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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Program Committee has approved three programs submitted by the Section for presentation at the Reno convention. All three should be enlightening and entertaining. Cheryl Nyberg, Vice-Chair of the Section is organizing the search for program coordinators.

The three programs we will be presenting are one on Canadian documents and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, one on the law library depository program ten years after its inception, and one on mining government documents for legal information, which we hope will be a big success.

The program on the Charter should be very informative for everyone, and it will give us a chance to find out what kinds of research challenges our Canadian colleagues are facing. The law library depository program is ripe for a critical evaluation after ten years and we hope administrators as well as depository librarians will attend. The program on government documents and legal information is Cheryl Nyberg’s brainchild, and it’s tentatively entitled "Betting on a Sure Thing". This program promises to be a real departure from the traditional panel or roundtable type program. Its highlight will be the "College Bowl" type square-off between two teams of knowledgeable librarians competing to answer questions and win prizes (suggestions for something suitable are welcome). If you have questions you would like to hear the teams battle over, please submit them to Cheryl as soon as possible (provide the answers, too, please!). If you have suggestions for contestants, let Cheryl know that also. Of course questions from actual participants can’t be used, so if you do submit questions please sign your name to them.

Finally, the American Association of Law Libraries is once again offering grants to selected members to fund part of the cost of attending the 1989 Annual Meeting. If you are interested in applying, please fill out the application printed in this issue of Jurisdocs.

Christine Corcos

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The fall issue of Jurisdocs contains our traditional fall offerings: minutes of the 1988 annual business meeting, two reports on 1988 AALL Convention programs that were sponsored by the Section, and an interesting and informative account of the 1988 fall meeting of Depository Library Council.

Selective new publications from the World Bank and from the World Health Organization can be located in the "International Documents" column.

Be sure to see p. 21 and volunteer to become involved in what promises to be an exciting 1989 Convention program.

Susan Dow
MINUTES OF THE 1988 BUSINESS MEETING OF THE GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION

The Government Documents Special Interest Section business meeting was called to order by Chair, Mary Anne Royle, on June 27, 1988 at 7:40 a.m. at the Merriott Marquis Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. Mark Scully from GPO was not able to attend the meeting.

Keith Buckley, on behalf of the Elections Committee, announced the results of the recent Government Documents SIS election. Christine Corcos of Case Western Reserve Law Library will assume the Office of Chair; Cheryl Nyberg of the University of Illinois Law Library was elected Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect; and Susan Tulis of the University of Virginia Law Library was elected Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Buckley stated that there was a problem with the nominating/election process. Ballots are supposed to be signed. Mr. Buckley proposed an amendment to the Government Documents SIS Bylaws to strike out this requirement which appears in Article VI, Section 2b: Elections. This motion passed.

The minutes of the 1987 business meeting as reported in the Volume 10, Number 1 issue of Jurisdocs were approved. Veronica Maclay, Secretary/Treasurer reported that the treasury has a combined balance of $8,926.85. The balance from the GD/SIS account is $6,694.86 and there is an additional $2,231.99 in the account for the Government Documents Occasional Papers.

There were several new state bibliographies published in 1988. These included Arkansas Legal Bibliography; Documents and Selected Commercial Titles by Lynn Foster; Survey of North Carolina State Legal and Law-Related Documents by Thomas M. Steele and Donna Tarleton; Nebraska State Documents Bibliography by Mitchell J. Fontenot, Brian Striman, and Sally H. Wise; South Dakota Legal Documents: A Selective Bibliography by Delores A. Jorgensen; Law and Government Publications of the State of Tennessee: A Bibliographic Guide by Cheryl Picquet and Reba Best; and A Law Librarian's Introduction to Virginia State Publications by Jacqueline Lichtman and Judy Stinson.

Susan Dow, Newsletter Editor, gave a report on Jurisdocs. There are three issues of Jurisdocs published each year. The total expenditure for Jurisdocs this past year was $2,039.95. The expenses included $785.01 for postage, $1,171.97 for printing and $82.97 for envelopes. There were 1,215 copies of Jurisdocs printed this year at a cost of $1.68 per issue. The subscription cost for the year totals $5.04 and the subscription price the Section is charging is $5.00 per year. The Chair thanked Susan Dow for her excellent work on the Newsletter and Keith Buckley for being Business Manager.

Under new business, it was announced that the GD/SIS is sponsoring three programs at the convention. Penny Hazleton would be moderating a program on "The Constitutional Status of American Indian Tribes". Cheryl Rae Nyberg is the Coordinator and Moderator
of the program, "Beyond the Depository Library: Non Traditional Access to Government Information". Sally Holterhoff is the Coordinator of the program, "Creative Approaches to Researching State Legislative History".

Next, there were reports from Sally Holterhoff and Susan Tullis. Many important issues were discussed concerning GPO, including the continuing problems with GPO microfiche. There seems to be no quick solution to the microfiche problem. Fourteen thousand titles have not been microfiched. Superintendent of Documents, Don Fossedal said at the Spring Depository Library Council meeting that he could not talk about the embargoed microfiche situation at that time because GPO was involved in litigation with the contractor. It should take approximately eighteen months for the majority of the microfiche to come into the system. GPO is now investigating the possibilities of CD-ROM because sources indicate it is cheaper than microfiche. GODORT will be meeting from July 9 through July 12, 1988 and will discuss the problems with GPO microfiche.

The CD-ROM Census Test Disk #2 will be going to every depository library as a sample disk. The first date given for distribution was April and this was changed to August. Librarians are not sure how useful this will be for law libraries. There are plans for the JCP to consider other projects on CD-ROM. These include the Congressional Record, the Commerce Department's Economic Bulletin Board, and the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory.

