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Government Documents
Special Interest Section

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FROM THE EDITOR:

Dear Fellow GD-SIS Members,

Welcome to the Fall issue of your newsletter.

In this issue of *Jurisdocs* we have a number of excellent articles from our colleagues including a report on the FALL FDLC conference, write up on Mary Paige Smith's program at that conference, and Galen L. Fletcher's response to another presentation at the conference. Two additional articles share with us one library's role in state depository system as well a reflection on Constitution Day.

The next issue of *Jurisdocs* will be out late Spring 2010, and it will have a preview for AALL Denver programs sponsored by our SIS. I welcome from you the members of the SIS ideas for other articles. Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Edward T. Hart
Your Editor

Chair's Report



Rosemary LaSala
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A week before Thanksgiving and all through the halls not a student is speaking not even a hello. The atmosphere at my law library is tense and rushed; what with the end of the semester, exams, papers and the occasional breakdown, but I am sure many of you feel the same way. It does not seem that it has been four months since we attended the 2009 AALL Conference in Washington, DC. Since that time everyone in the GD-SIS has been working hard preparing for the upcoming meeting in Denver and I am really happy to say that once again the GD-SIS will be sponsoring and co-sponsoring some really great programs.

During the conference in Washington, I was privileged to meet many of the GD-SIS members and I am thrilled that we have many new volunteers involved in our committees. I want to thank all of you who decided now was a good time to get involved with your SIS, but don't get me wrong, we are still in need of volunteers with new ideas. I am also very happy that many seasoned committee members have decided to continue working and mentoring the new members. Many of the committees have projects that they are working on and we will keep you posted on their progress.

During our breakfast and business meeting in Washington it was decided that the GD-SIS would add additional grants to the grants we were currently offering. Two five hundred dollar travel grants were awarded to attend the 2009 Fall Depository Library Conference and Council Meeting held in Arlington, Virginia. The grant winners were Miriam Childs, Head of Technical Services at the Law Library of Louisiana, and Marlene Harmon, Reference Librarian at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law Library. The SIS also awarded the Veronica Maclay travel grant to Karen Grushka of the St. John's University Division of Library and Information Science. The one thousand dollar grant covers the costs associated with attending the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference and the CONELL program. Now is also the time to spread the word about the grants offered by the GD-SIS to attend the Spring Government Depository Meeting in Buffalo, April 26 thru the 28th and the AALL meeting in Denver, July 10th thru the 13th, a word from one of you could make all the difference to a person's career choice.

I couldn't end without reminding everyone that the Government Documents Special Interest Section will have elections in 2010 and the committees will be working hard to recruit new members. Maybe now is the time for some of you to take the plunge and run as a candidate.

Before we know it, it will be 2010 a year of changes and new possibilities. The holiday season is fast approaching and I wish you a holiday season filled with joy in your homes, love in your hearts, and a life filled with laughter.

Spotlight Depository: Gallagher Law Library

The Gallagher Law Library at the University of Washington School of Law was selected this month as the **Spotlight Depository** by the US Government Printing Office.



Included in the above photo are Peggy Jarrett, Cheryl Nyberg, Mary Whisner, and Nancy McMurrer, all of whom contribute to the effort earning Gallagher this recognition.

The first law library so designated, Gallagher was chosen for “its strong support of public access to Federal depository legal and other information resources.”

Coordinated by documents librarian Peggy Jarrett, many of the Gallagher staff contribute to the Library’s successful participation in the federal depository library program. From processing materials to creating and maintaining catalog records, from printing copies of online documents to directing users to relevant government information sources—the Gallagher team’s services embody the new tagline for the FDLP: Free, Dedicated, Limitless.

Visit the Gallagher page on [United States Government Publications](#) for more information.

