LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

SIS ACTIVITIES

The Government Documents SIS members have been very busy following the successful convention in San Francisco. The five programs which the SIS sponsored or co-sponsored in July were well received (further information about the programs can be found in Carol Moody’s write-up later in this issue).

Veronica Maclay, the new Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, began before the convention to collect program ideas for Boston and was prepared to submit the proposals before the Education Committee’s early deadline. She has provided information on the status of the proposals in this issue. I would like to thank Veronica for her creativity in developing proposals suitable for co-sponsorship with other AALL groups and for her organized approach to preparing the proposals submitted.

Several members of the SIS volunteered to serve on SIS committees this year. This willingness to assist and serve the SIS is important to continued growth and development of the SIS. A list of committees and members is included in this issue. We can always use more volunteers so please contact me if you are interested in serving the SIS in some capacity.

The SIS Executive Committee will be looking at scholarship applications and will be working on the issues raised by the SIS Council in San Francisco (coordination of SIS activities and obtaining needed information from AALL Headquarters). If you would like an application form or more information, contact me.

Emily Carr from George Mason University has volunteered to copy and distribute JURISDOCS to the SIS membership. While we will send our issues to Headquarters for their subscription program, the SIS will continue to handle independently the production for our members.

The State Bibliographies series had no new additions in 1991/92. A volunteer is working on South Carolina. We still need compilers for bibliographies for Alabama, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. If you’re interested or have questions, please contact me.

ISSUES FACING DOCUMENTS LIBRARIANS

There are many issues facing documents librarians, especially federal depository librarians. The changes in GPO personnel, the position of the DLC in the structure of GPO policy-making, the failure of H.R. 5983 in the Senate during the past session, and the GPO proposals for managing budget reductions are all of concern.

The AALL Government Relations Committee is preparing a statement on the

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Letter from the Chairperson p.55
From the Editor p.57
Letters to the Editor p.57
Volunteers p.57
GD/SIS Business Meeting #1 p.58
GD/SIS Business Meeting #2 p.61
San Francisco Programs:
  Gov. Docs. in Automated Systems p.62
  Legislative & Regulatory Update p.63
  Reference Program p.65
  Programs for Boston, 1993 p.66
GPO Electronic Access p.67
Reviews & How-Tos p.68
GD/SIS Gov. Relations Committee p.71
proposed budget cuts at GPO. Bob Oakley has outlined, on both GOVDOC-L and law-lib, the cuts and the need for librarians to make their concerns known by "writing to Robert Houk, the Public Printer of the United States, with copies to Judith Russell, Head of the Library Program Service and Wayne Kelly, Superintendent of Documents and to Representative Charles Rose, Chair of the Joint Committee on Printing," as well as to your own Representative.

The reduced access to information at all levels of government is of concern. The Government Documents SIS and the AALL Government Relations Committee have developed a network of law librarians in the states to monitor "information policies of state agencies, matters affecting state libraries and data centers, state funding of libraries, fees for access to state government information (or other barriers to obtaining such information), or any similar issues of importance to information professionals." We also need to monitor access for local government information for our own municipalities and local government units.

THE COMING YEAR

The active participation of SIS members is needed at this critical point in the development of government information policies. The WINDO/Gateway legislation, budget reductions, paperwork reduction policies, and fees for access to electronic sources of government information are only the major issues being discussed. Our continuing concerns about fugitive documents and changes in formats, personnel changes and DLC input, and access to state and local government information also need our attention.

How can you, as a member of the Government Documents SIS, help?
Subscribe to GOVDOC-L to keep current with policies and issues. A column is JURISDOCS by someone who monitors GOVDOC-L would be great. We need a volunteer or volunteers.

Participate in the state information policy monitoring project. Even if you are not the designated monitor for your state, find out who the monitor is and pass on relevant information.

Prepare articles or short pieces on current documents topics for publication in JURISDOCS. Book reviews on current titles would be helpful. Anyone want to do one on the 4th edition of Morehead (Morehead and Fetzer, Introduction to United States Government Information Sources, 1992)? Volunteer to help the SIS work with the ALA GODORT Adopt-an-Agency program.

Prepare a state legal documents bibliography for one of the remaining states or a Canadian province or revise an older bibliography for the Boston Annual Meeting.

Join a committee of the SIS. There is a lot of activity in the documents community. We need your help.

I would like to thank the members of the SIS who have been active in the past year. I would especially like to thank Susan Dow for her leadership during 1990/1 and 1991/92 and for her creativity in redesigning the SIS business meetings at the San Francisco meeting. Her structure of two separate meetings, one for GPO discussion and one for SIS business, was well received and will be repeated. Carol Moody's excellent work as Secretary/Treasurer kept the SIS records accurate; her participation in development of the

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Materials for publication may be submitted to the editor (see staff listing on endpage of each issue). The editor reserves the right to reject materials submitted for publication. The only exception to this rule is for letters submitted for the "Letters to the Editor" column by current GD/SIS members. This exception is provided so that the members have an open forum within which to express their opinions. All of the opinions expressed in JURISDOCS represent only those of the individual authors, and do not represent those of the GD/SIS or the AALL.