Several studies were discussed. The OTA has issued a draft report on the federal information dissemination process and has examined alternative scenarios for the depository library system. There are many alternatives for Congress to consider. The report has been divided into three parts and one part lists alternatives for the future. The final report is due out in September. Another study discussed was the Hermon-McClure study of depository library users. GPO awarded a contract to Professors Hermon and McClure to study the numbers and types of users of depository libraries. The study is a user study and not a use study. The timetable for the study has been changed because academic libraries did not want the study being done during the Summer. Law libraries will not be included in the study. Only public and academic libraries will participate.

There was an update on the FAR issue. These amendments appeared in the Federal Register last Spring and would allow some executive agencies to bypass GPO for printing needs. Language was inserted in an appropriations bill to prohibit bypassing GPO. The bill was enacted and became P.L. 100-202 (101 Stat. 1329 - 310). The language in this section of the public law states that GPO will remain the printer. However, because it is an appropriations act, this protection is in effect for only one year. The language in Title 44 of the U.S. Code needs to be changed. GODORT is very concerned about how Title 44 will be revised. It would be helpful to compile
a legislative history of Title 44.

Other noteworthy information: two new inspectors have been hired by GPO and they are librarians. The inspectors are still concerned about access in law libraries. Some feel that law libraries may be selfish with depository materials. The Public Printer may be resigning at the end of the Summer. There was also concern expressed about the use of archival paper. There was a resolution circulated at the business meeting that requests that agencies, including GPO, use alkaline paper. There was a motion to support the resolution and it passed. The Bibliographical Directory of the United States Congress will be printed on permanent paper.

The Occasional Papers series was mentioned. The accounting for the papers is kept separate by AALL Headquarters. The price per bibliography was raised to $10.00 and that may be why not as many bibliographies have sold recently. Babe Russo was not able to attend the meeting to talk about the Occasional Papers series. The Publications Committee of AALL will be developing questions on copyright and AALL Counsel will provide legal advice. For the state bibliography series, copyright waivers should be signed. If any part was published elsewhere, one needs permission from the other publisher to reprint.

Joanne Zich spoke about her study on the quality of GPO microfiche. Ms. Zich visited 28 libraries as part of the study and examined the microfiche supplied. She visually examined the older and recent microfiche and provided a questionnaire on storage conditions. The article on this study will be published in the August issue of Microform Review.

The manager of the Atlanta government bookstore spoke briefly. GPO now has 23 bookstores and a new one is opening in August. It is a good place to find subject bibliographies and posters. Many law libraries call in orders to the Atlanta bookstore, including out of state libraries. Orders are mailed out the same day. A library may use a deposit account, VISA, or Master Charge. The bookstore hours are 8-4 Monday through Friday. The Atlanta bookstore now has a postal meter and uses UPS and first class mail. Federal Express can be used on an account.

The gavel was then turned over to Christine Corcos. Under new business, it was mentioned that Cecilia Kwan from the University of California at Davis Law School was interested in discussing communications between technical service and public service librarians. Anyone interested in this issue can contact Cecilia Kwan at U.C. Davis. Chris asked anyone who has suggestions for next year’s programs to see her.

Veronica Maclay

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Beyond the Depository Library: Non-Traditional Access to Government Information

Cheryl Nyberg, Moderator, set the background for this program by informing the audience that two general trends have led to the phrase "less access to less government information." These trends are privatization and an increasing dependence of Federal Government agencies on in-house computer files and databases which are inaccessible by the general public. These databases may have been created as an alternative to paper products that were once available through the GPO Federal Depository Library Program.

Mary Redmond of the New York State Library, Tom Field of Tax Analysts and Richard Leacy of the Georgia Institute of Technology suggested alternative methods for acquiring information produced by the Federal Government. These alternative sources include using Freedom of Information Act requests and becoming familiar with electronic databases.

Providing an overview of commercial and governmental information and documents distribution systems was the subject of Mary Redmond's presentation. She organized her presentation around five different categories of distribution systems: agency sponsored depository programs; governmental and commercial sources that provide access to printed and microfiche documents; telephone and personal contacts; electronic mechanisms; and dealers, jobbers, subscription agents and document retrieval services.

Several government agencies, including the U.S. Bureau of the Census (State Data Centers), the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Patent Depository Libraries) and the U.S. Urban Mass Transportation Administration conduct their own depository programs. It can be frustrating to determine which agencies have depository programs and often one finds out about a depository program by accident.

GPO maintains a nationwide system of bookstores that provide the public with access to the more popular government publications. The bookstores can serve as a mechanism to quickly obtain publications that may take months to be distributed through the depository program. The Library of Congress' "Document Expediting Program" allows a library to obtain publications, for a yearly fee, from stocks of publications sent to the Library of Congress by agencies directly. Gaps in collections can be filled.

Examples of commercial sources that provide access to government publications are: Readex, which markets microfiche collections of depository and nondepository publications that appear in the Monthly Catalog, and the Congressional Information Service which provides timely access to microfiched copies of Congressional materials.

Telephone and personal contacts are invaluable and can result in the receipt of information not located elsewhere. Press releases and
telephone directories from government agencies can provide a starting point for obtaining information. Your local senators and representatives can serve as a gateway for obtaining information. A senator or representative may be able to obtain a Congressional Research Service study that is not generally available to the public and not sent through the GPO Depository Library Program.

Information traditionally located in printed sources may now reside in an electronic format that is accessible by the public. Many agencies are using electronic bulletin boards to disseminate information.

Dealers, jobbers, subscription agents and document retrieval services can help with locating obscure or out-of-print documents.

While preparing her remarks, Ms. Redmond had three main observations. It is now necessary for librarians to develop the skills that will allow them to access electronic formatted products. While the GPO has taken over some agency distribution systems, such as the USGS map distribution program, there are still many agencies conducting their own information distribution program. The Federal Government produces a tremendous amount of information even though efforts have been undertaken to restrict the number of publications produced by Federal Government agencies.

