

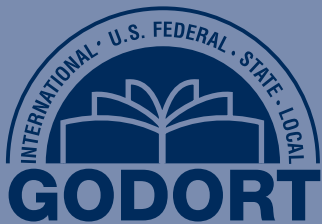
In This Issue

- Forty Things that Make GODORT GODORT
- Fear and Loathing in Library Land
- Automating the Federal Documents Disposition Process

DttP

Documents to the People

Summer 2012 | Volume 40, No. 2 | ISSN 0091-2085



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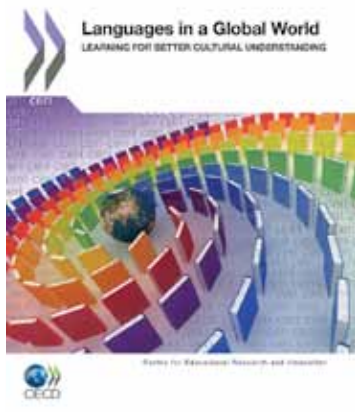
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9789264127333 | April 2012 | 88 pp.

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DttP

Documents to the People

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About the Cover:

They had their cake and shared it too. GODORT members of Northwestern University Library have already started to celebrate GODORT's fortieth anniversary. Photo by John Hernandez.

Editor's Corner

It's Time for Hellos, Goodbyes, and Hoorays!

Beth Clausen and Valerie Glenn

It is amazing how fast time flies. That's certainly our impression — as we kept asking ourselves as we put this issue together — “has it really been three years since we became responsible for *DttP*?” Apparently so, because this is the twelfth (and last) issue under our care. And oh, how much we have learned in the last three years! Lessons about people and getting a geographically disparate group to come together virtually to get things done, editing skills, and various coping mechanisms to be applied to so many situations we will encounter as we move forward professionally and personally. We would like to thank all of you who have contributed to the publication by writing or editing, for having read the articles and columns, given us feedback (mostly positive, we are happy to report!), and overall taken an interest in its, and therefore our, success. We were very fortunate to take over lead editor responsibilities from Andrea Severson. She and her team handed us an excellent product with which to work. Now, it is time for us to give the reins to incoming editor Greg Curtis, who we hope finds that we have left him with a sound base from which to work. For those unfamiliar with Greg, he is currently the regional librarian at the University of Maine. In this issue, you will find a brief introductory piece he wrote. Greg will also be taking over the *dttp.editor* Gmail account, so if you have suggestions for content or anything else, please let him know, as we are certain he would love to hear from you. In other transitions, this issue features Kirsten Clark's last From the Chair column, where she reflects on the past year and our organization. Incoming GODORT chair Barbara Miller introduces herself to readers by answering some questions that have become sort of a *DttP* tradition.

Speaking of time flying, GODORT is celebrating its fortieth year! GODORT was founded in 1972, and to put it into perspective, that same year the Watergate scandal began, Bobby Fischer beat Boris Spassky to become the world chess champion, Mark Spitz won seven gold medals at the Olympics, ABBA was a popular music group as were the Moody Blues, and *The Godfather* was burning up the silver screen while *The Brady Bunch* played on television sets. Many of our members were not yet born, starting

kindergarten, finishing high school, or starting library school, and others were starting this great organization committed to free public access to government information. Oh, to be a fly on the wall for those early discussions! To pay tribute to our members and organization, we are presenting a list of “Forty Things that Make GODORT GODORT.” We hope you enjoy it and learn a few things along the way, too.

One fact that was underscored while putting this issue together is that the first *DttP* editor (and publisher) and GODORT Chair, the inestimable Bernadine Abbott Hoduski, who Julia Stewart profiles in *Get to Know...*, has a lot to be thanked for. Lucia Orlando and Rebecca Hyde through Federal Documents Focus take the opportunity to take a look back at the group's formation and help put it all into perspective and context for us!

This issue is about more than just celebrating GODORT's milestone, there are many business (and valuable) as usual columns and features. Stephen Woods helps us get our minds around and focus on counting health, health care, and disease in the United States in the *By the Numbers* column. Marie Concannon serves as guest author of the *State and Local Documents Spotlight* and provides valuable information about the *State and Local Documents Task Force* initiative to facilitate the placement of withdrawn historic state government publication with libraries or institutions that want them for replacement or digitization purposes.

This issue features two articles that are certain to interest current library practitioners. Vickie Mix addresses staff development — an important topic for us all — as she presents “*Fear and Loathing in Library Land: Staff Development Utilizing Humor.*” Jan Swanbeck and Winston Harris detail the development and usage of the *Association of Southeastern Research Libraries* disposition database, and compare it to the product that GPO is developing, in their article “*Automating the Federal Documents Disposition Process: ASERL and GPO.*”

We hope to see you at the Annual Reception and Awards Ceremony in Anaheim. We will be the relaxed former editors who look forward to reading *DttP* once it is in Greg's hands and watching the next forty action-packed years of GODORT!

Editor Introduction

Hello from the Incoming Lead Editor

Greg Curtis

This is the last issue of *DttP* for which the creation and production will be directed by the lead co-editors Beth Clausen and Valerie Glenn. Beth, Valerie, and their team have done a tremendous job of advancing the publication. All in GODORT should be proud of the fine job they have done. Thank you to both.

Beginning with the next issue, the content and production of *DttP* will be the responsibility of a new team of individuals led by me. I come to the editorship with experience of government information from my position as the regional librarian for Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont along with previous experience as a director of a library that was a selective in the FDLP. In other words, I have seen life from both sides of the many issues we all face in our daily work and our libraries. I also have a long history of writing for publications, which I hope will prove useful in my role as editor.

Much of what you have come to expect from *DttP* in the past will continue into the future. We plan to continue the student papers in the winter issue. We also want to continue the tradition of the cover photo contest, so start thinking about what photos to submit. If you have ideas for issue themes or items to include, please let me know at the e-mail address below.

As the new team establishes itself, we will be asking many of the questions Beth and Valerie asked when they wrote their introductory column back in 2009:

- What are the best ways to provide more news and information about GODORT activities and initiatives?
- How do we solicit content from providers who have not written previously for publication and then provide the support these new authors may need?
- What options are available for providing open access to content without financially damaging our organization?
- How do we stay in touch with readers so the publication remains relevant and fits their needs?

We will also be asking ourselves additional questions that were only on the horizon just a couple years ago:

- What is the role that social media (Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, blogs, and others) plays in the development of *DttP*?
- Should we encourage authors outside of libraries to participate in providing content? How might this change the perspective of the journal?
- Are there options for providing electronic copies of the publication to members besides downloading from GODORT's website?

As the team moves forward, we will be addressing these issues. My thoughts on them and the ideas of the team will find their way into this column for all readers to consider. Some answers will be easy, some more challenging, and some may need reconsideration all together. We will, thankfully, have the assistance from several veterans of *DttP*. Beth and Valerie have agreed to be only an e-mail away while the new team gets established. Several editors and columnists have agreed to stay on, contributing valuable service to the publication. We also have new team members whose names will be appearing on the masthead — more on the new and returning team members next time. This does not mean that opportunities don't exist to become involved in the publication. Anyone interested in working on the publication is encouraged to contact me at the e-mail address below.

Please continue to look for and respond to calls for articles and other submissions. The team encourages you to submit suggestions for the content at any time. We also welcome any feedback on the publication as we work through the transition with the outgoing and incoming teams, to continue the high quality you have all come to expect from *DttP* in the past and deserve going forward.

Greg Curtis (University of Maine)
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From the Chair



Saying good-bye, or four things I learned as GODORT chair

Kirsten Clark

I started writing this column right before a wonderful trip to Iceland and England. The column was due while I would be gone so, being the true anal-retentive person that I am, I wanted it off my plate and off my mind while I enjoyed the wild beauty and northern lights of Iceland, and the equally cosmopolitan beauty of the large, bustling city that is London. However a major problem occurred: the complete blanking of my mind for 1,600 words to provide to the editors. The fact that due to the usual schedules any of us face with publishing, most people would be reading this column after ALA Annual, after I'm no longer your chair, may have factored into the general feeling of blankness. What could I impart that would have any lasting meaning to the ten people that faithfully read this column instead of skipping over to the awesome informational columns and articles found within this issue?

I admit with a certain amount of relief that this is my last column. You see, one of the things that I was not prepared for, and I don't think anybody could be, is the huge amount of work being chair of any large organization entails, especially when it is done in a volunteer capacity. We are elected about fourteen months before we actually become chair. The number of changes that can occur in one's personal and professional life in that time frame can be awe-inspiring. Suddenly you are thrust into the position that sort of sneaked up on you because you were dealing with all those other things between the time that Jill Moriearty (former GODORT treasurer) got on her knees and begged you to run, and you are crowned with an amazing, sparkly knitted crown (courtesy of Amy West, former chair and knitter extraordinaire), and photos of you in said crown start circulating on Facebook and Twitter.

How then do I characterize a year at the helm of GODORT? I will start by saying it has been a wonderful year. I've met new members, gotten to know current members better, and hopefully moved the organization forward through our work. Yet I have also been frustrated with myself and others, wished things could have been handled differently, and in general wondered what the point of it all is. By thinking those thoughts, I realized the topic of my column.

What happened in this year will be forgotten in a couple years. Some initiatives will be dropped because they didn't

work or aren't sustainable, and new ones will take their place. Some will gain momentum and become another thread in the tapestry that is GODORT. This in no way discounts the incredible efforts that are put into what we do, but this work is a foundation, which we will use to build upon. There are, however, some really large threads in our tapestry that I would like to focus on in this last column. Threads that bind us together, but also have the ability to unravel huge sections of the overall organization. So in this last column I want to list a couple that I have noticed this past year. Not everybody will agree with them, and that's fine with me. By the time you read this I'll be back to being a mostly plain old GODORT member who has a couple duties as past-chair. Then we can talk not as a chair to an organization, but as fellow members who want to see GODORT succeed into the future.

1. We have dedicated members.

Those who have served in GODORT for ten, twenty, even forty years, do so with a dedication that I think many organizations would love to see in their own employees. Please know that I say this with the inclusion of myself in this group, but this dedicated group has been the same dedicated group for a long time. A huge part of my time last spring and summer as chair-elect was spent trying to find people interested in serving on GODORT committees. I had grandiose plans of bringing in all sorts of new people. However, there aren't enough new people: (1) interested in GODORT, (2) interested in government information, and (3) interested in shelling out several thousand dollars a year of their own money to attend even one ALA conference. That leaves a dwindling group of dedicated members to continue trying to move GODORT forward. This amazing group deserves incredible kudos and applause. This group also deserves a break because we are working our way to a lot of GODORT burn-out.

