different roles for collection building. IA would conduct broad crawls of all of the seeds in the list, "bookmarking" the collection with comprehensive crawls at the beginning and end of the project. It was not possible for IA to crawl these sites continuously over the course of the year long collection phase, so IA, CDL, and UNT ran shorter duration crawls between the bookend crawls at key intervals: pre-election, post-election, pre-inauguration, and immediately post-inauguration.

LC, meanwhile, focused on legislative websites; collection was thereby staggered across institutions both along time lines and in the focus of content collected. CDL at first envisioned a focus on sites based on selection activity in the Nomination Tool, but ultimately decided it would also use the entire seed list for its harvest. UNT focused its collecting on agency sites defined by UNT government information specialists as meeting the requirements of UNT's collection development policies. Crawl time lines are charted in figure 2.

The copyright and intellectual property issues surrounding the emerging field of web archiving also came into play in this project. All project partners who crawled websites chose to ignore robots.txt files in their harvest settings. A robots.txt file is a set of instructions that web server administrators can provide to direct crawler activity on their websites. It is commonly used to prevent a crawler, such as the Google index crawler, from using unnecessary bandwidth on gathering image or style sheet files not needed to effectively index a website. It can also be used to explicitly direct crawlers not to collect any content whatsoever.

The use of robots.txt directives on public domain government websites to prohibit the archiving of taxpayer-funded content is controversial. The project partners considered all sites within this harvest to be within the public domain, and so ignored robots.txt instructions prohibiting capture. This decision is further supported by the Section 108 Study Group, convened in 2006 to consider revisions to copyright exceptions for libraries in keeping with advances in digital media. The Section 108 Study Group unanimously recommended that federal, state, and local government entities should not be permitted to opt out of having their publicly available content archived by libraries.[3]

The data

After crawling activity ended in the early fall 2009, portions of the data were distributed among the EOT partners; IA held 9.1 terabytes of data, CDL held 5.7 terabytes, and UNT held 1terabyte. The next task was to assemble all of the archived content in one place, and to ensure that at least one full copy of the entire archive was held in a geographically separate location. This phase of the project was led by LC, and required that all partners make their EOT Archive content available for transfer. LC then made the aggregate data set available to the partner libraries. The challenges of this task are described in detail in "The 'End of Term' Was Only the Beginning," a *Signal Blog* article on the project.[4] The EOT partners employed "Bag-It," a data transfer standard developed under the NDIIPP program to support the transfer of grant-funded content to LC.

The NDIIPP grant projects gave rise to data transfer innovation with the Bag-It specification, and the scale of data transfer in the EOT Archive project prompted use of such technical innovations to support large-scale data transfer. NDIIPP had developed tools to support the Bag-It specification: Bagit Library, a Java-based, Unix command-line tool for making, manipulating, transferring, and validating bags

over the network, and a Bagger desktop tool for working with bags.[5] The library used the Bagit tools for transferring content, and the tools were available for partners to bag their content and make it available for transfer. Starting in May 2009 and running for about a year, all content was transferred to LC. LC then provided content from CDL and UNT to IA, and UNT received a full copy of the entire data set.

The EOT Archive provided important data for researchers. In 2009, UNT received Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funding for a research project named Classification of the End-of-Term Archive: Extending Collection Development to Web Archives (research.library.unt.edu/eotcd). Recognizing that librarians would need the capability to identify and select materials from web archives in accord with collection development policies and to then characterize these materials using common metrics that demonstrate their value, the project investigated innovative solutions to address these needs in two work areas.

Work Area 1 addressed archive classification. Classification of the EOT Archive involved both structural analysis and human analysis. Link analysis, cluster analysis, and visualization techniques identified the organizational and relational structure of the EOT Archive and produced clusters of related websites from a representative set of the archive's URLs. The project's subject matter experts (SMEs) classified the same set of URLs according to SuDoc classification using a web-based application developed by project staff. The resulting classification served as the standard against which the effectiveness of the structural analysis was evaluated. As an additional exercise to test the topical relatedness of the clusters' members (i.e., websites), a tool was developed to allow the project's SMEs to add subject tags to each cluster. Comparisons showed that the automated clustering processes were significantly successful in grouping topical areas as shown by comparison to the SME tagging.

Work Area 2 focused on web archive metrics. Identification of metrics for web archives was informed by the project's SMEs who participated in two focus groups to identify and refine the criteria libraries use for acquisition decisions. UNT conducted a review of existing statistics and measurements used by academic libraries and identified content categories for the EOT Archive. This work culminated in a proposed set of web archiving metrics that was then submitted to an International Standards Organization (ISO) working group currently analyzing the same issues. This ISO working group (ISO TC46 SC8 WG9) is currently preparing a technical report, and the UNT research team met twice with the working group's chair to review the proposed metrics. Anticipating researchers' needs to understand the scope and type of content in the EOT Archive, UNT analysts also investigated which data elements could be readily extracted from the archive's files. Further research in this area will continue in the coming year.

In addition to helping clarify the scope and value of the materials in the EOT Archive, this work also highlights the complex and rich role of web archives in library collections. Beyond providing passive "replay" of web content as it appeared in the past, web archives may also serve as dynamic sources for data analysis, and can enable discoveries that were not possible when that same content was only available on the live web.

The EOT Archive

The EOT Archive project partners intended from the start of the project to make the resulting archive freely available to the public. Once the data transfer work was complete in mid-2010, the work of providing public access could begin.

IA and CDL agreed to collaborate on a public access portal to the copy of the data held at IA. While both organizations provide public access systems for web archives, the EOT Archive content still posed a challenge. The captures of web content were run outside of the context of Archive-It and the Web Archiving Service, which meant that the content couldn't be delivered via either of the well-established discovery systems that both services offer. The team also wanted to be able to provide more than just URL lookup or full-text search functions. There were three distinct challenges to providing public access: (1)the development of a portal interface for browsing a site list, (2) the significant task of indexing nearly sixteen terabytes of data, and (3) the delivery of rich data visualization tools enabling researchers to better understand the scope of the archive.

The portal (eotarchive.cdlib.org) uses CDL's eXtensible Text Framework (XTF) to provide faceted browsing and metadata search of the site list, drawing on metadata records extracted by IA. XTF is an open source digital library platform that is commonly used to provide access to digitized images and documents. It is the technology behind CDL's Online Archive of California and eScholarship Repository, and has been used by a range of organizations beyond CDL (xtf.cdlib.org). The default open source version supports processing of PDF, Encoded Archival Description (EAD), National Library of Medicine (NLM), Dublin Core, and Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) formats, and includes a book reader; it would not appear at first to be an obvious tool for web archive discovery. However, XTF can be easily configured to process other metadata formats, and the content itself does not have to be co-located with the metadata files.

Figure 3. Dublin Core metadata elements.

DC Element	Notes
Title	Derived from the HTML <title> tag of the site's home page. This is not always correct and not always present.
Identifier	The archival URL of the site's home page at the Internet Archive.
Provenance	The original URL of the site on the live web. Source for URL lookup.
Date [1]	The first date of capture.
Date [2]	The last date of capture.
Description	Derived from HTML <meta> tags on the site's home page, when present.
Coverage	The branch of government, derived from metadata included with the seed list and provided in the UNT Nomination Tool. Shown in site list facets.
Source	This repeatable field provides individual segments of the site URL, such as "nasa" or "senate". Shown in site list facets.

The IA had previously built a Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS) extraction tool to generate basic metadata records from a seed list, and using that tool, they ran a record set based on the EOT Archive sites. Initially, CDL tried these MODS records in XTF on an experimental basis, and the results worked well enough to show that XTF would be a viable option. The MODS format was less ideal than simple Dublin Core, so CDL and IA worked together to produce Dublin Core records for the EOT Archive sites. The metadata elements are described in figure 3.

The coverage and source elements provide the data needed to explore the archive by government branch or URL segment. The title and provenance elements allow the user to search the site list by site name or URL. While HTML title tags can be notoriously unreliable, the government sites did tend to have useful titles; only about 200 sites out of more than 3,300 lacked title information. The abstract provides information on the brief display of the site records, and the identifier links the user through to the displayed page at the Internet Archive. The automatic extraction of subject terms from the seed list, unfortunately, did not work well for discovery; many subject terms were used only once and did not tend to lead the user to related materials.

The success of this approach has promising implications. The IIPC has long sought a means to collaboratively build archives on topics of international importance. Experiments are currently underway to build a distributed collection of 2012 Olympics web archives, and the EOT Archive demonstrates that the discovery interface and content can be at separate and even multiple locations. This approach also holds promise for integrating web archived content with topically related scanned materials, such as e-books, documents, and imagery. Very few archives currently do this; the UCLA Campaign Literature Archive is a rare exception and an important one (digital.library.ucla.edu/campaign/).

Web-archived materials are stored in a unique format that requires additional software to replay the archived site. This poses a challenge for archive display, and can lead to unnecessary silos of information. It should not matter to an end user how materials in an archive were acquired. Regardless of whether it was scanned or harvested, the content itself is what matters. The potential exists to use XTF, Omeka, or other discovery platforms to aggregate access to multiple web archives or to integrate web archived content with more traditional digital formats.