Tom Field, Executive Director of Tax Analysts began his talk by explaining that he views the Federal Government as a vast public library of which only ten percent of the publicly available information is published and available through the U.S. Government Printing Office. Citizens are entitled to information produced by the Federal Government, unless it falls under one of the exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act.

Tax Analysts has used the Freedom of Information Act on a regular basis to obtain information that once was not available to the public. They have succeeded in making U.S. Internal Revenue Service letter rulings available to the public, obtaining weekly releases of tax related U.S. Treasury Department correspondence, and in making U.S. Internal Revenue Service General Counsel memoranda available.

Filing an FOIA request involves knowing what kinds of information the government may have on a particular subject of interest. This can be accomplished through telephone and personal contacts, and by reading agency newsletters. When distribution or printing of a document ceases, do not assume that the agency is no longer collecting the information that was the subject of the document.

An FOIA request is a simple letter addressed to the agency's FOIA officer making it clear that it is a formal request, describing the information you are requesting (do not restrict the request to paper sources since the FOIA is intended to include information in any format) and promising to pay search and copying fees if notified in advance (some people are
exempted from paying search and copying fees).

Usually in about two months a reply is received indicating that the agency is still working on the request. At this point it is helpful to contact the FOIA officer directly. If delays become excessive, Mr. Field suggests treating the delay as a de facto denial. A follow-up letter should be sent to the FOIA officer indicating that you are appealing the de facto denial of the FOIA request. This letter will be a chance to state the arguments in favor of releasing the information.

If the appeal is denied, the next recourse is the court system. Mr. Field indicated that appeals dealing with FOIA denials are not hampered by a lot of procedural questions since standing is conferred by the FOIA statute and the exemptions to the FOIA are strictly construed. The U.S. Supreme Court has litigated in this area and the judicial climate is in favor of disclosure of information.

Most of the time your FOIA request will result in the production of useful data.


Susan Dow

Federal Information, Federal Law, and the American Library

Presented by Richard Leacy
Price Gilbert Memorial Library
Georgia Inst. of Technology
To The
American Association of Law Libraries Annual Convention
June 28, 1988

There are at present essentially four statutes that govern federal information: The Public Printing Act of 1895; Public Law 64-776, An Act To Provide For the Dissemination of Technological, Scientific, and Engineering Information to American Business and Industry which is the legislative basis of the National Technical Information Service; The Depository Act of 1962; and The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. Only the Paperwork Reduction Act has provision for electronic information; that provision allowed the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget to issue Circular A-130, on December 24, 1985. Neither the law nor the regulation establishes a comprehensive statutory framework and an administrative structure for information management in all formats with mandatory dissemination of information which should be in the public domain.

This paper concerns three reports from the federal government that deal with the management of information. Two have been published; one has not. The reports guide us towards a better understanding of the nature of information as well as the technical system required for information transfer. They suggest
areas requiring further examination, operational equipment, and professional skills for systems management and information use.

The first report, with which you are all familiar, is Provision of Federal Government Publications in Electronic Format to Depository Libraries. The Joint Committee on Printing established the Ad Hoc Committee on Depository Library Access to Federal Automated Data Bases on May 5, 1983. Prior to establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer during the early 1980's had extensive debate and passed resolutions concerning the inclusion of electronic information in the Depository Library Program. Perhaps it is reasonable to suggest that this debate and the resultant resolutions served as the catalyst for the decision by the Joint Committee on Printing to proceed with its own study in order to obtain a more documented perspective on the issue.

The Ad Hoc Committee was instructed to examine three questions: "1. What and how much Federal Government information was in electronic format? 2. If depository libraries have the ability to access the new formats? 3. What are the costs and benefits of providing information in electronic format?" 4

One of the Committee's witnesses, Dr. Louis G. Tornatzky, then of the National Science Foundation, presented an assessment that came to be a general premise of the Committee "that increasing access to government information in electronic format is a highly desirable public goal, whether accomplished through the Federal Depository Library System, or through another vehicle." Through a series of interviews with Federal agencies the Committee compiled sufficient evidence to conclude that a substantive amount of federal information is exclusively in electronic format, that the information should be in the public domain, and that at present there is no mechanism providing broad general public dissemination.

Through a series of surveys the Committee acquired evidence from depository librarians that there was a general need by their constituencies for both reference and source data bases produced by the Federal Government. These constituencies comprised academic, industrial, and governmental researchers, industrial and business communities, federal, state, and local governments, and the general public. The Committee also obtained evidence that there existed sufficient technical capability among the librarians in the depository library program to use a variety of computerized files such as online electronic bulletin boards, tape, as well as magnetic and non-magnetic disks. This combined evidence led the Ad Hoc Committee on February 2, 1984 to adopt the following resolution: "The Committee unanimously supports the principle that the federal government should provide access to Federal information, as defined in Sec. 1901, U.S.C., Title 44, in electronic form through the depository library
system. Recognizing that it is technologically feasible to provide such access to electronic information, the Committee recommends that the economic feasibility be investigated through pilot projects."

The second report to which this paper makes reference is from the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) with an intended publication date of Fall 1988. Its working title, but not necessarily its publication title, is The Future of Federal Electronic Printing, Publishing, and Dissemination. In July 1986 OTA organized a panel to review Federal information. This action was taken pursuant to indicated active interest from the following Congressional Committees: the Joint Committee on Printing, the Subcommittee on Government Information of the House Committee on Government Operations, the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the House Administration Committee, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, the Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Subcommittee on Technology and the Law of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the Subcommittees on the Legislative Branch of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Clearly the number of Congressional power players has increased on the issue of information.

