LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The Government Documents Special Interest Section (GD/SIS) meeting at New Orleans will be on Tuesday July 23, from 5:45 to 7:15 P.M. It will be a dinner meeting. If you plan on attending and want to have the dinner, you need to send your money to headquarters in Chicago. In the convention booklet, the main registration form has a place to check off if you want to buy the dinner. The money can be sent in then with the registration for the convention. The meal is being subsidized by the SIS, as it was last year, even though the price seems high.

About some of the projects that are going on in the SIS: the indexing of JURISDOCS continues to make progress although the individuals who are doing the work have changed. Mary Shearer and Faye Couture are now working on this project and hope to finish it by convention time.

An ad hoc committee has been established to set forth proposals for spending part of the GD/SIS money on annual travel grants for the members. The committee consists of Carol Moody and Dorie Bertram. If you have any suggestions on what meetings should be considered for grants, how much the grants should be, or any other points that should be considered in developing this idea, please contact Carol or Dorie. Hopefully, the proposal will be available in time to appear in the final JURISDOCS before the convention so that it can be considered at the annual meeting.

Two more updated versions of state bibliographies are completed and have been sent to the Publication Committee to be included in the AALL State Bibliography series. They are:


Guide to New Mexico State Publications, compiled by Patricia Wagner and Mary Woodward, University of New Mexico School of Law Library.

Lastly, the candidates for next year's officers are:

For Vice-Chair / Chair-Elect:
Marsha Baum, University of Connecticut School of Law Library, Hartford, Connecticut
Virginia Wise, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Appeal for GD/SIS Volunteers pull-out
For Secretary / Treasurer:
Carol Moody, St. Louis University
Law Library, St. Louis, Missouri
William Walker, Vanderbilt University,
Nashville, Tennessee
Ballots and biographies will go out in
April with a return date of May 30th.

FROM THE EDITORS

This issue contains a summary of
activities at the Spring 1991 meeting of the
Depository Library Council. Thanks to
Susan Tulis for the very thorough review.
Also appearing is a description of ALIX, the
Automated Library Information eXchange
operated by FLICC/FEDLINK, a report on
Project Hermes use, and the continuing
column Recent Publications.

Wider distribution of JURISDOCS to
interested and influential parties outside of
AALL is increasing our visibility. Jack Sulzer
mentioned the GD/SIS and JURISDOCS in
his “Regional, State, and Local News” col-
umn in the latest issue of Government Pub-
lications Review (vol. 18, page 218).

The deadline for issue number 3 is
June 16th. As always, we encourage read-
ers to submit material for the newsletter.
Have you updated a library reference guide
on finding and updating federal regulations?
Send it to JURISDOCS. Have you agonized
for hours over the CONGRESSIONAL REC-
ORD CD-ROM? Share your insights with
your colleagues through JURISDOCS. Are
you accessing an interesting electronic bul-
letin board? Describe it in JURISDOCS.
Bibliographies, reviews, letters to the edi-
tors, unsolved reference questions—all are
suitable fodder for your newsletter.

As we have mentioned before, we
would like to receive your writings on a disk,
if possible (this saves us a great deal of
time). We can now process 5 1/4 and 3 1/2
inch disks, in either Macintosh or DOS for-
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mat, and in any density. If you send a DOS
disk please save your file(s) in either Word
Perfect or generic ASCII. If you send a
Macintosh disk please save your file(s) in
McWrite, McWrite II, Word, or text.

ALIX

by Cheryl Nyberg
University of Illinois Law Library

WELCOME TO ALIX....

	 --> AUTOMATED
	 --> LIBRARY
	 --> INFORMATION
	 --> XCHANGE

Advice, opinion, and software by and for
librarians

ALIX is a Service of FLICC/FEDLINK:
The Federal Library and Information Center
Network

Running TBBS Ver. 2.1M on 4 lines
Available 24 hrs, 7 days
Voice Phone: (202) 707-6454
Sysop: Erik Delfino

I first learned about ALIX from a item
in the May 1990 issue of the FEDLINK
Technical Notes (LC1.32/5). The article de-
scribed the addition of the newsletters from
the General Accounting Office and the
Council of Navy Scientific and Technical Li-
brarians to the electronic newsletters file of
ALIX. Also given was basic information
about the BBS, including hours of availabil-
ity, phone number, parameters (1200 or
2400 baud, 8 data bits, no parity, and 1 stop
bit), and the phone number of a contact
person.