2. We don't have a new group of dedicated members for the future.

To start, I am in NO WAY discounting the new GODORT members who have stepped forward to serve this organization. I am so happy you want to join in with a group of dedicated people. It is not the people that are interested but the low number of interested individuals overall that I'm worried

about. We can no longer look just to the documents librarians of the world. We need to look beyond. But, to do so, we need to make GODORT relevant to those outside our primary audience, and we need to understand that their idea of what government information means isn't always the same as ours.

3. ALA, including GODORT, is a large organization with a lot of structure, a lot of hoops, and a lot of bureaucracy.

This year I have been provided with several moments of wanting to hit my head against a wall as I try to navigate the known red tape and the unknown hidden trip wires that go with a large volunteer organization. One of the things I hear about constantly in my own large work organization is the need for better communication. One does learn who to talk to over the years, but when nearly the entire governing structure turns over on a yearly basis, the time spent finding lost information and reinventing the wheel is huge. What saddens me is that we lose good people and good ideas due in some part to this bureaucracy.

4. There is a balance point.

As I look back over the past year, we worked on the things I outlined in my first column as the action items. We have moved forward on the Strategic Plan by looking at outreach through our online webinar and by presenting changes to the *Bylaws* that offer more flexibility. We have also looked at solidifying our policy on virtual membership through bylaws

changes. In that column, I also mentioned finding a balance point. I was focusing on that point between having enough structure within GODORT to get things done and needing enough flexibility to respond in a reasonable and timely manner to issues as they arise. There is a balance point between new members and established members. There is a balance point between moving an organization forward to deal with the serious issues and realizing the underlying enjoyment we should have in being GODORT members.

Looking back, there is one thing I wish I had added to the list of accomplishments for the year: to have more fun. I wish there had been more silliness, more laughter, and more lightheartedness to counterbalance the seriousness, the disagreements, and the burnout. So I leave you this year happy to have served this organization, but with the realization that my time in GODORT leadership is coming to an end, and I look forward to building on what I learned this year. My dedication to GODORT is not changing, but for me it is time to let the next group come forward so it can lead us into the future. There are so many ways that GODORT members can work within ALA, within the profession, to expand the knowledge of government information, and not just by serving in a GODORT position. The one thing I would add for those wanting to serve is have fun doing it. Because I realize now I did accomplish some good things, but the thing I will remember most is sitting in a conference room in New Orleans laughing with my friends and wearing a hilarious knitted crown.

Get to Know . . .

Bernadine Abbott-Hoduski



Julia Stewart

“Being retired just means it is easier to make trouble and work for good change,” said Bernadine Abbott-Hoduski, retired government documents librarian, government publisher, policy maker, librarian organizer,

and GODORT founder. Hoduski organized the founding of GODORT, with the first official meeting being held at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago in 1972. The first meeting was attended by 450 documents librarians, many recruited by Hoduski. This initial meeting put GODORT on the road to give a voice to the Federal Depository Library Program.

“I would not change anything about the last forty years,” said Hoduski. “I have worked with wonderful people both in and outside of the government. I am happy that I chose to become a documents librarian because I love a challenge. Getting to work with docs and docs people has been exciting and rewarding.”

GODORT’s presence with Hoduski’s guidance within ALA and GPO has brought immeasurable benefits to the Depository Program. These include:

- Establishing a depository library inspection program with GPO
- Partnering with Congress to improve the Freedom of Information Act
- Lobbying successfully for more funding for the depository program
- Convincing GPO to make the monthly electronic catalog records more easily accessible by following library standards
- Convincing government agencies to provide their publications to the public

But Hoduski is still interested in making trouble and in helping new documents librarians learn how to be effective in their current library environment.

“I am impressed with the new crop of documents librarians,” said Hoduski. “They have the enthusiasm of the founders of GODORT. I suggest that new documents librarians find someone in their community who they consider an expert in

government information and ask if they can meet with them on a regular basis to talk about their work. It is a good way to discuss your ideas and see how these ideas sound to someone who has experienced many of the same things that you are experiencing.”

Hoduski continues to conduct research with documents. Her current book projects are about her personal experiences working in the Capitol and about The New Deal.

“I am writing a memoir called ‘Bernadine’s Office Building: Working in the U.S. Capitol and Other Dangerous Places.’ My other book project is called ‘New Deal Babies’ and is about the Great Depression and the New Deal in Montana and North Dakota. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt supported the building of Fort Peck Dam, one of the biggest New Deal projects, and he visited the site in 1934 and 1937. Roosevelt campaigned in Montana in 1920 and 1932. I was born in New Deal, Montana and fourteen members of my family worked on the dam.”

Hoduski fills the rest of her time with family, friends, and travel.

“I spend my spare time with my sons, grandchildren, siblings, and lovers of docs. My grandkids join me in exploring our national parks, Bryce Canyon, Yellowstone and Glacier. Sarahmarie joined me at the ALA conference in DC. The grandkids love reading and libraries, but so far I have not convinced one of them to become a librarian. My sister Leal and I spend time together in Germany, Glacier Park, the Pacific Ocean seashore, and the Abbott family reunions. I enjoy Shakespeare and attend the festival in Ashland, Oregon each year with a friend. I grew up going to the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City and still visit it once a week. I very much enjoy the paintings of Thomas Hart Benton, and my Joint Committee on Printing office mate, Roy Breimon.”

Hoduski is well known for her out spoken support for public access to government information, and her approach to the microphone to speak at depository library meetings is legendary, and cautionary.

“GODORT currently faces the challenge of educating new library administrators about the importance of providing access to government information and the preservation of documents of historical importance in permanent formats, both paper and digital. This includes educating administrators about the importance of documents experts within their own institutions,” said Hoduski. “Do not assume that administrators know that the FDLP exists. If you wait too long to make your presence known or to enlist help, it may be too late to save your collection, or even your job.”

Hoduski continues, “I enjoy documents people and draw energy from them. I love conflict; without it, life is boring. I retired from the Joint Committee on Printing in 1995, but I did not retire from the cause of promoting access to government docs.”

Federal Documents Focus

Lordy, Lordy Look Who's Forty!

Lucia Orlando and Rebecca Hyde

Note: The first issue of *DttP: Documents to the People* was a major source for information contained in this article regarding the first GODORT conference meeting and first Federal Documents Task Force meeting. The authors made use of Stanford's digital *DttP* archives (collections.stanford.edu/dttp), especially the first issue, found here: bit.ly/wUetwG.

The decade of the seventies conjures images of the Vietnam War, Cointelpro, Watergate, stagflation, gas rationing, exotic recreational drugs, disco music, leisure suits, and lots of glitter. However, the dramatic changes occurring in this decade weren't limited to politics, economics, and popular culture. The library world was changing, too, starting with the implementation of MARC records, the first of many game-changing advances affecting the way libraries organized and made information available. At the same time, government information librarians recognized the need for an organization dedicated to the unique concerns of librarians working with federal, state, and international documents by starting GODORT. We all have a good idea how this initiative played out, but sit back and take a quick trip through our version of the Wayback Machine (with apologies to Mr. Peabody) to get a sense of the federal government landscape and GODORT during this formative time.

Government documents in context

Notable documents produced during 1972, and the seventies in general, are too numerous to list. However, June 1972 was an active thirty days in Washington, D.C. While documents librarians were making history in Chicago, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its opinion barring wiretapping in domestic security cases without a warrant, along with its decision regarding news reporters' protection of sources. The same month, extracts from four volumes of the *Pentagon Papers* were published in *The New York Times*. During this time, reports of a break-in on June 17 at the Democratic National Headquarters in the Watergate Hotel started appearing in the press.

As the seventies unfolded, the many organizational changes occurring at the federal level provide a telling glimpse

into the issues of importance during this time period. For example, concern about the environment, the economy, the need for drug abuse resources, and recognition of the importance of topical statistical information led to the formation of new offices, departments, and bureaus. These bureaucratic changes combined with a perplexing legislative process made an already challenging area seem even more arcane and difficult. Much like today, documents work called for a detailed understanding of US federal government operations and organization. It further required making intensive use of printed tools such as the *Monthly Catalog, List of Classes* (issued annually back then), CIS print indexes to find Congressional hearings and reports, and update services like those provided by the *Congressional Index* from Commerce Clearing House (CCH) to locate bill and legislative information. It took time for new documents to appear in these sources, so savvy librarians had to memorize SuDoc numbers and the names of government agencies and offices in order to find newer material in their collections.

A review of the *U.S. Government Manual* (1.usa.gov/govtmanual) shows some of the offices and agency functions created during the 1970s are still with us today. For example, widespread concern about pollution in the sixties resulted in the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970. Also in 1970, the Office of Budget became the more familiar Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Watergate, Cointelpro, and Vietnam triggered a wariness of government that led to a plethora of congressional investigations throughout the seventies, as well as the creation of the Office of Government Ethics in 1978. A telling sign of the times, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration was established under Health Education and Welfare (HEW) in 1972. We know this agency by its current name: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in the Department of Health and Human Services. And one can only imagine the consternation felt by librarians and library assistants everywhere when SuDoc classes had to be changed from FS, the former designation for Health, Education and Welfare, to HE in 1970.

Closer to the library world, the Institute of Museum Services, precursor to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, was established in June 1972 under the Department of Education. Also in 1972, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) moved most of its functions from the Department of the Treasury to the Department of Justice. Though it was disbanded in 1995, the highly respected Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) came online on October 13, 1972. This decade also saw the formation of new

offices within agencies responsible for analyzing statistical information compiled by the federal government. The Bureau of Economic Analysis was merged with the Department of the Census in 1972 under the Social and Economic Statistics Administration. This was a relatively short-lived development, as the Secretary of Commerce broke them apart in 1975 to form the two bureaus we know so well today. The National Center for Health Statistics was brought to life on July 23, 1974, and the National Center for Education Statistics followed shortly thereafter on August 21, 1974. The Department of Agriculture came a little late to the tide of reorganizations, as the consolidation of units that formed the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service didn't occur until 1977.

Formation of GODORT

In the ten years following the *Depository Library Act of 1962*, changes to the Depository Library Program dramatically altered the jobs of depository librarians. The creation of selective depository libraries meant many librarians became more active curators of their collections, making decisions about what to receive and what to keep for the long term. At the same time, there was an explosion of new government agencies and departments. The *Act* also increased the number of depository libraries allowed in a congressional district from one to two, causing an increase in depository libraries and government information librarian positions. When the law passed in 1962, there were only 594 federal depository libraries; by 1976 there were 1200.¹ The rapid changes over the decade following the *Depository Library Act of 1962*, along with the increased demand for depository librarians, shaped the environment that led an intrepid group of librarians to petition ALA to create a Round Table devoted to government documents.