Fall 2009 Federal Depository Library Conference

Marlene Harmon
Reference Librarian and Documents Coordinator
UC Berkeley School of Law Library
Berkeley, California



Free, permanent access to government publications has been the mission of the Federal Depository Library Program since its inception in 1895. As a fairly new Documents Coordinator I felt very fortunate to receive a GD-SIS Grant to become a first time attendee at this Fall's Federal Depository Library Council Meeting in Arlington, Virginia, October 19 - 21. Concerns and questions over how the FDLP's mission, and the Depository Program itself will continue to viably transition into the digital world while preserving print collections, along with many other issues and topics were addressed in two and a half days packed with Council Sessions, educational programs and lunches and dinners with other depository librarians from my state, the Manager of my Regional Depository and with my fellow law librarians.

The 250 plus documents librarians attending the meeting represented a wide range of libraries, both in type and size – public, academic, state, federal agency, county and law libraries. Government Documents collections represented ranged from comprehensive (the Regional Depositories) to the selective, like my own library which selects around 15 percent of material offered through the program.

The Conference itself alternated between Council Sessions and educational programs. This schedule allowed everyone to attend the Council Sessions without having to forego any educational programs. As explained on the FDLP Desktop, The Council functions "...to advise the Public Printer, the Superintendent of Documents, and appropriate members of GPO staff on practical options for the efficient management and operation of the FDLP." I was told by veteran attendees that, hoping to encourage and increase audience participation and interaction, the Council was using a new, perhaps even radical approach with which to conduct the Council Plenary Sessions. Rather than sitting on a raised dais, talking to the audience and GPO representatives, Council members were seated in a semi-circle at the front of the auditorium, at the same level as the audience. Open microphones, arranged in the aisles, were open to all audience members. This made it difficult to always see the council members, but the attempt to solicit audience feedback was certainly successful. A number of sessions ended with attendees still waiting for their turn at the microphones.

Robert Tapella, the Public Printer, kicked off the first Plenary Session with the good news: Congress appropriated over \$40 million dollars, a larger sum than in past years, for GPO's 2010 budget. \$7.8 million of this goes towards growing and improving FDSys, GPO's Federal Digital System. He also told us that there will probably be another Pacer pilot project this fiscal year. Later Council Sessions addressed some of the bad news: GPO's 2004 Request for Proposal to find a private sector vendor to digitize its historic collection fell through shortly before the conference. There was considerable discussion and debate over digitization alternatives to the private vendor RFP at another Council Session, "Digitization and Collaboration in the Depository Program". Alternatives suggested included partnering among depository institutions possibly via the FDLP Community site on the Desktop, examining a possible role for Google and reworking and reissuing the RFP. Issues of cost, the need for coordination and standards among participating institutions, the role of federal agencies and possible copyright problems were raised. Beyond the questions of how the GPO's legacy collection should be digitized, lies the question of the future of the Depository Program itself. A focus for the many issues that are part of this discussion was the "Ithaka S + R Report" – "Documents for a Digital Democracy: A Model for the Federal Depository Library Program in the 21st Century". Though this report, commissioned in June 2009 in part by the Association of Research Libraries, has yet to be released, an Interim Summary is available at <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/summary-fdlp-10-15-09.pdf>.

As if this wasn't enough to think about – there were also any number of educational programs to choose from. These programs were a mix of practical advice borne out of experience (how to weed your gov docs collection, how to protect your old, rare serial set volumes from theft) to discussions about the future of the program itself. One of my favorites was a return program from previous conferences – "Federal Regulatory Information and Where to Find It" by David Pritzker, Senior Attorney for the Regulatory Information Service Center who discussed the Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions, described more fully at [RegInfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov).

All three days of the conference started early with what the program modestly titled "Coffee with Council". More than excellent coffee, pastries, bagels and other breakfast goodies this part of the program gave attendees the opportunity to meet informally with Council members to ask questions, air concerns and just generally to get acquainted with the Council. The importance of food to the success of any conference should never be underestimated, and it wasn't at this conference which kept us well provided with coffee, tea, breakfast items and, as the day progressed, sodas, juices and other treats.