At about the same time, I read some-
where about the CMBLS: Catalog of Microcomputer Based Library Software. Responding to my request for a printed copy, Mr. Delfino provided directions for accessing and downloading the catalog from ALIX. I signed onto the system, registered, and tried (unsuccessfully, though the fault lies with me and not the system) to download the catalog. Failing to achieve my main goal, I exited and did not sign on again until late February, when in preparing for this issue of JURISDOCS I mentioned to a colleague that I was looking for information on government-operated bulletin board systems. My helpful colleague mentioned that Mr. Delfino at FEDLINK maintained such a list. Another call to him confirmed that the list was available on ALIX.

The list, reproduced below, was retrieved by maneuvering through several menus. The main menu offers the following choices:

[N]ews— The Latest on ALIX
[B]ulletins— Articles, Job Postings, Directories, Etc.
[E]mail— Person-to-Person Electronic Mail
[C]onferences— Public Messages and Info Exchange
[Q]uick Scan— Brief Listings of Recent Messages
[S]can Headers— Longer Summary of Messages
[R]ead— ALL Conference Messages Combined
[F]iles— Downloadable Text and Program Files
[U]tilities— Useful Extras & Goodies!
[H]elp!— Guides to Using ALIX
[G]oodbye— End This Session and Logoff

To get to the list of government BBSs, I selected C for conferences; then from the next menu, O for online; and finally, B for bulletins, at which point I could choose among several BBS lists, including library BBSs, Washington, DC BBSs, or the sought-after government BBSs.

I found ALIX very easy to use. Mov-

ing between files was effortless.

The following list identifies fifty government-operated bulletin board systems. With the exception of the Department of Commerce's Economic Bulletin Board (the subject of one of GPO's pilot projects), all of the systems offer free, public access. Some systems can be reached by more than one number (lines 1 and 2). Mr. Delfino updates the list three or four times a year; he encourages colleagues to alert him to new (or newly discovered) government bulletin boards. Several of the BBSs may be of interest to law librarians, including the FDIC BBS, the JAG NET, the FCC Public Access Link, and the NCJRS (described elsewhere in this article).

[Taken From ALIX, February 28, 1991]

Selected List of Federal Government Bulletin Board Systems
October 1990

State   System Name                  Modem Lines
        Agency
AL      NASA SpaceLink               Line 1: 205–895–0028
        Natl. Aeronautics & Space Admin.
CO      NIST ACTS                    Line 1: 303–494–4775
        Natl. Institute of Standards & Tech.
CO      NOAA MASC Library BBS        Line 1: 303–497–5848
        NOAA
CO      Space Environment Laboratory BBS Line 1: 303–497–5000
        NOAA
DC      ADA Information Center BBS   Line 1: 202–694–0215
        Line 2: 301–459–3865
        Department of Defense
DC Automated Library Info eXchange
  Line 1: 202–707–9656
  Fedl Library & Info Ctr Committee

DC Commerce Department BBS
  Line 1: 202–377–1423
  Department of Commerce

DC DC Government BBS
  Line 1: 202–727–6668
  District of Columbia

DC DC Info Exchange
  Line 1: 202–433–6639
  US Navy

DC Economic BBS
  Line 1: 202–377–0433
  Line 2: 202–377–3870
  Department of Commerce

DC Education/OERI BBS
  Line 1: 202–357–6011
  Line 2: 800–222–4922
  Department of Education

DC EIA BBS
  Line 1: 202–586–8658
  Energy Information Administration

DC Exit Bank RBBS
  Line 1: 202–566–4699
  Export Import Bank of the US

DC Export License Status Advisor
  Line 1: 202–697–6109
  Department of Defense

DC FDIC BBS
  Line 1: 202–371–9578
  Fed. Deposit Insurance Corp.

DC Fed. Highway Adminstration BBS
  Line 1: 202–366–3764
  Department of Transportation

DC FERC–CIPS
  Line 1: 202–208–1397
  Fed. Energy Regulatory Commission

DC GSA–IRSC
  General Services Administration

DC JAG Net
  Line 1: 202–325–0748
  US Navy Judge Advocate General

DC MetroNet
  Line 1: 202–475–7543
  US Army Military District of DC

DC MINES Data System
  Line 1: 202–634–4637
  US Bureau of Mines

DC Minority Impact BBS
  Line 1: 292–586–1561
  Department of Energy

DC NADAP BBS
  Line 1: 202–693–3831
  US Navy Drug/Alcohol Abuse Program

DC NAMARA JAG Net
  Line 1: 202–889–9214
  US Navy Judge Advocate General

DC NASA HQ Info Technology Center
  Line 1: 202–453–9008
  NASA

DC Naval Observatory (1200/E/7/1)
  Line 1: 202–653–1079
  US Naval Observatory

DC Science Resource Studies
  Line 1: 202–634–1764
  National Science Foundation

DC Washington Navy Yard Info Center
  Line 1: 202–475–7885
  US Navy NARDAC

MD ALF–Agricultural Library Forum
  Line 1: 301–334–8510
  Line 2: 301–344–8511
  National Agricultural Library
**1991 DEPOSITORY LIBRARY COUNCIL MEETING**

by Susan E. Tulis
University of Virginia
Law School Library

The Spring 1991 Depository Library Council Meeting was held in Boston, on April 17–19, 1991. A large portion of this meeting was devoted to a discussion of the restructuring of Council, as represented by Council’s output from this meeting.