On Monday, June 26, 1972, the first official meetings of GODORT were held during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. That evening, the main opening meeting and reception were expected to draw 200 librarians. So many people showed up, the hotel staff were forced to move the reception to a larger ballroom. Attendance was estimated at 450 librarians, about 5 percent of total ALA conference attendees.² Although already represented in ALA by the Social Responsibilities Round Table's Task Force on Government Publications, it was clear a mere task force was no longer enough to represent the growing number of librarians interested in a wide variety of government information, or to address all the changes and issues surrounding depository libraries of all kinds.³

Among the many firsts at the Chicago conference in 1972 was the first Federal Documents Task Force meeting held in

a loud, crowded room as other GODORT task forces met simultaneously. The atmosphere was described in the first issue of *DttP* as "... a bit hectic, disorganized and crowded ... many more people showed up than we had expected." Because of overwhelming interest, it was decided that at the next meeting, the task forces would all meet at different times to reduce crowding and to allow everyone to go to multiple meetings. The things we do differently from other round tables can be traced back to that first conference. So the next time you wonder why GODORT has so many meeting slots, remember it's because of how excited everyone was to participate during that first meeting.

So what was discussed at that first Federal Documents Task Force meeting? What was everyone so excited about? The main topics of conversation show both how far we've come in forty years and how the underlying issues and conversations have really remained the same. The main topics concerned familiar questions such as "How do we provide better access?"; "How do we help people find government information?"; and "How can we work together with federal government partners to bring better awareness of the importance of government information?" The specific issues up for discussion seem far away now — for example: creation of the American Statistical Index by CIS; encouraging NTIS and other federal partners to create Cataloging in Publication information; the GPO collection of documents moving to the National Archives; cataloging government publications. However, echoes of our present day issues can clearly be seen, and, most of all, we see the same motives, concerns, and passion in the early members of GODORT that we see in our current membership.

In looking back, it is evident the central motivator for GODORT members has always been, and continues to be, how the matter at hand affects public access to government information. *Documents to the People* wasn't just the name of the new Round Table's publication, it was the war cry of the documents librarians who fought to form the organization. The first issue of *DttP* reports "A lot of people came away with a job as well as a 'Documents to the People' button," ready for the "year of documents" ahead. Not to mention, the next four decades and beyond.

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State and Local Documents Spotlight

Marie Concannon

The State and Local Documents Task Force (SLDTF) has initiated a project to facilitate the transfer of historic state government publications from libraries that are weeding to libraries or institutions that want copies for replacement or digitization. If this project proves to be popular, it may eventually become a title-level needs and offers website, possibly even customizing code that was written for the ASERL Disposition Database. For now, it is simply a task force of volunteers, each of whom has agreed to serve as the contact person for a state.

The scope of this project will naturally reach beyond FDLP libraries and even beyond the large academic and public libraries. State libraries and state archives must be in the loop, and historical societies should be as well. Special libraries and museum archives dealing in specific topics (transportation, military history, etc.) ought to be considered for inclusion.

After volunteers have been recruited and their contact information placed on the GODORT SLDTF wiki project webpage (tinyurl.com/7vdusqb), any library that plans to discard documents published in a certain state need only consult a single individual to determine whether the items are needed anywhere within that state.

Federal documents, under law and custom, must be offered to other libraries before discarding, but there is no similar requirement pertaining to state government documents. Such materials are particular targets for disposal for several reasons:

- There is a trend among libraries to downsize physical collections and “go digital”;
- When selecting items to remove, out-of-state, state-level government publications are often an uncontested choice; and

- It can be labor-intensive to find new homes for old books. Uncatalogued collections must be inventoried or at least described to attract potential recipients. Usually this involves listing titles and agencies, date ranges, physical condition of volumes, and estimating the linear feet or weight of the material. Then, requested volumes must be pulled, packaged, and shipped, and staff may be asked to prepare invoices and monitor postage reimbursement. Most libraries have diminished work forces, and the decision whether to look for other libraries to take materials is often a financial one.

There are two assumptions that seem to exacerbate the problem of historic state documents being discarded. One is the belief that there are enough copies inside each state to serve that state’s digitization needs. This is not necessarily true. Digital libraries seek copies from sources inside the state, but some libraries are disinclined to give up irreplaceable titles that have local relevance. Historical societies are not a good source because they usually have a mission to preserve the tangible object. If they have duplicates, then it might be feasible. Of those in-state libraries that *are* willing to donate, their copies may be damaged from frequent use. Yet any copies that have been housed in out-of-state libraries tend to be in very good condition, much better suited for digitization.

The other problematic assumption is that state government publications are of little interest to anyone outside the state. While this may be true for certain arcane materials (histories of unpassed bills, perhaps), annual reports and monographic works on environmental and social conditions can be of great use to researchers both in and outside the state of origin. Consider this reference question we received in Missouri as an example:

“After schools in the United States were desegregated, to what degree did teachers fulfill the *spirit* of the law? Did they call on black students as often as they did the whites? Were black students made to sit at the back of the classroom? If so, for how many years did this practice continue? Is quantitative data available?”

One can imagine the great degree of geographic variation in a question like this one. When federal sources do not provide the level of detail needed, state sources are often the next best place to look — if the researcher is willing to invest the time. Granted, some state agencies’ reports may be silent on a particular topic, while others provide county-by-county summaries or even direct quotes from people involved.

Statistical tables are frequently available in annual reports. A researcher checking insane asylum reports to determine how many mentally ill people might have gone unserved may be frustrated to find only tables showing how much the asylum spent on laundry, groundskeeping, and other such expenses. State government publications can be a hit-or-miss proposition, yet they may still be among the best sources for information on certain topics.

One good way to find these materials in a library catalog is to conduct an author search on the agency name. But that, of course, assumes that you know the name of the agency that might have handled a certain issue in a certain year. (Hint: check your state collection of Blue Books or see the GODORT blue book site at tinyurl.com/yvzxwx.)

Don't have a collection of out-of-state government publications? If your library is a Center for Research Libraries (CRL) member, you may borrow their copies. According to CRL's website (www.crl.edu/collections), they hold "more than a half million volumes of deposited and purchased monographic and serial publications of the U. S. state governments, including financial reports and research studies through 1950." Unfortunately, CRL's state government collection is uncatalogued, so one must request items by specifying agencies' names.

In the absence of a coordinated effort to advertise needs for state government publications, the remaining number of copies shrinks — whether for space reasons or financial reasons or for presumed lack of interest, finding copies for donation has become increasingly difficult. I have on occasion been asked to help find titles to fill gaps in the Missouri Digital Heritage collection (www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/), and I know how challenging it can be. Putting out calls to discussion lists such as GOVDOC-L Needs & Offers has not been as successful as I'd hoped. Perhaps it is because there must be another library already contemplating or actively engaged in weeding in order for this approach to be fruitful.

We need more state volunteers for this project. Check the GODORT SLDTF wiki to see which states have already been claimed, and contact Marie Concannon (concannonm@missouri.edu) if you would like to adopt a state. Even if you cannot volunteer at this time, the Task Force would appreciate your assistance in informing local digital libraries of this project.

References and Notes

1. Maryland. Board of Managers of the House of Reformation for Colored Boys, *Biennial Report of the Board of Managers of the House of Reformation for Colored Boys Located at Cheltenham, MD., for the Two Years Ending November 30, 1919* (Baltimore: Lord Baltimore Press, n.d.).

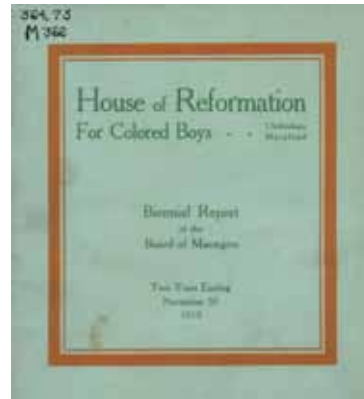


Table showing offences for which boys were committed:

Assault with intent to murder.....	1
Attempt at larceny.....	1
Burglary.....	7
False pretenses.....	1
Felony.....	1
Incorrigible.....	51
Larceny.....	26
Larceny of Government property.....	1
Larceny of interstate shipment.....	2
Minor without proper care.....	136
Trespassing on railroad property.....	3
Unlawful shipment of liquor.....	1
Unlawfully giving liquor to soldier.....	4
Unlawfully selling liquor to soldier.....	1
Unlawfully transporting liquor.....	1
Vagrancy.....	3
Total.....	240

Image 1(top, left). The "House of Reformation for Colored Boys" was incorporated by the Maryland General Assembly in 1870, shortly after the Civil War. The institution continued through at least the 1930s.¹

Image 2(top, right). "New Arrivals" to the House of Reformation for Colored Boys in Cheltenham, Maryland, circa 1919.²

Image 3 (bottom). Statistical table showing "offences" [sic] for which children were committed to the House of Reformation for Colored Boys.³

2. Ibid, 36.
3. Ibid, 27.
4. Alabama. Department of Game and Fish, *Alabama Bird Day Book* (Montgomery: Brown Printing Company, 1914).
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DttP Student Papers Issue

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

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

Papers must be nominated and forwarded by a faculty member.

Required length: 2000-3000 words.

Please see our style guidelines at: wikis.ala.org/godort/images/b/b8/Instructionsforauthors.pdf

DttP is a professional journal. Class papers which do not conform to editorial guidelines should be reformatted to receive consideration. All papers must be submitted by August 1, 2012.

Selected papers will be printed in volume 40, issue #4, Winter 2012.

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

Greg Curtis

Lead Editor

Phone: 207-581-1681

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GODORT Membership

Membership in ALA is a requisite for joining GODORT

Basic personal membership in ALA begins at \$50 for first-year members, \$25 for student members, and \$35 for library support staff (for other categories see www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Membership).

Personal and institutional members are invited to select membership in GODORT for additional fees of \$20 for regular members, \$10 for student members, and \$35 for corporate members.

For information about ALA membership contact ALA Membership Services, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; 1-800-545-2433, ext. 5; e-mail: membership@ala.org.

By the Numbers

Counting health, health care and disease in the United States

Stephen Woods

Introduction

President Eisenhower signed into law the *National Health Survey Act* (P.L. 84-652) on July 3, 1956. Eisenhower's message to Congress earlier in the year was clear and emphatic:

“Information on the nature and extent of sickness and disability is neither accurate nor up-to-date. The last comprehensive survey of illness in the Nation was made twenty years ago. Since then American medicine has experienced the most rapid and dramatic changes in its history. Improved statistical data are essential as a guide for research and for the effective planning and operation of health programs.”¹

We will briefly explore the background and methodological issues related to the collection of statistics on the general well-being of the population. The primary goal is to provide government information specialists with a framework for understanding three different approaches to collecting health statistics.

Background and methodology

The United States National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) was formed in 1949 primarily to study the methodological problems associated with collecting and disseminating sickness and disease statistics. As I have discussed in a previous column, a fairly systematic method for collecting and disseminating vital statistics (death and birth) was already in place.² By 1953, these duties were transferred through the recommendation of the committee from the Census Bureau to the newly created Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The *National Survey Act of 1956* provided for the implementation of a program of surveys that encompasses the varied nature of data required for developing a comprehensive national health program. The activities of the National Health Surveys are divided into three different methodological approaches: a continuous

nationwide sample interview of households, physical examination of individuals in separate surveys or cycles, and a sample of information from establishments that provide health-related care.

National Health Interview Survey

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) has been continuously conducted since 1957. However, the content of the survey has been updated every ten-to-fifteen years and is only available from 1962 to the present. The purpose of the survey is to obtain information about the amount and distribution of illness, its effects in terms of disability and chronic impairments, and the kinds of health services people receive.

The questionnaire was substantially revised in 1997 in order to improve the ability of researchers to explore health-related trends. It was designed around five major groupings: household data, personal information, health condition, hospital episodes, and doctor visits. However, the NHIS also includes supplemental survey questions that explore popular policy related issues.

The National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics was well aware of the prohibitive cost from earlier national health surveys done in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Japan, and Denmark.³ Consequently, it proposed collecting data for the NHIS from a representative sample as a means of reducing cost and ensuring an ongoing program. The Census Bureau had perfected earlier in the century a national sampling model with the development of the Current Population Survey.⁴ This sampling model, with some modifications, is the basis for the NHIS.

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) collects data by direct physical exams, interviews, and laboratory tests done on a sample population. The program began in the early 1960s, conducted as a series of surveys focusing on different population groups or health topics. Data is collected on demographic characteristics, socioeconomic, dietary, and health-related questions. The examination consists of medical, dental, and physiological measurements.

Originally, the name of the survey was the National Health Examination Survey and was changed in 1971 to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey to convey the inclusion of dietary questions. Each NHES was conducted on a national sample of around 7,200 during three distinct time periods: 1959-1962, 1963-1965, and 1966-1970. NHANES surveys were conducted with much larger samples of around 32,000 during 1971-1975, 1976-80, and 1988-1994. It can be confusing for a novice researcher to use these surveys to track trends over time.

National trends can be tracked with these surveys through a smaller common sample of individuals who were surveyed in each time period. This affects the way that the data is distributed and makes the data files complex and use challenging. The user needs to understand that there are multiple files for each of the subject areas covered as well as the method the information was obtained (i.e., exam, lab, and interview). In order to break these down by demographic characteristics, the user needs to be able to link this data to a separate demographic file.

In 1999, the survey became a continuous program that surveyed a national sample of around 5,000 persons per year. This decision makes it easier to track trends, but the data are still distributed as multiple files.

National Health Records Surveys

The National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS) is the longest standing survey designed to collect information from health care establishments. Started in 1965, the survey focused on short-term inpatient care taken from a sample of patient records and surveys from a sample of 500 hospitals nationwide. The National Hospital Care Survey was started in 2011 to help supplement the NHDS and to provide data linkage to information gathered from the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS).

The NAMCS, initiated in 1973, provided information about ambulatory medical care services in the United States from hospitals, doctor offices, and free-standing facilities. Questions about ambulatory care services in hospital emergency and outpatient departments were reassigned in 1992 to the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS). Funding constraints limited the ongoing collection of ambulatory information from free-standing facilities in a separate survey, the National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery.

Long-term health care is the focus of the final three surveys developed as part of the National Health Records Surveys. The National Nursing Home Survey was first implemented in 1973. The National Home and Hospice Care Survey was developed in 1993 in response to industry in this form of long-term care. Both surveys provides some common information about facilities, residents, and staff but are used primarily to collect information about pressing policy issues. These surveys are also difficult to use for ongoing analysis, because they are not consistently funded. The National Survey of Residential Care Facilities is the newest survey, having been implemented in 2010.

Conclusion

Statistical reports and bibliographies from the NHCS are accessible from the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Many of the historical reports have been digitized and links created from the bibliographies to research articles that have utilized the data. Understanding the scope and purpose of these surveys can be an excellent way to discover statistics and research on myriad health-related topics.⁵

The CDC has also done an excellent job providing access to the raw data files for these surveys. They have included descriptive code books as well as copies of the surveys and methodological reports. A number of excellent tutorials have been created for researchers interested in exploring data from the NHES and NHANES surveys. For users who are interested in using online statistical analysis tools, the public use data from the complete historical set of data from the NHIS has been made available through the Integrated Health Interview Survey from the Population Center at the University of Minnesota.⁶

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6. The IPUMS site provides access to a considerable amount of government information, but requires a user to be familiar with using SDA software. Historical NHIS data is available through the Integrated Health Interview Survey, www.ihis.us/ihis/.

Forty Things that Make GODORT GODORT

Beth Clausen

I hope you enjoy this list and also learn something about your organization and its history. It was decided to keep the list at forty because we are celebrating GODORT's fortieth anniversary this year, but many more events, milestones, and characteristics of our organization could have been included. It is hoped that many GODORT characteristics and the general organizational ethos have been captured in this list. And if you think something is missing, you can use that omission as a conversation starter with other GODORT members (those you already know, and those you meet for the first time) in Anaheim. Perhaps we could make it a party game? If we did so, what would we call it? The mind reels with possibilities!

1. Passionate, sincere commitment to free public access to government information regardless of whether or not the information is published by the U.S. or another federal government, an IGO (and NGOs), a state, or local government.
2. Unwavering support for an adequate budget of the GPO and the FDLR to sustain free public access to government information. Wonder if anyone has collected all of the relevant resolutions in one place? (Answer is yes: wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/Resolutions_Passed_by_GODORT)
3. An ever-evolving publication called *Documents to the People* that started as a newsletter in 1972 and has become a more substantial quarterly publication of which we hope members are proud. The members and their contributions are the heart of this publication, and we also get great support from ALA Production to get it ready to print and out in the hands of readers.
4. Bernadine Abbot-Hoduski, who was the organization's first coordinator and remains a committed voice for GODORT and its work. "Get to Know..." Bernadine in that column in this issue.
5. Reasonably priced dues that make joining a great value.
6. Personal memberships started at \$5 each year for ALA members and it is just \$20 for ALA Members today. All librarian bargain shoppers should join this group!
7. A group to monitor technological and other trends in government publishing. Early evidence includes the Microforms Task Force, which co-existed with the Machine Readable Data File Task Force in the early 1970s. More recently, this is demonstrated by the establishment of the Government Information Technology Committee. And who can forget all of the work related to *GPO Access* and core titles that should remain in print?
8. A special, productive relationship between vendors and our members as we share the fundamental commitment to facilitated government information access. Readex, CIS, and the variant names of those entities have remained a constant presence and partnership through the decades! It is truly amazing to see over the years vendor membership on our committees, and even some who have served as committee chairs.
9. Monitoring congressional hearings on and advocating a revision of Title 44 of the *US Code*. This may not be the case of GODORT's entire history given Title 44 had been revised substantively just a decade before our founding, but for much of it!
10. Meetings. Meetings. Meetings. Fortunately, they are generally productive so people don't complain. Too much.
11. Strong friendships marked with mutual respect built through late-night resolution writing sessions, committee work of all kinds, disagreements over the PPM, baseball game outings, shared meals and happy hours, and through a thousand other avenues.
12. Good times in the Twitterverse courtesy of @fakegodort and #nopants #totebag #godort. We use other social media, too. Check us out on Facebook. (www.facebook.com/pages/GODORT-Government-Documents-Round-Table/268250521344)

12. Committed members that make this volunteer organization effective on many levels. People are willing to attend conferences, meet virtually, volunteer for committees, run for offices, revise documents, put forth proposals, work on projects, speak at programs, plan pre-conferences, write strategic plans, write updates for *DttP*, and volunteer for hundreds of other activities. Thank you, all!
13. Interesting and relevant programs and pre-conferences at Midwinter Meetings and Annual Conferences. Some of these have been solely GODORT productions and many have been joint ventures with other ALA groups including BRASS and MAGIRT.
14. Passing of the cup at Business/Membership and Steering meetings to collect the spare change and bills of attendees to support the W. David Rozkuszka Scholarship fund.
15. Ad hoc committees to discuss or make recommendations on a wide range of topics. These include the Ad Hoc Committee on the Internet, the Ad Hoc Committee on Statistical Measurement, the Ad Hoc Committee on Followup to the Chicago Conference, the Ad Hoc Committee on GODORT Organization, and a couple for strategic planning.
16. A great and respected source of information on government information policy and trends for other groups (including Council) in ALA.
17. An oral history project that includes interviews with some longtime members who have made their mark on GODORT and government information access in many ways. Transcripts are available at wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/Oral_Histories.
18. A very social group. Several years ago, a GODORT Happy Hour was added to the Friday evening schedule at Midwinter and Annual. Looking at older schedules of events, it is clear that such social opportunities have been important to GODORT for decades.
19. Awards for and recognition of the work GODORT members and others do in terms of facilitating public access to government information, using government information in their research and other activities, or expressing an interest in government information while they pursue the MLS degree.
20. Rites of succession that include the outgoing chair giving a gift to the incoming chair as a welcome to the post in addition to the ceremonial passing of the gavel. Our current chair may have started something when she wore a knitted crown to Steering II, which was the first meeting over which she presided.
21. Parliamentary procedure employed to keep an order to meetings where passions ran high. Point of order and other terms can be heard used correctly at GODORT meetings.
22. The Federal Documents Task Force is a vibrant part of GODORT and provides a forum for discussion of problems and concerns, and establishes and maintains open links of communication between documents librarians and others involved in the life cycle of federal government information. Quite logically, there is a strong relationship between the executives of this task force and the GPO.
23. The State and Local Documents Task Force (and other task forces along the way that served as forums or interest groups for government documents of smaller jurisdictions). Like its jurisdictions, this is relatively small, but it is a very active group that can count many tangible accomplishments.
24. The International Documents Task Force focuses attention on problems, concerns, trends, and successes related to international and foreign national government information. The hallmark of this group is the symbiotic relationship that vendors and IGO government information producers have with it. Like all GODORT task forces, if you show up at a meeting, you are a member!
25. The *Policies and Procedures Manual* or *PPM*. While even the most relaxed organizations within ALA have *Bylaws* and other guiding documents, a *PPM* is less common. It is a useful tool that is easily revised to reflect current practices of each group within GODORT. It can be a valuable tool to chairs of groups or members thinking about volunteer opportunities and choosing which group best fits their needs and interests.
26. Members from all types of libraries. GODORT members' home libraries are public libraries — small and large, academic libraries — also small and large — special libraries, military, and federal libraries.
27. Members in all different types of positions in libraries. Among our current members and members of the past you will find library directors, associate university librarians, reference librarians, map librarians, catalogers, and a host of others.
28. The tradition of people who speak at open meetings identifying themselves and their institutional affiliation. This not only helps provide perspective or context for the comment or question, but helps members get to know each other not just by face but by name as well. Wouldn't it be grand if all groups did this?

29. GODORT ribbons to help show your affiliation during Annual and Midwinter. These have been horizontally and vertically oriented and have come in various colors over the years.
30. Sense of humor and laughter can often be heard not only at social gatherings but meetings as well!
31. Hardworking members. It has been said that we are a roundtable with programming and conference activities of a section.
32. A wiki for all to see and use to keep up with activities and initiatives: wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php.
33. The document: *A Framework for Enhanced Access and Dissemination of Federal Government Information: A Vision for the Future*. This started as a GODORT document but became discussed more broadly by other library associations and groups.
34. A very useful occasional papers series available to all, see wikis: ala.org/godort/index.php/GODORT_Occasional_Papers.
35. The GODORT legislative gestalt — An amazing combination of energy, resourcefulness, historical knowledge, knowledge of procedures, political acumen, dogged determination, and mental (and sometimes physical) stamina necessary to see a legislative issue through from start to finish (if, in fact, it ever finishes!) through ALA channels and beyond. There is a wonderful story from the mid-1990s about copying a document for Council while in a cab stuck in traffic on the way to McCormick Place in Chicago. There are still some members around that were involved so that might be a good conversation starter with veterans.
36. There have been discussions of how to broaden the influence and representation of GODORT over the years. One notable occasion was when a merger with the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) was discussed in typical GODORT fashion: late into the night during conference!
37. Great, logical acronym, but a funny name. Have you ever encountered a new librarian and as you are talking to them, you talk about your activities or affiliation with GODORT and they get a funny look on their face and repeat it? GODORT, they say a little bemusedly and with some confusion. But as soon as you tell them “We are the Government Documents Roundtable,” they become interested and understand that our work is important.
38. Geographic diversity of our members. Toss a dart at a map of the United States and you are certain to hit on a congressional district that is not only represented in the House of Representatives but also in GODORT!
39. Awards reception that takes us to interesting venues as we celebrate the winners. A recent highlight was celebrating at the Law Library of the Louisiana Supreme Court, and celebrating a few years ago at the ALA Washington Office was like coming home for many GODORT members since so much of our organization’s invaluable support is out of that office.
40. _____ (Certainly readers have their own notion of what makes GODORT GODORT to fill in this blank with!)

The list was created by culling back issues of *DttP*, particularly those from the archives hosted by Stanford University Library (collections.stanford.edu/dttp/) as well as through suggestions members made in response to a call for them (thank you, members!). As an aside, much *DttP* reading took place in the service-waiting lounge in a car dealership, and as laughs, ahhs of amazement, and gasps of surprise escaped the mouth of the reader, it was certain that no one around suspected that it was a government information organization publication that was being read! That is our little secret...

Beth Clausen, Head, Access Services, Northwestern University, b-clausen@northwestern.edu



Africa Human Development Report

Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest prevalence of hunger in the world. This report argues that local populations must have the resources and decision-making power to produce and consume nutritious food throughout the year, overcoming the risks represented by continuing conflict, climate change and variations in food prices. Until this situation improves, the human development prospects of millions of Africans will remain at risk.

ISBN: 9789211263428

Publication Date: May, 2012

Pages: 200

Publisher: United Nations Development Programme

Gender-based Explosions:

The Nexus between Muslims Masculinities, Jihadist Islamism and Terrorism

Release Date: April, 2012

ISBN: 9789280812084

Pages: 342

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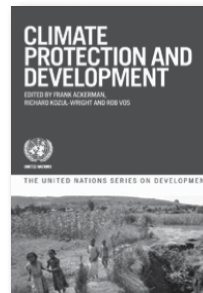
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Fear and Loathing in Library Land

Staff Development Utilizing Humor

Vickie Lynn Mix

Introduction

In 2009, I attended the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver, Colorado. As usual, GODORT had a block of rooms reserved for GODORT members at a lovely hotel near the convention center. Described as a “uniquely fun boutique hotel,” the hotel offered a unique atmosphere for its visitors and guests. Like many urban hotels, it was a high-rise building with thirteen floors of literal fun, each with an individual theme. My floor was the seventh floor, the “Laugh Out Loud” floor, where a jovial recorded voice on the elevator announced “Floor Seventh the Laugh Out Loud Floor” and laughed hysterically. It was somewhat frightening at first, but I began thinking about how utterly serious government documents librarianship can be when it isn’t so completely hilarious. As a result, I began to plan how to bring some documents hilarity home to my colleagues, beginning with library staff development exploring the lighter side of government information.

Background

In 2010, initial discussions had begun within our library about merging library service points including reference, circulation, and documents service desks. After exploring several merged desk models, the Briggs Library Merged Services Task Group recommended combining the circulation and reference service points, both of which were located on the main level of the library with direct sight lines with one another. Location of the merged service desk would remain on the main level, utilizing the circulation service point in the library lobby. Notably, the task force omitted the government documents service point on the lower level from the service point consolidation. Research had indicated merging government information reference services with general reference resulted in decline of government publication circulation; decline in perceived need for

government information resources, decreased satisfaction in government reference; significant decline in patron assessment of time offered for research and response; and a perception of less willingness to help by library staff.¹ The service model ultimately adopted included staffing the combined desk with one professional librarian, one paraprofessional library worker, and one or more student library workers. With the addition of library paraprofessional staff members providing reference services, the task group and the library’s Staff Development Committee scheduled a series of training sessions for all interested parties, particularly those who would be providing reference services at the merged desk. Although the service point in the government documents area remained, the task group recommended that government documents staff development would be beneficial, noting the uneasiness many non-documents workers felt when dealing with government information inquiries.

Literature review

Staff development in libraries is essential for keeping service skills fresh and people motivated. With an ever-changing information landscape, the library staff has never been more challenged to meet user needs and expectations.

Connie Christopher asserts that “For library staff, continuous learning is critical to renewing the expertise and skills needed to teach and assist customers in the information age. The revolution in information technology demands changes not only in what we learn, but also how we learn.”² In addition, Christopher acknowledges that individuals are more empowered when allowed to realize their full potential.

According to Steven Bell, academic libraries are likely to thrive when staff continuously update their skill sets in response to developments in the information sciences field.

As the field inherently operates in a high-tech environment, Bell observes, “continuous learning is vital to maintaining an agile, savvy and forward-looking library organization.”³

Government resources have become ever more important in the information landscape as federal agencies increasingly publish in both tangible and electronic formats. As the largest publisher in the world, the U.S. federal government distributes a wide variety of information products, which often challenge information professionals to distinguish documents questions from traditional reference questions. Because of the complexity of federal information, Farrell recommends extensive training, particularly in the merged services staffing model.⁴

Barriers to using government sources in reference services: Fear

As observed earlier, non-documents personnel within our library expressed uncertainty and uneasiness in the use of government information for reference services. They are not alone. One respondent to an Association of Research Libraries survey indicated, “Documents are alien to most librarians. Hence, they don’t want to deal with them.”⁵

Many librarians admit discomfort with documents. Limited knowledge of specific finding tools, the variety of formats and software, and the lack of a controlled vocabulary in the classification system all provide challenges to the non-documents information professional.⁶

Including government resources enhances user access to information. The federal government, through the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), disseminates free publications to more than 1,200 depository libraries nationwide. In addition, government increasingly engages researchers and citizens through the Internet. More than 93 percent of federal publications are available online.⁷

Allaying fears in adult learners lays the groundwork for effective transformational learning. Humor in teaching can help to ease the trepidation staff may have in exploring foreign skill sets and mysterious library collections such as federal documents. In a review of the literature on adult learning and humor, Joanne Parke concluded: “Central to adult learning and significant professional development is transformative learning. Humor is one tool that can advance attitudes of group camaraderie and interaction. Learning in groups potentially expands learning perspectives.”⁸

Facing the fear with fun

The need for training was clear. A series of documents training sessions on the reference interaction and general database searching were scheduled. The first training session, entitled

“Documents Discovery! Not so Puzzling, After All!” sought to put non-documents specialists at ease. Because many of our staff seemed intimidated even by the mention of government documents, our objective was to introduce objects of an unexpected and unusual nature to demonstrate the vast array of information products distributed through the FDLP. This session was meant to be fun and informative, focusing not only on the artifact, but also the process. Learning outcomes included the ability to:

1. Identify the location and services of the Government Documents Department in Briggs Library;
2. Identify a library database useful for searching for government information resources;
3. Identify the various formats of government documents;
4. Identify a Superintendent of Documents Classification (SuDoc) number; and
5. Discover services as well as artifacts.

The invitation to staff included information to help ensure success, and we included humor to help set the stage. We indicated that treasures would be unearthed in the subterranean cavern, as the H.M. Briggs Library Government Documents Department is located in the basement of a three-story building. Briggs Library is the largest selective depository library in South Dakota, with an extensive historical collection. We also included that we would be providing refreshments as that is a key ingredient to successful staff development turnout in our library.

Selecting the treasures

Documents staff collected a variety of documents in various formats and of various complexity, including microfiche, microfilm, CD/DVD, VHS, a brochure, a scientific report, and selected artifacts. The more “unusual” items were placed on tables in the staff development classroom to entice participant interaction. Participants were asked to examine the government information artifact before them and describe the object to the group. Artifacts ranged from National Aeronautics and Space Administration jigsaw puzzles to USDA Forest Service coloring books. Selected items shared include:

- *Civics and citizenship toolkit: A collection of educational resources for immigrants.* (2007). Washington, DC: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Institute of Museum and Library Services, U.S. Government Printing Office. HS 8.2:C 49/2/toolkit.

- Collection of educational resources for immigrants includes flash cards, DVD, brochure, poster, lessons.
- *Vocabulary flash cards for the naturalization test.* (2009). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Government Printing Office. HS 8.2:F 61/3
- Separately distributed flashcards from the educational resources for immigrants
- *Civics flash cards for the new naturalization test.* (2009). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Government Printing Office. HS 8.2:F 61/2
- Separately distributed flashcards from the educational resources for immigrants
- *From data to image: making images from space.* (2008). Washington, DC: National Aeronautics and Space Administration. NAS 1.83:NP-2008-3-010-GSFC; NAS 1.83:NP-2008-3-011-GSFC; NAS 1.83:NP-2008-10-054-GSFC
- Several jigsaw puzzles issued in tubes by NASA-fun to assemble
- Joe Kulka. (2009). *Smokey Bear Story/La historia del oso Smokey.* Washington, DC: USDA Forest Service. A 1.68:1951/SPAN.-ENG.
- A flip book on an easel telling the story of Smokey Bear in English and Spanish
- *Prescribed fire: helping make forests healthy: coloring book.* (2008). Washington, DC: USDA Forest Service. A 13.105/4:R-5-PR 021
- One of many coloring books distributed by the Government Printing Office
- *Sesame Street fire safety station.* (1996). New York: Children's Television Workshop. Prepared for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's United States Fire Administration. FEM 1.102:F 51/16/2x
- A fire safety education kit featuring Jim Henson's muppets
- *Space travel hazards (game):how safely can you travel through space.* (2009). Washington, DC: National Aeronautics and Space Administration. NAS 1.2:t 69/2/kit
- A board game for navigating safely through space

These were just a few of the more unusual resources and artifacts presented to library staff. The staff was encouraged to further engage with the resources after the session. Some staff members

pieced the puzzles together, played the games, flashed the cards, and even checked items out to more fully explore at home.

The lesson

Although the staff development session sought to have fun with an often serious and mysterious resource, learning outcomes were not ignored. The sixty-minute session explored the definition of a federal depository library through FDLP promotional videos:

- What Does the Public Know about the FDLP: GPO Takes to the Street www.fdlp.gov/outreach/promotionalresources/381-taketostreet
- Wizard of Oz : www.youtube.com/watch?v=BB2OMmQCS40; www.usa.gov/About/wizard_of_oz_psa.shtml
- Ask the Government: www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpzPVaJC8A0&NR=1

In the FDLP series of promotional videos, the Government Printing Office (GPO) interviewed the public on the streets of Washington, DC to find out how much they know about the FDLP.

The YouTube videos highlight federal government services through humor. The Wizard of Oz video assists Dorothy and her companions in finding the government service to fit their individual needs. The second video features a family seeking information from a federal employee. Both videos feature USA.gov, the federal government's official web portal, as the one stop shop for government information.

The documents librarian provided an overview of the history and purpose of the FDLP. In order to remove some mystery surrounding government publications, the nature of government information in formats, scope, and complexity were explored. Examples of artifacts and texts included microforms, tangible digital artifacts (CDs, DVDs, floppy discs, VHS), brochures, and scientific research reports.

A number of proprietary and free finding tools and pre-1976 print indexes were introduced to attendees. Participants were also encouraged to consult the library website's "Guide to Government Information" as a finding tool for local, state, federal, and international government information as well as topic specific government information.

In order to further engage participants, the documents associate created an interactive game to demystify the ever unintuitive SuDoc classification system. After instruction in the SuDoc classification schema as a publishing agency versus subject

classification system, library staff members were asked to match publications with appropriate classification numbers. Surprisingly, most staff members were entirely accurate in their responses.

Conclusion

Participants in the initial staff development session for government information included reference desk staff as well as technical services staff. Given the attendance of such a diverse group, it became clear that many in the library were indeed mystified by government information and the documents collection. By the end of the session, staff admitted these library resources were not as intimidating as once thought. Individual staff members began to seek additional individual training from the documents associate and the documents librarian. Particularly, access services personnel found the collection much more accessible once formats, classification scheme, and library locations were more fully understood. Those staff members providing reference services still rely on the expertise of the documents librarian and documents staff, but express less hesitation in providing reference services for the collection when documents personnel are unavailable.

Staff development is an essential tool in acquiring new skills and improving existing skills in an ever-changing information environment. Utilizing creative approaches to adult learning can enhance the transformative process. Exposing the variety of information resources and artifacts in a federal depository library collection in a humorous manner allowed less fearful skill building among library staff.

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Automating the Federal Documents Disposition Process

ASERL and the GPO

Jan Swanbeck and Winston Harris

With little fanfare, the ASERL (Association of Southeastern Research Libraries) Disposition Database went live to selective federal depository libraries in Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands on January 3, 2011. The path leading up to its release spanned a period of nearly one year.

Concurrently, GPO was working on an automated tool for the disposition of documents for all federal depository libraries. The development of the requirements for the two databases presents an interesting contrast of approaches. ASERL first developed its database, and then refined it based on user feedback. GPO approached it the other way around, spending nearly two years seeking input from the depository community in order to develop requirements.

Background

The disposition process has evolved dramatically over the past thirty years. Before the advent of e-mail, lists were compiled on typewriters and mailed to all selective depositories served by a given regional. The ability to send lists electronically revolutionized the disposition of documents and saved both time and money, yet the process remained labor-intensive for both regional and selective libraries. It was recognized as something that needed to change. Stating that “this process is onerous for depositories,” GPO issued a memorandum in 1995 that granted regionals greater flexibility and more discretion in the weeding process by allowing regionals to visit a collection rather than require listing, to issue needs lists in lieu of disposition lists from selectives, and to eliminate the listing of microfiche.¹

Some dissatisfaction with the process remained. In its 2008 report, *Regional Depository Libraries in the 21st Century: a Time for Change?*, GPO said it “recognizes that the disposition of materials is challenging for both regional and selective

depository libraries. This needs further investigation, and collaboration with the Federal depository library community.”²

At the Fall 2009 Federal Depository Library Council (DLC) Meeting, Cynthia Etkin, GPO senior program planning specialist, summarized the comments GPO received at a session entitled “Discards, and Needs, and Offers — Oh My! What’s One to Do?” At the close of her presentation, Etkin announced that the next part of the streamlining project for GPO would be the development of an automated tool for the needs and offers process.³ While the ASERL database being developed at the same time was intended to enhance collection development among ASERL libraries, the GPO tool was envisioned to facilitate the disposition procedures for all depositories.

ASERL Database: The beginnings

In 2006, librarians from ASERL regional depositories began drafting a proposal that called for developing a cooperative collection development plan for the ASERL regional collections, ensuring support for enhanced access to digital and tangible collections, and providing outreach and training for library staff and the public served by the libraries. The proposal recommended the development of a system to create as many as five or six geographically distributed collections, then referred to as “light archives” by GPO and suggested that a first step might be a test project using two small agencies (one active, one dead) to identify the issues of developing the light archives. It went on to suggest that in order to build the collections, offers lists of ASERL selective depositories be posted to a central ASERL regional’s discussion list or website.

Thus was born the idea of what would become the ASERL Disposition Database. The proposal formed the basis of a three-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library

Services (IMLS) awarded to ASERL in 2009 to support ongoing development of the ASERL Collaborative Federal Depository Program. The proposal was presented at the November 2006 ASERL meeting and endorsed in principle.

Interestingly, this proposal was shared with then-Superintendent of Documents Judith Russell, who responded in July 2006 with her concerns:

- How does this improve (or at least not reduce) public access?
- What is the minimum number of copies of any single item that must be retained among the participating institutions, and how will those be identified and protected from discard?
- If the premise is that the light archive must obtain multiple copies of items that circulate, how will that be accomplished — assuming that the other collections are weeded as the light archive is established?⁴

Evidently, the proposal made a positive impression on her because its development and implementation became a high priority when she assumed the position of dean of libraries at the University of Florida in 2007.

In 2009, the deans and directors of the ASERL member libraries that serve as federal depositories affirmed that their federal documents collections are assets and, building upon the goals set out in the IMLS grant proposal, agreed to plan collectively for the management of federal documents held by ASERL libraries. The ASERL Deans' FDLP Task Force, chaired by Judith Russell, was created "to prepare a discussion draft to define the areas for potential collaboration and begin a dialog between library deans and directors, documents librarians, and others about how to effectively manage the FDLP collections as a regional asset."⁵

This effort resulted in a Discussion Draft document, *Proposed Southeast Region Guidelines for Management and Disposition of Federal Depository Library Collections*, which was approved unanimously at ASERL's April 2010 meeting and posted to the ASERL website. This document described the Center of Excellence model adopted by ASERL and recommended expanding it in order to build two collections, cataloged and as complete as possible, of FDLP print documents. It also called for standardizing and simplifying collection management and disposal practices for depositories. This first draft proposed a disposition process whereby offers lists would be posted to a shared website, referred to in the draft as the "ASERL Disposition Website," as a means of building these collections. In a footnote, the document stated that "(t

he University of Florida is willing to host a shared website for disposition lists for the Southeast Region and is exploring the development of software to facilitate the disposition process."⁶

ASERL Database: Development

On March 9, 2010, Judith Russell met with the staffs of the Government Documents and Information Technology (IT) departments at the University of Florida Libraries to begin discussing the possibility of creating a database to automate the disposition process for ASERL libraries. During the next four months, Documents Department staff worked closely with the IT Department staff to develop the framework of the disposition database envisioned by Russell. This involved bringing IT staff up to speed on the world of federal documents disposition procedures and the Superintendent of Documents (SuDoc) classification system. Some of the initial questions posed included:

- What does a SuDoc stem look like? Numbers? Letters? Special characters? Combinations? How long?
- Will Agency Name be a table look-up based on the SuDoc stem, or should the user be allowed or required to type something in?
- Is Date Range an exact start and end date, like picking from a calendar? Or is it more free-form, like "1978-1979," or, more complicated yet, "Fall 1978 — Summer 1979?" Calendar dates are easily sortable and searchable; free-form dates are much trickier.
- How much space should be allotted for Description?
- Should the Approximate Number of Items field be an integer or just text? Integers are sortable, but text will not sort in any meaningful way.
- How much detail should be included in Contact Information?

These questions provided an agenda for the first meeting in early June 2010 with the documents staff and IT programmers — a meeting that would kick-start the development of requirements for the database. Once these questions were answered at this meeting, other topics arose, such as:

- Piloting the database with University of Florida selectives to test it
- Using e-mails to notify offering libraries when a document has been selected
- Including the format of documents
- Determining the length of time items would be available to regionals, and then to selectives

- Sending unclaimed items to the national Needs & Offers list
- Identifying a secure login procedure.

IT and documents staff met again a month later to review the first screenshots of the database based on the requirements developed as a result of their meeting. This demonstration made the database real to the documents staff and generated additional questions and comments:

- Would this be launched at the regional or state level?
- Could a profile be developed for Centers of Excellence so they would be notified when profiled SuDoc stems were added to the offers database?
- How should date ranges be treated?
- How could one claim individual items that are part of a multiple item list?

As a result of this meeting, additional changes were made to the database. IT staff then developed detailed user-interface screenshots, along with some user scenarios, to present at the ASERL Federal Depository Library Summit held in Atlanta on August 5, 2010, in order to generate discussion and obtain usability feedback from the wider audience of ASERL attendees, along with suggestions for improvements and enhancements to the database.

At the summit, John Burger, executive director of ASERL, summarized a survey conducted by ASERL that solicited feedback on the discussion document. Included were statements indicating that some respondents were skeptical about whether the database would be an improvement over the current disposition process.

“The slight improvement in the N&O process is outweighed by what appears to be a significant addition to the N&O responsibilities of not only Regionals but also Selectives. The intention is good, but the execution is unclear.”

“I think it’s doubtful that any complete or comprehensive ‘needs’ database for ASERL Regionals can be created. I just don’t believe that the Regionals’ ‘needs’ and the Selectives’ ‘offers’ are likely to match.”⁷

The response to the demo of the database, however, was extremely positive. Not surprisingly, presenting it to a wider audience generated many questions and several suggestions. Some of the issues raised at this meeting included: the number of days to list items on disposal lists; which library pays postage for claimed materials; and how microfiche should be listed, if at all. There were also very specific

suggestions about the look of the database; including, for example, that Active Items should be renamed All Offered Items; Claimed Items should be called My Claims; All Offered Items should include only items offered by others; and that a table should be added for Condition of items.

After the summit, attendees engaged in a lengthy dialogue via phone and e-mail in an attempt to come to closure on the unresolved issues. Eventually, they agreed that discards should be listed for a total of forty-five days: the first fifteen days for Centers of Excellence only, the next fifteen days for Centers of Excellence and regionals, and the final fifteen days for all libraries in the region. They also decided that no library should be required to list microfiche and that the discarding library should be responsible for up to \$50 per shipment to another library, leaving shipping costs in excess of \$50 to be negotiated. These decisions helped finalize the development of the ASERL database and were documented in the *Southeast Region Guidelines for the Management and Disposition of Federal Depository Library Collections*, which was approved unanimously at the ASERL Spring Membership Meeting of April 27, 2011.⁸

Work on phase two of the database began soon after approval of the guidelines. Phase two of the database — a way to match needs with offers — was rolled out on August 1, 2011. An online demonstration of the needs functionality was hosted on September 1, 2011 for all ASERL libraries as well as interested non-ASERL libraries. In this online presentation, Winston Harris, database administrator and chief software analyst for the University of Florida Libraries, demonstrated how to set up a library’s needs specifications and how to add needs individually or in batch mode to the database, and provided an explanation of the auto-claiming feature, along with tips for success.

IT Department staff continue to refine the database based on input from users; these changes are reflected in the ASERL Documents Disposition Database LibGuide they prepared to assist database users (guides.uflib.ufl.edu/ASERL-DispositionDB).

GPO’s Automated Tool for Disposition of Materials

GPO is bound by the federal government contract bidding process, and of necessity took a vastly different approach to the development of requirements for their automated disposition tool. The agency spent more than a year gathering input from the depository community. In August of 2009, Cynthia Etkin posed this question to the FDL Community site: “If you were developing an automated tool for the Needs & Offers process, what features would you find most desirable? What are the most important functions you would like the tool to have?”⁹

Here is a sample of responses from the community:

- Desirable: A way to search for call # or call # ranges
- What about a way to hook OCLC or the (Catalog of Government Publications) to a system that you can type in the call number and it will pull appropriate portions of the record in the database?
- Maybe a system where a library could enter their needs and when that call number pops up on a list it automatically notifies the need library.
- It would be helpful if offer lists could be sorted by date.
- Can offer lists from multiple libraries be consolidated into a single list?
- Can there be an alert system to let a user know that a document with a certain word in the title list has been posted in the Offer list?

At the Fall 2009 meeting of the DLC, GPO also solicited comments from attendees at a session on “The Future Opportunities of Disposal and Discard in the Depository Program.” At the Spring 2010 DLC meeting, GPO announced that the Concept of Operations for the Automated Tool for Disposition of Materials had been posted on the FDLP website for community feedback. GPO then began soliciting comments from the depository community on the draft requirements of its automated tool for disposition. On July 20, 2010, two weeks before the first demonstration of the ASERL database in Atlanta, GPO sent a message out to the depository community via the FDLP-L listserv:

“The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) is seeking comments on the tool requirements for an automated tool for the disposition of materials to Federal depository libraries (FDLs).

“The Automated Tool for Disposition of Materials in FDLs will comprise the technology and business practices necessary to enable Regional depository libraries to manage the disposition process in their states, as well as streamline the disposition process for Regional and selective depositories alike. The requirements document contains specific features of the automated tool. The deadline to submit comments is July 31, 2010.”¹⁰

Ric Davis, then the acting superintendent of documents, discussed progress on the Automated Tool for Disposition of Materials at the Fall 2010 DLC meeting and announced that an award had been made to a company to develop the disposition tool. He added: “I want to emphasize again this is a voluntary tool that we are developing. I often hear from some regionals that they have a process. ‘It’s working very well and leave me alone.’ We are happy to do that. But, at the same

time, I’ve also heard from others that you are looking for relief. You’re looking for us to develop something to help you.”¹¹

A draft document released by GPO in July of 2010 listed the requirements for the development of its disposition tool. Table 1 compares those requirements to the capabilities of the ASERL database. A more complete comparison table may be found at www.uflib.ufl.edu/docs/DispositionArticle/GPOComparison.htm. Lisa Russell, GPO’s manager of Planning & Development Content Management, confirmed in a February 21, 2012, e-mail that GPO continues to work with a contractor on the development of the tool.¹²

ASERL Database: Implementation

The University of Florida agreed to launch a pilot of the disposition database with the selective depository libraries it serves in January 2011 and to seek input before releasing it to all ASERL libraries. In early December 2010, Jan Swanbeck, regional librarian for Florida, sent an e-mail to the selective depositories served by her regional announcing that the disposition database described in the ASERL Discussion Document would soon go live after a great deal of testing at the University of Florida. In her message, she described the database as a “very slick product that will make your lives easier, I promise. It provides an easy to use template that allows you to input items one at a time or you can upload a list. When another library selects something you are offering or you select something, there is an automatic email sent out by the database.”¹³

In a follow-up e-mail, she announced that the database would go live on January 3, 2011; instructed libraries to create Google accounts for logging in; and referred them to the LibGuide prepared by Winston Harris that described the database in detail.

In the first month after implementation, there were remarkably few questions about the database itself and how to use it, thanks in large part to the detailed instructions provided by the LibGuide. The vast majority of the inquiries received were about setting up Google accounts, and these were fielded by the Government Documents staff. Because the announcements about the database sent out to Florida libraries were shared with other ASERL regionals, there were requests from outside Florida to access it during the pilot period. Regionals were added to the database at this time and granted what was termed “stalker status.” Programatically, there was no way to restrict their ability to claim items, so they were acting on their honor to look but not touch!

Notes from the January 27 conference call of the ASERL Collaborative Federal Depository Program Steering Committee indicate that Florida’s pilot of the project was going well, that the database was ready to accept libraries

Table 1. In July 2010, GPO released a draft document listing the requirements for an Automated Tool for Disposition of Materials in FDLs. Listed below are some of the major requirements from this proposal and from the completed ASERL Document Disposition Database (ADDD). A column is included to indicate which requirements are addressed by each. In some cases (indicated by *), more clarification is needed than space permits. Please see the full requirements comparison for further detail (www.uflib.ufl.edu/docs/DispositionArticle/GPOComparison.html). (Continued on next page).

Requirement	Addressed By
Supports the storage of Needs and Offer records	Both
Support the import of raw MARC records	GPO
Support for import templates	Both
SuDoc number validation	Both
Support for local call numbers	Both*
Support for offering multiple copies	Both
Support for offering a serial range	Both
Deleting Needs and Offers	Both
Data field indicating condition of Offer	Both
Data field indicating format of Offer	ADDD
Data field indicating if Offer is a superseded	ADDD
Data field for additional notes	Both
Record the date when an Offer is entered or expires	Both
Indicate that a Need is due to disaster recovery	GPO
Indicate that a Need is for a digitization project	GPO
Duplicate detection	GPO
Record the date when a Need is entered	Both
Support Needs requesting a group of publications	Both
Indicate that a Need is for a Center of Excellence	ADDD
Indicate that a Need-match should trigger an automatic claim	ADDD
Automated rules to govern the sequence of options to request an Offer	Both*
Request Waitlisting	GPO
Regional can "stop" a Selectives offer	GPO
Remove Offer after it is claimed (with special handling for serials)	Both
Adjustable offer-period for Offers	GPO
Fixed offer-period for Offers	ADDD
"Pass" is needed for Offer to be made available to the next group	GPO
Offers are made available to each group on a fixed schedule	ADDD
Expired records are archived for historical purposes	Both
Tool references an external Superseded list	GPO
Regionals are associated with their Selectives	Both
Needs are matched with Offers (Needing-institution alerted)	Both
Offers are matched with Needs (Offering-institution alerted)	GPO*
Needing-institution initiates a Claim (both institutions alerted)	ADDD*
MARC and CGP records used when matching Needs to Offers	GPO
Local Call Number used when matching Needs to Offers	GPO

outside Florida, and that procedures and a schedule for roll-out needed to be developed. Statistics attached to the notes showed that during the pilot, thirty-nine Google accounts were created for sign-on and 1,747 items were offered.¹⁴

The original goal was to have all ASERL libraries using the database by April 2011, but the regional depository

librarians felt they needed more time to become familiar with it. As a result, adoption of the database by libraries outside Florida has been slower than anticipated. The first state to commit to using the database in lieu of their existing disposition process was Virginia. Barbie Selby, the regional librarian for the state, devoted considerable time to learning the

Table 1. (Continued from page 29).

Requirement (part 2)	Addressed By
Immediate alert when a newly-entered Need matches an existing Offer	Both
Immediate alert when a newly-entered Offer matches an existing Need	GPO
Regional informed when one of their Selectives enters an Offer	Both
Frequency of notifications is adjustable	GPO
Notifications may be suppressed	GPO
Use Federal Depository Library Directory for contact information	Both
Automatic alert when Offer has shipping date within five years	GPO
User may download record sets	Both*
Multiple User accounts associated with libraries	Both*
Support for library types: Regional and Selective	Both
Support for library types: Partner and additional future types	GPO
Support for mobile devices	GPO*
Accessible over the internet	Both
Provide authentication	Both*
Provide a way to search Offers	Both
Provide a way to sort Offers	Both
Print search results	Both*
Provide a way to search Needs	GPO
Z39.50 compliant	GPO
Interfaces with the ILS	GPO
Detailed system administration and system monitoring within the tool	GPO
Use role-based security	GPO
Spell-check	GPO
Suspend/resume/cancel activities within the tool	GPO

mechanics of the database before she introduced it to her selective depository libraries at a state meeting in July 2011. Following the model adopted by Florida, Selby told her selectives that Virginia was moving to the database by October 1, and lists in Microsoft Word format would not be accepted after September 15. Such was the enthusiasm shown by Selby that she was asked to participate in a September 1 online demonstration of phase two of the database, in which needs could be added to the database and matched with offers. Kentucky was the next state to come on board, and it followed a similar course. In both these states, the regional chose to oversee the transition of the disposition process to the database.

Use of the database by ASERL libraries spiked after the September demonstration, which provided libraries with a better understanding of the full potential of the database. Selectives in other states began using the database on their own, either because they were Centers of Excellence or because they were encouraged by their regionals. A brief survey of ASERL depository libraries, administered by Swanbeck and Harris in early February 2012, measured

acceptance of the database. The libraries were asked to comment on their experience with the offers, claiming, and needs portions of the database. The responses from libraries that had posted offers were, in general, very positive, with only one library reporting difficulty with the process. The responses from those libraries that have claimed items were equally positive. Most of the reported problems involved the actual receipt of items from the offering libraries.

As always, the most interesting results in the survey came from a question soliciting general comments. Again, the majority of the responses were favorable, calling the database an “effective tool,” a “huge improvement over the former procedure for submitting documents for withdrawal,” and a “helpful tool that has taken some of the stress out of my regular duties.” One respondent expressed the view that the database should be used to supplement local discard processes as a voluntary needs and offers list. Another library called it a “truly wonderful tool” and suggested that GPO should adopt the software for a national needs and offers list. While the

response to the survey was disappointingly low (twenty respondents as of February 20, 2012), the comments provided insight as to how the database is viewed by the ASERL depository libraries that took the time to reply.

Title 44 compliance

A major issue with the database has been whether or not it is in compliance with Title 44 of the *U.S. Code*, which governs the FDLP. At issue was the order in which libraries could step forward to claim items in the database. As noted previously, the *Guidelines* approved by ASERL members in April 2011 stipulated that offered items would be available first to Centers of Excellence only, then to both regional libraries and Centers of Excellence, and then to all ASERL depositories.¹⁵ In a November 4, 2011, letter to Judith Russell, chair of the ASERL FDLP Steering Committee, Superintendent of Documents Mary Alice Baish wrote: “Our recommendation is that ASERL’s disposition tool be revised so that each regional depository library has the first opportunity to select materials offered within its state, followed by selectives within its state, before libraries located outside of the state are allowed the opportunity to select the materials. This change would bring ASERL’s Guidelines into conformance with Title 44.”¹⁶

On January 11, 2012, ASERL representatives met with Baish to discuss the issue of Title 44 compliance. In a follow-up letter to Baish, Julia Rholes, chair of the FDLP Steering Committee, stated that:

“the two steering committees within ASERL that guide this program have discussed and agreed to the two changes that you requested: that the Implementation Plan give precedence to the Regional Depository Library with primary responsibility for the library proposing to discard federal documents ... That the selective depository libraries under the jurisdiction of that primary regional depository also be given the opportunity to review and, if appropriate, select from the discards prior to these publications being offered to depository libraries in any other state or territory within the southeast region.”¹⁷

Baish, in a letter to Rholes dated February 16, 2012, stated that the changes to the database agreed to by the steering committee would bring the database into compliance, and acknowledged that this would involve amending the *Guidelines* and seeking approval of the ASERL membership.¹⁸

ASERL Database: The future

Oversight of adoption of the database still remains unclear. The *Guidelines* assume that all ASERL libraries will eventually use the database in place of their existing disposition procedures. This was the same underlying assumption used by GPO in the development of their requirements document. Current statistics show that only 20 percent of the 316 depositories in the Southeast have submitted items to the database. Presumably, the next iteration of the *Guidelines* will address the question of whether ASERL libraries will be required to use the database for the disposition of items. If it does become a requirement, presumably a model similar to that used by Florida, Virginia, and Kentucky will be adopted. Interestingly, Ric Davis, then the Acting Superintendent of Documents, said in the fall of 2010 that the GPO tool would be voluntary. It remains to be seen what tack the ASERL Steering Committee will take on this issue.

The vast potential of the needs portion of the database has yet to be tapped by the majority of the ASERL libraries. In the February 2012 survey, fewer than half of the respondents indicated that they had used this functionality. This is due largely to the fact that most pre-1976 portions of depository collections are not cataloged or inventoried, so gaps have not been identified. However, those libraries that have submitted needs lists have reported positive results, as have Centers of Excellence that have entered the SuDoc stems for their adopted agencies. One responding library said they “got immediate results for items we have needed for years,” and had reduced their known collection gaps by 20 percent.

It is also possible to set up a needs specification using keywords. For example, at the University of Florida, the authors have used the keyword “Florida” to assist in the development of our digital depository of federal documents relating to Florida. We receive weekly e-mails notifying us of matches. This frees staff from poring over the database to identify these documents. With time, libraries will come to recognize the value of this feature. It should definitely be promoted as a lure to those libraries that are not already Centers of Excellence.

Conclusion

The intriguing possibility raised by one of the survey respondents of the ASERL database being adopted by GPO merits examination. The database is being released under an open source, GNU Common Public License (CPL); the thinking was that other regional consortia would be interested in using the database for disposition or collection building. While interest has been high at recent DLC meetings whenever it has been discussed, there have been no formal inquiries. The database has

been demonstrated for GPO staff, and the response has been very positive. Though it does not have all of the functionality of the proposed GPO tool, such as links to bibliographic records, its wider adoption would be a step forward from the current reliance on voluntary needs and offers posts on government documents e-mail lists.

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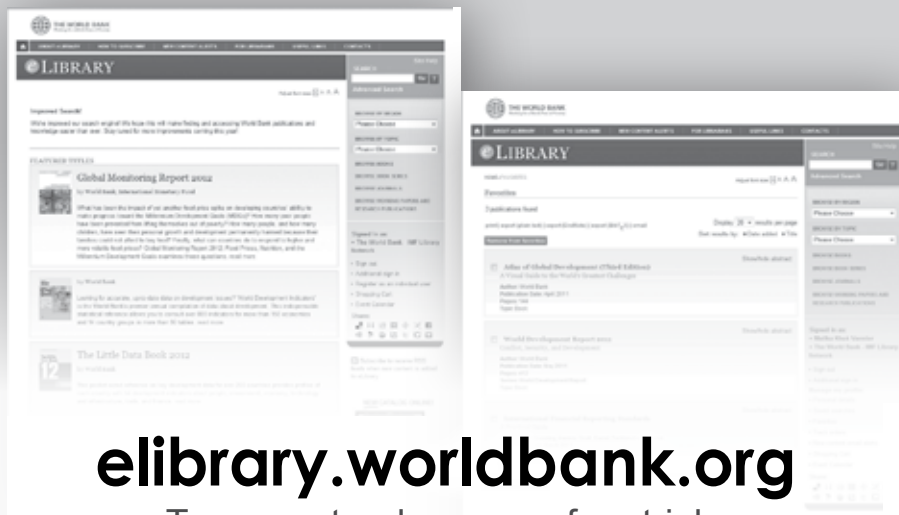
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Interview with Incoming GODORT Chair — Barbara Miller



Favorite spot in Stillwater, Oklahoma:

Actually, it is my home. I have only been in it a bit over a year, and I love the

place. It's my safe haven where I am surrounded by my favorite things.

Favorite pastime/hobby: Reading, music, cooking, old movies, and friends. Oh, and needlepoint!

Favorite TV shows: Mostly old movies (Turner Classic), but I do like *Rizzoli and Isles*.

Favorite book: *Gaudy Night*, by Dorothy L Sayers. (I once sat at an ALA luncheon where they asked this, and the librarian next to me said the same book!).

Favorite movies: *The Godfather*, because I remember weddings like that one; anything by Jane Austen; *Moonstruck*, again for the Italians (I am half Italian) and the last scene in the movie.

On your reading list now: Newest by Deborah Crombie, Sara Paretsky (I am from Chicago), and Elizabeth George.

On your MP3 player: Don't have one, but it would probably be piano music by Beethoven.

Favorite drink: English Tea.

Favorite type of food: Italian or seafood — or both — favorite is Cioppino.

Favorite conference city: Boston, because of the food (see above) and the history.

Favorite vacation spot: London or Florence, but can't get there too often, so Denver where my younger son lives.

Historical figure you'd like to meet: Robert Kennedy. I remember when he was shot, never had a real chance to realize his potential.

Pet peeve: People who refuse to work through a disagreement, but just get defensive or angry — I think there is always a common point between reasonable people.

What inspires you about your job?: The ability to get really great information to people who never suspected it can be found with the government — thus making a convert! And the chance to meet other government information librarians, who all work so hard to keep government information available to the public. They inspire me.

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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, Pennsylvania State University, \$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 is available on the GODORT wiki.

DttP Online!

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



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.

Announcing the 7th Annual Cover Contest

Put your photo on DttP!

Here we go again! We've had so much fun reviewing the creative entries from previous contests that we're continuing the tradition- the DttP cover contest is now in its 7th year!

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

Details:

- Photos may be of state, local, federal, foreign or international publications out in the field.
- All photos submitted must include citation information - use the Chicago Manual of Style citation format.
- Photo orientation should be portrait (not landscape).
- Digital photos must be at least 300 dpi.
- File format should be .jpg or .gif
- File name should be lastname_2013.jpg OR lastname_2013.gif

Please submit all images to the Lead Editor of DttP by December 1, 2012. The photo will be on the cover of the Spring 2013 issue.

All submitted photos will be posted on the GODORT wiki.

For previous entries, see wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/DttP_Cover_Contest

Lead Editor Contact Information:

Greg Curtis
dttp.editor@gmail.com

Give to the Rozkuszka Scholarship

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

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

Send your check to GODORT Treasurer: John Hernandez, Web and Mobile Services Librarian, Northwestern University Library, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL 60208-2300.

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



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