The attention of Congress on the effects of computer technology on information transfer has substantively broadened from the time of the appointment of the Ad Hoc Committee in 1983. It may be reasonable to suggest that this broadening interest of the Congress reflects a similar broadening of interest by non-governmental organizations both professional and commercial as well as by the Executive Agencies themselves.

There certainly is always risk in suggesting what an unpublished report may state; however, perhaps there is less risk in suggesting the topics on which The Future of Federal Electronic Printing reasonably may focus. Certainly the evolving and increasing use of computer technology in information storage, transfer and manipulation must be primary. The relationship between the Government Printing Office and the National Technical Information Service would be logical for review. The historical as well as a revised statutory framework for information organization and dissemination functions would be reasonable for examination. The roles of major dissemination functions by individual agencies as well as their current and anticipated use of information technology both for dissemination and data manipulation would be reasonable topics of study. Some examples of widely known agency-run dissemination programs might be the Patent Depository Library System of the Patent and Trademark Office, or the information systems of the National Institutes of Health, the National Library of Medicine, and the Centers for Disease Control. Given the level of current public debate about dissemination restrictions and privatization policies of the present Administration, the issue of general public access to
unclassified information may also be reviewed. This review may include attention to possible options Congress might employ to ensure that information belonging in the public domain is placed in the public domain.

The third report to which this paper refers is titled A Research Development Strategy For High Performance Computing, issued by the Office of Science and Technology Policy. This report was submitted to Congress pursuant to Public Law 99-383 (August 21, 1986), "The National Science Foundation Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 1987". In part Section 10(a) states, "The Office of Science and Technology Policy... shall undertake a study of critical problems and current and future options regarding communications networks for research computers, including supercomputers, at universities and Federal research facilities in the United States. The study shall include an analysis of ... (2) the benefits and opportunities that an improved computer network would offer for electronic mail, file transfer, and remote access and communications for universities and Federal research facilities in the United States ...."

The Office of Science and Technology Policy assigned responsibility for the report to its Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology Committee known as the FCCSET Committee. In summary the report identifies the technologies and mechanics which would be the foundation of a national computerized information system. While the report does not propose specific statutory language or describe an administrative structure for information management, it does identify and assess the primary components of the system.

One component, networking technology, is cited at this point as the weak link in the chain. Another component is the need for the "U.S. government, industry, and universities [to] ... coordinate research and development for a research network to provide a distributed computing capability that links government, industry, and higher education communities". The report also presents a realistic multi-year budget totaling approximately $1.5 billion which will be required to fund basic technological research and system implementation. The report provides the basic structure and building blocks for a national computerized file transfer and computation system. "Many of the basic elements of the high performance computing strategy are already being implemented as part of ongoing agency programs at DOE, DARPA, NSF, NASA, and other Federal agencies, and important progress is being made." This report provides the clearest outline we now have about the structure of the emerging information system and its technology.

At present basic federal law for information appears in 44 USC 19, providing the national policy and statutory requirements for dissemination of paper copy materials. There is no equivalent either in statute or in regulation for electronic information. Today computer technology is
the currency of information. Because there is neither law nor regulation governing electronic information, the Executive Agencies are proceeding independently on an ad hoc basis to create their own data bases, linking them with their federal and non-federal constituencies. The Agencies are establishing unique standards and software, and determining their own procedures and rules for dissemination. For the most part this process is taking place wholly outside of the system of libraries in the United States. A new information network is being established sometimes in conjunction with institutional computer centers but more often directly with individual constituencies with which the agencies work. If this process continues, it will have the effect of shattering the information dissemination system centered on the public service functions and international centralized bibliographic control built by librarians during the past 2 centuries. Such a shattering would have a devastating effect on our national scientific and technological research programs.

In the end the roles of libraries in the new computer oriented information network will be determined by library directors and their institutional administrations. The requirement for participation in the information network will be the ability to change, the ability to bring about a fundamental shift in the skills base required for information transfer functions. Participation will require an institutional ability to adjust the library budget to the requirements for acquisition of computer hardware and software with the required technical support staff. Participation will require the employment of professional staff with skills in the disciplines of the information as well as in data manipulation.

If the challenge is demanding, it also offers the exhilaration and fun of breaking new ground and doing new work. As librarians, this is our brave new world.

[Ed. note: The OTA report has been released and is now entitled: Informing the Nation, Federal Information Dissemination in an Electronic Age. (GPO Stock No. 052-003-01130-1, $14.00) All depository libraries will receive a copy of the full report and a free summary is available from U.S. Office of Technology Assessment, CIT, Washington, DC 20510.]

FOOTNOTES


3.) U.S. Congress. Joint Committee on Printing. Ad Hoc

4.) Ibid., p.iv.


8.) Ibid, pg.21

9.) Ibid, pg.26

Richard Leacy

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Report From the Fall 1988 Meeting of the Depository Library Council

Access to government information in various forms was the center of discussion at this Fall's meeting. Questions addressed included: Is microfiche distribution back on track and have the contracting problems been settled? How soon will all depository libraries need CD-ROM equipment? Will GPO be distributing to depositories the increasing numbers of electronic products produced by government agencies? If not (if the status quo of only paper and microfiche formats continues), will public access to government information be seriously eroded? Is acquisition of documents to be distributed through the depository program a growing problem for GPO? These areas of concern and others were addressed by reports and discussion when the Council met in Arlington, Virginia, October 12-14.

SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS UPDATE

Don Fossedal announced that Public Printer Ralph Kennickell has accepted a position as Executive Director of the Graphics Arts Technical Foundation in Pittsburgh and will be leaving in November. Sales of GPO publications were down in FY 1988, but it was still a good year. GPO has been exhibiting at U.S. Information Agency book fairs around the world and has arranged with Baker and Taylor for global distribution of GPO publications. A new bookstore has been opened in Portland, Oregon. Kiosks, manned or unmanned, may be placed in Post Offices around the
country to sell GPO publications. Mr. Fossedal reported that the Depository User Study is going well, according to the contractors, Peter Herron and Charles McClure. (Note: This is a survey of public and academic libraries, but not law libraries). Fossedal credited the Public Printer with resolving the problems with the microfiche contractors.

PUBLIC PRINTER UPDATE

Ralph Kennicell, addressing his last Council meeting, reviewed GPO’s progress under his leadership during the last four years and described the agency’s new global perspective. He cited the recent initiation of sales of U.S. government publications in Moscow as part of GPO’s job to disseminate U.S. information around the world. He also mentioned a “silver lining” he sees in the microfiche mess -- the unlikelihood that such a catastrophe could ever happen again, with the new system of multiple contracts.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS SERVICE UPDATE

Mark Scully, LPS Director, described the "microfiche contracting ordeal" as a time when problems have overshadowed good news in the depository program. But he noted that "incremental progress" is being made in many areas. The cataloging backlog has been reduced, fewer rainchecks are being sent, more inspections have been completed, hardcopy claims are down, and the Instructions have been updated. He also mentioned such advances as distribution of the Census CD-ROM disk, the Interagency Depository Seminar held last April, and the Depository User Survey. It is hoped that the survey results will provide a framework for more accountability in the depository program and provide insight for future planning. The new OTA study (discussed later in this report) should also be a key influence as Congress considers government information policy for the future.

GUEST SPEAKER: ROLAND C.W. BROWN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, OCLC ONLINE COMPUTER LIBRARY CENTER

Mr. Brown described the long-standing dialogue and cooperation among OCLC, GPO and depository libraries. He drew parallels between OCLC libraries and depository libraries, as two networks representing diverse resources and agendas among their members. He noted that the two groups overlap; out of 1365 depository libraries, 965 are OCLC members.

Several new OCLC activities may benefit depository libraries. In 1989, OCLC will start making available automated holdings records of depository items for individual libraries who purchase this service (for about $.08 per record). Use of the OCLC database is expanding from strictly bibliographic to more reference functions, such as subject, keyword, and fulltext searching. OCLC has 14 databases available on CD-ROM and six more in the works. Most of these are governmental databases, such as ERIC, AGRICOLA, CRS, and the USGS database. A new online reference system called EPIC is currently being developed, which will have 22 searchable and browseable indexes.
Mr. Brown stressed the importance of cooperation as we move from being a print society to an electronic one. There will be a role for both the public and private sectors in this new era. As a not-for-profit organization, OCLC will continue its policy of making government information available at affordable prices.

**MARKETING UPDATE**

Charles Mckeown, Marketing Director, presented a preview of a slide show, "Keeping America Informed," which is being designed for viewing by the general public. GPO travelling display units are still available for loan -- contact Shirley Almadel at (202) 275-3634 to make arrangements. Stand-up displays to advertise the New Books catalog have been distributed, and over 200 magazine and newspapers have used print ads for the Catalog. Marketing is mailing letters to libraries and businesses in cities with GPO bookstores to make them aware of the stores. GPO mailing lists are now available for rent and 200 requests have been received so far. Mr. Mckeown mentioned the need to educate the publication officers of federal agencies, many of whom don’t realize that their agencies’ publications go to depository libraries.

**UPDATE FROM THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING**

Bernadine Hoduski, JCP staff member, stated that depository libraries will have a dual-format option for the final edition of the Congressional Record and that one of the formats will be paper. The decision has not been made whether the other option will be microfiche or CD-ROM. CD-ROM costs only 1/3 as much as fiche and is much more versatile, but does present concerns about equipment, the number of workstations required, etc.

Ms. Hoduski distributed a sheet outlining the status of the Record and pointed out that fewer libraries select the Index than select the Record itself. She feels that some librarians may not realize that the Index is a separate item number and doesn’t come as part of the Record (check your item selections!). [Note: Approximately 1/3 of the law library depositories have selected the bound Congressional Record in paper format and nearly 2/3 select the Index in paper. Presumably they will get something soon. For those libraries who select these items in microfiche, it’s unclear when and what they’ll get. If CD-ROM is an option, will law libraries prefer that over paper?] The paper index for Vol. 127 (1981) should be available for distribution in late October and for Vol. 131 (1985) in December. Indexes for Vols. 128-130 are in various stages of preparation.

The Numerical List and Schedule of Volumes has been issued for the 98th Congress (GP 3.34:983-84) and the JCP welcomes comments on its format, contents and organization. This finding aid for Congressional reports and documents in the Serial Set has had a format change in the last several editions. The version for the 97th Congress came out as part of the Monthly Catalog (GP 3.8/6:985) and contained no numerical lists. That omission could be corrected if librarians
communicate their concerns to the Serial Set Committee of the JCP.

GPO white-collar workers (including librarians) now have the right to bargain for wages. This affects over 2000 people. JCP has asked for an independent GAO audit of the microfiche program at GPO. On the FAR issue (briefly, whether certain federal agencies could bypass GPO for printing), things seem to be settled. Language has been added twice to annual appropriations bills to require GPO as printer for the federal government. Of the three agencies involved in the FAR issue, two are withdrawing the troublesome regulation, although OMB has not given up.

Ms. Hoduski mentioned some proposed Commerce Department policies on dissemination of electronic information, which should be watched carefully. These are based on OMB Circular A-130 and were circulated for comment but not published in the Federal Register. Copies may still be available from the Commerce Department. The Supreme Court wants to publish its slip opinions electronically. Currently these are printed at the Court, rather than through GPO. Will these also be available to depositories in electronic format?