**THE PUBLIC PRINTER**

Mr. Houk, Public Printer, began by announcing new GPO staff: Nancy Guiden, Legislative Affairs; Judy Russell, Information Dissemination Policy; and Wayne Kelly, Superintendent of Documents. Mr. Kelly was sworn in on Monday, April 15 and previously was a manager, executive editor, and then publisher of *Congressional Quarterly*. GPO had a hearing with the JCP in January to discuss the recommendations put forth in the Sept. 1990 GAO Report. Two action plans have been presented to
the JCP: one, to implement the GAO recommendations and two, to deal with operational and procedural improvements to congressional printing. Mr. Houk mentioned Jamie Love's proposal which would establish the Online Window to government information through the GPO. The concept reflects the fundamental intent of GPO's statutory mission. Even so, it is a very ambitious project and Mr. Houk looks forward to its development. Plans for the modernization of Title 44 in this Congress are unclear. The Public Printer is working with the Librarian of Congress and the National Archivist as required by the "Permanent Papers of the United States: Preservation" (Public law 101-423) to monitor the federal government's progress in implementing the national policy that "Federal records, books and publications of enduring value be produced on acid free permanent papers". An interagency agreement has been made with NTIS for procuring microfiche for the International Exchange Program. GPO is looking into establishing a program whereby out of print GPO Sales material go to NTIS. In response to two Council recommendations from the Fall, Mr. Houk summarized the General Counsel's opinion on cost sharing:

In summary, we have concluded that under existing law, depository library patrons cannot be asked to pay a fee to access government publications provided through the Depository Library Program. To the extent that depository libraries wish to provide their patrons with government information which is supplemental to the information furnished through the program, GPO will not bear that cost.

Furthermore, it is our opinion that when a federal agency publishes a government publication exclusively in an electronic format, the agency is responsible for the costs of furnishing access to the data base and GPO is obligated to pay the costs of conveying that government information to the depository libraries in an electronic format or in such other format(s) as may be produced and made available under the program. This would include the payment of telecommunication costs for the transmission of online publications when published only in that format. However, such obligation may be limited, and must be viewed in the context of available funds and program priorities, as determined by the GPO, the JCP and the congressional appropriations committees.

DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM

Bonnie Trivizas, LPS Director, reported that these are good times for the Depository Library Program (DLP). The combination of talent and willingness to work is a first for the GPO. Bonnie then went on to talk about the DLP. The DLP is the mechanism by which government publications are made available to the public and there are no limitations placed on the subject matter for the DLP. But there are limitations. We need to keep in mind that publications are not produced for dissemination through the DLP; they are produced for other reasons. The concept of equality and how it is played out through the DLP was discussed by Ms. Trivizas. There are two types of equity: 1) equity of delivery – publications are made available equally to all depository libraries (notion of selectivity) and 2) equity of service – relationship between the depository library and its patrons. Ideally, the end user should receive the same caliber of access, regardless of which depository library they use. But we all know that is not true. If equity of service is a goal, no one has figured out how to attain it. There have always been inequities, even with the advent of microfiche. The issue of "equity of service" has resurfaced with electronic information. Lastly, Bonnie talked
about the concept of compensation – what is it, what is GPO’s role? Two concrete examples: 1) community has a desire for multiple formats when they are available to compensate for the differences in libraries abilities and 2) the need to compensate for differences in products – some CDs come with software, some don’t. There have been suggestions that GPO compensate for the short-comings in agency products. While there is nothing in the legislative history of the DLP requiring compensation, there is nothing in the legislative history prohibiting it. Is it appropriate?

CATALOGING UPDATE

Gil Baldwin gave the Cataloging Update for Laurie Hall. There are now twenty-one catalogers at GPO. Two specialist positions have been created: descriptive cataloging, and computer needs of the catalogers. One cataloger has been assigned to assist with the electronic bulletin board. Although GPO cataloging is up 39% for the first 6 months of this fiscal year, there is still a backlog of around 11,000 items. The productivity increases are a result of the use of abridged cataloging and the completion of breaking in and training of the new catalogers. GPO installed the OCLC Prism system at the end of March and they hope it will increase productivity and improve the cataloging quality. Their cataloging equipment are presently being upgraded. The success of the abridged cataloging project has led GPO to include ERIC microfiche in the project. An agency-wide working group is preparing a feasibility study and cost/benefit analysis of five product options for issuing and disseminating cataloging information. The 5 options are paper, microfiche, tapes, CD-ROM, and online. No changes in the printed version of the Monthly Catalog are expected at this time. Now it turns out that some people actually want the availability records that GPO has tried so hard to get rid of on the GPO tapes!

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Jane Bartlett, Information Technology Program, stressed that her responsibility is at the operation level, not the policy level. She has been focusing her activities on three things: 1) completing and evaluating the pilot projects (July ’91 is the ending date for all pilots); 2) developing a framework; and 3) strategies for managing information technology within the resources allocated. In terms of acquisitions, Jane assured us that GPO is not just idly sitting by. They are pursuing items, and they know there are a lot of things out there that aren’t in the program. But it is very costly to go one on one to obtain products.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION ISSUES ROUND TABLE

A large portion of Wednesday afternoon was spent trying out a new discussion format – the Government Information Issues Round Table. The entire audience was divided up into four groups, each discussing a different topic. A synopsis of the issue, as well as various questions were given to each group. At the end of the allotted time, the designated leader gave a summary of what was discussed. Most felt this new format worked well, but the groups needed the synopsis and questions earlier in the day, to have a longer time to think about it before the discussions actually began. The issues were:

A. DLP within NREN. Should NREN include all depository libraries or just some? How will smaller depositories participate? With networks are already in place, how do we educate ourselves and our users? Do we need to work with the infrastructure already in place? Are we premature? Maybe it is possible to bypass GPO altogether.

B. Restructuring. One subgroup talked about the overall structure of DLP and how it works in terms of electronic infor-
mation. Maybe it is time to revise Title 44 since it is inefficient in the way it is working now, and we don’t have the same users. How would we handle a system of super regionals? How would they work across state lines?

The other subgroup came to no consensus. They felt training was needed, but who would do it? They felt GPO should serve a coordinating role. They were also not happy with the current situation in terms of software and felt that a basic level of software was needed with each product, as well as user manuals.

C. Formats. This group focused mainly on CD-ROM, but realized there will be other formats in the future. All members felt uncomfortable about adjusting to an electronic depository library. They talked mainly about coping mechanisms. Should you have experts on certain products, or does everyone have to know every product?

D. Cost sharing. Even with the General Counsel’s opinion, there are still great concerns about costs, especially telecommunications cost for online access. It was felt that GPO should serve as a central broker with agencies to negotiate special rates on our behalf. Some suggestions that were made: have some free time available that would be divided equally among libraries and beyond that each library pays; pay one flat fee for access to a service; have a choice between basic and non-basic services; have some libraries serve as a resource for other libraries. Realize that some libraries will be left out. Maybe libraries aren’t needed at all – GPO could transmit government information to televisions (through cable).

FUGITIVE DOCUMENTS ISSUES
Sheila McGarr and Dave Brown did a presentation on fugitive documents issues. Some causes for this problem are: agency does not provide adequate information for requisition, GPO doesn’t order adequate numbers, mis-shipments, GPO lack of internal and external coordination. Some methods for correcting this problem are: internal reorganization of GPO, revising the publications request form, meeting with JCP, working with regional printing plants. Nine problem areas have been identified and GPO is working through them one step at a time.

AUTOMATION UPDATE
Gil Baldwin gave the LPS Automation Update. GPO has been decentralizing their computers from mainframes to individual desks. In 1986 they had no personal computers; in 1991 they have fifty. ACSIS development has been underway since 1983 and Phase 1 (acquisitions and classification subsystem) is to be done by May 1991. GPO’s advances in automation provide benefits to the depository libraries, such as: automating GPO’s shelflist which will reduce duplicates, using the same class numbers for two different documents, and help with the fugitive documents problem; decrease the backlogs; alleviate the cross wiring problem in the lighted bin system (system enhancement probably won’t take place until FY ’92); changing the DDIS output – now only Y’s will be printed on the item selection printout, no N’s; generation of the paper shipping lists. GPO hopes to have the LPS LAN up in FY ’93 to link all these PC’s. In terms of the FDLP/BB (Bulletin Board), dial up dissemination was chosen because 1) the mechanism allows for timely initiation, and 2) it allows full range of participation by libraries. There are three phases to the FDLP/BB: a) downloadable program administrative information such as corrections to the Monthly Catalog, instructions, etc.; b) test the interactive electronic mail system to regionals; and c) expand to all libraries.

PRESENTATIONS
Four presentations were given at this council meeting. Brian Kahin, Harvard University, talked about NREN and its potentials and limitations for libraries. Bill Sudduth, University of Richmond, discussed
the results of a survey he conducted on private academic libraries in the DLP. Pat McGlammery, University of Connecticut, spoke about the electronic library from a map librarian's perspective. Donna Koepp, University of Kansas, updated us on the TIGER Pilot Project.

**RESTRUCTURING OF COUNCIL**

Mr. Houk is not happy with the current structure of the DLC meetings. He does not feel he is utilizing this body effectively. The structure of the meetings doesn't establish the depth and richness of inquiry, and GPO is not reaching the totality of the depository library community and the government information community. As a result, Mr. Houk is proposing to institute a new plan. First, there will be working meetings of the Council in Washington, DC (at least twice a year, maybe more), to critique policy options as they come up. The issues to be discussed will be planned by GPO in consultation with DLC. The meetings will be open to observers and the results will be published. In addition GPO will hold an annual open meeting, in the Spring in Washington, DC, in conjunction with National Legislative Day. This will be very similar to the meeting you have been used to attending – there will be an in-depth agenda with briefings and updates from GPO, Congress, the federal publishing community and other information communities; open forums, and working sessions. The other part of the plan is to enhance GPO staff participation at national and state library association meetings, and an increased emphasis on GPO outreach. Mr Houk feels that this new structure will do four things: 1) enhance the advisory capability of DLC; 2) expand opportunities for interchange between the depository library community and other elements of the government information community; 3) expand presence of GPO officials at key library association meetings; and 4) increase GPO outreach at state library meetings. Mr. Houk feels that the challenges we face today require more interaction which is vital to the future of the DLP. “Benefits come with changes.”

**OPEN FORUM**

A large portion of Open Forum was spent on discussing this new structure. Highlights of the discussions:

* concern about the lack of movement around the country.
* glad to have more interaction between GPO staff and the depository library community.
* concern about less interaction between DLC and the depository library community.
* no mention of the regional meeting – must be an oversight in GPO’s plan.
* concern that in hard budget times, the travel budget is the first to go.
* concern that there will be limited seating capability at the fall DLC meeting.

agendas need to be set far in advance of meeting so the library community can contact DLC members.
* GPO can only split themselves so far, they have certain expertise, all can't attend all meetings.
* may be competing with other staff to attend Spring meeting in held during same time as national Legislative Day.

As a result of this proposed change and the follow-up discussion, Council did not write recommendations on specific issues which has been previous practice. Instead, Council drafted comments to Mr. Houk about his proposed plan.


Section I. Introduction

The DLC is confident that the Spring 1991 meeting marks the onset of a revitali-
zation and enhancement of its advisory role to the Public Printer.

The DLC supports the Public Printer's plans to redirect the efforts of the Council to maximize its advisory capacity. Council looks forward to improved communications among GPO, library organizations, and government information providers and users.

To achieve this objective, the Council strongly urges that the annual depository conference not be restricted to the Washington, DC area. The current meeting structure provides an opportunity for the depository community as a whole to convene for discussion of matters of common concern. One way in which Council meetings have provided an opportunity for wider input has been through the location of its meetings in different places throughout the country. Council is concerned that if all the meetings are in the Washington, DC area, the opportunity for many to participate will be lost. Accordingly, Council believes that the annual Depository Library Conference should be held in other parts of the country at least every other year.

Additionally, Council will assist in the development of appropriate mechanisms to ensure communications between the depository library community and the Public Printer.

We welcome this opportunity to be more involved in the development of the policy decision-making process as it relates to the dissemination of and access to federal government information.

Section II. DLC Role and Responsibilities

A. In accepting the new directions set forth by the Public Printer, Council believes that addressing policy issues which reflect the diversity of the users of the Federal DLP is its major challenge.

To this end, Council's advisory role should be:

1) to assist the Public Printer in defining and focusing on policy issues faced by the DLP;
2) to critique policy options as they are developed; and
3) to review and evaluate implementation of those options.

B. In addition, Council recognizes its responsibility to consult with the depository library community and the Government Printing Office to address operational concerns and problems.

C. The DLC also recognizes its role in assisting GPO in setting the agendas for future Annual Depository Library Conferences and Advisory Council meetings.

D. These and other tasks will be accomplished, in cooperation with Council, by coordinating committees such as:

1) policy
2) operations
3) program

E. To foster communications among the GPO, DLC and the depository library community, Council suggest the formation of a new Administrative Notes column for the Operations Committee.

Section III. Issues for Continuing Consultation Between the Public Printer and the DLC

The following are policy issues critical to the depository library community. These are offered as potential agenda items for future Council meetings.

1. The strategic plan for the GPO.
2. Legislative proposals for the modernization of the GPO.
3. Online information for the DLP and attendant policy issues, including but not limited to databases to be directly available from GPO, agency databases via a GPO gateway, and cost sharing.
4. Relationship of GPO and depository libraries to the NREN.
5. Fugitive information, including "no cost to the government" contracts that result in publications not distributed to depository libraries.
6. Restrictions on the use of government information, including licensing, user fees, and other restrictions.
7. Formats in which Federal government information is distributed through the DLP.
8. Restructuring of the DLP.
9. Preservation issues—e.g., retention of masters for CD's and microforms.
10. Programs for public awareness of the DLP (marketing).

NOTE: The new Operations Committee consists of Gary Cornwell, University of Florida, Gainesville; Susan Tulis, University of Virginia Law Library; and Juli Hinz, University of Utah.

WHO USES PROJECT HERMES?

by Susan Lewis-Somers
Yale Law School Library

In June 1990 the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it would conduct a two-year pilot test called "Project Hermes" during which it would release its opinions in an electronic format, simultaneous with their release in the traditional paper format, to twelve information oriented organizations chosen by the Court. These organizations included legal publishers, news wire services, an academic online consortium, and the U.S. Government Printing Office. GPO was included as a participant to ensure that all members of the public would have access to Project Hermes opinions through the Depository Library Program.

GPO inaugurated its Project Hermes Bulletin Board on November 1, 1990, when it made the system available to regional and law depositories as beta test sites and announced that Court opinions would be available within eight hours of their release. After receiving generally favorable responses from these libraries, GPO expanded Hermes' availability to include all federal depository libraries in early 1991. Libraries began logging onto Hermes through GPO in fairly sizable numbers once the system was made available to all depositories, although some users complained of an incomprehensible system of user menus and of trouble in downloading opinions.

As GPO has worked to improve the system, it has also compiled reports which chronicle each library's use of Hermes.

GPO maintains a list of libraries and other users who have signed onto Project Hermes through the GPO port and tracks the total amount of time each has used Hermes since initially signing on. As of March 25, 1991, 159 users had signed onto the system and had completed a total of 177 user hours of online time.

It is possible to categorize 154 of these users by type of library or institution, thus allowing an analysis of Hermes use according to these broad categories. Six types of libraries or institutions are identified from the GPO user list: academic law libraries, non-law academic libraries, court libraries (federal and state jurisdictions), state and county libraries (some of which may include libraries serving the courts), other federal governmental institutions (such as GPO, the Federal Reserve Board, and the U.S. Senate Library), and community public libraries.

The following table illustrates this use of Project Hermes by type of institution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Users</th>
<th>Total Min. Used</th>
<th>Aver. Min. Used</th>
<th>% of Total Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Law Libraries</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Non-law Libraries</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>2974</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Libraries</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1330</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State &amp; County Libraries</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3037</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Governmental Entities</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1841</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Libraries</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

154 10469

This statistical breakdown shows that it
is the governmental libraries — the court, state and county, and federal libraries — that are most reliant on Project Hermes through the GPO for quick access to new Supreme Court opinions. The average number of minutes these libraries spent logged onto Hermes — 121, 132, and 142, respectively — are much higher than the average amount of time the other types of libraries spent on Hermes.

At first glance, it may seem surprising that academic law libraries would log in the lowest average use — 24 minutes — of any of these library types. After all, these libraries are in the business of current law. But academic law libraries have a less expensive and easier-to-use form of online access to recent Supreme Court opinions — LEXIS and WESTLAW.

While libraries must pay for the telecommunications charges each time they use Hermes through the GPO, academic law libraries pay no per use charges to search Supreme Court databases on LEXIS and WESTLAW. Thus, academic law libraries may obtain at no charge what they must pay to find through the GPO’s Project Hermes, since these libraries must subscribe to flat-rate educational contracts for LEXIS and WESTLAW, in any event. As a consequence, it is not surprising that the average use time of academic law libraries on Hermes through the GPO is much lower than for other types of libraries without flat-rate educational access to LEXIS and WESTLAW. (Noneducational libraries pay per search charges for LEXIS and WESTLAW.)

In addition, libraries need not rely on the GPO for access to Project Hermes. An alternate node for the direct dissemination of Supreme Court opinions is an academic consortium consisting of Case Western Reserve University, the National Public Telecomputing Network, and EDUCOM, and accessible through Bitnet or the Internet. Like the LEXIS and WESTLAW educational contracts, access to Hermes through Bitnet or the Internet costs the user nothing for each search. Thus, libraries at universities and other institutions with access to Bitnet or the Internet may not have any inclination to use Hermes through the GPO.

In the end, it will be those libraries without access to Bitnet or the Internet or to LEXIS and WESTLAW educational rates that will be the greatest users of Project Hermes through the GPO. For them, online telecommunications charges to the GPO will continue to be less expensive than the commercial online alternatives that offer access to current Supreme Court opinions.

If these assumptions are correct, what does this mean for the patrons of those depository libraries that choose to forego access to Project Hermes through the GPO? Will the public be given access to online Supreme Court decisions without the public access mandate inherent in the use of the GPO’s Hermes? Should the GPO provide a less expensive option for depository libraries that have access to Bitnet or the Internet, in addition to the existing and more costly dial-up form of access? These are issues that depository libraries and the GPO will have to ponder as electronic government information becomes more readily available from both public and private sources.

The GPO Project Hermes Bulletin Board may be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling (202) 275–7923. A “help line” is available at (202) 275–2471 and other questions about Project Hermes may be directed to Jane Bartlett, Manager of GPO’s Information Technology Program (ITP), at (202)275–1003.

For information about access to Project Hermes through Bitnet or the Internet, contact Tom Grundner at Case Western Reserve University, Community Telecomputing Lab, Room 319 Wickendon, Cleveland, OH 44106 at (216) 368–2733 or via Internet at AA584@CLEVELAND.FREENET.EDU or via Bitnet at AA584%CLEVELAND.FREENET@CUNYVM.
Recent Publications

Compiled by Cheryl Nyberg
University of Illinois Law Library


Recommends that federal agencies compile subject indexes of decisions "so as to afford citizens information useful in dealing with the agencies and to assist the development of agency standards and policies on general issues and recurring questions," that the indexes "be designed for effective and efficient use" and "readily available," and that computer technology be used to "promote accessibility and reduce costs." The text of the recommendation is printed at pages 47-50 and a background paper by Margaret Gilhooley, "The Availability of Decisions and Precedents in Agency Adjudications: The Impact of the Freedom of Information Act Publication Requirements" appears at pages 545-85.


Describes the National Archives and Records Administration's Intergovernmental Records Project, the purpose of which is to "facilitate the exchange of information about government records that have been divided or duplicated through historical accident or that document administratively-divided or parallel functions in our federal system of government" and the use of RLIN's archival cataloging records.


Response to a request by the Joint Committee on Printing for a management review of GPO's printing and procurement operations.


Includes a state-by-state survey of open records laws and court and attorney general opinions on access to electronic records.


Reviews demands on the proposed bulletin board system, expected uses, and anticipated costs for LPS and individual depository libraries.


"Representatives from all three
branches of government and the private sector met to develop a series of recommendations for the management of electronic records in the federal government. Six working groups considered organizational and individual responsibilities, corporate information management, managing electronic records in the office environment, legal and security issues, records management and the design and implementation of electronic information systems, and collection and dissemination of information. Among the recommendations concerning information collection and dissemination:

"Federal information dissemination should involve a balancing of public and private sector roles. The government has the responsibility to ensure that information collected or developed at taxpayers' expense, regardless of format, is available to the public and, where appropriate, is included in dissemination and retention programs." (p. 21)

"The government has the highest responsibility to ensure that information about government policies, procedures, decisions, regulatory proceedings, and other activities is available to the public without hindrance of any sort." (p. 21)

"The Depository Library Program (DLP) must include electronic information formats, to protect the integrity of this avenue of public access. . . . GPO should ensure that the depository libraries are advised of electronic information products and select, subject to availability of funds, items desired for inclusion in the DLP." (p. 22)


Review's the IIA's six principles for public access to state and local information:
1. Availability of Diversity of Sources
   Government laws, regulations, and policies should facilitate public access to government information by encouraging a diversity of sources, including the library community and private sector information industry, to offer or provide access to such information.
2. Right of Access
   Citizens have a right of access to information held by government entities which should only be restricted by enactment of narrowly drawn statutes necessary to protect such specific legitimate interests such as privacy.
3. Access Rights Unaffected by Record Storage Medium
   Laws, regulations, and policies governing public access to government information should apply equally to all information regardless of the media in which it exists.
4. Equal and Timely Access
   Information held by a government entity should be available to all persons on an equal and timely basis in all reproducible media used by the government entity to store or distribute the information.
5. No Monopoly or Copyright-Like Controls
   No person, public or private, should have monopoly control over information held by a government entity, nor should government impose or claim any copyright or other restrictions on the ability of citizens to use and disseminate such information.
6. User Fees: Marginal Costs of Dissemination
   Government should encourage the widest possible dissemination of public information by making it available at a price not to exceed the marginal cost of dissemination.

Popkin, William D. “Judicial Use of


Reprints the full text of Parts I, Overview, and II, Summary of Recommendations, issued by the Committee in April, 1990. Part III, Detailed Analyses of Selected Issues, is not reprinted.


Considers the law, scheduled for repeal in October 1990, which “allows public records custodians in the executive branch, judicial branch, or any political subdivision of the state to provide access to public records by remote electronic means, provided the custodian charges a fee . . . . required to include the direct and indirect costs of providing remote electronic access to records.” Agencies responding to survey unanimously supported reenactment of the law.


"Federal records document the history and intent of public policy and form the basis of our national history. . . . As a direct result of the increased use of computers and especially personal computers by Federal agencies, Federal records of enduring value are increasingly being created and managed in electronic formats. Word processing programs, computer spreadsheets, data base management programs, document imaging, computer–based modeling, electronic mail, and other computer software applications are contributing to the growth of federal electronic records.

An increasing number of government records worthy of preservation for historical purposes will necessarily exist only in electronic formats. The traditional approach of preserving paper documents in a central archives may not be adaptable to electronic records.

Simple physical preservation of electronic records may be inadequate to meet archival needs. Electronic records must be accessible and usable in the future or they may not be worth preserving.”


Reprints nine law review articles, a Congressional Research Service report for Congress on “Sources of Legislative History as Aids to Statutory Construction” (16 pages), and a 1989 Department of Justice report to the Attorney General on “Using and Mis–Using Legislative History: A Re–Evaluation of the Status of Legislative History in Statutory Interpretation” (123 pages).

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**ELECTRONIC STATE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION**

Information from the State Department is now available on a commercial computer service operated by Martin Marietta, the Computer Information Delivery Service (CIDS). Transcripts of press brief-
ings, major speeches, and interviews; travel advisories; foreign policy summaries and fact sheets; treaty actions; key reports to Congress; and full texts of the Dispatch and Background Notes are available.

"CIDS is a delivery system, not a database. Information is offered in a universal computer language which can be downloaded to various software. Features, such as the ability to search data by key words, are provided by private database services. These services could include LEXIS-NEXIS, wire services, and others. Members of the public need only plug into one of these services at home or at their local library to review the information."

CIDS is available Monday–Friday from 6 A.M. to 4 A.M.; Saturday from 6 A.M. to midnight; and Sunday from 7 A.M. to 2 A.M.

The State Department expects that most users of the information on CIDS will be "electronic information and database services that further distribute foreign policy information to their customers."

For further information contact the State Department’s Bureau of Public Affairs, 202–647–8207 or the CIDS Message Center, 703–802–5700. You may request an information packet by leaving a message on the CIDS line. A description of the service appears in Dispatch 2 (March 18, 1991): 203–04.

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GD/SIS OFFICERS & JURISDOCS STAFF

**CHAIRPERSON**
Mary Ann Nelson
Washington University
Freund Law Library
Box 1120, Mudd Law Building
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63130

**PHONE (314) 889-6459**
Fax (314) 889-6493
ABA/net ABA15557

**VICE CHAIR/CHAIR ELECT**
Susan Dow
State University of New York at Buffalo, Amerherst Campus
Charles B. Sears Law Library
John Lord O'Brien Hall
Buffalo, New York 14260
Phone (716) 636-2084
Fax (716) 636-3860

**SECRETARY/TREASURER**
David McFadden
Southwestern University
School of Law Library
675 S. Westmoreland Ave.
Los Angeles, California 90005-2338
Phone (213) 736-6723
Fax (213) 383-1688

**JURISDOCS BUSINESS MANAGER**
Keith Buckley
Indiana University School of Law Library
Bloomington, Indiana 47405
Phone (812) 855-9666
Fax (812) 855-7099

**JURISDOCS EDITORS**
David Batista
Rutgers State University-Camden
School of Law Library
5th & Penn Sts.
Camden, New Jersey 08102
Phone (609) 757-6469
Fax (609) 757-6488

Cheryl Rae Nyberg
University of Illinois Law Library
504 E. Pennsylvania Ave.
Champaign, Illinois 61820
Phone (217) 244-3044
Fax (217) 244-8500
Bitnet AXVUCCN@UICVMC

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