I often find the most valuable resources at almost any conference to be the other attendees, and the Depository Conference was no exception. I thoroughly enjoyed discussing issues and problems, exchanging ideas and becoming acquainted and re-acquainted with Government Documents librarians across the spectrum of libraries, but especially with those in the law library community. At the end of the two and a half days, my brain was on over load with information, old and new faces and ideas to sort out and think through. I realized how much I still have to learn. I returned home with an increased appreciation not only of the program but of my fellow

documents librarians and their commitment to the core mission of the Depository Program. I am grateful to the GD-SIS for awarding me a grant that helped me attend this meeting.

I encourage anyone interested in the topics addressed at the Conference to view the slides and documents from the Fall Meeting at the FDLP Desktop:

http://www.fdlp.gov/home/repository/cat_view/177-outreach/97-events/101-depository-library-council-dlc-meetings/159-2009/216



Feedback on XML formatted Federal Register

Camilla Tubbs
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On October 5, the White House announced the official launch of the XML version of the Federal Register (FR), which is now available from 2000 to the present through GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys.gov), the Federal Register Web site and Data.gov. AALL applauded the White House, the Government Printing Office and the National Archives and Records Administration's Office of the Federal Register (OFR) for making this exciting development possible. While Data.gov is limited to full-year XML downloads, FDsys offers the ability to quickly and easily download the Federal Register by day, month or year
<<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR>>.

The XML data set is not yet an *official* format of the Federal Register. Only the PDF and Text versions on FDsys have legal status as parts of the official online format of the Federal Register. Users who require a higher level of assurance may wish to consult the official version of the Federal Register on FDsys.gov. The FDsys data set includes digitally signed Federal Register PDF files, which may be relied upon as evidence in a court of law. See:
<<http://www.fdsys.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR>>.

AALL's Government Relations Committee and the Depository Library Council are now looking for feedback on the new XML version of the Federal Register. More specifically, they want to hear back from the community regarding:

- How law librarians and government information librarians can use the XML version to deliver content to their users in new ways?
- If you are benefiting from third parties' use of the XML content?
- If you would like to see other collections available in XML by the government printing office?
- If you are concerned about the authentication restrictions.

If you have ideas or comments that you would like to share, please contact Government Relations Committee Chair and Depository Library Council member Camilla Tubbs at: <http://www.fdlp.gov/contact/54-depository-library-council-/40-camilla-tubbs> or camilla.tubbs@yale.edu. We want your ideas and suggestions for making this type of government information more available to the public!



State Documents in the Law Library

Miriam Childs
Head of Technical Services
Law Library of Louisiana
New Orleans, Louisiana



The Law Library of Louisiana has been a selective state documents depository since 1987. Our documents collection is relatively small when compared to the collections of the three libraries in the state that are full depositories. Approximately thirty percent of our documents are integrated into the main collection. Because we are a law library, we keep materials such as state regulations and agency annual reports indefinitely. Louisiana documents librarians meet twice a year to discuss

matters involving the administration of the documents program and to keep up with the inevitable changes. A recurring theme at the meetings is the effect of statewide budget restrictions upon the program and its participating libraries.

Participating in a state documents program provides several benefits to the library and its users. The depository program reliably delivers to the library a variety of state information at no cost. State documents enhance the library's collection, especially if cataloged and integrated into the main collection. Over time, a depository library develops a collection of state information which may be difficult to locate elsewhere. Though a great deal of state information is available online, agency websites aren't always navigated easily, and it can be difficult to locate pertinent information. State agencies may not have the ability or desire to maintain historical data on their websites. The library's documents collection could potentially become a place of last resort for hard to find or obscure state

information. Documents librarians and staff become knowledgeable about state agencies by learning which agency is responsible for producing certain types of data or reports. The availability of someone on staff familiar with state agencies is helpful when patrons seek state information that may not be included in the documents program.

