

# JURISDOCS

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Government Documents  
Special Interest Section

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## From the Editor

Dear Fellow GD-SIS Members,

Final issue of the year! Where has 2010 gone? For me it's been flying pass since the start of the Fall semester, when my advanced legal research class started. Who knew twelve young minds could be so eager to learn and be demanding about it.

In this issue of *Jurisdocus*, we have reports from our Chair and Vice Chair/ Chair-Elect as well as an update of our finances by our Secretary-Treasurer. Our two feature articles are reports from our colleagues George Carter and Scott Matheson who attended the Fall FDLC meeting on grants from our SIS.

The next issue of *Jurisdocus* will be out next May after the Spring FDLC meeting. We welcome reports from attendees of that meeting, particularly from any members of the SIS who present programs at the meeting.

As I mentioned at the SIS business meeting, after two years of serving as your editor, I look forward to pass along this privilege. Kate Irwin-Smiler of Wake Forest School of Law and Camilla Tubbs of Yale Law School agreed to be co-editors starting with the Spring 2011 issue. Please join me in congratulating and thanking them for taking on this duty performed on behalf of the members of the SIS.

As always, please think about writing an article. Submissions are always welcomed from you the members of the SIS. Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Edward T. Hart  
Your Editor

## Chair's Report



**Dee Wood**  
University of Kentucky Law Library

Planning for the upcoming 2011 AALL annual meeting and conference in Philadelphia is well under way and it seems to be just around the corner. As a result of member surveys made earlier this year, several changes to the conference schedule have been made. Your event planning and travel schedules could be altered significantly by these changes, so please read the AALL October 2010 E-Newsletter at [www.aallnet.org](http://www.aallnet.org) to review details that might affect you. The Annual Meeting Review Special Committee and the Executive Board should be commended for their continuing efforts to meet AALL member needs.

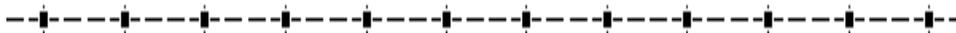
GD-SIS members submitted several interesting program and workshop proposals for the Annual Meeting Program Committee to review this year. Only two programs were selected by the AMPC, but they are outstanding and will be offered during prime time slots. AALL members will be given the opportunity to leave the programs with a tremendous amount of practical knowledge and skills. Detailed information about the two programs will be provided in the spring issue of Jurisdocs by the GD-SIS Program Committee whose chair is Eric Parker. The committee did a fantastic job this year.

It was wonderful to see so many familiar GD-SIS faces at the recent 2010 Fall Depository Library Conference and Council Meeting held in Washington, DC. As usual, the educational and Council planning sessions proved to be invaluable to attendees. Two well-deserving members of the section, and in attendance, were recipients of the seven hundred and fifty dollar GD-SIS Fall Depository Conference Grants. They were Scott Matheson, Web Manager at Yale

Law Library and George Carter, Head of Reference and Public Services at the Law Library for San Bernardino County. Congratulations to both of you! Stay tuned to the GD-SIS listserv in very early spring when more travel grants will be offered to attend the Spring Depository Conference in San Antonio, TX and the AALL annual meeting and conference in Philadelphia.

I thank all of the GD-SIS committee chairs and members for your contributions to the section. You are the reason we are successful. It is almost time for the membership to consider volunteering for next year's committees. If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to visit the GD-SIS website at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/gd/> to review our various committees and decide where you might fit into our activities.

Very shortly, the holiday season will be upon us. May you celebrate these days and the beginning of a new year with great joy and safety. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!



## Vice Chair/Chair-Elect's Report

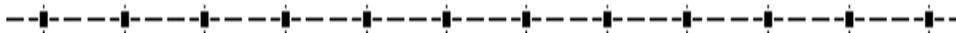


Eric Parker  
Pritzker Legal Research Center  
Northwestern University

As I'm putting the finishing touches on this report, the Thanksgiving holiday has just concluded, and the rush of the Christmas season is kicking into high gear. On my way to work, I was pondering the similarities between the Christmas season and the process of working on programming for an AALL annual meeting. Both kick off with feasts (in the case of GD-SIS, I think of getting to go to conference as a feast for my professional mind). Both feature set deadlines. Both involve a good deal of work. Both at times prompt feelings of "Why am I doing

this again?” and “How will I get everything done? And, will it get done well?” Ultimately, both involve efforts of a lot of people. So, this is a chance to say thanks to all those who participated in the process of reviewing the proposals we as a Section received, and providing your input/feedback. That means you, Rosemary, Andrew, Dee, Ed, Janet, Annmarie, Jennifer, Larry, and Sarah!