The full-text search of the EOT Archive presented an entirely different problem. Web archiving technology has been at an important crossroads since 2010, as organizations engaged in large-scale archiving have determined to migrate to more powerful indexing tools. Thus far, most web archives have relied on Nutch, an open source, Lucene-based full-text search engine. Nutch has fallen short in many respects, and the open source community is instead devoting more attention and development to Solr. Solr is a widely adopted full-text search engine, also built on Lucene, and is used by hundreds of libraries and archives around the globe to search metadata as well as the full-text of digitized books and other resources. Programmers have adapted Solr for web archives on an experimental basis at a number of libraries, including the British Library and CDL, and an increasing number of web archives will transition to Solr for public access searching over the course of the next year. In this interim phase, the full-text search service deployed for the EOT Archive was generated using The New Hotness (TNH), a custom packaging of Lucene with extensions for support of web archives (lucene.apache.org).

When searching the full-text of the EOT Archive, the first round of results will list the most relevant result from

each website in the result set. You can select "More from [this site]" to view the remaining results from any given site. Because TNH is being used while the open source community migrates to Solr, full-text search features for the EOT Archive are likely to improve when Solr is robust enough to support the demands of large-scale web archives.

The capacity to generate enhanced discovery tools and data visualizations for web archives is also at a turning point, based on newly emerging standards and tools at IA. The project team is working on exposing a series of visualizations enabled by Google Analytics in the browser, via CoolIris for navigating the collection by image, and via open source link graph and analysis tools. The key to enabling these alternative views of the archive is the introduction of the Web Archive Transformation (WAT) specification for structuring metadata generated by web crawls.[6]

Web crawlers do not return with mirrored copies of websites, but instead return with large container files called Web ARChive files, or WARCs, which hold both the content of thousands of files and metadata about those files.[7] While WARC files enable web archives to more easily manage the massive scale of storage required, they also pose challenges for indexing and analysis tools. WAT utilities extract the metadata stored in WARC files into a highly optimized form that can be analyzed in a distributed processing environment such as Hadoop (hadoop.apache.org). WAT has been quickly adopted for experimental work at many organizations involved in web archiving, including project partners UNT and CDL. More of these WAT-enabled visualization services will be released in 2012 as we build toward the development of the next EOT Archive.

The next archive

The EOT Archive project has resumed to create an archive for the 2012–13 end of term, and help is needed to identify websites for collection, particularly those that might be most at risk of change or deletion at the end of the presidential term. Nominations of any US federal government domains are welcome. Based on what was learned from the 2008–09 archive project, the project team has also identified a few topical areas needing focused effort by subject experts, including but not limited to:

- judicial branch websites;
- important content or subdomains on very large websites (such as nasa.gov) that might be related to current presidential policies; and
- government content on non-government domains (.com, .edu, and so on).

Volunteer nominators will be asked to contribute as much time and effort as they are able, whether it be a nomination of one website or 500 websites. Nominators will be given access to the Nomination Tool, updated for the 2012–13 project.

Government document experts, subject experts, and any others interested in helping identify US federal government websites for collection and preservation are encouraged to contact the project team at eotproject@loc.gov.

The project team plans to focus on recruitment of volunteer nominators in the summer of 2012. In July or August 2012, a baseline crawl of government web domains will begin. The focused crawling by partners will occur mostly in the fall of 2012, with partners crawling various aspects of government domains at varying frequencies, depending on selection polices and interests. At that time, the team will also determine a strategy for crawling prioritized websites. The crawls will continue into 2013, with a final crawl date depending on the outcome of the election.

Summary and concerns

The ad hoc collaboration that came together in response to the impending presidential transition in 2008 has been highly successful. The existing EOT Archive partners have moved forward on the 2012 archive without hesitation, and Harvard University Library has joined the EOT Archive partnership. The project has made use of emerging tools, and has in some cases driven the development of tools and practices that have since been more widely adopted. The 2008–09 federal government content is now held at three institutions, all of which have robust digital preservation practices in place. That content has already supported grant-funded research activity, and will likely support further research and analysis in the future.

While successful, the EOT Archive partners agree that there is still cause for concern, some of which is evidenced in the *State of the Federal Web Report* mentioned earlier. Without a comprehensive inventory, some websites were likely missed in the 2008 archive. A larger risk, however, is the assumption that the change of administrations is the most meaningful indication of risk for widespread change or loss in web-based government publications, and that an archive collected every four years will be sufficient. The outcomes of the mid-term elections of 2010 are widely considered to be as consequential as those of the 2008 election. Whether that is evident in the scope and content of the federal government web presence is not yet known, but the most significant triggers that should prompt preservation and archiving activity may not be as obvious as a shift in administrations or political parties.

The report noted that agencies "have plans to eliminate or merge a total of 442 domains, mostly in FY3 and FY4 of calendar year 2011."[8] This represents about 30 percent of the existing Executive Branch domains, and is prompted less by political change than by an understandable effort to streamline and improve agency website management.

The survey behind the *State of the Federal Web Report* was conducted with fifty-six federal agencies in the fall of 2011. The report is heavily focused on issues of design consistency, governance, and content management; the aim is clearly to reduce the federal government's "web footprint" and to make web communications more efficient. There is no indication that questions about preservation and archiving were included in the survey, and preservation is not addressed in the report. Both Archive-It and the Web Archiving Service have partnerships with individual federal agencies to preserve the public record of their web publications; many others proactively contact UNT's CyberCemetery when sites are to be decommissioned. Ultimately, agencies have as varied an approach to web content preservation as they do to publication and management.

The EOT Archive partners agree that a comprehensive archive of the US federal government web presence should ideally be undertaken on a yearly basis. While the EOT Archive partners assembled the resources to carry out a harvest with each presidential election, a more consistent and ongoing effort would require additional funding. In keeping with the spirit behind the *State of the Federal Web Report*, EOT Archive partners would very much like to see preservation and archiving become an assumed part of any effort to more consistently and effectively manage web-based government publications.

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Crossing Institutional Boundaries to Build a Digital Collection

Shari Laster

Most government information librarians want to see a future in which every government publication is freely available in an easy-to-use digital format to anyone in the world at any point in time, with carefully preserved print copies of every born-analog document readily available for the users and needs that require the original. Building that future will ultimately require participation and resources that cannot be summoned by one library or one organization alone. While large-scale digitization projects have created unprecedented access to historical federal government publications, the majority of these projects are not intended for preservation needs or for widespread sharing and reuse. They are intended to meet the needs of particular audiences using certain access mechanisms at specific points in time.

For digital content to be accessible into the foreseeable future, it needs to be available in formats that meet current best practices for file formats and image resolution. These files need to be maintained in a system that meets current standards for digital preservation. To truly encourage permanent and widespread access, these files should be available for other institutions and projects to harvest. Finally, the files need to be as usable as possible for existing systems, both with respect to the information content of the files and their description and provenance.

With our collection of digitized publications from the War Relocation Authority (WRA), the Government Documents Round Table of Ohio (GODORT of Ohio) has taken a step toward this future. While we recognize that certain issues cannot be solved at the scale of our organization and project, we have agreed to move forward using the technology we have available to create improved access to the materials we have in our collection. By building and promoting a collection with archival-quality scans accompanied by keyword-searchable access copies, we hope that these documents will be more discoverable and usable now, and perhaps part of larger collections in the future. Along the way, we have built expertise within our local government documents community in creating and managing digital collections.

The War Relocation Authority collection in Ohio

In the early weeks and months of 1942, the US War Department rushed to create designated military strategic areas on the West Coast from which "enemy aliens" would be excluded. Executive Order No. 9066, signed by President Roosevelt in February of that year, authorized the Secretary of War to exclude any persons from designated military areas. The War Relocation Authority (WRA) was established the following month in order to assist individuals who were evacuated by the military, and it began evacuating Japanese and Japanese-Americans almost immediately. In the four years of the program's existence, more than 110,000 individuals were removed from their homes, property, and livelihoods without trial or legal remedy and settled in remote and desolate camps around the United States.[1]

In Ohio, the WRA collection has been recognized for decades as an important collection for teaching and research and was included in a statewide inventory project during the 1980s. In the early 2000s, Denison University Libraries, under the direction of Mary Prophet, who, at the time, was the deputy director and government documents librarian, began to explore the possibility of digitizing the WRA print collection. Concurrently, a class at Denison focused on the experiences of Japanese and Japanese Americans in the United States, making the WRA collection an important resource for students. Prophet was concerned about how to preserve the physical condition of these documents while continuing to encourage students to use them. She attended a digitization workshop and eventually directed the digitization of twenty-eight documents from three Ohio institutions.

These documents were scanned and saved page by page as TIFF files. An access-quality PDF was created for each publication. Student assistants used OCR software to create text transcripts and then manually corrected the transcripts. Technical difficulties prevented the inclusion of this collection in a digital repository at the time it was scanned, so access-quality files were made available by request on CD-ROMs and later on flash drives. The archival-quality files were maintained on a hard drive with the hope that they would eventually be added to a repository.