There are also a number of thorny issues associated with maintaining a state documents collection. State agencies occasionally produce documents that don't fit the scope or the profile of a law library's collection, but the library is required to keep the documents regardless. Agencies also produce documents in non-standard or unusual formats or sizes, which present housing and usability difficulties. Because the depository system isn't a priority to state agencies, they don't always provide the same documents consistently. Documents librarians are left with the choice of having a gap in the library's holdings or tracking down missing copies, assuming the appropriate agency personnel can be contacted. Once certain titles are selected to be integrated into the collection, catalogers

often spend time assigning an LC call number--if there is a bibliographic record available. If not, the title becomes part of the cataloging backlog. State documents that are not integrated into the main collection risk being underused, even if publicized. Patrons unfamiliar with the documents classification system may be unable to locate appropriate materials by browsing documents shelves. Some unintegrated documents languish on the shelves until it is permissible to discard them.

Participating in a state depository program and making documents available is one of the many ways libraries serve their users. In its depository role, the library brings together a disparate amount of state information that would likely prove difficult for users to locate without assistance. Documents expand the amount of information available to patrons. Because of the benefits to library users, it is worth the effort to house state documents and make them available, no matter how odd or inconvenient.

Upcoming Event

Spring 2010
Federal Depository
Library Council
Meeting and Conference

26-28 April 2010
Adam's Mark Hotel
Buffalo, New York

Check FDLP Desktop for
further details.



The Good, The Bad and The Ugly of Integrated Collections



Mary Paige Smith
Associate Director for Technical Services
Law Library and Technology Center
Nova Southeastern University
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

At the recent Fall 2009 DLC meeting in Arlington, VA, I participated in a panel discussion of the pros and cons of integrating government documents into libraries' larger collections. I was joined by Jane Canfield, Coordinator of Federal Government Documents, Pontificia Universidad Católica, Ponce, Puerto Rico; and Andrea Craley, Government Documents Specialist, Harford Community College Library, Bel Air, MD. While all three of us work in academic libraries, Jane's documents are completely integrated into her library's Dewey-classified collections, whereas Andrea and I work with only partially-integrated collections. We talked about the implications of integration for cataloging, database maintenance, weeding, patron access, and the promotion of documents in our libraries.

Jane believes that her documents get more use because they are shelved with other subject-related publications, although both she and Andrea agreed that keeping track of and weeding depository items is more difficult in integrated collections. Both also work with library staff who want to put the "pretty documents" on display in collections unrelated to their subject matter. As a law librarian, I don't have usage or weeding issues with the documents we select, since most of them are the primary sources of law that our faculty and students come to the library to use. Even though our depository selections are shelved in various parts of the library, I can easily find them by using our library's Millennium catalog; whether or not a depository title is shelved by its SuDocs number, that number is retained in an indexed field of the bibliographic record.

Throughout our presentation, the dedicated members of our audience (the session was scheduled from 8:30-10 AM on the final morning of the meeting!) asked questions and made their own observations about the pros and cons of documents integration.

You can view our Power Point presentations by following this path from the FDLP Desktop: [Home](#) > [File Repository](#) > [Outreach](#) > [Events](#) > [Depository Library Council \(DLC\) Meetings](#) > [2009](#) > Fall DLC Meeting - Arlington, VA. To encourage other depository coordinators to participate in ongoing discussions of this topic, Jane has also created an Integrated Collections group to the FDLP Community site: <http://community.fdlp.gov/groups/viewgroup/8-Integrated+Collections.html>. If you're considering this issue, and you'd like to discuss it with others, please join us!

Constitution Day 2009



Georgia Chadwick
 Director of the Law Library
 Law Library of Louisiana
 New Orleans, Louisiana

Constitution Day is celebrated each year on September 17 to commemorate the signing of the Constitution on that day in 1787 in Philadelphia, PA. The signing occurred on the last day that delegates to the Constitutional Convention met, concluding a hot and humid summer of secret sessions where delegates from twelve of the thirteen states met with the intention of revising the Articles of Confederation. The lack of central powers had crippled Congress under the Articles, and the group soon agreed that a new form of national government was needed to be supreme over the states. The document which resulted from the Convention was our United States Constitution.

It would take some years after the Constitution was signed before the new government could be formed. First the Constitution had to be ratified by the states, and the votes to ratify were close in the larger states. Delaware became the first state to ratify the Constitution on December 7, 1787, and the Constitution became effective after New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify on June 21, 1788.