Claims for missing member issues should be directed to the business manager (see staff listing on endpage of each issue). Claims for missing special AALL subscription issues should be directed to AALL headquarters.

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JURISDOCS, Fall 1992; page 56
travel grant application was invaluable, as was the work of Dorie Bertram.
I look forward to working with you this year. With your participation, the Documents SIS can play a major role in the direction of government documents policies and access to information.

FROM THE EDITOR

THIS ISSUE
This is the first issue of the 92-93 school year. Most of the articles are about the San Francisco meeting, but we do have three non-San Francisco stories written by Mary McCormick, Cheryl Nyberg, and Marianne Mason respectively.

SUBMISSIONS FORMAT
As I have mentioned in each issue, I would like to receive your writings on a disk, if possible (this saves me a great deal of time). I can process 5.25 and 3.5 inch disks, in either Macintosh or DOS format, and in any density. If you send a DOS disk please save your file(s) in either Word Perfect (my 1st choice) or as generic ASCII text (the form of last resort). If you send a Macintosh disk please save your file(s) in McWrite, McWrite II, Word, or text.

There has been a problem with the 3.5 inch DOS disks that are not HD but are formatted with the default HD format command. Such disks can only be read by the PC’s that format them. The two best solutions are to 1) send a 3.5 inch HD DOS disk if you format the disk with the default format settings, or 2) format with the special DD (double density) format command if you are sending a 3.5” DOS DD disk.

PRINTING & DISTRIBUTION
I am very pleased to announce that Emily Carr of George Mason University Law Library has accepted the responsibility for reproducing and distributing JURISDOCS for the next year.
Thanks again to Susan Dow and her staff at SUNY, Buffalo for the terrific job they did last year in printing and distributing the newsletter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Fall, 1992
Despite my best efforts, there were no LETTERS TO THE EDITOR for this issue. Come on, speak out! Send those letters in!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Submitted by Marsha Baum
University of South Carolina Law Library

SIS COMMITTEES
The SIS needs volunteers for the following committees:
  Government Relations
  Newsletter
  Program
  Nominating
  Awards (for Travel Grants)

JURISDOCS
Contact David Batista if you are interested in submitting materials for JURISDOCS. Particularly welcome would be regular columns for items of interest from the bulletin boards and for book reviews.

STATE BIBLIOGRAPHIES
State legal documents bibliographies have not yet been prepared for Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Carolina or Utah. A volunteer is working on a bibliography for South Carolina. It would be great to have the bibliographies for the New England area done for the Boston meeting.
If you are willing to volunteer your time to serve the SIS, please contact Marsha Baum at (803) 777-5944. Thank you.
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Newsletter Committee
David Batista, Chair
Emily Carr
Sushila Selniss

Government Relations Committee
Marianne Mason, Chair
Mary Ann Nelson

Program Committee
Veronica Maclay, Chair
Faye Couture
Sally Holterhoff
Bill Walker
Thank you all for your willingness to serve on an SIS committee.

GD/SIS BUSINESS MEETING
NO. 1 AALL ANNUAL MEETING SAN FRANCISCO

JULY 19, 1992

David Batista, editor of JURISDOCS, asked for a volunteer to handle the printing of the newsletter. This entails receiving camera-ready copy from him, having the printing done, and preparing the copies for mailing with labels provided by AALL headquarters. The SIS pays for printing and postage. Please contact him if you wish to help.

David also appealed for more contributions from members; if you have an idea, call him to discuss its possibilities.

AALL DUES INCREASE

Batista’s forceful open letter to the Executive Board drew an interesting response; in fact, Mark Estes, president-elect of the Association, appeared at the meeting to speak to Batista and the SIS directly.

Susan Dow outlined Batista’s letter to the Board, which was published in Vol. 14, issue 2 (Spring 1992) of JURISDOCS.

Batista questioned the need for a dues increase for AALL.

He questioned the need for expensive downtown Chicago offices for headquarters offices and was unhappy about the continued failure of headquarters to provide an accurate accounting of SIS funds. He further questioned the choice of large, expensive cities for conventions, especially without dormitory or other inexpensive housing options. He decried the lack of a “Letters to the Editor” column in either the Law Library Journal or the AALL Newsletter. Batista received a brief written response from President Ahearn and a more detailed response from Estes, who was present at the meeting.

Mr. Estes asked the audience to remember that the amendment is not in itself a dues increase, rather, it is a mechanism to make an increase more gradual and procedurally easier. He recognizes the perception of a lack of openness in the Association; it does seem to be necessary to attend the annual meeting to have any real impact on Association actions. He is open to suggestions on this point.

Robert Oakley, AALL Board member, agreed that the possibility of increasing dues to coincide with the CPI will not be automatic; the Executive Board will consider the need for an increase and will not make one if it is not necessary.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Corcos reported on the recent election. The results were very close; she and her staff counted the ballots 3 times! Veronica Maclay was elected Vice-Chair and Mary Shearer is the new Secretary-Treasurer. She encouraged anyone with an interest in the SIS to consider holding office; every group needs new blood to keep things interesting. She asked for and received unanimous consent to destroy the ballots.

Carol Moody asked that the minutes of the SIS meeting in New Orleans, published in JURISDOCS, be accepted. Consent was
unanimous. She then submitted the Treasurer's report, asking members to bear in mind that the information from headquarters is always far behind and difficult to square with the treasurer's information.

Marsha Baum encouraged everyone to attend the 5 programs sponsored or co-sponsored by the SIS. 10 proposals were submitted, so a 50% hit rate is great! The program committee encouraged the SIS to re-submit its workshop proposal.

PANEL DISCUSSION
The feature of the afternoon was a panel presentation on the present and near future of government information and the federal depository program. Susan Tulis, University of Virginia Law Library, reported on the recent ALA meeting and GODORT. Kay Schlueter, the new director of the Texas State Law Library, discussed the present configuration of the Depository Library Council, as did Robert Oakley, Director of Georgetown University Law Library. Mr. Oakley additionally reported on his activities as AALL's representative in Washington. Judy Russell, Director of Library Programs Service and prime mover behind GPO's electronic dissemination effort, reported on the present and future of GPO and the depository program.

ALA ACTIVITIES
Tulis said ALA had 2 update sessions with speakers from federal agencies and presentations by GPO and Joint Committee on Printing participants. In the immediate future, a hearing on the WINDO bill will be held July 23rd. A White Paper on the cost of depository service in libraries will be published in Documents to the People. It promises to be most enlightening. GODORT has asked the president of ALA to consider and publish an assessment of how the Americans with Disabilities Act will affect libraries. GODORT has a depository operations work group, which considers the nitty-gritty problems in depository work; watch for notes in Documents To The People about these issues. The state and local group in GODORT is trying to develop a list of state and local CD-ROM products. The pre-conference on loading documents into an on-line system was considered to be very useful. Various "how-to-use" handouts have been gathered onto a disc, which will be available for $5. Watch Documents To The People for ordering information. A survey on the longevity of CD-ROMS will soon be available from the technical committee. A workshop on how to count documents is planned for next year.

GPO CD-ROMS
Ms. Schlueter said most depositories understand that CD-ROMS are a fact of life and are struggling to cope with the changes. Time for training and good quality training materials are a continuing problem. Some regions do a lot of training and there have been grant proposals developed to fund the creation of training materials and to support traveling trainers. Since so few librarians contact her, she does not feel she is adequately representing our concerns. Start those cards, letters and phone calls coming.

AALL WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE
Bob Oakley said his presentation would be negative in tone, but that was his perception of the present situation. He perceives the electronic dissemination of government information to be at the center of the current information policy stalemate. The private sector has recognized the enormous possibility for gain in the newer technologies, and policymakers have been unable to agree on how to protect the public's interest -- the public's right to information. The difficulty in renewing the Paperwork Reduction Act and the snail's pace of publication of Circular A-130 are all tied up in this issue. Librarians need to understand that the small phrase "access to government information in any format" has been dearly bought by hours of meetings and ideological struggle. Unfortunately, the recent draft of A-130 has defined electronic information out of the "government information"
pool, so agencies are only “encouraged”, but not “required”, to make access available. He feels agencies are afraid of libraries and the demands they may cause. How many simultaneous users will be added by library access? How will software be provided? Will software need to be revised to serve the masses? Will an 800 number be necessary to serve the public? What will be the ongoing costs? Because of the slow development of A-130, many agencies have begun information policies of their own. A draft document he has seen contains only one mention of libraries as possible dissemination outlets, and depositories are not considered at all.

Oakley believes GPO lagged badly in pursuing electronic information publishing opportunities, so agencies have gone their own way. However, we can all hope for the best from GPO’s new initiatives. He sees Depository Library Council floundering badly. The reorganized Council has no clear purpose, and since it does not even make recommendations to the Public Printer, there is no sense of closure to hours of discussion, no sense of accomplishment.

He thinks it is essential to keep the depository program before Congress; agencies are too willing to go around the requirements and seem unable to see any benefit in the program. The library community must make a firm effort, or much will be lost.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS SERVICE

Judy Russell told the group her presentation at ALA on the appropriation and budget process for GPO will be in Administrative Notes. She has approached her job at GPO by looking under every rock to see what could be done better, cheaper, and faster. She anticipates the Depository Library Council will consider a strategic restructuring of the Library Program Service. One interesting product in prototype is a CD-ROM using scanned images. This product might contain many microfiche titles and include the cataloging record; the blowback from the CD would be far superior to the traditional fiche copy. A CD is being considered for the five year cumulative index to the Monthly Catalog. The Bulletin Board will expand it contents and services and will be going on Internet. It is critical for the depository community—libraries and GPO both, to ascertain the public’s needs and seek to fill them. If they don’t think they need us, we will be out of business. We need quantitative and qualitative measuring tools. When trying to influence Congress and agency administrators, anecdotes of success are very important. We are all familiar with “sound bites.” Russell is more than willing to pass along anything of that nature—just send it to her.

Library Programs Service is relieved that the huge microfiche backlog has been dealt with; libraries will continue to receive inordinate numbers of fiche for a while yet, but the end is in sight. The next project is the cataloging backlog of approximately 50,000 titles. Two outside cataloging contracts have begun the task, focusing on the most current material first. The microfiche claims backlog will be attacked in the fall. The new arrangement of contractors filling claims is an experiment. There is an incentive for contractors to ship correctly the first time so they don’t have to deal with claims. However, if librarians claim incorrectly and put a large burden on the contractors, the whole arrangement may go down in flames.

A report on the Congressional Record pilot project will be out soon and a decision will be made on the future of the product.

In response to Bob Oakley’s view of the Depository Library Council, Ms. Russell said the Public Printer regards the Council as experts whose perspectives have value in strategic planning. Federal information is so diverse, and GPO’s role in its distribution has so many facets, he felt the need to expand membership beyond the library community. He is more interested in hearing dialogue and points of view than receiving a watered down “recommendation” meant to cover all colors of the spectrum.

In the discussion following the presentations, Susan Dow asked for ideas on how to
survey community needs. It is possible to talk to representative groups, but how do you contact the proverbial man in the street? There will be guidelines in the new manual, but it is, and will remain, difficult.

GD/SIS BUSINESS MEETING NO. 2, AALL ANNUAL MEETING SAN FRANCISCO

JULY 21, 1992

Section chair Susan Dow presented Ruth Levor, incoming chair of the AALL Government Relations Committee. She told the group that since the Legislative and Regulatory Update program was so well attended, more time would be requested for next year. She noted that Sally Holterhoff and Cheryl Nyberg of our section had written the statement presented to Congress about the WINDO bill. The statement is on LAWLIB and GOVDOC-L or available in paper from Nyberg.

Holterhoff and Nyberg received about a 20% response to their survey on GPO 2001 and are preparing a detailed evaluation. She reminded everyone of the GOVLINE at 312-939-7774 and said it has been a very successful venture.

Bob Oakley had prepared a report on his activities as the AALL Washington Representative in and had recommended the hiring of a full-time person. This has been approved by the Board and resumes are being accepted.

Susan encouraged members interested in becoming state representatives to keep track of information policies and actions in their state. States which still have no one signed up were listed on a sheet at the back of the room—please consider serving.

Ms. Dow next introduced Robert Jordan and Fran McDonald of the Federal Register Office. They presented a survey to the group from which the Office hopes to determine preferred methods of disseminating the Register. They hope for a large response. The Federal Register Office is now located across the street from GPO and their LAN will be wired into GPO.

Sally Holterhoff said the GPO 2001 survey had 24 multiple choice and two open-ended questions. In general, and very roughly, 50% of the respondents were interested in the plan or hoped for more information and 50% had serious reservations. It is still possible to send a response, if you have not done so. GODORT has a large task force preparing the ALA response, so this will be another library group response.

SIS CHAIRS’ MEETING

Susan Dow reported on the SIS chairs’ meeting held earlier. A proposal is floating around about turning the SIS treasuries back to the sections. Questions raised included frequent turnover and need to move the account from bank to bank, liability, insurance, and the potential amount of work demanded of the treasurer. A one year term of service would not be very appropriate if the section managed its own money. For a change to be made, all SISs must accept the proposal, so she thinks passage is unlikely or at least not soon. Most chairs preferred to have AALL Headquarters solve its accounting problems.

Another proposal which has generated a lot of heat is changing the Special Interest Section to simply Section. The September issue of the AALL Newsletter will have for and against statements and ask for input.

Since July 10, 1993, is the opening date next year, program suggestions must be in promptly. Maclay is hard at work on this.

As part of the newsletter subscription program, we supply camera ready copy of JURISDOCS to Headquarters, who prints the newsletters for the subscription program. There is a profit of $150 a year, which is split between headquarters and the SISs, which provides each section with the munificent sum of $2.70.
The Executive Board wants each SIS to have a strategic plan.

David Batista needs a volunteer to print and distribute JURISDOCS. If no one steps forward, it can be done at headquarters, but will cost the section more for the service. There are about 500 copies an issue.

Susan Dow spent some time in the activities booth this year. Quite a few people spoke to her about our activities.

The Depository Library Manual core collection for law has been updated by Sally Holterhoff; it will be available soon.

As a possible project: should our SIS work with the statistics group to get the attention of the ABA for a better way to count titles? GODORT is working on the question, but from a different perspective.

THE TORCH IS PASSED

At this point, Susan Dow presented Marsha Baum, the incoming Chairperson of the section. Ms. Baum focused on more involvement by members, and there was a volunteer sheet in the back of the room. There are opportunities on the Nominations Committee, to assist in the preparation of a strategic plan, and seven states have never had a bibliography done (let’s do these). Marsha wants very much to keep JURISDOCS in the family. The form for the travel grant will be out in a timely fashion; she urges members to apply.

Veronica Maclay said she will need volunteers for programs; please check with her to see which of our many proposals are accepted by the Board.

The meeting adjourned, to be reconvened next year in Boston, Massachusetts.

GD/SIS PROGRAMS IN SAN FRANCISCO:

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS IN THE AUTOMATED SYSTEM

MONDAY, JULY 20, 1992

This program provided information on adding documents holdings to the library’s automated system.

LUMIN / WL

Bill Draper, of the University of Missouri, Kansas City, explained that his library, as part of the University of Missouri system, planned an OCLC tape load into the LUMIN system, which is based on WLN. There were knowledgeable systems people available to help, and in a way, those people drove the choice of OCLC. There was already a contract in place and the systems people were familiar with the parameters of the material. The university libraries as a group decided against a retrospective load, since the task of identifying older holdings was too daunting.

His library has profiled for monographic titles only and chose not to get shelflist cards; they planned to use the call number browse feature instead. The initial load was in July 1991, and he believes it has cost $426 for a year’s worth of monographic titles. All has not been smooth sailing, of course: the call number browse didn’t work, but the systems people worked that out, and while they were at it, arranged for the Missouri document numbers to be browsable also. Multiple 086 tags were a problem, but the systems people fixed that, too.

Not all monographic records are desirable—slip opinions, for example—and must be removed. He has calculated a 10-11 month lag between cataloging records appearing in the system and microfiche actually appearing in the box. After this year’s experience, he is quite satisfied with the arrangement overall and feels a tweaking of the profile will be the finishing touch.
JOE McClane, of GPO, told the group that the revised Federal depository library manual will be available shortly. Section V provides guidance about accessibility and retrievability of documents. Libraries need to carefully consider whether an automated check-in system will provide documentation to the piece level, as required by GPO. A tape load must be checked for actual receipt of the material.

OCLC

The OCLC representative said their GOVDOC service was 2 years old and presently serves 150 libraries of all sizes and types. It is a batch cataloging system which, guided by a profile, sets a library’s holdings on a GPO record in the OCLC database. Libraries need to decide if they will select only monographic item numbers or include serial item numbers. Some libraries opt to add serial holdings only once a year. The service is for current cataloging only.

MARCIVE

Miss McElfresh described some of the features of MARCIVE, which has been operating since 1980. MARCIVE’s database of approximately 280,000 records enables libraries to do a retrospective load of document holdings.

A feature of their service is the careful name authority work which they have done, together with other clean-up of the records. They estimate it takes a library about three months to carefully work through the profiling process. It is possible to correlate dates with item numbers to make sure there are no records for a time when your library did not receive that item number.

A new product for them is a CD-ROM of their database, from which libraries may download selected records into their local systems. A library should ALWAYS plan to do a test tape to avoid nasty surprises later.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 1992

STEVEN METALITZ, INFORMATION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Steven Metalitz, Vice-president and Counsel of the Information Industry Association, told the large audience that this had been an interesting year. Between the Federal Maritime Commission database, Sec. 105 of the Copyright Act, the activities of GPO, and the Library of Congress trying to sell new products, there has not been a dull moment.

When the recreational boating tax went into effect, Congress was nearly washed away by the storm of protest. Rep. Davis proposed repealing the tax and obtaining that lost revenue from the sale of access to the Federal Maritime Commission’s database. The Congressional Budget Office somehow decided this move would bring in $100,000,000 per year, which he thinks is hopelessly inflated. The legislation passed the House, but he feels it will die quietly in the Senate. In a way, the legislation asserts copyright in the database, which has been forbidden for years.

There is a bill in each house attempting to assert copyright on computer software written by government employees, in the name of competitiveness. He believes these bills will have tough sledding.

Library of Congress has asked for wide authority to sell products and services, with minimal accounting of the process. Needless to say, this has not been viewed favorably by the rest of the country’s libraries.

His Association is not pleased by the WINDO bill, admiring the goal, but not the method of achieving it.

An interesting issue for information providers and users is privacy—what needs to be protected and how will that be done? How will the need for privacy conflict with getting the job done?

Another on-going conflict will continue to make news: the extremely restrictive access to European print and electronic information may force similar restrictions in this country. Is this necessarily a good thing?
ROBERT OAKLEY, AALL WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE

Robert Oakley, speaking in his capacity as AALL’s representative in the capitol, observed the decided increase in the size of the crowd and the number of publishing industry representatives therein. During the year, he believes cost of access has been a continuing theme. Shall there be free access, shall cost of dissemination be the watchword, is full cost recovery more likely, or will the need for funds mean that the profit motive will drive the system?

In terms of the request of Library of Congress for fee-for-service authority, all library associations are very unhappy. He believes S.1416 to be poorly written and overbroad. A hearing was planned, but has not taken place. A newer version of the bill identified a core of services which was to remain free, allowed only distribution costs for bibliographic services, but full cost of recovery for “customized” services. S.2748 (hearing held July 22nd) allows full cost recovery for access to LC’s catalog, a terrible precedent. It even seems to authorize collection of royalties for re-distribution of the data, which would be a nightmare. It appears that any NEW service developed by the Library would cost users, so fewer and fewer services would be free to the public. AALL has filed a statement with the committee opposing the bill.

The recent version of Circular A-130 was much improved over previous attempts. It affirms the obligation to disseminate government information to libraries, and forbids single contract arrangements. However, it is still heavily into cost/benefit analysis, which is very difficult to do with information. Once again, electronic products are left out of the definition of “information” required to be available to libraries and is relegated to “nice to include” status. The Circular does emphasize the need for low user fees except for products generated for special groups.

PACER, an electronic bulletin board in use by the federal courts and available to the public, is planning to charge $1 a minute for dialing in. He views this as too high for “cost recovery.” The Administrator of the Courts has done a detailed response to complaints, relying on Circular A-25, in which a specific service provided for the benefit of a specific JURISDOCS, Fall 1992; page 64.

SALLY HOLTERHOFF

Sally Holterhoff, of Valparaiso University, reminded the audience that the Congressional hearing on the WINDO bill would be held Thursday, July 23rd. H.R. 2772, the Wide Information Network for Data Online, establishes GPO as the focal point of public access for government electronic information, with access free for depositories and of reasonable cost for other users. AALL has supported this concept.

H.R. 3459 requires agencies to produce an annual report on information actions, sets standards for databases, and legislates against royalties for use of government information.

GPO has published a strategic vision document called GPO 2001 which proposes FIND, a universal index to government publications of all types, SEND, which establishes a satellite network for dissemination of information, and INTERACT for online access to publications.

S. 2813, often called the Gateway bill, suggests the use of NREN and Internet as access paths to information. AALL thinks the bill needs a better definitions section and wants information from all three branches of government included. Preliminary results of a survey done on the concepts of GPO 2001 indicate librarians are cautiously interested in the dissemination ideas, but are very afraid of the cost of implementation.

KATHLEEN VANDEN HEUVEL

Kathleen Vanden Heuvel presented several copyright issues which have been through the mill this year. Pirating of software has been made a felony, carrying a possible $250,000 fine. The fair use bill (H.R. 2372) has not advanced in the Senate. S.756 passed (PL 102-307), removing the need to report on photocopying. H.R. 4426 amends the Copyright Act to exclude copyright protection for certain legal compilations. She does not expect anything to happen to this in the
102d Congress; it is a poorly drawn bill and has no support. AALL as an association has come out in opposition to copyrighting page numbers.

ROBERT BERRING

Robert Berring, of the University of California, spoke from the audience to oppose this position of the Association. He felt it was not indicative of the feelings of a sufficient group within the Association to be "official." At this point, the time allotted for the meeting was over, so the battle was not joined.

GD/SIS REFERENCE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1992

Professor Wise polled the audience as to type of library they work in and whether or not the attendees had taken a documents course in library school. She herself had not had such a course, but thinks she should have. The bulk of the audience agreed with that statement.

Most schools do include a documents course in their curriculum, with an occasional state or international documents course thrown in. The course is usually taught by someone associated with a large academic or public library; no one teaches a course for those planning to work in law libraries. She has discovered that no school requires a documents course for graduation. The quality and focus of such courses varies, casting a wide, rather than deep, net.

With tape loading making documents part of the general collection, the number of documents librarians will probably shrink, but the need to know about documents will not.

Ms. Wise thinks librarians will need to become more knowledgeable about acquisitions work, since more and more titles will be privatized and will have to purchased. Professor Wise encouraged all members of the audience to be enthusiastic about the material, to give tours, to attend career days--anything to increase interest in the subject specialty.

JOANNE ZICH

Joanne Zich, of American University, has found dramatic changes in documents reference work since tape loading has brought documents to student and faculty attention.

The advent of CD-ROM products has meant better indexing of known material and in many ways, more material. As agencies create their CD-ROM product, they try to include as much as possible on them, often making new things available. The Commerce Department has been particularly forthcoming with products. The Census Bureau material, while not easy to use, is more voluminous and much cheaper than the 1980 census documents.

She recommends the GODORT handout exchange material, now available on disc for $10. Ms. Zich finds GOVDOC-L a quick way to solve problems--a question placed on the screen usually brings a rapid response from an unseen colleague. Joanne recommends The Yellow Book one of the best sources of government phone numbers. The blue pages of your local phone book provide local numbers for government offices. The AALL Directory of Washington members will have a new edition out soon. The Government Manual and Statistical Abstract are each good starting points. The Statistical Abstract will also provide a reference to the source of each data table. She likes using the CENDATA file, wherein lies much time sensitive material. The WESTLAW gateways, available to academics, are gold mines of information. Ms. Zich recommends the following 800 numbers:

- Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse (800) 732-3277
- Commerce Trade Information (800) 872-8723

She offered two phone numbers to assist with treaty questions: if the U.S. is a party--(202) 647-1345 and if the U.S. is not a party--(202) 647-2076. Joanne has found NEXIS to be invaluable for the I-saw-it-in-the-paper questions. GPO bulletin board is soon to be available through INTERNET. It is handy to place orders using the GPO bulletin board. She finds both JURISDOCS and Documents to the People to be essential reading.

JURISDOCS, Fall 1992; page 65
WILLIAM WALKER

William Walker, of Vanderbilt, presented tips on legislative research. He has found that adding GPO materials to the catalog piques interest in both governmental and the legislative processes.

He uses LEXIS for billtracking and text of bills, since it has modified versions of bills and seems to have the most complete set of versions.

WESTLAW has a gateway to Congressional Quarterly, but it is not available on the academic subscription.

He often goes to the C.C.H. Congressional Index for a bill number and then goes online to get the text and tracking.

It is difficult for the public to understand the delay in publication of hearings.

When a student comes with a legislative research question, he offers Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report as a first source. It has excellent background material and gives a flavor of the hearing and the atmosphere surrounding the issue.

For legislative history research, he suggests the following:

1. Check index to Congressional Quarterly and read the pertinent articles.
2. Check Congressional Information Service Index for references.
3. Take a quick look at C.C.H. Congressional Index.
4. LEXIS bill tracking is good if the bill is in process; these reports are often very detailed.
5. Text of the final bill is in the committee report, which is in the Congressional Record.
6. Check the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents for signing or veto messages.

Tips for treaty research:
1. The U.S. Code requires the State Department to send Congress the text of an agreement, but not an arrangement. The Helsinki Accords are an example of an arrangement.
2. C.C.H. Congressional Index lists treaties still held by Congress. The Calendar of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has one, also.

JURISDOCS, Fall 1992; page 66

3. The Hein index is very extensive and it is possible to have the text on fiche as part of the service.
4. Always check Dispatch, which replaces the State Department Bulletin.

GD/SIS PROPOSED GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS PROGRAMS FOR BOSTON, 1993

Submitted by Veronica Maclay
University of California,
Hastings College of Law Library

For the 1993 Boston AALL Annual Convention, the Government Documents Special Interest Section has submitted one workshop proposal and eight program proposals.

Marsha Baum wrote and resubmitted the proposal for a full day patent research workshop. The proposal is co-sponsored with the Private Law Librarians SIS. If this workshop is accepted, staff from the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program Office and an experienced patent law librarian will provide training on the patent classification system. Research tools currently available for patent searching will be discussed.

This year each SIS was asked to rank their program proposals to help in the selection process. The number one program proposal was Government Documents as Rare Books: Preserving Information from Generation to Generation. This program if accepted would present information on rare documents which are essential to legal research. The speakers would present information on estimating value; acquiring out-of-print materials; and discuss methods of preserving documents. This program would be co-sponsored with the Legal History and Rare Books SIS.

Other programs submitted included:
The Cost of Administering Documents Collections: Federal, State, Local and International; Presidential Libraries; and New England State Documents.

Cosponsored program proposals in-
GPO ELECTRONIC ACCESS DEAD THIS SESSION

Submitted by Mary M. McCormick
Reference Librarian, Coleman Karesh Law Library, University of South Carolina Law School

Congress adjourned without passing any legislation that would make government information more readily available to the public in electronic form. H.R. 5983, the GPO Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1992, was passed by the House, but was held up at the close of the session in the Senate.

Two earlier measures, H.R. 2772, introduced in 1991 by Representative Charlie Rose (D-NC), who is well-known for his interest in computer technology, and S. 2813, introduced by Senator Albert Gore (D-TN), had the potential to give online access to hundreds of federal information systems and databases. In contrast, H.R. 5983, which Representative Rose introduced late this year as a compromise measure when it became apparent that there was insufficient support for the earlier bills, had a much narrower scope. The bill directed the GPO to provide online access to 1) the Congressional Record, 2) the Federal Register, 3) an electronic directory of federal public information stored electronically, 4) other appropriate publications distributed by the Superintendent of Documents, and 5) information under the control of other federal departments or agencies, when requested by the department or agency. Elimination in H.R. 5983 of an incremental fee for access to agency data removed a major incentive for agencies to cooperate with GPO, since GPO would have no authority to reimburse agencies for their costs in providing public access.

Furthermore, unlike H.R. 2772, H.R. 5983 did not require the GPO to provide online access through the Internet. The bill only required the Superintendent of Documents to conduct a study of the feasibility of enhancing public access to federal electronic information, including access to existing federal information systems, the use of computer networks such as the Internet and NREN, and the development (with NIST and other agencies) of compatible standards for disseminating electronic information.

This feasibility study may still take place. During the Senate debate on the legislative branch appropriations act (138 Congressional Record S16684-01, Oct. 5, 1992), the following colloquy took place between Senators Reid and Ford:

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, would the senior Senator from Nevada clarify the legislative branch appropriations bill conference report language relating to the Superintendent of Documents. Is it the intention of the conferees that the feasibility study on enhancing public access to Federal electronic information proceed whether or not H.R. 5983 is enacted into law?

Mr. REID. I am pleased to respond to my friend, the senior Senator from Kentucky. The answer is “Yes.” The conferees intended to direct the Superintendent of Documents to conduct a feasibility study to enhance public access to Federal electric information and to utilize the assistance of the Community College Distance Learning Center in Owensboro, KY, in that study. That feasibility study is not dependent on passage of H.R. 5983.

Rep. Rose faces no strong challenger for his seat. Senator Gore will either be back in the Senate or with the administration next year. Full hearings may not be required on
bills introduced in the next session, since the Committee on House Administration, of which Representative Rose is chair, held hearings with the Senate Rules Committee in July on H.R. 2772 and S. 2813 and issued a report (H. Rep. 102-933). Hence, libraries can expect action on the subject of electronic public access to federal information early in the next session and should be prepared to move quickly after Congress returns.


“Summary Tape File 1A Data on CD-ROM.” Administrative Notes 13 (Feb. 15, 1992) :12-21 (prepared by Grace York for use at the University of Michigan).

CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS


“Congressional Record.” Administrative...
tive Notes 12 (Nov. 15, 1991):13-17 (prepared by Lynne Reasoner for use at the University of California, Riverside).


FEDERAL REGULATIONS


FOREIGN COUNTRIES


IMPORTS AND EXPORTS


INTERNATIONAL TRADE


MONTHLY CATALOG


PATENTS


CASSIS/CD-ROM USER’S MANUAL


TERRORIST GROUPS

TOXIC RELEASE INVENTORY

“Toxic Release Inventory on CD-ROM.” Administrative Notes 12 (May 31, 1991):24-
31 (prepared by Araby Greene for use at the University of North Carolina, Asheville).


ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS

AGRICULTURE

“Electronic State Department Information.” JURISDOCS 13 (1991) :39-40 (about Martin Marietta’s Computer Information Delivery (CIDS), which also includes files from the Department of Agriculture).


COMPUTERS


CRIMINAL JUSTICE
NCJRS Electronic Bulletin Board User Guide. (for the National Criminal Justice Reference Service Electronic Bulletin Board; (301) 738-8895)

DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES


ENVIRONMENT

“CLU-IN Users Manual and Guide.” (download compressed text from the EPA’s bulletin board, Cleanup Information Bulletin Board (CLU-IN); (301) 589-8366; or order print copy while on the bulletin board)


“Public Access to EPA’s Online Library System (OLS).” Administrative Notes 12 (Nov. 15, 1991) :18-19 ((919) 541-0700 or 4642).

FREE-NETS


INFORMATION RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT


LIBRARIES


RESEARCH FUNDING

FEDIX: The On-Line Database Retrieval Service for Government Information for Colleges, Universities, and Other Organizations. 1992 (DOE/ER-0533P) (1990 ed., E 1.19:0466P) (a multi-agency bulletin board; (800) 232-4879 or (301) 258-0953 (local callers); telenet address is fedix.fie.com or 192.111.228.1).

"STIS: Free Online Information on the Science Foundation." Administrative Notes 12 (Nov. 15, 1991):20 (about the National Science Foundation’s Science and Technology Information System; (202) 357-0359 or 0360; telenet address is stis.nsf.gov or 128.150.195.40).

WHISTLEBLOWERS


LAST MINUTE NEWS FROM THE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Submitted by Marianne Mason, Chair GD/SIS Government Relations Committee Indiana University Law Library

The Government Relations Committee for the SIS has been formed and is in the process of developing its agenda for 1992-93. The primary purpose of the Committee is to monitor government activities that affect access to government information and report essential information to members of the SIS. We will follow federal policies on access to electronic information, networking, formats, and reorganizations at GPO. We also plan to monitor state and local government activities through a liaison appointed by the Government Relations Committee of AALL.

The first item on our agenda has been to draft a response to the GPO Survey dated November 18th, which contained GPO's mandate for depository libraries to change format and GPO's intention to limit distribution of certain key material. Law libraries are hard hit by these imposed restrictions, academic law libraries in particular. These restrictions limit distribution of the Serial Set, United States Reports, and the Congressional Record to microfiche format only to selective depositories. For academic institutions, only one paper copy of hearings will be distributed per institution. Our draft letter, which was forwarded to AALL President, Mark Estes, outlines our urgent concerns and requests that AALL stand as an organization to oppose implementation of these reductions. The following points were made in our draft:

1) The severe time limitation placed upon libraries to respond in a thoughtful manner to this survey was unacceptable;

2) These reductions will severely curtail access to government information;

3) The costs to individual libraries will increase significantly to accommodate microformat printing, fiche duplication, and storage cabinets to house the
added volumes of fiche;
4) The archival quality of CD/Rom and microformat is inferior by far to that of paper products; and
5) GPO has shifted the burden of distribution to Regionals by assuming the Regionals will lend or duplicate materials lacking in the selectives by restricting the claims process.

The second item on the Committee's agenda will be the establishment of a network to distribute information rapidly among the GD/SIS members. We will be constructing a hybrid of a "telephone tree" which will include electronic mail addresses. Input, reaction, and response to the infamous GPO Survey is an excellent example of the type of information that could be dispersed through the "tree".

And finally, we plan to study the issue of federal agencies charging fees to access government information. We may coordinate our Committee's activities with that of another SIS. More on this developing topic in the future...

If you have ideas that you would like to see explored or if you would like to join our Committee we would be delighted to hear from you!

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JURISDOCS, Fall 1992; page 72

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