Ms. Hoduski also mentioned the newly released Office of Technology Assessment study of federal information dissemination, which was sent to every depository library. JCP sees its value as a primer for the general public on information issues. Last Summer the JCP released a plan for pilot projects (which was a joint

GPO/JCP endeavor) and they have received quite a positive response, from agencies, librarians and major library groups. Librarians will need some equipment to handle various electronic formats and should be planning to get such equipment into their budget requests. The JCP/GPO proposal estimates cost for a CD-ROM drive at $845 and a modem at $350.

PRESENTATION ON GPO PRINTING PROCUREMENT

James T. Smith, GPO Printing Procurement Manager, outlined the history of microfiche in the depository program from the contracting perspective and countered some points made by Ralph Nader in a July 26, 1988 letter to the Public Printer. In 1978 the DLC approved a microfiche distribution program (dual distribution). In 1981 the single microfiche contract was split into two contracts with different time schedules, but by 1984 it had been decided to put everything back into one contract. The single two-year contract awarded in 1985 is the same one that was defaulted on in August 1987, due to deteriorating performance by the contractor (over 40% of the fiche were not passing inspections). No decision has been reached on the appeal filed by this contractor. But he has been exercising his rights under the law as he has bid for subsequent contracts, and he has received no special treatment.

At this point GPO has divided its microfiche orders into eight separate, smaller contracts by publication type. This makes more administrative burden for GPO, but is safer.
The embargoed microfiche (subject of the original contractor's appeal) are being repurchased, even with the continuing protest. Two backlogs are being addressed simultaneously -- the material from the original default, and what has piled up in the months since then. Six of the new contracts are on track and functioning well. GPO had to go to the second or third low bidder on some of these. The two contracts not yet settled are for agency-supplied silvers and for the bound Congressional Record.

PROGRESS REPORT ON 1990 CENSUS

Larry Carbaugh of the Census Bureau staff reported on activities leading up to Census Day: April 1, 1990. Use of automation will make a big difference in mapping for this census and in the processing of completed questionnaires. Approximately seven million maps will be produced. Some functions, such as generating lists of addresses, must still be done manually -- by workers copying addresses in neighborhoods, which are later reviewed by local officials. 1990 Census products will include more subject reports. Although paper and microfiche products will be available for some reports, many more will be produced in electronic formats.

Final decisions on format will be made in the next six to eight months. Census is interested in feedback from users. Will CD-ROM be an acceptable format for 1990 Census data? Should it be the only product or should some of this data also be available in microfiche? Which microfiche products from the 1980 Census were most useful?

OVERVIEW OF THE OTA REPORT

Prue Adler of the OTA staff discussed the background and contents of Informing the Nation: Federal Information Dissemination in an Electronic Age (Y 3.T 22/2:2 In 3/9). Prepared at the request of the JCP and several other Congressional Committees, this report presents information, analysis and options for the consideration of Congress. The Federal Government is already going beyond print and looking to electronic formats as a way to save money and be more efficient. But further action by Congress or the Executive Branch is needed to insure that these new formats will be available through the depository library program. Keeping to the status quo of only paper and microfiche distribution to depositories will cause a continued erosion in public access to information. Test projects and demonstrations are needed. Also needed will be new funding methods to maintain the principle of free access. The new technology may impose unrealistic financial burdens on libraries. Congress can't continue to underwrite multiple formats and must make some hard decisions soon. The issues in this report are crucial for the future of the depository program.

UPDATE FROM THE LPS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Jan Erickson, ITP Manager, reported that Census Test Disk No. 2 has been distributed to 143 test libraries. Most report that they have been able to use it successfully. No damage has been reported in shipping.
distribution to all other depositories is scheduled for November. Questionnaires are being sent to the test libraries to solicit information on CD-ROM equipment being used and comments on the information package that accompanies the disk.

Ms. Erickson stated that all depositories will need CD-ROM equipment in the next few years. "Stage distribution", as has been used with the Census disk, helps GPO by shifting some of the burden of providing user assistance from GPO to test libraries, who share their experiences with other libraries. The role of assisting users is an unfamiliar one for GPO, since it has not been necessary with paper or fiche documents.

Programs are being written to produce shipping lists on a PC and the system should be implemented some time this winter. GPO has purchased a CD-ROM publishing system. This will allow them to pre-master (produce tapes for) CD-ROM products in-house. The first in-house project will be a test disk of selected CFR titles. No release date has been set for this test disk. It will provide an opportunity to enhance an established print product, using GPO's retrieval software and some from the Federal Register Office (which they may have to pay to use). If you have comments or suggestions, contact Donna Thomas, Chief of GPO's Database Development Section (202) 275-3231.

Jack Isemann of the Office of Innovation and Development described a GPO pilot project currently underway involving broadcast transmission of the Federal Register tapes. Currently, nine sites in the D.C. area are receiving the text of the Federal Register before it is printed, via an FM signal. Computer tapes (prior to final text-editing) are sent over dial-up lines from Washington, D.C. to a host computer in California, then back to an FM radio station in D.C. and on to test sites. The project began with an unsolicited proposal from a private vendor and will end in November or January. The broadcast mode test will be evaluated to see what potential it has as a new means of disseminating government information.

GLEANINGS...

(The following items were discussed during the reading of the Spring Recommendations and Responses, and in the Open Forum session)

1. Area Wage Surveys from the Bureau of Labor Statistics are all being changed back to paper.

2. GPO is still having a problem with the microfiche contract for agency-supplied silver masters. There are 10,000 fiche in this backlog, including such things as JPRS, FBIS, and NASA materials.