After ratification, there was still much work to be done. While there is no single day set aside to recognize the First Federal Congress, which convened on March 4, 1789, in New York City, the work done by this body was of equal significance to that done by the Constitutional Convention in 1787. This Congress provided a functioning form to the framework of government outlined in the Constitution by a number of actions including: establishing revenue sources for the federal government; creating the first departments of the executive branch; passing the Judiciary Act, which established a strong federal judiciary; deciding to create a new location for the Capital; and eventually adopting the first ten amendments to the Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights.

Three sessions of the first Congress were held. The first two sessions took place in New York City from March 4 to September 29, 1789 and from January 4 to August 12, 1790. The third session was held in Philadelphia from December 6, 1790, to March 3, 1791. A brief but very

informative book by Charlene Bangs Bickford and Kenneth R. Bowling entitled *Birth of the Nation: The First Federal Congress 1789-1791* (Lanham, MD: Madison House Publishers, 1989), was written to accompany a traveling exhibit created in 1989. The exhibit is now available online at <http://www.gwu.edu/~ffcp/>, the website of the First Federal Congress Project at George Washington University. The book and the online exhibit cover the many achievements of the First Federal Congress.

The mission of the First Federal Congress Project (FFCP), a chartered University Research Center affiliated with the Department of History at George Washington University, is to edit and publish the acclaimed *Documentary History of the First Federal Congress, 1789-1791*. This resource contains the records of the most important and productive Congress in our history. For a number of reasons, these records have been difficult to collect due to the lack of consistent publication practices by both houses of Congress, the general ravages of time, and the burning of Washington by the British in 1814 during the War of 1812. The volumes of the Documentary History contain primary materials which explain what steps were taken to create our federal government.

Take some time on or before the next September 17th to look at the informative materials available online at the Library of Congress (www.loc.gov) or at the National Archives (www.nara.gov) on the creation of the Constitution. Reviewing the story each year ensures that we appreciate the remarkable work of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention. On Constitution Day, reflect on the creative process that resulted in our Constitution, which marked the beginning of a different path for the new nation. Also take some time to learn about the First Federal Congress, which created our government from the outline presented in the Constitution. Consider the amazing fact that even after 220 years the Constitution is still a living, breathing, and ever-changing document. It has been amended twenty-seven times, interpreted by countless federal court decisions, and is used as a model for the constitutions of other democracies around the world. Despite ongoing disagreements about many of its provisions, our Constitution continues to protect the rights and liberties of all American citizens.

Update on H.R. 2728
William Orton Law Library Improvement and Modernization Act

The bill passed by the House on 30 July 2009 and was received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration. No further action has been taken at this time.

**The Decade Discard Rule:
A Proposal for Changing Retention
Times for Selective Federal
Depository Libraries**



Galen L. Fletcher
Hunter Law Library
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah

After reading last month’s presentation by the Government Printing Office (GPO) on the disposal of publications within the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP),¹ I propose a slight modification to 44 *United States Code* § 1912, which governs such activities. This change is something Congress, and only Congress, can do. It is just a few words, but it would refocus selective libraries on current materials and move the legacy collection dialogue and responsibilities to the regional libraries and GPO.²

My suggestion is to change the legislation governing the FDLP so that selective federal depository libraries can deselect government publications without restrictions after ten years of receipt. This could be called “the decade discard rule.” All of the retention requirements for regional libraries would remain the same. The current requirement of selectives to hold on to materials for at least five years would remain.

¹ Cynthia Etkin, *The Future Opportunities of Disposal and Discard in the Depository Program*, 2009 FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY CONFERENCE AND FALL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY COUNCIL MEETING (Oct. 19, 2009), http://www.fdlp.gov/home/repository/doc_download/1072-the-future-opportunities-of-disposal-and-discard-in-the-depository-program. Ms. Etkin is Senior Planning Specialist, Office of the Superintendent of Documents, GPO. The conference agenda and online program give the title listed. Her presentation title is “Discards, and Needs, and Offers – Oh My! What’s One to Do?” *Id.*, slide 1.