I am excited about the programs that it looks like we will be sponsoring or co-sponsoring next summer in Philadelphia. We expect to have a full-day workshop on Digitizing Government Information on Saturday July 23 (pretty cool thing for a small section such as ours to get such a high-profile spot), plus programs on recent and future changes to THOMAS based on user-centered feedback, creative mashups of government-produced information, and contemporary state constitutional conventions. As often seems to be the case, the next Annual Meeting promises to be a busy few days. I hope to be able to see and meet with many of you there!



## Treasurer’s Report

**Janet Fischer**  
Golden Gate University

	<b>Beginning Balance 4/30/2010</b>	<b>\$30,175.09</b>
<b>Revenues</b>		
3140	Dues	\$82.50
3480	Royalties	\$4,621.00
		<b>\$4,703.50</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	Awards	(\$872.89)
	Honoraria	(\$66.97)
	Misc. expense	(\$31.21)
	FDLP Grant Recipient - Scott Matheson 10/2010	(\$394.63)
	FDLP Grant Recipient - George Carter 10/2010	(\$750.00)
		<b>(\$2,115.70)</b>
	<b>YTD 11/1/2010</b>	<b>\$32,762.89</b>

## **Report from the Fall 2010 FDLC Meeting**



**George P. Carter**  
**San Bernardino County Law Library**

The Grants Committee generously provided me an award of \$750 to attend the Federal Depository Library Council Meeting in October. I would be remiss if I did not thank the Grants Committee and all members of the Government Document's Special Interest Section. Thank you!

This year's council began with morning sessions for new Depository Library Coordinators. While I attended this session in 2008, it was great to attend again in order to gain a fresh perspective. Following the morning orientation sessions, was the opening plenary session which announced the winner of the 2010 Depository Library of the Year Award. This year Johnson County Public Library in Kansas was honored for their commitment to open government, exemplified through various efforts and partnerships within their community. Congratulations to Johnson County Library of Overland Park in Kansas.

There has been speculation about the status of Bob Tapella as Public Printer. Rest assured. Mr. Tapella is still the Public Printer and reassured those in attendance that he is committed to putting his best effort forward until his successor is confirmed by the United States Senate. President Obama nominated William Boarman in April and confirmation hearings were held in May. A vote to confirm Mr. Boarman has yet to be held. Mr. Tapella believes a confirmation will probably not happen until at least the new Senate is seated in January.

All of the programs had something to offer and most were interesting. As is always the case for me at such conferences, I managed to miss the most talked about session, *Authentication of Digital Government Information: Why Does It Matter?* Authentication is something law librarians are deeply concerned about and understand thoroughly. From my discussions with those who attended the panel discussion, authentication was explained in a way that communicated the seriousness of the issue to all depository librarians. This is welcome news to the law library community as we continue to promote and support Authentication efforts.

My favorite session was by Rebecca Hyde who presented the *Tale of a Conspiracy Theory Mystery and the Reference Tools that Solved It*. Ms. Hyde was presented with finding a government document related to an internet conspiracy. According to the conspiracy, the United States Department of War published a Training Manual in 1928 that explained the importance of democracy. The training manual was supposedly ordered to be removed from the GPO by President Franklin Roosevelt. Ms. Hyde explained the process she went through in getting to the bottom of the conspiracy, understanding the roots of the conspiracy associated with the manual, and locating a copy of said manual, which can now be downloaded from [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org). Ms. Hyde utilized a vast array of government and non-government publications and called on her colleagues in her quest to locate this training manual, proving once again that librarians can find anything.

Once again, the Federal Library Council meeting demonstrated why government documents and their caretakers are great resources for their communities. Many thanks again to our SIS members and Grants Committee for giving me the opportunity to attend the fall meeting.



## Fall 2010 Federal Depository Library Meeting



**Scott Matheson**  
**Lillian Goldman Law Library**  
**Yale Law School**

When I first reviewed the final schedule, I was struck that this was the first Federal Depository Library Conference program where the bulk of sessions clearly revolved around digital content. The fall meeting included council sessions on collaboration (digital-enabled), digital authentication and and harvesting digital documents into local catalogs. Even the GPO updates were on the transition from GPO Access to the new FDSys and the unveiling of MetaLib, the new federated search tool. Sessions on virtual professional conferences and library education (much of it distance/online education) rounded out the schedule.

Even among all the digital-focused news, there was some non-digital news: GPO plans to open a printing and government information museum and plans for updates to distribution systems (the much-loved “lighted bin” system) are proceeding.

I attended a session presented by Barbie Selby of the University of Virginia that provided a good overview of the current large government information digitization projects. Barbie reminded everyone about the Digitization Registry (<http://registry.fdlp.gov/>) that tracks current projects. This GPO registry is the successor to the old clearinghouse hosted at Berkeley’s sunsite.

Chris Brown (who was the SIS’s VIP guest at the Denver meeting) described how he harvested more than 100,000 digital documents from the HathiTrust digital repository. Chris’ library at the University of Denver is not a HathiTrust partner, so there are some limitations to what he’s able to harvest, but the numbers he presented show that it’s clearly worth looking at a harvest, even if

you're not a member library. His library uses III and licenses the III OAI Harvester to continuously harvest new documents as they are loaded into the HathiTrust repository from Google and smaller scanning projects.

An engaging Council session discussing born-digital documents concluded Monday's events. Council discussed several efforts by GPO and partners (e.g., UNT's CyberCemetery) to both capture and process born-digital materials. Several experiments are underway with filtering and categorizing harvested documents.

The second day began with presentations of several different models for depositories to work together. Both modest and ambitious partnerships were presented – from regional “Centers of Excellence” to shared cataloging and coordinated weeding.

Tuesday morning's second session was organized by Council (and SIS) members Camilla Tubbs, Sally Holterhoff and Peggy Jarrett. I was privileged to speak on a panel with Tim Byrne (Dept. of Energy's Office of Scientific and Technical Information) and Stuart Basefsky (Cornell University) about the importance of authentic government information – especially to those *not* in law libraries. This may seem odd, but Council had heard from non-law librarians that authentication was only of value to the law users. After the presentation, many colleagues indicated that they now understood the importance of authentic data for all users of government information.

Finally, I was able to attend an interesting panel of Library School professors who shared their experiences teaching government documents as both the instruction and the documents themselves moved online. Interestingly, the desire for an updated traditional textbook was a common theme in this presentation and Cass Hartnett from the University of Washington announced that she has just such a textbook in press.

Slides and some handouts from the meeting are available on the FDLP desktop - <http://bit.ly/aYKaL3>. Thanks to the SIS and the grants committee for funding my travel expenses, I'm very grateful for the opportunity.



## **Your Help Needed to Contribute to the National Inventory of Primary Legal Materials**

Emily Feldman  
AALL Advocacy Communications Assistant

AALL is leading an ambitious project to develop a groundbreaking national inventory of primary legal materials at every level of government. More than 320 AALL and chapter members have already volunteered for their [State Working Group](#) to populate an inventory of state, county and municipality legal resources. We need *your help* to make this project a success.

By joining your state's working group, you'll be able to use your unique knowledge of government information to contribute to this ambitious initiative. Many of our working groups have found that the GD-SIS State Bibliographies are a terrific resource to help them start compiling a list of titles to include in their inventory. Your special expertise will help ensure that your state working group's inventory is comprehensive and complete.

As GD-SIS member and Florida State Working Group co-coordinator Jennifer Wondracek recently said, "This important project will provide people with knowledge of what primary law documents are available to them at every level of government. I see my participation in the inventory project as supporting not only my profession, but also my community and my family."

We need an *army of volunteers* to help us complete the inventory by our June 30, 2011 deadline. Please contact your [state coordinator](#) to contribute to this groundbreaking project. Thanks!

**Upcoming Event**

Federal Depository Library  
Council Meeting and Conference

3-6 April 2011

San Antonio, Texas

**OFFICERS**

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Secretary/Treasurer: Janet Fischer	<a href="mailto:jfischer@ggu.edu">jfischer@ggu.edu</a>
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