3. Microfiche shipments are going out again. Libraries will be receiving a mixture of current and backlog materials. The contract for reprocurement of the embargoed fiche runs until April 30, 1989 and it is hoped that all of this backlog will be cleared up by then. [Important note: Distribution of the backlogged fiche will be made under current (effective 10-1-88) item selections. Libraries that switched item selections for dual-format items from
microfiche to paper in the last year update cycle should check microfiche shipping lists carefully. They will need to claim the retrospective fiche and should indicate on their claims that they formerly selected those items numbers. Reportedly, this affects only a few libraries but could cause problems.

4. Following the success of the first Interagency Depository Seminar, a second one will be held in April 1989. Sign-up will be in January and will be announced in Administrative Notes. Preference will be given to librarians from outside the D.C. area.

5. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission decisions have been distributed to depositories by Information Handling Services, but not the subject index, which is produced by IHS and costs $380.00 per year. JCP will check on whether subject indexing was included in the agreement they approved between EEOC and IHS.

6. The Spring Council meeting will be held in Pittsburgh, March 8-10, 1989. (Note: Only 4 or 5 of the 125 attendees at the Fall meeting were law librarians. These informative meetings are well worth the time and effort; think about attending one!)

7. Bernadine Hoduski reported on a prediction from the paper industry that within five years, all paper will be acid free.

8. A one-day meeting for librarians of regional depositories preceded the Council meeting. Pat Berger, ALA President-Elect, gave the keynote address. Among the topics discussed was an inventory being done of Congressional hearings and prints using the CIS Indexes. This study will produce a list of publications never microfiched by GPO, in hopes that GPO can go back and fiche them.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Joe Cannon, Assistant Public Printer for Financial Policy and Planning, discussed the GPO appropriation for FY '89. The FY '90 budget request is now being finalized. GPO is requesting funds for paper distribution of the Congressional Record and for electronic distribution.

The appropriation for Sales and Expenses in the Superintendent of Documents increased approximately two per cent from FY '88 to FY '89, although a larger increase had been requested. Out of this appropriation, the depository library program takes a lion’s share (84%). The Superintendent of Documents’ travel budget is strictly limited to $117,000. Mr. Cannon announced that GPO has agreed to use available funds to provide the bound Congressional Record in paper to depositories for the years 1983-85 and to ask Congress for continuing funds to continue paper distribution for 1986 and future years.

SUMMARY OF DLC RECOMMENDATIONS

(full text to be published in Administrative Notes)

Commendations

1. Thanks the resigning Public Printer for furthering communication between libraries and GPO.
2. Praises GPO for efforts to improve hiring of new inspectors, for recent increases in the number of inspections, and for new inspection booklets.

3. Thanks GPO for agreeing to provide the bound edition Congressional Record for 1983-85 in paper and for seeking continuing funds for paper distribution for 1986 and succeeding years.

Recommendations

1. Convey Council's appreciation to the Archivist of the United States for including GPO's printed archives in the new Center for Legislative Archives. Encourage National Archives to make this collection more visible and accessible.

2. Asks marketing to develop posters for placement in non-depository libraries which would promote the depository program and direct users to the nearest depository.

3. Requests that a status report on ACSIS be presented at the Spring Council meeting. [Note: ACSIS is the much discussed online record database planned to replace LPS' manual files, with the capability to trace each publication on the system from print order to distribution.]

4. Urges the Information Technology Program at LPS to keep track of electronic products produced by federal agencies and to try to get them into the Depository Library Program.

5. Asks that Council members receive the final report of the Depository User Study by 1-30-89 (it is due at GPO by 12-31-88) and that a summary be included in Administrative Notes. Also asks that all depositories receive a copy of the report when published.

6. Asks GPO to investigate the status of reports missing from depository distribution, specifically those listed in an article by Sears and Lewis (Government Publications Review, Vol. 15, p.323-41) and report findings in Administrative Notes.

7. Suggests that LPS distribute braille publications under the same item number as non-braille editions of the same title.

8. Suggests that LPS try to identify significant titles which should be sent to all depositories, by developing a cooperative system with the Sales Program and other appropriate GPO officers.

9. Acknowledges the efforts of the LPS Acquisitions Unit and suggests that additional professional librarians be hired so that the Acquisitions Unit can efficiently track down and acquire executive agency publications for depository distribution.

10. Encourage the LPS Acquisitions Unit to develop alternative methods for acquiring publications when agencies fail to provide copies for depository distribution.
11. Suggests that GPO explore other methods of distributing titles designated for microfiche distribution if they aren’t suitable for conversion to conventional microfiche (because they’re oversize, contain maps, are in color, etc.)

12. Asks LPS to see if distribution policies that apply to regional libraries can also be made to apply to shared regionals.

13. Asks that funds be made available to send LPS staff members to meetings of major library associations, such as ALA and AALL, both to represent GPO and for their own professional development.

14. Asks for support of a request by regional depository librarians to hold a workshop in Fall 1989 before the regular DLC meeting. Also requests that Council members be included in the workshop.

15. Suggests that future Fall Council meetings be held the third week of October.

Sally Holterhoff

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International Documents

This bibliography will focus on recent international publications published by the World Bank and the World Health Organization.

The World Bank, which is owned by 152 countries, consists of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA). Its purpose is to promote social and economic progress in developing countries. The World Bank studies and analyzes economic and social data to help understand the development process. The bank offers its publications for sale through distributors. To order publications, list the stock number, author and title, quantity and unit price. The address is World Bank, Publications Department 0552, Washington, D.C. 20073-0552.

Recent releases include:

The World Health Organization was established in 1948 as a specialized agency of the United Nations. WHO exists to protect and promote health in 166 different countries. The functions of WHO are to coordinate research on major diseases; collect data; and provide information and counsel on health matters. Books and periodicals are listed in the "World Health Organization Catalogue." WHO publications may be obtained direct or through authorized sales agents. In the United States, copies of individual publications, not subscriptions, are available from WHO Publications Center USA, 49 Sheridan Ave., Albany, NY 12210. Subscription orders and correspondence concerning subscriptions should be addressed to the World Health Organization, Distribution and Sales, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland. Publications are also available from the United Nations Bookshop, New York, NY 10017 (retail only). The catalog states that prices are subject to change without notice and do not include local taxes.