² Ms. Etkin emphasized in her presentation that regional libraries used to be encouraged by the Depository Library Council to gather retrospective materials, but there is no current statutory requirement for them to do so. *Id.*, slides 5, 15-17. This tradition of seeking complete legacy collections by regional depository libraries is part of the genesis of this article’s proposal. That is, under my proposal selective libraries or libraries leaving the depository program would no longer be candidates for “cherry picking” of their older prime materials by regionals. My proposal would relieve regionals of the need to review most offers by selectives, with the corresponding loss of this mandatory source of potential documents.

The language I want to change at the end of 44 *United States Code* § 1912 currently reads:

The libraries designated as regional depositories may permit depository libraries, within the areas served by them, to dispose of Government publications which they have retained for five years after first offering them to other depository libraries within their area, then to other libraries.

I propose this be modified to read:

The libraries designated as regional depositories may permit depository libraries, within the areas served by them, to dispose of Government publications which they have retained for **a)** five years after first offering them to other depository libraries within their area, then to other libraries, **or b) ten years**.

My reason for suggesting this change is to streamline the Federal Depository Library Program, and allow the print-based portion of the program to reflect current library practices. The need for all selective depository libraries to receive or retain older Government publications is significantly less now than in the early years of the program. Many selective depository libraries would like to reduce their print Government publications in favor of electronic information, but are prevented from doing so by the need to inventory and offer most of the individual print materials prior to disposing of them.

GPO relaxed the disposal and offer rules in 1995,³ but the fact remains that “selectives must obtain their regional’s permission to discard most materials.”⁴ While talking recently about the two processes of “1. Discarding unwanted depository materials from collections, [and] 2. Offering materials to other libraries, particularly those who have expressed a need,” GPO admits that “We have consensus—nobody likes these processes. Not depository coordinators, depository staff, library directors, regionals, [or] selectives.”⁵

Under the proposed modification, no library would be required to dispose of any materials, and regional libraries would still retain their tangible collections. GPO and regionals would continue their outreach and continue to encourage selectives to work together when weeding older books.

³ *Id.*, slide 7 (cites the 1995 [GPO] *Memorandum to Regional Librarians*). The Memorandum was issued to address the complaint that “This is a procedure that is onerous for depositories. Compiling lists of materials is labor intensive. It is difficult to find space for storing documents to be discarded for months until the lengthy procedure is completed.” *Id.*, slide 6. In the interest of full disclosure, my law library was a direct beneficiary of these relaxed rules when we discarded a significant amount of government microfiche this year and our regional library at Utah State University in Logan, Utah, did not require a title-by-title list.

⁴ *Id.*, slide 15. “Depositories are still required by §1912 to discard only after permission received from regional and after first offering them to other depository libraries within their area, then to other libraries—Needs & Offers.” *Id.*, slide 18.

⁵ *Id.*, slides 2-3.

It would be a great cost and space-saving measure for active depository libraries which have been serving the public for years if they could easily reduce their publications which are not used as much in print format.

A side-benefit of this legislative proposal relates to GPO's role reversal over the past two decades from an information producer and printer to an information keeper and provider. Historically, the Government Printing Office has not held on to any of the information it gave to regional and selective federal depository libraries. With the advent of *GPO Access* and similar databases in the 1990s, GPO began for the first time to aggregate the information it had before just printed and sent out. Now, instead of libraries being the only gatherers of government information, GPO also performs this service online. If this proposal is successful, then GPO and the regionals would share the responsibility for permanent public access of legacy and current government publications while selectives would be in a position to focus on access to current information.

This approach is necessary because of how GPO is administered legally. GPO's governing laws are 1) Title 44 of the *United States Code* and 2) the *FDL Handbook*.⁶ Unlike most federal agencies that are in the executive branch, GPO is a Congressional agency, so its regulations are not in the *Code of Federal Regulations*. When GPO wants to make policy or regulation-type changes, they modify the *FDL Handbook*, but have to stay within the language of Title 44.

This section of the law has not been changed for over forty years, despite all of the changes in government information and libraries. This is a workable beginning step⁷ in dealing with legacy collections while modernizing the Federal Depository Library Program.

⁶ "The Federal Depository Library Handbook (Handbook), describes requirements of Federal depository libraries, both legal and those prescribed by the Government Printing Office (GPO)." FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY HANDBOOK (2009), <http://www.fdlp.gov/administration/handbook/159-preface> (text at beginning of preface).

⁷ Work on these unresolved issues has been going on for a very long time, and continues today. For example, John A. Shuler, current chair of the Federal Depository Library Council, spoke last month about the Council's current work on the

Disposal and Selection Process, [saying that] we are going to continue part of that discussion. There were questions that were raised in the regionals' meeting that had some specific issues that we needed to gather more information. So Council has designated three of its members, all of whom are regional librarians, who will work on those issues with GPO and come back and report to us when we have more, and hopefully, better information to resolve those issues.

Proceedings, 2009 FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY CONFERENCE AND FALL DEPOSITORY COUNCIL MEETING, at 50 for Oct. 21, 2009,

http://www.fdlp.gov/component/docman/doc_download/1107-transcripts-from-the-fall-2009-dlc-meeting.

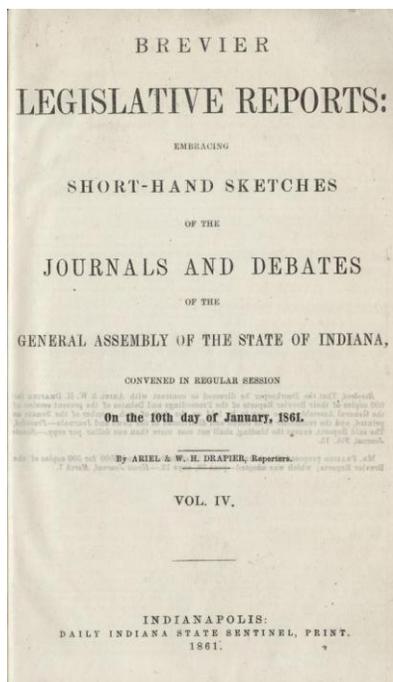
IU Law Library Digitizes Historic Indiana Documents

Jennifer Bryan Morgan
Documents Librarian
Law Library
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana



The Library at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law has launched a new digital collection of historic Indiana documents, which is made available through the Library's [website](#).

The *Brevier Reports* is a verbatim transcription of the proceedings of the Indiana General Assembly from the Special Session of 1858 through the Regular Session of 1887. This is a unique set of documents in Indiana law – there exists no other such detailed and comprehensive record of the debate and speeches delivered from the floor of the Indiana Senate chamber and the Hall of the House of Representatives for this time period.



The 20-year time period covered by the *Brevier Reports* spanned a time of great activity within the state of Indiana. These reports are rich with detailed firsthand accounts that reflect the conditions of the times and aid in the understanding of the issues present in Indiana in the mid to late nineteenth century – issues such as the state’s response to the *Dred Scott* decision, the “education of colored children,” child labor, prison reform, the state debt, voting laws and property rights, temperance, regulating railroads and canals, “negro suffrage,” the printing of state documents in both English and German, and the development of early criminal law. As the Civil War began, there were discussions about the procedures needed to maintain the Indiana regiments, how to deal with the state’s relationships with “slave states” and how to assist the war wounded. During this period the General Assembly made appropriations to early hospitals, prisons, schools and the construction of the state house.

The digitization of the *Brevier Reports* was made possible through a grant from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the [Indiana State Library](#), and with the cooperation of the [Indiana University Digital Library Program](#).

The *Brevier Reports* can be accessed on the Law Library's webpage at: <http://law.indiana.edu/lawlibrary/collections/digital.shtml>.

Although segment searching is currently available for each of these titles, we are continuing to add enhancements and global searching will be available soon.

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