GODORT of Ohio

GODORT of Ohio was founded in 1981 to bring government documents librarians from around the state together. Its mission—to promote the effective use of government information issued, published, or distributed in any format by all levels of government—is reflected in educational programming at its biennial meetings and in its support of FDLP participants throughout the state.[2]

GODORT of Ohio meetings include updates on statewide and local initiatives related to government information in libraries. These meetings provide networking opportunities for librarians around the state and create a central forum for discussion that is particularly valuable to the many members who are unable to attend national conferences such as the Federal Depository Library Conference.

Ohio depository librarians are proud of Ohio's history as a center of innovative collaboration. The CONSORT Colleges, part of the Five Colleges of Ohio (Ohio Five) consortium, recently undertook a pioneering approach to collection management for government documents by agreeing to a series of reciprocal shared housing agreements that allowed the participating institutions to consolidate and improve their consortial holdings of government documents.[3] By 2007, GODORT of Ohio had agreed to support the development of a statewide digital collection for government documents.

OhioLINK and the Digital Resource Commons

OhioLINK, Ohio's largest library consortium, has a portfolio of statewide initiatives that include a shared system for electronic journal collections, a coordinated collection development program, cross-institutional borrowing and lending, and a shared infrastructure for digital collections and institutional repositories. The last of these, known as the Digital Resource Commons (DRC), is operated by OhioLINK staff members under the direction of OhioLINK member institutions as represented by librarians on the OhioLINK Digital Resources Management Committee (DRMC).[4]

The DRC repository is built in DSpace, an open source software package maintained by DuraSpace. Most DRC participants have DSpace instances set up for them on virtual machines that OhioLINK maintains on central servers. Participating institutions have full access to a test version of their instance so they can directly develop and test their site and collections. Access to the production version is limited to functions supported by the DSpace web-based graphical user interface. The result is a flexible digital repository that can be customized to meet the needs of each participating institution, with routine maintenance and updates efficiently performed on the central servers. The DRMC discusses system-wide changes before implementation, and members volunteer to develop and test enhancements.

In the mid-2000s, the DRMC began to explore opening the DRC to include organizations outside of OhioLINK. Gwen Evans, the coordinator of Library Information and Emerging Technologies at Bowling Green State University's University Libraries, who at the time was serving as chair of DRMC, learned from her government documents colleague about GODORT of Ohio's interest in building and managing a digital collection. GODORT of Ohio provided an excellent test case for a cross-institutional collaboration because the organization had access to a digitized collection of historical materials that would be of value throughout the state.

The Digital Collections Working Group (DCWG)

After GODORT of Ohio learned that it would be joining the DRC, the organization began planning how to take advantage of this opportunity. No members at the time had extensive experience with digital collections. As I had worked on metadata projects in graduate school and as a volunteer, I agreed to act as the GODORT of Ohio coordinator and site administrator. My institution, the University of Akron, supported my decision as a professional development opportunity and a chance to provide leadership within the state to expand access to government publications.

I recruited volunteers at the GODORT of Ohio meeting and on the statewide government documents discussion list and organized a face-to-face meeting at Denison University. We discussed a draft mission and organization document, approved language to submit to GODORT of Ohio membership for inclusion in the bylaws, and sketched out a rough plan of action that was, unsurprisingly, modified and revised so many times that the final time line bore almost no resemblance to that plan.[5] Throughout the project, I kept all volunteers, whether active or not, apprised of progress and issues by e-mail.

Every participating institution in the DRC must have a site administrator who works directly with DRMC and OhioLINK and who is responsible for responding to questions and communications related to the project. As part of this experimental collaborative project, I provided DRMC with feedback and suggestions. Eventually, I joined the "101 Task Force" to help DRMC guide other new site administrators by providing support and training opportunities.

Preparing the metadata

Early on in the project, we agreed that we wanted to duplicate as little work as possible. Most of the digital files had been created, many of the full-text transcripts had been compiled, and all of the items had been cataloged. I built a metadata schema in qualified Dublin Core using the DRC's Metadata Application Profile as a guide. The Library of Congress maintains a MARC-to-Dublin Core crosswalk that gave me guidance in how to map the existing metadata fields from the MARC metadata to our Dublin Core schema. For example, the MARC 086 field, which contains a government documents call number, is mapped to dc:identifier.govdoc.

At this point in the process, I began working with the Ohio Five Digital Initiatives Coordinator, Catalina Oyler. Oyler's role within the Ohio Five system was to provide support to digital collection initiatives in all of the institutions. Because Denison Libraries provided the files and had a compelling interest in the completion of this project, Ohio Five could contribute technical support and expertise.

We found the solution of how to reuse the existing metadata almost in our own backyard. The Ohio State University Libraries' Knowledge Bank had developed a method for transforming MARC metadata into qualified Dublin Core using an XSLT stylesheet.[6] Oyler took a sample XSLT file and, with a little trial and error, created a stylesheet to create metadata that fit our schema. Our final process used MarcEdit to take a single file in .mrc format, create individual files for each record, and transform the files into Dublin Core XML.[7]

Preparing the files

While I worked on the metadata, Cynthia Cort of Denison Libraries reviewed the files from the initial digitization project. Some of the scans were clear and easy to read, while others required careful clean-up in Adobe Photoshop to make the text legible. Because the print collection included spirit duplicator (i.e., ditto machine) printouts as well as traditionally published materials, the quality of the scan that could be obtained varied greatly. Additionally, Cort explored methods of incorporating the full-text transcript into the access-quality PDF document. She discovered that OCR technology had improved to the extent that simply running OCR software on these files produced usable transcripts for the purposes of keyword searching.

In order to ingest content into a DSpace repository as a batch, rather than item by item, the content has to be in a specific file structure. Within the structure, each folder must include the files associated with the item, which for our collection include the access-quality PDF and the individual TIFFs of each page, the metadata in XML format, and a content manifest that essentially tells the DSpace software what to "expect" in the folder. Because some of our items have well over a hundred individual files, we wanted to find an automated way to assemble these files and generate the content manifests. I recruited a non-librarian who knew Perl well enough to create a script that would do what we needed. Her contribution became part of our procedure and a tool to help other DRC instances load similar content.

Preparing the repository

Once OhioLINK made our new DRC instance available, I added simple branding and theming to identify the collection as our own. Ohio Five provided a simplified version of the DSpace CSS file, and I made a few changes to the color and banner to identify our collection. I would not have been able to develop enough CSS expertise in the short time available to create this file myself, so this contribution also helped our project a great deal.

When creating a repository or digital collection, it is important to carefully plan the site architecture to make room for growth and expansion. Some institutions divide their collections by theme, while others group them by originating entity. Because the scope of our collection was clearly, if broadly, defined as government publications, I decided to set up groupings that reflected this scope. I created a parent community, or category, of "US Government Publications" and then a collection called "War Relocation Authority." This structure makes future expansions easy to fit into the architecture.

I also created a brief introduction to the collection and linked to online resources that provide context for the activities of the WRA. My goal in doing so was to provide users who stumbled upon the collection enough background to be able to appreciate the historical significance of the documents.

Loading the collection

I initially planned to undertake the batch load and ingest process remotely, by asking a librarian at Denison University to follow a set of steps while I remained available by phone to troubleshoot the loading process. However, it became necessary to change the plan. In order for a batch load into the DRC's

configuration of DSpace to succeed, the file structure must be correct and the FTP client must be properly configured. A series of Linux commands is sent via a secure client to the test server to ingest the content. The content must be reviewed in the test instance to ensure that it appears as expected. Finally, a request must be made to OhioLINK staff to move the batch load to the production instance and ingest it there. The level of required detail is difficult to communicate and check over the phone, so we agreed that a face-to-face meeting for the first upload would be a good idea.

Catalina Oyler joined me at Denison University to undertake the first set of test batch loads. Because the archival quality TIFFs can be as large as several gigabytes, even a small test load takes some time to process. We ran into several errors, some predictable, some not, and the onsite assistance proved to be worth the trouble.

We were rewarded with the successful ingest of the first few items into the collection, along with another load prepared for later ingest. Following the second load, I reviewed the metadata in the collection. Some errors in the metadata stemmed from the original cataloging, much of which followed AACR standards, rather than AACR2. For example, the publisher was often listed as "US Govt. print. off." rather than "US Government Printing Office." Additionally, the serial we loaded had series-level cataloging rather than title-level cataloging, so several items needed to have a descriptive title and a full Superintendent of Documents classification number added.

While we planned to have a metadata team correct the metadata for each item remotely, I needed the metadata in the initial collection to be completed more quickly. Following guidance from the DRMC, I used the batch metadata export and import process to edit the metadata in the spreadsheet. Although this process worked, it was unwieldy and I missed several errors, so I trained a group of volunteers in the weeks that followed to prepare for the next collection.

Finally, I created an account for the Documents Digitization Registry at Registry.fdlp.gov and listed our project. Although it is a small collection, it is a cause for celebration whenever another government documents collection is made freely available to all. Our collection can be accessed at Ohiogodort.uakron.edu.[8]

Lessons learned

The project required more face-to-face time than we originally anticipated. I traveled to Denison University several times over the six-month period in which we prepared and loaded our collection. Additionally, our plans changed many times, sometimes with careful thought and reflection, and sometimes on the fly. As the site administrator for the project, I learned about the DRC's operations and made decisions on this basis. When appropriate, I reviewed the decisions with the entire DCWG prior to making them, but some decisions did not warrant a deep level of examination, and others were made on a much shorter time line.

Because we were working with virtually no budget, we had to find creative solutions to problems. For example, a training session that would work best on webinar software was conducted using conference calling and a free software program to capture and e-mail screenshots. We also agreed to use the namespace of the University of Akron for the final website because the GODORT of Ohio website operates on a very small budget.

One factor that kept the project moving forward was the value of the training and learning that took place on this project. By following up on opportunities for professional development and hands-on learning experiences, we were motivated to continue work on the project. Although the division and distribution of responsibilities never extended as far as we initially planned, whenever possible we have taken steps to give volunteers the opportunity for hands-on work and input. As our project becomes more established, a significant component will be ensuring that every volunteer can work directly on the project.

Finally, we learned that the value of the content justifies the project. By choosing a collection that had longstanding interest within the state, we were able to motivate the participation of individuals and institutions. The collection is a valuable asset for the entire state.

Keys to the collaborative process

This project has been handled in one respect or another by librarians at nine Ohio institutions. We successfully navigated the DRC preparation and load process, which was designed for dedicated staff at OhioLINK institutions instead of volunteers across the state. We fulfilled a need within the state of Ohio to make these documents available. Finally, we followed through on a commitment that had been made nearly a decade ago to showcase a collection built in the state for our community of users.

This success resulted from several converging components, some of which came by chance and others by hard work. First, the project had structure and direction from its organizing institution, a statewide association for government documents librarians. The organizational aegis allowed the project to move into the statewide shared digital repository infrastructure, which enabled our project to move forward without direct investment into equipment and technological configuration. The willingness to support a multi-institutional project on the part of OhioLINK and DRMC opened a

place for our project in an infrastructure that otherwise would have required a single sponsoring institution to take on the leadership and organizational work of the project.

Another critical component for the progress and success of this project has been the support of Denison Libraries and the Ohio Five consortium. Although the scanned files existed prior to the start of the project, a considerable amount of work was necessary to prepare them for inclusion in a digital repository. Because the collection has been an institutional priority for Denison, staff time was available for working on the project. Additionally, because this project became an institutional priority for a member of the Ohio Five consortium, Ohio Five was able to directly contribute the expertise of Catalina Oyler, without whom many of the technical aspects of the project would have floundered and failed.

For cross-institutional collaboration, leadership is essential. While I am interested in digital collections and willing to learn new skills in support of a project, I needed the support of my supervisors at the University of Akron's University Libraries. In order to provide leadership efficiently and effectively, I needed to use work time, professional development resources, and the research time available to me as a tenure-track faculty member. Fortunately, my administration supported me in this effort. The dean of University Libraries affirmed the institution's support of free public access to government information and supported the opportunity for a librarian to learn new skills that could then support digital projects taking place at our institution.

The final component that helped all of these institutions justify the allocation of resources to this project is the mandate of libraries participating in the FDLP to support the mission of providing free, permanent public access to US government information. Because our institutions had the resources available, and because they support the mission of the FDLP, they committed to a project that would help to meet this goal.

Next steps

Over the coming months, we plan to load the remaining content that has been digitized for this collection. We will also solicit more contributions for the collection, and publicize it within depository libraries throughout the state. Our hope is to begin adding new collections, which will probably require the development of a process for distributed digitization. As an institution participating in the DRC, we have a vested interest in the future of this repository, so I continue to participate in discussions and planning regarding this statewide resource. Finally, our organization continues to support the mission of the FDLP. We hope to develop collections in the future that showcase materials not currently widely available to the public.

Shari Laster, Government Documents/Reference Librarian, The University of Akron, laster@uakron.edu

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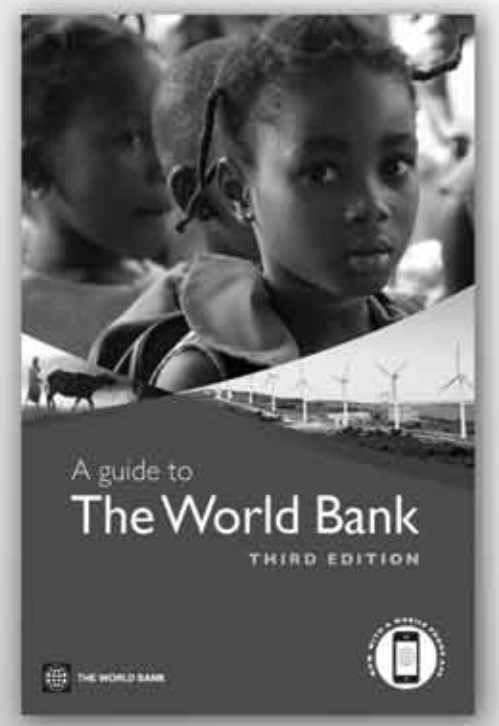

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US Constitution Day as an Opportunity for Outreach Collaboration

The Experience at Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Jian Anna Xiong, Melissa Hubbard, and Walter D. Ray

In today's e-government era, the role of government information librarians is dramatically redefined. There are many discussions in the government information community about the increasing importance of the role of the government information librarian in educating the public. Collaboration with other departments within the library and beyond is a promising way to develop more interesting, richer and larger scale projects to more effectively promote government documents collections and services.

In 2011 Jian Anna Xiong, the government information librarian at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), pursued collaboration with political papers archivist Walter D. Ray and rare book librarian Melissa Hubbard to develop entertaining and educational programs for US Constitution Day. During the process there were opportunities to collaborate with others on campus, including the library's development officer, the university's debate team, and the local media.

As a result, we developed a variety of activities surrounding a main event, which was a public debate on whether hate speech should be protected by the First Amendment. The debate, which was recorded and posted on YouTube, received a great deal of public attention and very favorable comments. The related activities highlighted the collections and services available in the library's Government Information, Rare Books, and Political Papers units.

While organizing this event, we learned many lessons. In this article, we will focus on the genesis of the project, the process of collaboration of the three library faculty in creating the exhibits, and the more challenging collaboration beyond our library with the university debate team and the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE).

The genesis of the project

With a passion to use US Constitution Day as an opportunity to organize a successful event to support the missions of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), SIUC, and Morris Library and to engage local government information users, Xiong sought out appropriate collaborators with similar interests while taking the following steps to produce an effective promotion plan: conducting background research, setting goals, determining target audiences.

Conducting background research and setting goals

Xiong researched the history of US Constitution Day; studied other libraries' US Constitution Day events; searched SIUC's website for previous campus activities for observing the day, and reviewed the missions of the FDLP, the university, and the library to use as guidelines for developing the program. She then set out rough goals for the event: To showcase the library's government documents collection by incorporating documents on the US Constitution and related issues; to make the library's collections and services better known to SIUC faculty, staff, and students; and to reach out to non-SIUC affiliated citizens in the Southern Illinois area.

Xiong believed that the US Constitution Day activities should be connected with campus instruction and research,

that they should encourage critical thinking and discussion, and that students should be better equipped to become more active and informed citizens because, "[w]hile a constitution may set forth rights and liberties, only the citizens can maintain and guarantee those freedoms. Active and informed citizenship is not just a right; it is a duty."[1]

Determining target audiences

The law school and the political science department provide courses on constitutional law and several professors have a research interest in that topic. These professors were contacted individually and invited to participate in the event and to promote it to their students. Other interested departments were contacted. The chair of the Department of Speech Communication and chair of African American Studies showed great interest in the event and also helped with promotion. Our university has a large number of international students. These students, especially those first-year international students in the Center for English as Second Language (CESL) program, are eager to learn more about American government and society, its history and culture, as well as the US citizen's constitutional rights. After being contacted by Xiong, CESL posted information about the event on their Facebook page to reach out to their students. The university's electronic bulletin board was used to announce the event to everyone on campus. SIUC University Communications staff wrote articles twice for the local newspaper *The Southern Illinoisan.* On the morning of the main event, Ray and Xiong were interviewed by the public radio station to reach out to people in the local region.

Deciding on activities

Many ideas were considered, including a public reading of the Constitution, playing relevant videos, hosting a panel discussion or seminar, and organizing a quiz or writing contest. After a discussion among the collaborators, we decided to focus on one major event that would generate a lot of interest, inviting the nationally recognized SIUC debate team to conduct a debate in the Library Auditorium followed by a reception in the library rotunda. We also planned to distribute free copies of the US Pocket Constitution, create exhibits to introduce the main event, and develop a LibGuide describing relevant library collections, and including links to research tools and SIUC constitutional waw courses.

Refining the proposal

An article by Kate Cruikshank and a presentation given by GODORT past-chair Cass Hartnett to the Society of American Archivist's (SAA) Congressional Papers Roundtable in 2009 encouraging collaboration between government information librarians and congressional archivists inspired Xiong to explore the connections between her collections and Morris Library's Special Collections. [2] She talked to Ray and Hubbard about her plan and received enthusiastic responses and valuable feedback. Xiong also contacted library development director Kristine McGuire, an event and public relations expert. McGuire suggested the Morris Library Friends Fund as a source of financial support for this event. This funding initiative offers small grants to librarians at SIUC for outreach projects. The requirements of the funding application served as a guide for the group to create a specific plan for the project.

Exhibit collaboration

To promote the library's research collections as part of the event, we put together exhibits of materials from Government Documents and Special Collections. The exhibit of government documents items was mounted in a case near the library's coffee shop, which has high visibility. The Special Collections exhibit was located on the same floor in the Special Collections exhibit hall. Identical banners were mounted near both displays to connect the exhibits.

To create the exhibit of government documents, Xiong searched the Morris Library catalog and the online Government Documents Display Clearing House at Minnesota State University Mankato (lib.mnsu.edu/govdoc/finalfront2.html). She selected documents that provided introductory information about the *US Constitution* and the First Amendment, as well as US Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.

She selected US congressional hearings, such as *What's in a Game? Regulation of Violent Video Games and the First Amendment*, *Cigarette Advertising and the First Amendment to the Constitution*, and *First Amendment and Restrictions on Political Speech* to demonstrate the unique primary information that can be found in government documents collections.[3] To increase the aesthetic appeal of the exhibit, she selected a few government documents in other formats (a tool kit, DVD, and VHS), and also a few books from the library's general collection on First Amendment issues. These were hardbound, colorful, and could stand upright in the display case to contrast with the plainer government documents.

Ray and Hubbard initially found it challenging to create a perspective from which to highlight the Special Collections materials. Morris Library's rare book collection includes more than 10,000 volumes documenting the intellectual history of First Amendment freedoms, particularly the freedom of the press. The political papers collection also contains rich material related to the First Amendment in the papers of

senators Paul Simon and Roland Burris, both of whom served on the Senate Judiciary Committee, and congressmen Ken Gray and Glenn Poshard. We wanted to create a coherent exhibit highlighting materials from both collecting areas.

Ray initially believed that focusing on flag burning as protected speech might provide a framework for the exhibit. After reviewing materials from both collections, we found that the rare book holdings in this area were rather weak, and there wasn't enough material to create a visually compelling exhibit. The idea was reluctantly rejected, though the image of a burning flag was retained for the promotional materials.

Instead, Ray and Hubbard reviewed their collections further and found they both held material related to mass media questions at the center of many First Amendment-related congressional debates and Supreme Court cases. Banned or censored books and magazines are a strength of the rare book collection. Senator Simon had been a particularly vocal critic of television violence, and his wife, Jeanne Hurley Simon, whose papers are also held in Special Collections, was active in the Parents Music Resource Center, a group of Senate wives headed famously by Tipper Gore. Serendipitously, the library's manuscripts collection houses the papers of John Howard Lawson, a mid-twentieth century screenwriter—one of the Hollywood Ten—whose movie *Blockade* was banned in several US cities. Given all this, we decided to focus on controversial books, magazines, films, music, video games, and websites. For each type of media, we cited relevant Supreme Court cases in our exhibit text in order to contextualize the material.

At the outset we had enough material to build the portions of the exhibit on books, magazines, films, and television, but we had to think creatively about the other types of media. We used our acquisitions budget to purchase two vinyl albums from the Parents Music Resource Center's "Filthy Fifteen," a list of fifteen records that were examples of music considered inappropriate for children. We also purchased a copy of the videogame *Grand Theft Auto IV*, which was at the center of a recent Supreme Court case. These visually interesting items were inexpensive and related to the Special Collections Research Center's established collecting interest in banned or censored media. In order to add visual interest to our section of the exhibit on websites, we used one of our department's netbooks to display a screenshot of a controversial websites.

The end result was a coherent set of exhibits highlighting material from three units of the Special Collections Research Center and the Government Documents collection. It presented both historical and contemporary perspectives on the First Amendment and allowed all of us to showcase our very different collections in a simple but creative way.

Collaboration with the SIUC debate team and CTE

One of the most exciting aspects of our event was our collaboration with departments on campus outside the library. The collaboration was strengthened by efforts to keep all participants fully informed as the plan evolved. By keeping the information flowing we were able to get buy-in from the participants and allay any concerns that arose. It was also important to take constituents' needs into account in the planning process.

In early July, we began discussing the event with the debate team coach. We told him we wanted this to be a demonstration of what a debate team does and that audience participation would be great. Communication with the debate team also aided the development of a theme for the event. It became clear that we would need to broaden the theme in order to coordinate the library exhibits with the debate. We needed a theme that was broad enough to encompass a variety of approaches to understanding the First Amendment but narrow enough to give the event a clear direction. The theme "Pushing the Limits: Freedoms and the First Amendment" demonstrated that we were focusing on marginal cases that tested the boundaries of social and constitutional acceptability.

After hearing suggestions from the debate team, we decided that the question of whether hate speech was protected under the First Amendment best fit the theme. The format would be a Lincoln-Douglas style debate featuring the team's two most experienced debaters. Before the debate the coach would introduce the team and lay out the ground rules. The audience would be asked to vote for the winner at the conclusion of the debate.

Our efforts to produce promotional materials provide a cautionary tale. We have an excellent relationship with the Center for Teaching Excellence, part of which is housed in the library. The center's graphic designer and her graduate assistants have produced high quality materials for many library events and the materials produced for our event—invitation postcards, posters, and flyers—were no exception. Difficulties arose, however, at the beginning of the fall semester, when the university began to implement a marketing campaign that included a new mandatory logo and new procedures for getting approval for designs. Our materials had to be revised to meet the new standards, which delayed their production by more than a week. As a consequence, we sent out fewer postcards than we had anticipated and relied more on e-mail to promote the event. The lesson? Expect the unexpected and be flexible.

Conclusion

The debate was hosted on Wednesday September 21, 2011, in Guyon Auditorium at Morris Library. About seventy people

came to the event. The audience was diverse including SIUC students and faculty, elementary school students, an SIUC alumna over seventy, and community members.

The two debaters, Mike Selck and Ben Campbell, were very strong. Mike defended the position that hate speech should not be protected by the First Amendment, while Ben argued that it should. Ben's position carried the day but only by a few audience votes. The debate is now published on YouTube for more access.[4] After the debate, people stayed for a reception in the library. The atmosphere was very nice, and we were able to talk to some students about the events, all of whom found the debate very interesting.

We purchased 150 Pocket Constitutions for the event and distributed 115. Fifteen extra copies were requested for a journalism class. Twenty were distributed at library information desks. The exhibits were displayed through the whole month of September. The logo and text of the FDLP were carried on all of our promotional materials.

Ray, Hubbard, and Xiong put together a research guide on the library website. [5] The guide described diverse physical and electronic library collections related to the First Amendment and provided links to SIUC's constitutional law courses and professor profiles. It also covered freely available online research, teaching, and entertainment resources developed by the Office of the Federal Register, the National Constitutional Center, the Library of Congress, and the National Archives and Records Administration.

After a very successful final event, all of our project goals were met. We showcased documents supporting research on the Constitution. We increased public visibility and usage of the US Federal Government Documents collection and services in Morris Library and the treasures in the Special Collections Research Center. By combining the strengths of Morris Library and the SIUC debate team we promoted SIUC to the public in a unique way and reinforced community outreach. Raising our profile in the community produces support for Morris Library's efforts to continue to develop, preserve, and promote valuable collections of US Constitution-related materials, as well as deliver Constitution-related educational and promotional programs to the public.

Jian Anna Xiong, Government Information Librarian, axiong@lib.siu.edu, **Melissa Hubbard,** Rare Book Librarian, mhubbard@lib.siu.edu, and **Walter D. Ray,** Political Papers Archivist, wray@lib.siu.edu, Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

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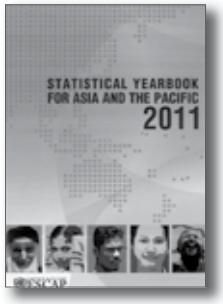

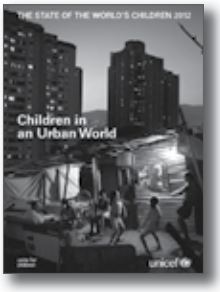

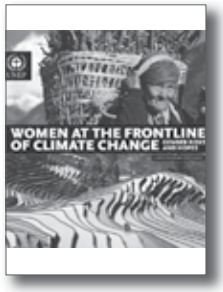

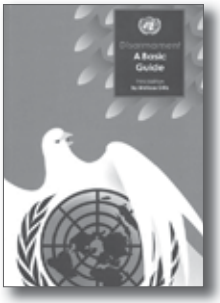

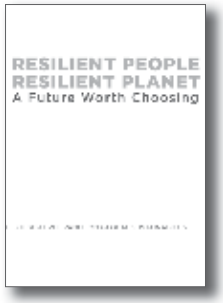

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Collaboration in the Management and Disposition of Federal Depository Library Collections

An Update on the ASERL Implementation Plan

Judith C. Russell

In the winter 2010 issue of *DttP*, I described the proposal developed by the Association of Southeast Research Libraries (ASERL) for regional collaboration for more effective management and utilization of federal documents.[1] That planning process culminated in April 2011 when ASERL unanimously approved the *Southeast Region Guidelines for Management and Disposition of Federal Depository Library Collections: Implementation Plan*.[2]

Background

Since 2005, ASERL libraries that participate in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) have been collaborating to improve management of their print documents collections through Centers of Excellence. In 2006 and 2008, three regional depository libraries in the southeast agreed to become Centers of Excellence for specific federal agencies to develop best practices and serve as models for future efforts. In 2009 ASERL received an IMLS National Leadership Grant to expand and document this initiative.[3]

In November 2009, deans and directors from ASERL member institutions affirmed that the federal documents collections in the southeast region are valuable assets for the holding library, the state where each collection is located, and the region as a whole, and agreed to plan collectively for management of federal documents held by ASERL libraries, in collaboration with other federal depository libraries in the region. The objective of this collaboration is to improve management of the tangible collections and gain consensus on policies and best practices for disposition of federal documents to simplify and streamline the process and address collection management throughout the southeast region, while remaining in compliance with 44 *USC* Chapter 19, the statute governing the FDLP.[4]

A discussion draft was issued in April 2010 and widely circulated. A section by section survey was conducted to gather feedback and a two-day meeting was held in August 2010 to review the survey results and other comments. Open issues that required further discussion were identified. The resulting recommendations were reviewed by the ASERL Deans' FDLP Task Force, which agreed on appropriate resolution of the open issues and these recommendations were incorporated into the Implementation Plan.

Centers of Excellence

In approving the Implementation Plan, all ASERL members who are federal depository libraries agreed to identify at least one agency, topic, or format within their collections as a Center of Excellence by September 1, 2011. The two regional depository libraries in the southeast that are not ASERL members also agreed to establish Centers of Excellence.[5] As of November 2011, all but nine of the forty members had identified Centers of Excellence, although some had not yet signed the Memorandum of Understanding.[6] Selectives throughout the region are being encouraged to consider establishing Centers of Excellence and a few have already done so.

Centers of Excellence commit to cataloging and inventorying their holdings for the relevant federal documents and conducting research to identify other publications that are

missing from their collections. The centers have committed to obtaining the missing items, if possible, in order to establish a comprehensive collection of publications as a resource for their own institution, the state, and for the southeast region. Centers are encouraged to optimize the use of digitized government documents in HathiTrust and available from other stable public domain sources. They are encouraged to digitize items within their areas of responsibility when a stable public domain source is not available, but this is a voluntary activity.

The goal is to establish two Centers of Excellence for every agency to ensure that the region includes at least two complete cataloged sets of print publications and maps distributed as part of the FDLP and, to the extent possible, its predecessor programs. Libraries may choose to include additional materials beyond the scope of the FDLP.

The expectation is that Centers of Excellence will be based on the collection strengths and institutional mission of the host library. In a number of libraries, this has led to discussions among directors, collections managers, and documents coordinators to identify the appropriate agency, topic, or format for a center. While most centers are currently based on one or more agencies or stem numbers from the Superintendent of Documents Classification System, some libraries have decided to construct their centers around other characteristics. For example, the University of Georgia, which has an outstanding map collection, is a Center of Excellence for maps, regardless of the publishing agency. Florida International University manages the Digital Library of the Everglades and has chosen to build its Center of Excellence around print publication relating to the Everglades, regardless of the publishing agency, which will complement and provide new content for its digital collection. The University of Florida has a hybrid model, serving as a Center of Excellence for the Panama Canal Commission and its predecessor agencies, but also seeking to build a comprehensive collection of documents about Panama and the Panama Canal, regardless of the publishing agency. This has led to a close collaboration with the curators in our Latin American Collection (LAC), resulting in the identification of relevant documents that were not obtained through the FDLP, but which we are now managing as part of our Center of Excellence collection. The LAC faculty and staff are also providing subject expertise for students, faculty, scholars, and members of the public interested in Panama.

New opportunities for collaboration

The effort to establish Centers of Excellence creates other opportunities for collaboration across institutions. For example, both the University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University have chosen to establish Centers of Excellence for the State Department. The gap analysis software being developed as part of the IMLS grant will allow them to compare their holdings with one another and also with other libraries in the Southeast. The ASERL Documents Disposition Database will allow both libraries to post needs lists and match those needs with offers from other libraries in the region that are disposing of State Department documents.[7] They will share the research to define a comprehensive collection and the responsibility for cataloging the collection. The research will include identification of digitized copies from stable public domain sources such as HathiTrust that can be linked from the cataloging records.

Although there are forty member libraries in ASERL, only eleven are land grant institutions.[8] When considering the responsibility for establishing Centers of Excellence for documents from the Department of Agriculture (USDA), it was immediately clear that the libraries with the mission, and therefore with the interest, were at the land grant institutions. In addition, it is anticipated that our collections will be the strongest since we are most likely to have done affirmative collection in the field of agriculture either through our government document departments or through our general collections. The deans of the land grant institutions and our documents coordinators have agreed to work together to ensure that Centers of Excellence are established for the full spectrum of USDA documents.

The discussion about the mission of the land grant institutions to establish Centers of Excellence for USDA documents led to the identification of another opportunity for collaboration. ASERL also has a major project to establish a distributed print journal archive.[9] The deans of the land grant institutions and our agriculture librarians have agreed to work together to ensure that the major agriculture journals are preserved through the ASERL journal archive. As with the USDA documents, we are the libraries that are likely to have the best collections of these materials and we are also the institutions with the mission to preserve them and provide access. We have developed a spreadsheet identifying more than 1,000 agricultural journal titles (including some that are published by USDA and other federal agencies) and each library will review the list in order to identify titles that they are committed to retaining. In the end, if there are orphans, we are committed to assigning responsibility to one of the land grant institutions if the titles are deemed sufficiently important. The University of Florida is developing software, based on the ASERL Documents Disposition Database, to document known gaps in archival journal holdings, so other libraries can fill them before discarding their own copies.

When I describe the dual initiatives of the land grant institutions, I am frequently asked whether ASERL will establish other groups to address specific agencies or discipline-specific journal collections. Obviously there are many opportunities to do so, and it makes perfect sense to have all the institutions with architecture programs, to use one example, collaborate with one another to make sure that the region has comprehensive collections of print journals and government documents to support public access and our research and teaching in that discipline. However, I have promised my documents staff that I will try not to initiate or agree to participate in another major collaboration until we have completed the ones to which the University of Florida is already committed, so another ASERL member library will need to take the lead.

Next steps

The enthusiasm for, and commitment to, the ASERL Implementation Plan goes far beyond the documents coordinators. At Florida, we have subject specialists, catalogers, programmers, digitization and preservation specialists, and others actively participating in the effort to establish our Centers of Excellence and improve access to these very important parts of our federal documents collection, as well as to assist our colleagues in the Southeast in their efforts to do the same. However, the Government Printing Office (GPO) has challenged a key assumption of the Implementation Plan.

In mid-January, a delegation of ASERL deans and documents coordinators and our executive director met with the Superintendent of Documents and other GPO officials to discuss the remaining area of concern. While GPO management supports the overall project and goals of the ASERL initiative, there continues to be a difference in interpretation of the use of the terms "area served" and "region" within 44 *USC* Chapter 19 and GPO has requested that ASERL modify the Implementation Plan and the disposition database to reflect its interpretation of these terms. ASERL is considering this option, among others, and will respond to GPO once we have consulted with the participating libraries. Whatever the outcome of these discussions, ASERL does not believe that this difference in interpretation should be an obstacle to continued progress with this critical program.

Judith C. Russell, jcrussell@ufl.edu, Dean of University Libraries, University of Florida.

References and Notes

1. Judith C. Russell, "ASERL Proposal for Regional Management of Federal Depository Library Collections," *DttP: Documents to the People* 38, no. 4 (Winter 2010): 38–40.
2. The implementation plan, the executive summary, and additional documentation are available at www.aserl.org/programs/gov-doc.
3. IMLS National Leadership Grant LG-07-09-0095-09 is funded from October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2012.
4. For purposes of this initiative, the Southeast region is defined as the eleven states represented in ASERL (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia), as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands because of their affiliation with the University of Florida, which serves as their regional federal depository library.
5. Auburn University at Montgomery and Louisiana Tech are regional depository libraries that are not ASERL members, but they have participated fully in the development of the Implementation Plan.
6. Tulane University is exempt from the requirement to establish a Center of Excellence because it lost most of its federal documents collection during Hurricane Katrina. Eight other member libraries have not yet identified their Centers of Excellence, but most are expected to do so during the coming year. Among these are the University of Maryland and The Johns Hopkins University, both of which joined ASERL in November 2011.
7. The Documents Disposition Database was developed and is hosted by the University of Florida. Information about the database is available at www.aserl.org/aserls-documents-disposition-database, including links to a video training session and an extensive LibGuide describing the functionality of the software.
8. The land grant institutions in ASERL are Auburn, Clemson, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana State, Maryland, Mississippi State, North Carolina State, Tennessee, and Virginia Tech.
9. Additional information about the ASERL cooperative journal retention project is available at www.aserl.org/programs/j-retain.

GODORT 2012 Midwinter Meeting Highlights

Dallas,Texas January 20–23, 2012

"Live Large. Think Big" is the motto of this city located on the banks of the Trinity River, and there were a lot of big ideas on display at this year's American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting in Dallas. This year a number of GODORT committees elected not to meet at Midwinter and instead to conduct business virtually, thereby freeing members up to participate more broadly in Association activities. These included **Awards**, **Bylaws**, **Conference**, **Education**, **GITCO**, **Membership**, and **Web Managers.** Nevertheless, there was a full slate of GODORT activities to keep the membership engaged.

Things started off with the first **Steering Committee** meeting on Friday afternoon. After hearing a report on Association activities by Kevin Reynolds, GODORT's liaison to the ALA Executive Board, treasurer John Hernandez presented a report on the Round Table's finances. Overall, GODORT is in good financial health, though there were some causes for concern, including the continuing downward trend in membership dues. It was recommended that the proposed budget be brought forward to the **Membership Meeting** on Monday, where it was approved. GODORT chair Kirsten Clark then led a discussion of the proposed changes to the *Bylaws*. The major goal of these changes is to make GODORT less bureaucratic and more flexible. They were well received, and with minor changes were sent on to the second **Steering Committee** on Monday for a vote where they were approved for inclusion on the 2012 ballot.

Friday afternoon included the first meeting of the **Legislation Committee**. Over the course of the conference the committee drafted, and the membership ultimately approved, a memorial resolution for former Public Printer Robert W. Houk and resolutions commending the work of Maryellen Trautman at the National Archives and Records Administration and William J. Boarman, the 26th Public Printer of the United States. The committee also drafted a resolution on Crucial Government Information, which was approved the Government Information Subcommittee of the ALA Committee on Legislation (COL-GIS).

Also on Friday, the **Nominating Committee** met to continue work on a slate of candidates for the 2012 ballot. Continuing their work through the conference, the committee plans to present a slate for the consideration of Steering by February 2. (Ed. Note: the slate was approved by Steering and will be on the 2012 ballot.) The **Program Committee** fleshed out the program on the Resource Description and Access (RDA) standards for the Annual Conference in Anaheim, and noted that GODORT will cosponsor two other programs, one from the Map and Geospatial Information Round Table (MAGIRT) on map scanning, and one with ALA's COL E-Government Services Subcommittee on e-government services devoted to workforce recovery. The Committee continues to welcome suggestions for a preconference for ALA Annual in 2013 in Chicago.

The **Education Committee** held a virtual meeting prior to Midwinter, where they discussed revising the Competencies for Federal Government Information to include information relevant to library paraprofessionals. The committee also began planning for a short presentation at ALA Annual on data management and government agencies. During the meeting, the e-Learning Interest Group announced that they have selected a webinar proposal to test the use of ALA's e-learning software; it will be Katheryn Yelinek's "Lions, and Podcasts, and Videos! Oh My!"

While the **Membership Committee** did not meet formally at Midwinter, they did host another successful GODORT Happy Hour on Friday evening at the wxyz bar in the lobby of the Aloft Hotel.

Early risers on Saturday were able to attend the meeting of the **International Documents Task Force**, where there were reports from Jim Church, GODORT's representative to IFLA's Government Information and Official Publications Section, as well as from agency liaisons. In the afternoon, members of the **State & Local Documents Task Force** (SLDTF) attended the meeting of the **Legislation Committee**, and although no Task Force business was conducted, SLDTF Chair Marie Concannon announced that they were creating a Needs & Offers page for state level government publications on the SLDTF wiki. The **Federal Documents Task Force** rounded out the day with a full agenda, mostly devoted to an update on the Government Printing Office (GPO) from Assistant Public Printer and Superintendent of Documents Mary Alice Baish and her staff. Highlights included: a report by Laurie Hall on the move of document distribution services from GPO headquarters to a warehouse in Maryland; an update on the forthcoming State Forecasting Project by Cherie Givens; and an

overview on the state of the Federal Depository Library Program by Baish.

Sunday led off with a meeting of the **Development Committee**, where topics included a discussion of GODORT's financial position and outlook, web strategies to promote giving opportunities to potential donors, and a project to identify and enlist past leaders of the Round Table in support of GODORT's development priorities. The **Publications Committee** was also scheduled for an early morning meeting, with reports on *DttP*, the *Occasional Paper Series*, and website migration. In addition, the committee discussed the hiring of a new editor or editors for *DttP*. The focus of the meeting of the **Cataloging Committee** was the planned implementation of RDA standards, with GPO staff and vendor representatives contributing to the discussion. In the **Rare and Endangered Government Publications (REGP) Committee,** members talked about REGP's mandate concerning "born digital" publications. Members noted that the recent discontinuance of the *Statistical Abstract* has heightened attention within ALA to the fragility of digital publications, and that the committee needs to play a proactive role in advocating for the preservation of this type of content.

Rounding out GODORT's activities at Midwinter on Monday were the general **Membership** meeting and the final meeting of the **Steering Committee**. As previously noted, the membership approved the FY2013 budget and a number of tributes and memorials. Also approved in principle were resolutions on Crucial Government Information, on SOPA/PIPA, and on the *Research Works Act*. Also as previously noted, the **Steering Committee** voted in favor of an amended version of the Bylaws changes being placed on the 2012 ballot. The approved language did not include changes to Article VIII, dealing with creating, disbanding, or changing the structure of committees and task forces. The **Bylaws Committee** will draft alternative language for changes to Article VIII for approval by Steering by February 2 (Ed. Note: the alternate language was approved and will be included on the 2012 ballot). Steering also approved the following slate of award winners from the **Awards Committee**: James Bennett Childs Award—John Phillips; Margaret T. Lane / Virginia F. Saunders Memorial Research Award—Harold Relyea; ProQuest/GODORT/ALA "Documents to the People" Award—Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) Collaborative Federal Depository Program; NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds Research Grant—Kristine Unsworth and Helen Sheehy.

Councilor's Report: 2012 ALA Midwinter Meeting

Dallas, Texas

The American Library Association's Midwinter Meeting in Dallas offered attendees mild weather and southern courtesy. As expected in a time of tight budgets, attendance was lower than in recent years. ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels reported on the final day of the meeting that 6,236 attendees and 3,693 exhibitors had registered, for a total of 9,929 persons.

Cynthia Czesak, New Jersey chapter councilor, moved the *Resolution on Publishers and Practices Which Discriminate Against Library Users* to oppose the undisclosed policies of four major publishers that restrict access to content of e-books and electronic audio books by not offering all titles for sale to certain types of libraries. Widely discussed at the Chapter Councilors' meeting, the resolution was improved during the Midwinter Meeting and approved at the third Council session. This resolution's approval was especially timely because Fiels and ALA president Molly Raphael had meetings scheduled with three of the publishers and the fourth publisher agreed to meet to discuss these issues after Council's vote. Endorsed in principle by the Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT), it resolved "That the American Library Association opposes any discriminatory policies of publishers and distributors which adversely impact access to content by library users; and Resolved that the American Library Association directs the Working Group on Digital Content in Libraries to review the situation and recommend appropriate action and/or appropriate parties who should be informed if this resolution." Several Councilors speaking in favor of the resolution expressed concern for the rights of visually impaired readers' to access titles in electronic formats, noting that only a tiny percentage of printed books are made available in formats designed to be accessible for these readers.

The *Resolution Opposing Restriction of Access to Materials and Open Inquiry in Ethnic and Cultural Studies Programs in Arizona,* moved by the Intellectual Freedom Committee chair, also generated considerable discussion, both in

Council and in the Council Forum II held Sunday evening. The resolution was written to address issues raised by the Arizona Secretary of Education's interpretation of the *Arizona Revised Statutes* Sections 15-111 and 15-112. The *Statutes* includes education standards that were interpreted to forbid a Mexican American Studies (MAS) program that had proved very successful in the Tucson Unified School District. The State of Arizona imposed a 10 percent reduction in school funds as a penalty, which resulted in the schools' superintendent abolishing the program and removing books supporting the program from classrooms. It 'resolved that the American Library Association: (1) Condemns the suppression of open inquiry and free expression caused by closure of ethnic and cultural studies programs on the basis of partisan or doctrinal disapproval. (2) Condemns the restriction of access to educational materials associated with ethnic and cultural studies programs. (3) Urges the Arizona legislature to pass HB 2654, "An Act Repealing Sections 15-111 and 15-112, Arizona Revised Statutes; Relating to School Curriculum."' This resolution was endorsed in principle by the following groups: ALA Committee on Diversity; ALA Committee on Legislation; American Association of School Librarians; American Indian Library Association; Asian Pacific American Librarians Association; Black Caucus of the American Library Association; Intellectual Freedom Round Table; Reforma: The National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking; and the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT).

Council also approved three resolutions moved by Eva Poole, chair of the ALA Committee on Legislation (COL) that may be of interest to GODORT members. *Resolution Opposing the Research Works Act* urges the US Congress to reject the act (H.R. 3699) "because it not only threatens future public access to federally funded research, but also nullifies the public access already provided to peer-reviewed journal manuscripts resulting from NIH funding." ALA reaffirms "its support for the expansion of the NIH public-access policy to other federal agencies and departments." This was endorsed in principle by the IFRT, GODORT, Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), Library Research Round Table (LRRT), and for Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS).

Poole also moved a *Resolution Opposing the Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act of 2011 (PIP) and the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA).* Endorsed in principle by the IFRT, GODORT, and ACRL, it resolved that ALA "1. Urges Congress to reject both the S. 968, PIPA bill in the US Senate and H.R. 3261, SOPA bill in the US House of Representative because they compromise such fundamental rights as free speech, intellectual freedom, and privacy in an attempt to target foreign websites and combat online infringement overseas. 2. Opposes any legislation that compromises ALA's core principles and stifles the dynamic, innovative potential of the global Internet."

The demise of the *Statistical Abstract of the United* States and termination of the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) website resulted in a COL *Resolution on the Loss of Crucial Government Information* endorsed by GODORT and endorsed in principle by SRRT. This resolved that the American Library Association "1. Urges US Congress to restore funding to ensure permanent no-fee public access to aggregates sources of government information. 2. Urges the establishment of a mandated process with adequate notification to include the opportunity for public notice and comment with consultation by librarians, researchers, small businesses and other appropriate stakeholders before decisions are made to discontinue access to current or historical information resources when the federal government initiates, significantly modifies, or terminates information products. 3. Urges Congress to require that agencies discontinuing access to current or historical information resources transfer the content and related functionality to the US Government Printing Office or other public institutions that can ensure continued no-fee digital access to this information. 4. Urges Congress to improve the federal government's policies and capabilities for making government information available to the public in an open, timely, participatory, and transparent manner."

ALA treasurer Jim Neal reported on the acquisition of Neal-Schuman Publishing by ALA. The seven million dollar purchase price is expected to be paid off through the revenues generated by this imprint. Revenue projections were made based on the publishing house transitioning from a privately-held for-profit company to a not-for-profit publishing unit of ALA, which enjoys tax benefits. Despite his surname, ALA treasurer Jim Neal reassured Councilors that he was not "Jack Neal" (one of the sellers), as Treasurer Neal received e-mail from outraged members assuming that he had a conflict of interest in the deal.

A proposal to eliminate the ALA-APA Council and rely on its executive board to make decisions was discussed by ALA councilors. APA was created to provide an advocacy organization with a different tax status from ALA. APA differs from ALA

in that it is not a membership organization but shares a council and executive board to gain some representation of librarians in general. SRRT opposed the elimination of the ALA-APA Council and believes that APA should be a membership organization. Several councilors spoke against the proposal, suggesting that a good compromise would be to have ALA-APA Council meet once a year to provide oversight and input and increase the transparency of APA decision making.

Thanks to the good work of our Legislation Committee, I had the honor to move a memorial resolution and two tributes on behalf of GODORT, all of which Council passed on Tuesday, January 24, 2012. ALA Council approved GODORT's *Memorial Resolution for Robert W. Houk, former United States Public Printer*. Two tributes were also approved by ALA Council: *Resolution commending William J. Boarman, 26th Public Printer of the United States* and *Resolution Commending Maryellen Trautman for her work to assure Public Access to Government Information*.

To my surprise, ALA Council wrapped up its business early on Tuesday. Those planning to attend the ALA Annual Conference may be surprised by revisions to the schedule: Council is scheduled to meet 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon on Sunday; 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. on Monday; and 7:45–9:15 a.m. on Tuesday. I hope that members will contact me with any issues that need to be raised.

To provide access to details not included in this report, I use ALA Connect to announce and point to the Council documents and voting records when they become available. Reports from ALA Midwinter Meetings and Annual Conferences may be accessed from the "Council Documents" section of the ALA website (www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_documents).

John A. Stevenson,
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Help Us Celebrate GODORT's 40th Birthday at the 2012 Annual Conference

The 2012 GODORT Reception and Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday evening, June 24th, at the Fullerton Public Library. This will be a great venue to honor our award recipients, so please plan on attending and watch for further information on times and directions.

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

- John Phillips, Oklahoma State University (James Bennett Childs Award)
- Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) Collaborative Federal Depository Program (ProQuest/ GODORT/ALA "Documents to the People" Award)
- Harold Relyea, "The Federal Register: Origins, formulation, realization, and heritage," in *Government Information Quarterly* 28 (2011): 295-302. (Margaret T. Lane/Virginia F. Saunders Memorial Research Award)
- Kristine Unsworth (College of Information Science and Technology, Drexel University) $500. IPL2 project on government information to provide funds to transcribe focus group meetings. (NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds Research Grant)
- Helen Sheehy (Penn State), $1500. To fund a graduate student to code data and assist with statistical analysis for project: Effect of Internet Access on Usage Patterns for Government Information in Scholarly Scientific Publications (NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds Research Grant)

A complete listing of GODORT activities at the Annual Conference will be available on the GODORT wiki.

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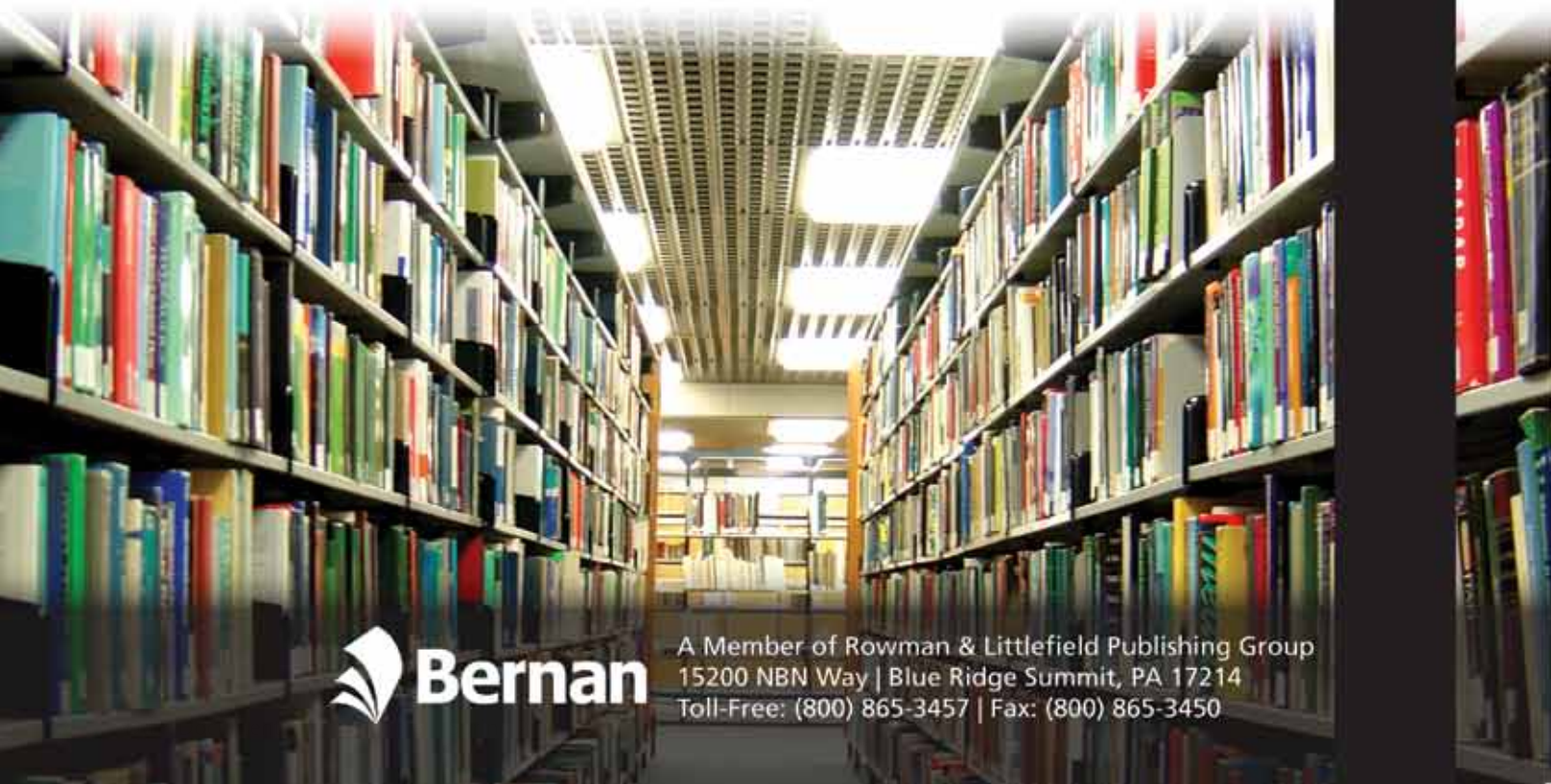

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