Recent releases include:


World Health Statistics Annual 1987. 455 p. ISBN 92 4 067870 0. $54.00.

Veronica Maclay

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CALL FOR CONTESTANTS AND COLLABORATORS

GDSIS is sponsoring a program at the Reno convention unlike any you have attended and you can help to make it special. "Betting on a Sure Thing: Using Government Documents in Legal Research" (a working title subject to change is we get a catchier name) will be a game show that emphasizes the importance of government documents in legal research and highlights the special skills and knowledge that documents librarians bring to legal research.

You can be a part of this unique program in one of two ways (but not both, for reasons that will be obvious). You can:
1) **Volunteer to be a contestant.** We are looking for the stars of documents/law librarianship, those fact- and fun-filled librarians who will be in the spotlight and on the firing line. The details are still being worked out, but we expect to have several teams of 3-4 people each. You may volunteer as an individual or several people may volunteer as a unit.

2) **Submit questions.** We will need lots of questions for our eager contestants. To be fair, the questions must be within the reach of an experienced documents librarian. A few examples: What was the official name of the Tower Commission? What does "HRD" identify in the SuDoc number on some General Accounting Office reports? In what 3 sources can you find the text of Presidential proclamations?

For more information, potential contestants and question developers should contact Cheryl Nyberg, University of Illinois Law Library, 504 E. Pennsylvania, Champaign, IL 61820. (217) 244-3044.

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**AALL GRANTS PROGRAM**

The American Association of Law Libraries is once again sponsoring its Grants Program, in anticipation of the 1989 Annual Meeting. At the request of the AALL Grants Committee, the grant application form is included at the end of this Newsletter. Further information about this program and another copy of the grant application form is published in the December 1988 AALL Newsletter.

The Grants Program is funded through contributions from law book dealers, publishers, and other friends of AALL. The number of grants and the size of each award varies, depending on the need and the amount of money available in the Program.

It is necessary to be a member of AALL or of an AALL chapter to be eligible to receive a grant. AALL members are given preference. Individuals who have been in the profession of law librarianship longer than five years or individuals who have received a grant in the past are not eligible to apply. Grants are awarded on the basis of: A) proven or potential ability, B) promise of future usefulness and permanence in the law library profession, C) financial need, and D) contributions to the profession.

The deadline for completed applications is March 1, 1989. All those eligible to apply for a grant are encouraged to do so.

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American Association of Law Libraries
Application for Grant - 1989

PURPOSE:
The purpose of the AALL Grants Program is to financially reward librarians who hold promise of future involvement in the law library profession. The Program is administered by the AALL Grants Committee. By a decision of the AALL Executive Board, grants may be used only to support attendance at AALL Annual Meetings. Preference will be given to new, active members of AALL or of an AALL chapter.

QUALIFICATIONS:
An applicant must be a member of the American Association of Law Libraries or of a Chapter of the Association. An applicant who has been a member of AALL for more than five years is disqualified. Prior grant recipients are not eligible to apply. An applicant will not be considered who applies late or who submits an incomplete application.

In the event circumstances prevent the use of the grant by a grant recipient, the award reverts to the Committee for disposition at the discretion of the Chair. If a person does not use the grant, it is then possible for that person to apply in another year.

* * * * * * * * * *
Date: ____________________________

1. Name: ____________________________________________________________

2. Title: ____________________________________________________________

3. Institution/Employer: ______________________________________________

4. Work Address and Phone: __________________________________________

5. Home Address and Phone: _________________________________________

6. Are you a member of AALL? ________ If so, when did you join? ________

7. Are you a member of an AALL Chapter? ________ If so, specify which chapter and state the year you joined. ________________________________________

8. List the years you attended AALL Annual Meetings. __________________

9. List membership on AALL Committees or SIS's (present and past). ______

10. List chapter activities. ______________________________________________

11. Employment in law librarianship (previous places of employment, titles, lengths of service). ____________________________
12. Other relevant employment.

13. Educational background (beyond high school, dates, degrees).

14. What percentage of your Annual Meeting expenses will your employer pay?

15. Estimate transportation expenses (car, airfare).

16. Briefly describe your duties and responsibilities in your current law library position.

17. What is your career goal?

18. How do you feel you will benefit from attendance at this Annual Meeting?

Signature required:
I have not received an AALL grant in the past. If I receive a grant for this Annual Meeting and if for any reason I cannot attend, I shall return the grant money to the Chair of the AALL Grants Committee.

(Applicant's signature)  (Date)

Two letters of recommendation are required and must be sent with your application. It would be helpful if one of these letters could be from a person who supervises your work and who is familiar with your responsibilities and who could include information about your potential contribution to the field of law librarianship and AALL, as well as the need for this award. Preferably, the other letter should be from someone who is not a fellow staff member.

APPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS MUST REACH THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE BY MARCH 1, 1989. APPLICANTS ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSURING THAT ALL INFORMATION NEEDED IS RECEIVED BEFORE THE DEADLINE. IN FAIRNESS TO OTHERS, NO LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED.

Please send the original and ten (10) copies of both this application and your letters of recommendation to:

Carol A. Suhre, Chair
Scholarships and Grants Committee
American Association of Law Libraries
53 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 940
Chicago, Illinois 60604

ALSO ENCLOSE A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE AND A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED POSTCARD TO BE USED TO NOTIFY YOU THAT YOUR APPLICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND OF THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION.