LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Doesn't time fly (whether you're having fun or not)! It seems like only a few weeks ago we were all getting ready for the Pittsburgh meeting and here it is almost time for the Indianapolis conference. I hope many of you can attend this summer's conference. Vice Chair/Chair Elect, David Gay has three interesting programs on tap for you. In addition to those three meetings, the SIS will sponsor a meeting on Sunday, July 21 at 4:30 PM. This meeting will offer an update on GPO issues. We also hope to discuss methods and procedures we can use to become more involved in the current dialog about changes in government information dissemination. The fifth meeting will be our SIS business meeting at 7:00 AM on Tuesday, July 23. I know it's early but we are serving a light breakfast to make up for the early hour! Come meet your new officers and share your ideas for what you would like to see the SIS offer members in the coming year.

Speaking of Washington matters, I hope you all have had an opportunity to read the recent released report to Congress entitled Study to Identify Measures Necessary for a Successful Transition to More Electronic Federal Depository Library Program. Those of you on our SIS listserv will remember a recent message I posted asking for comments about the study. Mary Alice Baish and Robert Oakley have been very active in working with other library organizations to make sure our views are heard in these ongoing debates. Please help Mary Alice with her work by sharing your concerns with her. It is also helpful if you send her copies of any letters you write to Washington Congresspeople. And if you're like me with good intentions, but not action yet, now's the time for some action on the subject! Become information and make your views known.

And speaking of being vocal, if you appreciate the work Mary Alice and Bob are doing for us, please share that with other members of the Association when the debate returns to what activities are worthy of funding for AALL. I for one think our Washington representation is one of the best things my dues could possibly go towards funding.

Since this will be my last message to you, I want to thank you for the experience of serving as Chair. I have many regrets about not being able to accomplish more, but I've had some wonderful experiences and hope to stay

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an active member in support of the board members that will begin serving in July.

Kay Schlueter
Texas State Law Library
P.O. Box 12367
Austin, TX 78711

FROM THE EDITOR

THIS ISSUE
This JURISDOCS issue contains many conference-related and timely materials. My apologies for the late receipt, as it nears the last week of June as I type this.

COLUMNISTS WANTED
Are you interested in monitoring international, federal, state or local documents on the web or other venue? Consider volunteering your time for future issues of JURISDOCS by surveying listservs (a la Cornell’s BigEar legal resource) or submitting recommended Internet bookmarks annotated for our web page (see http://mason.gmu.edu/~ecarr/gdsis.html).

SUBMISSIONS
Columns, articles and letters to the editor? Send to me, Emily Carr via e-mail, fax, or regular USPS mail (although e-mail is most convenient). Please call or e-mail me with any questions at ecarr@gmu.edu or (703) 993-8062.

CALENDAR -- Future Conferences

AALL
July 19-24, 1997 Baltimore, MD
July 11-16, 1998 Anaheim, CA
July 17-22, 1999 Washington, DC
July 15-20, 2000 Philadelphia, PA

AALS (Association of American Law Schools)
January 3-7, 1997 Washington, DC

ALA
July 4-10, 1996 New York
June 26-July 3, 1997 San Francisco, CA
June 25-July 2, 1998 Washington, DC
June 25-July 1, 1999 New Orleans, LA
July 6-13, 2000 Chicago, IL
June 14-21, 2001 Atlanta, GA

ASIS
October 21-24, 1996 Baltimore, MD

BIAALL (British and Irish Association of Law Librarians)
September 6-9, 1996 University of Ulster
September 5-8, 1997 Newcastle upon Tyne

IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations)
1996 Beijing (August 25 - 31)
1997 Copenhagen, Denmark
1998 Amsterdam, Netherlands
1999 Bangkok, Thailand
2000 Jerusalem, Israel

Northeast Regional (AALL Chapters)
October 17-20, 1996 Toronto, Canada

SEALL
April 17-19, 1997 Tallahassee, FL

SWALL
April 3-7, 1997 Tuscon, AZ

SLA
June 7-12, 1997 Seattle, WA
June 6-11, 1998 Indianapolis, IN

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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).

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JURISDOCS, Spring 1996; page 2
The GD-SIS is sponsoring three of the following programs at the 1996 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Legislative and Regulatory Update
Monday, July 22, 1996
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Tim Coggins (Coordinator), University of Alabama School of Law Library
Mary Alice Baish, Edward Bennett Williams Law Library, Georgetown University
Robert Oakley, Edward Bennett Williams Law Library

The annual legislative and regulatory update alerts members to pending legislative and regulatory actions that impact access to government information and are of concern to law librarians. The update also informs AALL members of actions and positions that have been taken during the year concerning access to government information. Speakers include AALL Washington Affairs representatives and others who will be chosen depending upon the topics to be covered.

Delivering the Message: Presenting a United Front for Access to Government Information-Leadership Perspectives
Monday, July 22, 1996
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Anne Burnett (Coordinator), University of Arkansas School of Law
Diane Garner, Harvard University Library
Daniel P. Mahoney, Brown University Library
Susan Tulis, University of Virginia Law Library

This GD-SIS-sponsored program explores the perspectives of different library associations regarding access to government information through the federal depository program as well as through electronic sources of government information. A panel of leaders from several different library associations (American Library Association-GODORT, Federal Depository Library Council, and Special Libraries Association) will provide insight into each of their perspectives on accessing government information. In addition, the panel will discuss the status of the federal depository program and the electronic provision of government information.
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

GRC UPDATE #96-4 (Posted 6/18/96)

To keep AALL members informed of the activities of the AALL Government Relations Committee and the AALL Washington Affairs Office, this update and other postings will be distributed periodically.

3-0 DECISION OVERTURNS THE CDA: On June 12, 1996, a three-judge panel in Philadelphia unanimously overturned the controversial "Communications Decency Amendment" (CDA), part of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-104). The CDA would criminalize the distribution of "indecent" or "patently offensive" materials to minors over the Internet. The decision was a clear victory for the thirty-three named plaintiffs, including the Citizens Internet Empowerment Coalition (CIEC) of which AALL is a member. The Department of Justice has not yet released plans to appeal the decision. The full-text has been posted to several web sites, including that of the Center for Democracy and Technology, one of the lead plaintiffs in the lawsuit (http://www.cdt.org/ciec).

COPYRIGHT HEARING ON THE NII COPY- RIGHT PROTECTION ACT OF 1995: Bob Oakley, representing the Digital Future Coalition (DFC), testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 7, 1996 on S. 1284/H.R. 2441, the NII Copyright Protection Act of 1995. Bob's testimony stressed that the balance between the protection of intellectual property and "robust" access to information by users must be preserved in the electronic environment. To ensure this balance, the testimony offered legislative language regarding the Fair Use and First Sale Doctrines, online service provider liability, preservation,
and distance learning. This testimony is available at the DFC web site (http://www.ari.net/dfc/). The House mark-up on H.R. 2441 has now been postponed indefinitely. At the originally scheduled mark-up hearing on May 15th of the House Judiciary's Courts and Intellectual Property Subcommittee, Chairman Moorhead stated that if action were to be delayed more than one or two weeks, the bill would likely not pass this year.

GPO STUDY: The Washington Affairs Office coordinated the final joint library response to the GPO study, including comments on each of the separate task group reports. These were first drafted by members of the Coalition of Many Organizations (COMA), including AALL's Dorie Bertram, Susan Dow, Carol Moody and Susan Tulis. The cover letter emphasized that the transition to a more electronic Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) should be flexible and evolving, and that it should incorporate a formal and continuing process of technology scanning and evaluation. The letter also reiterated the belief that a technical study should be carried out to determine the most cost-effective and feasible alternatives for the transition. This study would provide necessary data on technological issues, including standardization, as well as on the current capabilities of federal agencies and libraries. The final report to Congress should be released shortly.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: The Joint Committee on the Library held an important hearing on May 7th at which the firm of Booz-Allen presented its financial management report on the Library of Congress. Word of its findings were leaked prematurely to the press, particularly the recommendation that LC relinquish its mission as the de facto national library. Librarian of Congress James Billington presented a well-received defense of the Library's national and global mission that will hopefully translate into adequate funding for LC in FY 1997. AALL will strongly affirm LC's mission in the joint library statement on LC's FY '97 budget request for the Senate Legislative Subcommittee hearing on June 25th.


REMINDER. The AALL Government Relations Policy (revised July 1995) can be found in the AALL Directory and Handbook 1995-1996 at page 363. (NOTE: If you would like additional information, contact Carla Evans, GRC Member, at cjevans@cais.cais.com or 202/416-6823, or Mary Alice Baish, Assistant Washington Affairs Representative, at baish@law.georgetown.edu or 202/662-9200).

SOURCE: Mary Alice Baish (BAISH@WPGATE.LAW3.GEORGETOWN.EDU). Subject: GRC Update #96-4. E-mail message to law-lib (lawlib@ucdavis.edu). Tue, 18 Jun 1996.
LETTER TO THE PUBLIC PRINTER
April 26, 1996
Michael F. DiMario
Public Printer
U. S. Government Printing Office
732 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20401

Dear Mr. DiMario:

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the recently released Report to the Congress: Study to Identify Measures Necessary for a Successful Transition to a More Electronic Federal Depository Library Program. We are responding to your request to submit written comments based on the oral remarks delivered at last week's joint meeting between members of the Working Group and the Advisors. Our comments today reflect the views of the members of the American Association of Law Libraries, the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries and the Special Libraries Association.

We are pleased that our associations, which represent more than 75,000 professionals in public, academic and special libraries throughout the country, were included in an advisory capacity during the lengthy study process. We commend the Government Printing Office for carrying out this legislatively-mandated study in a manner that considered the views of all three branches of the government, the library community and the private sector. It is especially noteworthy that members of the Working Group consisted of representatives from key agencies, including the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), as well as many Congressional staff. It is hoped that one outcome of this collaborative approach will be improved understanding by all stakeholders of the serious issues of concern to libraries and other users of government information as the transition to a more electronic Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) proceeds.

The FDLP has existed for one hundred and thirty-nine years as a very successful partnership program between the federal government, libraries and the public. This partnership must become even stronger in the future in order that the move to a more electronic program succeeds in reaching its goal: that is, the use of new technologies to expand the public's access to government information. We are pleased with the draft report's principles for federal government information, including the public's right to know and the government's responsibility to disseminate and provide broad and permanent access to its information. The well-articulated goals for an electronic FDLP, as noted in the draft report, must be realized to ensure that these important principles are achieved.

It is especially gratifying that many of the comments and concerns addressed in our previous joint letter to you regarding the Transition Plan were incorporated into the draft report. We do wish to offer some additional general comments on the draft study as there continue to be many areas of serious concern and importance to our members.

TIME FRAME: We are pleased that the draft report offers a more realistic and technologically feasible five to seven year time frame for the transition. The Transition Chronology proposed in the strategic plan better reflects the nation's technological infrastructure; the ability of agencies to create and provide access to information electronically; and the capabilities of libraries and users to effectively utilize such information. We will urge members of the Congressional authorizing and appropriating committees to support this more realistic time frame so that no barriers develop during the transitional years that would reduce the public's access to government information.

VIABILITY OF PRINT: We are pleased that the draft study recognizes the continued viability of a variety of formats, including print, to meet user needs. Format decisions should be based on usage, on the needs of the user community, and also on an agency's own dissemination requirements. While electronic information offers many advantages to paper, including timeliness, the ability to perform full-text searches and to manipulate data, certain types of materials will continue to be more efficiently created, disseminated and used in paper format.

Another problematic area regarding format decisions concerns fee-based products and services; namely, when an agency stops production of a title in print and moves it into a fee-based online
service. One example of this is that depository libraries have in the past been able to select the FBIS and JPRS reports in print formats but these are now available online through paid subscriptions to the new World News Connection service of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). It is planned that by the end of this year these important materials will be available only online while the printed and microfiche reports will be phased out. Valuable materials that have traditionally been available to depositories will no longer be included in the program since NTIS does not offer no-fee access to the World News Connection for depository libraries.

REDUNDANCY AND DIVERSITY: We are pleased that the draft study recognizes the principles of redundancy and diversity as articulated in NCLIS Principle #5: The Federal Government Should Ensure a Wide Diversity of Sources of Access, Private as Well as Governmental, to Public Information. Redundancy—-in access, in formats, and in preservation—-is both a necessity and an advantage. It provides a safeguard in case of overloaded systems, natural or man-made disasters, and even government shutdowns.

It is the government’s affirmative obligation to ensure permanent access to the information that it produces. In the electronic environment, diverse and multiple partners are needed to promote and ensure access and preservation to government information long after its initial creation and dissemination. At the same time, a diversity of other public, private and not-for-profit sources is critical to ensuring that information remains available in useful and convenient ways.

CENTRALIZATION: We are pleased that the draft study recognizes the need for coordination and centralization to meet the goals of the FDLP. The program in a distributed electronic environment requires coordination to bring all participants together on issues of: 1) standardization and guidelines to ensure ease of locating information and guarantees of long-term access; 2) no-fee access to all government information, including fee-based products and services; and 3) usability. The complexities of these issues, particularly when many agencies are creating their own web sites, seems to be underestimated in the draft report. We commend GPO ACCESS as the legislatively-mandated centralized point of entry to electronic government information and the GPO locator service that assists the public in finding information across diverse government entities. Users must have timely and comprehensive finding aids to the growing vast universe of electronic government information, and centralized coordination is the most efficient means.

In addition to the above general comments on the draft study, we firmly believe that the study’s goal of ensuring broader public access through electronic means will not be achieved unless the following concerns are addressed. While details of the draft study and the strategic plan remain to be worked out, these issues are critical to the transition’s success. We hope also that the collaborative approach which GPO brought to the study itself will be maintained so that all interested and involved partners, including our associations, may continue to participate in the process.

MORE DATA NEEDED: We remain very concerned that although some useful information was gathered during the study process, neither the draft report, the models developed as part of the task force reports, nor the strategic plan are based on substantive data regarding costs and capabilities of the government, libraries or the public to produce, access and use predominately electronic information. We believe that a technical scan is necessary and we will urge Congress to approve funding for the Technical Implementation Assistance which the report proposes.

NO-FEE ACCESS: We strongly support the study’s first goal statement which ensures that the public has equitable, no-fee local access to government information through depository libraries. The draft study addresses this issue by suggesting that reimbursement to agencies for fee-based services could come from the Superintendent of Documents. There are no assurances, however, that there will be continued adequate funding to support the transition plan. Consequently, we are concerned that government information for which agencies must recover costs, particularly fee-based products and services, will become a new generation of fugitive information.

LONG-TERM PERMANENT ACCESS AND PRESERVATION: The draft report acknowledges that issues relating to long-term access and preservation of electronic government information
require new relationships, indeed new strategies, between all stakeholders: GPO, agencies, NARA and participating libraries. Yet the draft fails to identify what these strategies may entail and the responsibilities for each partner. Long-term access and preservation issues are critical to the success of the FDLP; thus it is crucial that additional information regarding these activities be provided.

In addition, the draft report includes the recommendation that GPO will assume new responsibilities in the archival arena. Through many years of maintaining preservation and archival programs and collections, libraries have learned that these efforts require significant investments in technological solutions (e.g. deacidification and digitization pilots), personnel, and facilities. To be successful in undertaking new preservation and archiving responsibilities, GPO will need to provide additional detail regarding how such tasks will be accomplished. We suggest that a comprehensive study be undertaken among all partners to guarantee permanent long-term access and preservation. For example, it is not clear how and when GPO would support the "periodic review and refreshing of data to different mediums."

The issues of long-term permanent access and preservation are central to the transition to a more electronic program and thus we are especially concerned that the draft study offers no specifics, no data, no costs and no assurances. We reaffirm that these critical issues are the responsibility of the government and that they must be comprehensively addressed before the transition plan is implemented. The questions are very basic ones: first, how do we assure that electronic information will be available and usable next month, next year, or in twenty-five, fifty, or even a hundred years from now; and second, who will be responsible for ensuring long-term permanent access. In shifting long-term access from depository libraries to the government, as the draft study suggests, we must be assured that funding will remain adequate so that the government can refresh and migrate information. Otherwise, our national historical records will disappear into a black hole and the advantages of electronic information will be nullified.

COPYRIGHT-LIKE RESTRICTIONS: Principle 5 states that Government information created or compiled at Government expense or by Government employees as part of their official duties, regardless of the format in which it is published, is in the public domain. We strongly affirm this principle and note that some agencies are imposing copyright-like restrictions on electronic information. Worrisome patterns are already being proposed; for example, in the case of an agency restricting the downloading of information or its electronic re-transmission. This is an egregious barrier not only to the public's current and long term access to information but also to innovative and creative forces in the private sector to develop enhanced products and services. Further, regarding the proposal of the National Technical Information Service, libraries can neither restrict nor control users from placing electronic information on the Internet.

FEE-BASED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES: In order to fulfill the goals of an enhanced FDLP program, it is vital that materials not currently in the program, such as those created by self-supporting agencies who are by law required to recover their costs, be included. While the draft report proposes models through which these materials would enter the program, the key question is, of course, who is going to pay. GPO suggests that the Superintendent of Documents would reimburse agencies for the cost of including these products and services in the program. However, there are no guarantees that Congress would assure the necessary funding.

This issue addresses the troubling question of cost recovery and quasi-business corporations. Regarding the NTIS proposal for example, it is very troubling that libraries would be asked to become watchdogs to ensure that these electronic materials do not leak out into the public domain. We are also concerned that these or similar restrictions could potentially be used by agencies for access to services for which users have paid subscriptions. A strong affirmation on redistribution without copyright-like restrictions for agency cost-recovery programs is imperative.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROGRAM LIBRARIES: We are concerned that since all depository libraries will soon be required to have Internet access and since, according to the plan, most government information will be available in electronic format, even the smallest program library will by default become a "regional" for
electronic government information. Requiring all libraries to fulfill the regional depository libraries' statutory responsibilities of access and service will place undue burdens on selectives. In order to prevent this occurrence, more flexibility must be built into the program that allows libraries to provide access to electronic information in a manner they can accommodate. We must all acknowledge the tremendous value of program libraries and it is important to provide incentives for their continued participation in the program.

CONCLUSION: These comments on the draft study and the strategic plan supplement our oral comments delivered at last week's joint Working Group and Advisors meeting. We will submit additional comments on the draft study and particularly on some of the specific Task Force Reports within the next few weeks. In particular, we are troubled that some proposed alternative models in several of the Task Force Reports may not be wholly in accord with the study's affirmed principles and goals and thus are very problematic to our members.

We are especially pleased to see the new draft language of the definitions in Chapter 19, Title 44 that acknowledge that electronic information is explicitly defined in the law as being a key component of the FDLP. It is crucial that Chapter 19 be amended to reflect these changes in definitions and the broader scope of the FDLP to assure that the goals for a more electronic program are achieved.

We believe that funding for the technology grants will provide seed money for small selective libraries which otherwise would be unable to provide access to electronic products and services to members of their local communities. One-time technology grants are a step in the right direction although they may not be sufficient since technology itself changes so rapidly as do user needs. To strengthen the justification for these technology grants, we suggest that GPO determine the number of libraries that would be unable to provide access to the expanding array of electronic FDLP materials without these start-up grants.

We would like to make the following recommendations: 1) that the substantial progress and inter-agency dialog achieved throughout the past year continue; 2) that GPO and agencies work together to determine consistency regarding format and standards; and 3) that the Working Group model continue with Information Resource Management representatives from GPO, the Library of Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, as well as the library community and users.

We remain concerned that the draft study lacks clear incentives for agencies to participate in the program, particularly when their budgets are being cut. We also firmly believe that means of oversight and compliance must be provided in a meaningful and effective way. Our associations, representing the broader library community, are willing to work with you to supplement and strengthen the study by offering additional information in the following areas: the capabilities of and impact on libraries and users; the role and responsibilities of regional and selective depository libraries; and the troublesome questions of oversight and compliance. Thank you very much for this opportunity to comment on the draft report.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Oakley
Washington Affairs Representative
American Association of Law Libraries

Carol C. Henderson
Executive Director - Washington Office
American Library Association

Prudence S. Adler
Assistant Executive Director
Association of Research Libraries

David R. Bender
Executive Director
Special Libraries Association

cc: Members, House and Senate Legislative Appropriations Subcommittees
Chair and Ranking Minority Member, House and Senate Authorizing Committees
Ms. Linda Kemp, Staff Director, Joint Committee on Printing

Submitted by Mary Alice Baish, Assistant Washington Affairs Representative, at baish@law.georgetown.edu or 202/662-9200
DEPOSITORY LIBRARY COUNCIL -- FEDERAL DEPOSITORY CONFERENCE

Joint Meeting Attracts 600 Attendees

The Spring 1996 Depository Library Council (DLC) meeting and the Federal Depository Conference were held jointly in Crystal City, April 15-18, 1996. This meeting was the largest attended yet - in part due to the full agenda. GPO, Sheila McGarr in particular, deserves many thanks for putting together such an action-packed session.

After and concurrent with the usual DLC updates and deliberations (detailed below), there were sessions on compact disc standards, the Coalition for Networked Information's project on "Access to and Services for Federal Information in the Networked Environment," the issues facing NARA in terms of preserving and archiving electronic records, using federal information to learn about community change, using older U.S. documents (Serial Set and Congressional Record) for historical research, using the Internet as a shared community based on library experience in Michigan, FinanceNet and U.S. Business Advisor, how to find defense information, web sites for government information, ERIC in the electronic age, federal statistical policy, working towards a virtual library, facilities planning for the electronic age, the origins and evolution of WAIS, Lynx, WWW and S-WAIS gateways, regional input-output modeling system multipliers, regional economic projections and gross state product data, NOAA electronic products and services, what's driving federal information policy, roles for libraries and librarians within the NII, and what works when talking to Congress. In addition, there was an opportunity for new documents librarians to ask all sorts of questions about depository issues, an opportunity to meet representatives from 5 federal agency publishers to talk about their latest techniques/practices in electronic information dissemination, various demonstrations of GPO Access and Pathway services, REIS CD-ROM training, and tours of PTO and/or LPS.

While it was great having all these wonderfully informative sessions taking place, most attendees were thinking and talking about the draft GPO "Study to Identify Measures Necessary for a Successful Transition to a More Electronic Federal Depository Library Program" (FDLP).

The week began with a brief update by Public Printer Michael F. DiMario. He reminded us that GPO provides one part in providing government information; the front line workers are the ones that interact most directly with public. DiMario wonders if technology will create an elitist system of information that books prevent. He sees the transition plan and the task force deliberations draft report (or Study) together forming the basis for future directions. Because of that, he would like our reactions to them in order to plan for implementation.

Political realities - Rep Ron Packard, Chair of the House Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations, is not responsive to the need to extent the time frame for conversion to an electronic program. He also did not support the $500,000 for technology grants. On the other hand, the Senate has some sympathy for the plight of libraries. The Senate Rules Committee is still planning to hold hearings on revision of Title 44 of the U.S. Code. Agency reactions include concern about GPO's expanding role in the provision of electronic information and the conversion to electronics occurring too quickly. In addition, OMB has transmitted a draft bill to House Appropriations Committee but DiMario feels it is unlikely that Congress will accept the draft OMB legislation. DiMario concluded by reminding us that this it OUR program, not THEIR program.

Superintendent of Documents, Wayne Kelley, told us this is an important occasion - the
FDLP dates back 139 years. We are not here though to celebrate the past, but to invent the future within the arena of electronic technology, budget cuts, information being turned over to the private sector, copyright-like restrictions, and laws to ensure public access being ignored. Kelley thinks this period of chaos we are experiencing will continue for awhile, but that we will never be so broke that we will sell our democracy.

The role of the depository librarian will be one of guide through this sea of change. Technology is only a tool that librarians will put to good use by making the technology better serve citizens. The only thing new is the history we've forgotten. Our responsibility to remind those who have forgotten is what librarians do.

Judy Russell, Director, Office of Electronic Information Dissemination Services, gave an overview of the draft "Study to Identify Measures Necessary for a Successful Transition to a More Electronic Federal Depository Library Program." It consists of the report, attachments (including the various task force reports), and an exhibit (strategic plan with a 5 year time frame). We need to keep in mind that this is not the transition plan which has a 2 year time frame.

Russell went over the mission statement, pointing out that each word in the statement carries an important responsibility. She then went over the 7 goals listed in the draft report which cover such things as local access, central management, current range of access, locate information, permanent access, preservation, etc. Basically, the report reaffirms the goals the FDLP has always had. Following the goals section is the policy issues section. The next section takes each goal and looks at how it was dealt with historically and how it will work in the electronic era. Russell concluded by soliciting comments on the draft study and reminding us that the comment period goes through the end of May.

Jay Young, Director of Library Programs Service (LPS), began by thanking all who contributed to the Study of the FDLP and recommending that we look carefully at the "legislative change task" section (task 6) of the Study. Despite all this work concerning the future, LPS has kept the traditional services going. In that regard, it appears that, for the first time in many years, the number of titles distributed in microfiche will be less than those distributed in paper. Ratio may be 60% paper to 40% microfiche.

LPS is dealing with the movement toward a more electronic program through a project type approach, with 4 major projects.

1. Acquire Electronic Information Products for the FDLP. (Robin Haun Mohamed and the Depository Administration Branch)

This will include tangible products such as CD-ROMS, acquiring information for online dissemination via GPO Access, and the identification of information products falling within the scope of the program at other agency sites. For the acquisitions project, the current definition of "government publication" in Section 1902 of Title 44, U.S.C. needs to be broadened to include, without question, electronic information, whether published as a tangible product or made accessible via an electronic online service. Because of the changeable nature of many online electronic products in terms of permanence or location, GPO will concentrate initially on those electronic titles over which the Superintendent of Documents (SOD) has custody or control. The distributed information management environment of the Internet does not lend itself to a centralized holdings model. Instead, the originating agency, or the agency which has custody of the data, is best positioned to assume responsibility for it.

As most documents librarians know, "Preparing for the 21st Century: An Appraisal of U.S. Intelligence" was the first document to be
made available through the FDLP exclusively in an online format. It is listed on a GPO Web page entitled "Government Information Products Available on the Internet From GPO" which has products arranged by Government agency and alphabetically by title under each agency.

In terms of establishing SuDocs numbers for electronic documents, an ad hoc committee is reviewing one proposal to keep some of the elements of the existing SuDocs class structure and adding a system generated number after it. As for notifying depository libraries of such documents, GPO does not intend to issue an "Electronic Products" shipping list. They will use the "New and Hot" section of the new page on GPO's Web site to notify the community of online electronic products available from GPO Access. Online electronic titles will not be assigned an item number since all depository libraries have access to them.

The Electronic Transition Staff (ETS) has been exploring the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of various approaches to expanding the range of electronic content in the FDLP, including scanning. Based on test results, they have concluded that there is a limited use for this process. A selective number of paper documents that are approximately 30 pages or less, and are "graphics-intensive," may be converted to image-only files and made available via GPO Access. They feel these types of publications are excellent candidates for image-only document conversion. The most cost-effective method of incorporating additional electronic information products into the FDLP is to obtain that source data from the originating agency. GPO will be pursuing different approaches to this end, including reaching out to publishing agencies to provide GPO with their files, and obtaining electronic data files from printing contractors.

2. Cataloging and Locator Services. (Tad Downing Cataloging Branch, with the help of the Electronic Transition Staff)

Bibliographic control, at what has been the individual publication level, is a centralized service that the Superintendent of Documents should continue to perform, or at least fully coordinate. This project will encompass a range of activities from traditional cataloging to the emerging suite of Pathway services. GPO intends to provide full AACR2, MARC format cataloging for Government information products which come under their custody, whether in a physical format or an electronic file in a SOD facility. Their Locator Services, including Pathway services and GILS records, will index and point users to the content of other Government information products on the Internet. [Tad Downing explains in detail the new cataloging initiatives - see below.]

Pathway Indexer will facilitate searching on the Internet by locating specific files through keywords. It functions like many other Internet indexers except that it is limited to only federal government Internet sites. Pathway browse will allow users to browse through subjects and titles for information. Using the topics from the Subject Bibliographies, government Internet sites are listed under the appropriate topic. Pathway GILS records created by LPS are integrated with the GPO GILS database. The Pathway GILS records are customized records in the GILS format which describe agencies at the highest level and point to agency Web sites and GILS holdings as well as to Depository Libraries.

3. Strengthen the Depository Library System. (Sheila McGarr and the Depository Services Staff)

In terms of library service expectations, every depository is expected to be able to offer public access to electronic information made available through the FDLP. This will include electronic information from another Government agency's site once GPO has directed and linked users to it via GPO Locator ser-
vices. This requirement to provide public access to electronic FDLP information will be effective October 1, 1996. During a depository library inspection, GPO will use a functional approach to determine compliance with this requirement. The inspector will focus on the depository library’s ability to provide public access to electronic FDLP information. The method selected by the depository library to meet this public access requirement is a local determination.

The "Recommended Minimum Specifications for Public Access Work Stations in Federal Depository Libraries," once finalized, will supersede the January 1995 "Recommended Minimum Technical Guidelines." These recommended specifications are intended to assist depository librarians who are planning purchases of new personal computers for public use. These specifications are not intended to describe the best possible work station. Instead, they are the minimum, or baseline, specifications which should be considered when purchasing new stand-alone public access work stations. GPO encourages the purchase of equipment which exceeds these minimum specifications.

Concerning the inspection program, GPO intends to change the focus so that the resources devoted to periodic inspections can be reallocated to support and services to depository libraries. Now that the depository library self-study has been adopted as an evaluation tool, inspections will concentrate on site compliance of those libraries which submit unsatisfactory self-studies, have major changes in staffing or facilities, have prior records of non-compliance, or if complaints are received from the public concerning depository library services.

4. Permanent Public Access to Electronic FDLP Information. (Ric Davis and the Electronic Transition Staff)

Historically, the FDLP, through the mechanism of the regional depository libraries, has guaranteed permanent preservation of, and access to, tangible Government information products. GPO believes that working to ensure permanent access and persistent bibliographic control are the two most important roles for the Superintendent of Documents and the FDLP in the electronic environment.

With respect to purely electronic Government information, there is no parallel mechanism to ensure that this information is "archived" for permanent public access. As a starting point, GPO will begin with ensuring permanent access to information that is under their custody. Dealing with the agencies regarding information products on their Internet sites will be another matter, however. It is critical that we seek to guarantee that information will still be available in formats that can be permanently accessed and preserved in the future. Young believes that legislation will be needed to address this major question.

The first question and answer period raised the following issues/concerns: the disappearance of information as it goes electronic - only appearing on a web site for a limited period of time; scanning publications less than 30 pages may be the most popular items used by smaller selectives who may not have the equipment to produce hardcopy for users; the implicit assumption that everything except that in the core group IS appropriate for conversion to electronic; the inherent contradiction when agencies are required to cover costs for information products, but still provide free dissemination through FDLP; all this great online access will require specialized libraries to lose their ability to specialize; the need for good documentation to provide meaningful and effective access to government information; are all the costs associated with what GPO's doing now being identifying and how can we live with a 50% cut if it actually comes; some agencies are counting on the FDLP to provide paper archival copies of the information they are taking off the WWW; how do we know that information on the Internet is au-
Tuesday began with a focused discussion on bibliographic access in an electronic environment. To set the stage, Tad Downing, Cataloging Branch Chief, gave an overview of his section's transition plans. New challenges facing GPO include the need for some new cataloging practices and the need to establish an appropriate level of services for titles that are published at non-GPO federal Internet sites. One new cataloging practice has to do with links for a record. GPO has identified 12 possible links, using a variety of fields (765, 767, 770, 772, 773, 775, 776, 777, 780, 785, 786, 787). A links policy incorporating all 12 links may result in records that are so complex that few people could understand the record. Therefore, GPO is proposing to add linking information to the record for the most recent tangible form, to a record for the most recently available remotely accessible title, if that title is made available at the GPO site.

The second issue concerns the inclusion of GPO Internet web site URLs in Monthly Catalog records. GPO's policy is that if monographs, maps and serials are available both as tangible or physical forms and as remotely accessible publications, they will catalog from the physical form and add a 530 note with the URLs for the GPO web site electronic version record. The 856 field will be reserved for use in cataloging publications that are available exclusively as remotely accessible titles. At present, GPO does not feel that maps and monographs published at non-GPO Internet sites are stable enough to include the URL data, but they will include it for serials.

Downing went on to describe the Pathway Bib Records project, a subset to the Pathway project. The purpose of the Pathway Bib Records project is to identify, locate, briefly describe and offer access to selected titles published at non-GPO Internet sites. These titles would be represented by abbreviated records consisting of 6-7 GILS-like elements: title, edition statement, publisher, date, notes, and GPO Subject Bibliography terms as local subject headings. GPO also expects to have hotlinks to take the person from the Pathway Bib Record to the electronic text at the site. There will be no authority work for these records, rather, GPO's time will be spent locating and verifying this information. Note, this is a transition plan, which will change and adapt as time goes on.

The question and answer period after this presentation raised the following issues/concerns: does GPO cataloging staff have the necessary equipment to access the Internet; the problem with determining that while the "title" no longer exists in paper, the information found in that title is available on the Internet - how do you determine this, how do you inform the public of this fact; it would be helpful for GPO to create an agency site record indicating what the agency's policy is for its Internet site; the unanswered question of whether including a URL in a record which might turn out to produce a dead end down the road is more helpful than no URL; will the Pathway Bib Records be transferrable to MARC records; the use of Subject Bibliography terms - are these too broad to be helpful; how will electronic records get into libraries' online catalogs since they won't have item numbers; since there will not be any electronic shipping lists, how will libraries be notified of new electronic publications; patrons don't care if the information is on a GPO web site or an agency web site, they just want to find the information - how can there be a coordinated effort to provide access to the entire wealth of information that's out there.

The second focused discussion was on long-term retention and access to electronic information. Issues/concerns identified during this discussion include: the need for summary files so that the user has some idea of what is available to them without having to pull up the
full file; there is a big difference between access and preservation; concern that once the information goes to NARA accessing it will become a FOIA-like process which is unacceptable; how will we deal with the CD-ROMs we currently have down the road - will we have the equipment to access the information; access issues are real, deal with them now or you can wait for them to change into some other electronic problem - GPO has got to take the lead and work with agencies to get their information online because that is how the public wants it, whether libraries can access it that way or not; if the information fits within your collection development policy, you might want to download and/or print off to ensure permanency; need for electronic regionals to store the electronic information so you don't have just one site containing everything; question of how do you decide when to archive a file; and how do you determine the authenticity of the data.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS GPO

Study Issues:

1. Commends GPO for completing the Study, for including representatives from the library community and for carefully considering the input of depository libraries throughout the study process.

2. Supports the "Principles for Federal Government Information" and the "Missions and Goals for the FDLP" as stated in the Study and recommends the adoption of these statements for the FDLP.

3. Commends GPO for adopting a 5-year time frame for the initial transition to a more electronic FDLP and recommends that GPO continue to work to assess the capabilities of program partners and their progress towards implementing and expanding access to electronic government information.

4. Recommends that Public Printer seek common ground with OMB on Federal policy that would achieve an appropriate degree of government-wide coherence in public information as has traditionally been accomplished through centralized cataloging.

5. Commends GPO for its aggressive and creative proposals for expanding access to government information and providing access to previously fugitive government information.

6. Remains concerned that the transition to a more electronic FDLP continues to proceed without fundamental data necessary to determine the most cost effective and feasible alternatives for providing access to electronic government information. Urges GPO to continue to pursue the means for conducting the Technical Implementation Analysis outlined in the Study.

Revision of Title 44:

1. Supports in concept the definitions of government information, government information product, and government electronic information services as articulated in the Study and recommends that GPO continue to work to identify and recommend legislative changes necessary for a successful transition to a more electronic FDLP.

2. Supports the concept of the role of the Superintendent of Documents in the government-wide coordination of public access to, and retention and long-term access to government information.

Appropriate Formats:

1. Commends GPO for a timely test of the accuracy and feasibility and cost implications of scanning paper publications. Concern is expressed about GPO’s conclusion that graphic-intensive publications of less than 30 pages are candidates for electronic conversion. An electronic format may not be suitable for the intended audience and may present printing problems for depository libraries.

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2. Reaffirms the principle that paper is a viable format.

Bibliographic Access Issues:

1. Applauds the diverse and creative approaches toward providing bibliographic access to electronic government information. Recommends that GPO provide a mechanism that will simultaneously search the Pathway List of Titles (those items residing on GPO sites) and the Pathway Bib Records (those items residing on non-GPO sites) or merge the files.

2. Recommends that GPO develop and incorporate, within Pathway services, records that communicate continues and continued by notes, as well as previous format statements. Further, notify depository libraries when print titles are replaced by electronic, Internet accessible titles.

3. Supports the practice to apply a SuDoc class stem and an accession number to government information accessible via GPO Access. It is anticipated that in the future, the approach may be superseded by other programs, such as the Persistent Universal Resource Locator (PURL) that is under development nationally.

Retention, Long-Term Access and Preservation:

1. Affirms that the federal government has the responsibility to ensure that its information is preserved. Information available through GPO Access and other federal depository electronic information should be preserved in perpetuity unless determined otherwise by the Superintendent of Documents.

2. Recommends that the Public Printer coordinate with NARA to develop plans for preserving material and request clarification on specific aspects of what NARA will maintain.

3. Supports the concept of distributed housing as one means of ensuring long-term access and encourages the development of partnerships with non-governmental entities toward this end. As recommended in the Fall of 1995, urge LPS to assist libraries and agencies interested in cooperative agreements, and to develop model agreements to provide guidance on technical and service issues, including archiving responsibilities.

Training and Communications:

1. Recommends that GPO offer a staff development component at the Fall 96 DLC meeting.

2. Encourages GPO staff involved in writing documentation for electronic products to work with Gateway libraries and other librarians in creating user-friendly documentation.

3. Recommends that GPO establish its own LISTSERV, designated as the official list for depository libraries. This will enable GPO to communicate directly with FDLP and conduct much of its official business electronically.

GPO Operational and Technical Issues:

1. Recommends that GPO set as a high priority supplying their Cataloging personnel with adequate computer equipment containing appropriate software so that they can carry out their responsibilities.

2. Recommends that GPO put the Publications Reference File on the GPO web site.
3. Recommends that GPO invest in URL verification software.

DLC Action Items:

1. Submit written response/comments to GPO on the Study.

2. Conduct an orientation session at the Fall 96 DLC meeting to introduce new documents librarians and first-time attendees to the mission, organization, meetings and work of the DLC.

3. Examine the issue of service expectations for depository information in online electronic formats. Lack of selectivity for online formats, and its relationship to collection development should also be considered as well as the relative responsibilities of regional and selective depositories for online depository information. Seek public input on these issues at the Fall 96 DLC meeting.

4. A newly created statistical measurement committee will provide a progress report at the Fall 96 DLC meeting on the following tasks: develop a statistical survey that can be used annually, create a glossary of terms to ensure consistent data gathering, explore or identify existing statistical studies that would be useful for these efforts, and identify a random sampling of depository libraries and other measures of data gathering.

5. Develop guidelines for the DLC web site and mechanisms for adding/updating information.

As you can see, a lot took place in a short period of time. I can’t even begin to summarize the various programs that were held over the 3 1/2 days - you will have to wait for the proceedings of the Federal Depository Conference. As always, if you have specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Susan E. Tulis

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Univ. of Virginia Law Library
580 Massie Road,
Charlottesville, VA 22903-1789
Phone 804/924-3504
Fax 804/982-2232
set7c@virginia.edu

SOURCE: Susan E. Tulis
(set7c@uva.pcmail.virginia.edu). Subject: Summary of Council/DFC meeting. E-mail message to GOVDOC-L listserv (GOVDOC-L@PSUV@PSUVM.PSU.EDU). Thu, 2 May 1996.

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GOVDOC-L

Recent postings on the GOVDOC-L "Discussion of Government Documents Issues" listserv focused on the following topics: recent Congressional action, the Study to Identify Measures Necessary for a Successful Transition to a More Electronic Federal Depository Library Program, Annual Selection procedures, Basic Depository Library Documents (at http://www.du.edu/~ttyle/bddlhome.htm), news of NTIS and the depository fate of the FBIS Daily Report, e-mail reference policies, Census materials, state bibliographies, Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Codes, Vietnam and Korean archives, and much more.

FBIS & NTIS

The following are some “Frequently Asked Questions” regarding the transition from the hardcopy (paper/microfiche) reports to softcopy via NTIS' World News Connection. The following should be quite informative. If you want additional information faxed to you, call NTIS at 703-487-4140 and enter product code 8645. Otherwise, try connecting to the Web site at http://wnc.fedworld.gov
Will I get the same information that is available in the FBIS Daily Reports and JPRS Reports?
As a part of the NTIS project to provide these materials online via World News Connection, a concerted effort is being made to secure publisher permissions. Some of these permissions are still pending and until given, articles from those publications will not be included in the database. Currently, the majority of the information in the hardcopy reports is available on WNC.

When will the paper copy reports be phased-out?

Worldwide Reports
4/1/96 Arms Control & Proliferation
5/1/96 Environment & World Health

Daily Reports
8/1/96 China, Latin America
8/19/96 Near East & South Asia, West Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, West Europe Economic Review
9/2/96 East Asia, East Europe, East Europe Economic Review 9/16/96 Central Eurasia, Central Eurasia Military Affairs, Central Eurasia Economic Review

Will the microfiche also be phased-out?
Yes. The microfiche will be phased-out along with the paper copy.

Can my organization get free or discounted access to WNC?
NTIS has received inquiries from academic and depository libraries and other organizations regarding WNC discounts. NTIS is a self-supporting agency within the U.S. Government, and must recover its costs for the dissemination of information. Because of this, and because NTIS is paying royalties to the media sources included in WNC, NTIS cannot offer free or discounted access to the service. However, the WNC home page can be accessed and reviewed at no cost. WNC is available on a flat-fee, subscription basis. The price for a subscription ranges from $50 to $100 for monthly, unlimited access. A seven day "introductory" plan, priced at $21, is also available.

What is a profile?
A profile is an automated search feature available on WNC. When a profile is created, a search is run against WNC's latest (every government business day) news feed to identify articles relevant to the subscriber's topic of interest. Once the search is completed, the results are sent automatically to the subscriber's Internet e-mail address. Subscribers can develop profiles using any of WNC's three search options: Free Text (subscribers simply type in a concept or topic of interest), Region/Topic (subscribers simply point and click on the appropriate region and/or topic), and Structured (subscribers can conduct "Boolean" logic searches). The system then retrieves those articles relative to the search profile.

What will happen to the information that is older than two years? [WNC will ultimately incorporate a two-year rolling back-file]
NTIS will offer an archival collection of the material that is more than two years old. Concern for preserving the information in an easily accessible format has already been expressed by many researchers and librarians. Under consideration are options to make the back-files available on CD-ROM or to create a separate WNC file that can be accessed by subscribers. However, suggestions concerning other methods of electronic dissemination are welcome. WNC subscribers will be notified once a final decision is made.

What are the technical requirements?
Several Web browsers can be used to access WNC including Netscape, Chameleon, Web Surfer, Microsoft Internet Browser, America
Online, and Lynx. Not compatible with WNC are NetCom Net Cruiser and Mosaic for Windows. The Web browser in use will determine the protocols for printing and downloading.

Can I get a list of WNC media sources? A comprehensive list of media sources is currently unavailable. However, it is possible to search WNC by name of publication to determine whether or not sources are included. Some of the sources include:

Newspapers
- Holiday (Bangladesh), El Pais (Colombia), Cyprus Mail (Cyprus), El Diario de Hoy (El Salvador), The Baltic Independent (Estonia), Le Monde (France), Mirror (Guyana), Elektrotechnika (Hungary), India Today (India), Hatzofeh Daly (Israel), Al-Anwar (Lebanon), El Norte (Mexico), Takbeer (Pakistan), The Warsaw Voice (Poland), Rossiiskie Vesti (Russia), Le Soleil (Senegal), The Star (South Africa), Thong Hua Daily News (Thailand), Turkish Daily News (Turkey), The Herald (Zimbabwe).

Key Press Agencies
- TURAN (Azerbaijan), Cyprus News Agency (Cyprus), Kyodo News (Japan), LETA (Latvia), ITAR-TASS (Russia), Press Association (United Kingdom) Broadcasters China Radio International (China), Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (Ghana), Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (Lebanon), Nucleo Radio Mil (Mexico), Radio New Zealand (New Zealand), Televisora Nacional (Panama), Radiodifuziunea (Romania), Societe National de Radiodiffusion Television Senegalaiese (Senegal)

Can my organization obtain networked access to WNC?
NTIS plans to provide networked access. NTIS is currently reviewing the technical requirements.

Can a password be used by more than one person?
Yes. A password can be used by more than one person, but not at the same time.

George Ralis
National Technical Information Service
gralis@nts.fedworld.gov

SOURCE: George Ralis <GRalis@nts.fedworld.gov>, Subject: FBIS Daily Reports/World News Connection. E-mail message posted to GOVDOC-L list (GOVDOC-L@PSUVM.PSU.EDU). Thu, 30 May 1996.

FBIS & NTIS

In a letter dated June 5, 1996, the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) announced its intention to provide the Library Programs Service (LPS) with the CD-ROM version of the FBIS publication in lieu of the microfiche version.

FBIS intends to discontinue the paper products sometime in September or October and FBIS confirmed that it expects to begin furnishing the CD-ROM to LPS for distribution to the depositories beginning with the disc covering the period June through September, 1996. Allowing for processing time, LPS expects to receive the disc sometime in November. Until that time, FBIS publications currently produced on microfiche will continue until all paper publications have been converted to "softcopy." As a result of the overlap in the scheduled continuation of the paper product and the production of the CD-ROM version, libraries can expect some overlap and duplication of content.

The current schedule for the phase-out of the paper product is as follows:

1 April -- Arms Control and Proliferation Issues
1 May -- Environment and World Health
1 June -- Narcotics
1 August -- China, Latin American Daily Reports

19 August -- Near East and South Asia, West Europe, Sub-Saharan African Daily Reports
2 September -- East Asia, East Europe Daily reports; East Europe Economic Review

16 September -- Central Eurasia Daily Report, Central Eurasia Military Affairs, Central Eurasia Economic Review

Many thanks to Sande Wilson and Melba Boyd of FBIS for assisting LPS staff in obtaining the CD-ROM for distribution to the Federal Depository Library Program.

Michael A. Clark,
Library Programs Service (SLLA)
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, DC 20401
Phone: 202-512-1619
Fax: 202-512-0877 E-mail:
staff@access.digex.net

SOURCE: GOVDOC-L moderator. Subject: Re: FBIS.
E-mail message to GOVDOC-L list (GOVDOC-L @PSUVM.PSU.EDU). Tue, 11 Jun 1996.

STATE CHECKLIST PROJECT

Posted to multiple lists; please excuse the duplication.

Now available for your perusal: the State Documents Checklists and Shipping Lists home page at http://www.law.uiuc.edu/library/check.htm. This site provides centralized access to state checklists and/or shipping lists that are currently available on the Internet (a total of 15 states so far). The site is the start of an effort to determine the feasibility of developing a searchable database of all or most state checklists, providing an electronic acquisitions and research tool to help fill the gap left by the demise of the Monthly Checklist of State Publications.

A test database using only one state’s checklist will be constructed this summer. In order to move on to the next step, we plan a mailing to those individuals in charge of producing their states’ checklists. We would appreciate receiving the names and current addresses of those individuals. If you have such information, or if you have questions or comments, please send to: sjhemp@prairienet.org.

This project, which grew from a proposal by Cheryl Nyberg (formerly of the University of Illinois Law Library and now reference librarian at Gallagher Law Library, University of Washington) is being developed by librarians at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. We will post further updates as progress is made.

Mary Mallory, Documents Library; Susan J. Hemp, Law Library; Priscilla McIntosh; Rob Richards; and Clara Mosquera, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
CENSUS BUREAU ANNOUNCES NEW INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

The Commerce Department's Census Bureau announced today its new Internet subscription service called "CenStats." CenStats is designed to speed up delivery of the latest Census Bureau information on a host of subjects such as population, housing, income and poverty, manufacturing and business. This new service includes electronic images of all reports published by the Census Bureau since January 1, 1996 as well as selected reports published before that date. With CenStats' electronic bookstore, customers can access hundreds of reports for less than if they purchased them individually.

CenStats will supplement the large amount of information that is an will continue to be available for free on the Census Bureau's Internet site.

CenStats is part of the bureau's ongoing effort to dramatically expand America's access to official demographic, social and economic information. The bureau announced last August plans to expand electronic dissemination of its data by using the Internet as a primary source for data release.

"This is an important step in an ongoing program to provide greater access to census data," said Martha Farnsworth Riche, Census Bureau director. "The basic information that has been available free of charge, will remain free, but we are going to provide the data products we now sell on CD-ROM, printed, and so forth through the Internet via the CenStats subscription service. In the long run, this will increase the timeliness of product delivery, while reducing costs for our customers.

Fees from CenStats will cover the costs incurred to develop, maintain, and improve the system and overall Internet access, thus making more information available to a broader audience.

The new service, http://www.census.gov/prod/www/, has opened its doors for business with a free, browse-and-get-acquainted period that will only last a few months.

Additional value-added features for CenStats are envisioned in the future. These include the ability to download a singer table, enhance data manipulation, and use extraction and display tools, similar to some of the current features of the Census Bureau's Internet site. Ultimately, as part of the dissemination plans of the 2000 Decennial Census, users will have the ability to design and print customized tables, charts, maps, and so forth using census results. There will be a fee for such customized services, but the delivery time will go from weeks to hours.

Users will still be able to access Census Bureau information in hard copy, in CD-ROM, on-line--through major libraries and state data centers.

For information about the new service, please contact the Census Bureau on 301-457-2228; or e-mail: ess@census.gov. The Census Bureau's Internet home page address is http://www.census.gov

SOURCE: Barbara Levergood (leverg.davis@mhs.unc.edu). Subject: Census Bureau's new CenStats (fwd). E-mail message to GOVDOC-L list (GOVDOC-L@PSUVM.PSU.EDU). Sat, Jun 22 1996.

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E-MAIL DIRECTORY

AALL Government Documents/SIS E-Mail Directory
(revised June 4, 1996)

The following is a revised GD/SIS Member Directory of electronic mail addresses. Please make sure that YOUR address is correct. You may use this directory to send individual messages or use the mailing list to distribute a single message to the entire group. This is how it works...

Send mail to gdsis@mail.law.indiana.edu. The message that you send to that address is automatically sent to everyone on the list. They can reply to the message, but if they only reply to the original sender, only the original sender will get it. If they reply and include gdsis@mail.law.indiana.edu on the To: line then everyone will see their reply. This makes it easy to distribute information and obtain answers to questions, etc.

Thanks for participating in the GD/SIS.

Marianne Mason
Documents Librarian
Law Library
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405
(812) 855-4611
masonm@indiana.edu

Arrigo, Paul
Government Documents Librarian
Washburn University
School of Law Library
Inet: zzarri@acc.wuacc.edu

Basefsky, Stuart
Catherwood Library
Cornell University
School of Industrial and Labor Relations
Inet: smb6@cornell.edu

Baum, Marsha
Director
University of South Carolina
Law Library
Bnet: n380029@univscvm.bitnet
Inet:n380029@univscvm.csd.carolina.edu

Baumann, Walter
Cataloging/Government Documents Librarian
DePaul University Law Library
Inet: wbaumann@condor.depaul.edu

Beehler, Sandra
Acquisitions Librarian
Cornell University Law Library
Inet: sab4@cornell.edu

Bertram, Dorie
Assistant Law Librarian - Government Documents
Washington University Freund Law Library
Inet: bertram@wulaw.wustl.edu

Blackburn, Sharon
Automated Research Coordinator/Government Documents Librarian
Texas Tech University
School of Law Library
Bnet: xpsrb@ttacs1.
Inet: xpsrb@ttacs1.ttu.edu

Bobinets, Deborah L.
Assistant Law Librarian
University of Akron School of Law Library
Inet: dbobinets@uakron.edu

Bradley, Sharon
Lawyer/Librarian
Thomas M. Cooley Law School
Inet: bradley@mic.lib.mi.us

Cain, Charlene C.

Anglim, Christopher
Gov. Docs./Special Collections
South Texas Law Library
Inet: anglim@stcl.edu

Appleby, Susan
Technical Services Coordinator
Widener University School of Law Library
Inet: oaseappleby@cyber.widener.edu

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Government Documents Librarian
Louisiana State University Law Library
B.net: llcain@lsuvm.bitnet

Carr, Emily
Head of Reference/Documents Librarian
George Mason University Law Library
Inet: ecarr@gmu.edu

Colwin, Jane
Public Services Librarian
Wisconsin State Law Library
B.net: jcolwin@wiscmacc.bitnet
Inet: jcolwin@macc.wisc.edu

Corsello, Doris
Head, Bibliographic Services
Duquesne University School of Law Library
Inet: corsello@duq3.duq.edu

De Merritt, Lynne
Library Manager
Municipal Research & Services Center of Washington
Inet: mrscc@wln.com

Dow, Susan L.
Head, Documents Department
Charles B. Sears Law Library
State University of New York at Buffalo
B.net: lwlsusan@ubvm
Inet: lwlsusan@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu

Dykstra, Gail
Director, Government Relations
Micromedia Limited
Inet: gdykstra@io.org

Emde, Susan
Documents Librarian
University of Iowa
Inet: semde@uamvs.weeg.uiowa.edu

Fitzugh, Kathryn C.
Public Services Librarian
UALR/Pulaski County Law Library
B.net: kcfitzugh@ualr
Inet: kcfitzugh@ualr.edu

Fleischer, Connie
Government Documents/Reference Librarian
D'Angelo Law Library
University of Chicago

Inet: uclmcf@uchim.vs1

Galligan, Sara
Head of Technical Services
Minnesota State Law Library
Inet: palsmsl@vax1.mankato.msus.edu

Gay, W. David
Reference Librarian
University of Arkansas
Inet: dgy@mercury.uark.edu

Geldmacher, Bonnie
Assistant Technical Services Librarian
Brigham Young University Law Library
Inet: geldmach@lawgate.byu.edu

Giardina, Cecily
Associate Librarian
Sheely-Lee Law Library
Dickinson School of Law
Inet: giardina@class.org

Greer, Janice E.
Reference Librarian
Fordham Law School Library
Inet: jgreer@law.fordham.edu

Hardy, Cathy
Law Librarian, Government Documents
Golden Gate University Law Library
Inet: chardy@ggu.edu

Harrington, Ann
Assistant Law Librarian
Wyoming Supreme Court Law Library
Inet: kcarlson@windy.state.wy.us

Hays, Janet
Resources Development Specialist
CRS/Library of Congress
Inet: hays@mail.loc.gov

Hemp, Susan J.
Reference/Documents Librarian
University of Illinois Law Library
Inet: sjhemp@prairinet.org

Henricks, Duane E.
Documents Librarian
Sarita Kenedy East Law Library
St. Mary's University
Inet: acaduane@vax.stmarytx.edu
Lee, Sue T.
Reference/Government Documents Librarian
Eleventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals
Inet: suelee@mindspring.com

Leon, Judith M.
Law Librarian
Squire, Sanders & Dempsey
Inet: ce583@cleveland.freenet.edu

Levor, Ruth
Associate Director/Head of Public Services
University of San Diego
Legal Research Center
Bnet: levor@acsd
Inet: levor@usdcsv.acusd.edu

Lindsey, Louise
Associate Librarian
University of Connecticut School of Law
Bnet: lawlib2@uconnvm
Inet: lawlib2@uconnvm.uconn.edu

Loar, Leslie
Reference/Documents Librarian
Hamline University School of Law Library
Inet: lloar@seq.hamline.edu

Lohmann, Gwendolyn K.
Public Services/Government Publications/
Media Librarian
Loyola Law School
William M. Rains Library
Inet: glohmann@lawlib.lmu.edu

Louis-Jacques, Lyonette
Foreign and International Law Librarian
and Lecturer in Law
University of Chicago
D’Angelo Law Library
Bnet: uc1lou@uchims1
Inet: llou@midway.uchicago.edu

Lung, Mon Yin
Public Services Librarian
University of Kansas Law Library
Inet: mylung@kuhub.cc.ukans.edu

Maclay, Veronica
Special Collections Librarian
Hastings College of the Law Library
Inet: maclayv@uchastings.edu

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McFadden, David
Senior Reference Librarian
Southwestern University Law Library
Inet: dmcfad@netcom.com

Mallonee, Mary Jane
Reference/International/Government Documents Librarian
Widener University School of Law Library
Inet: maryjane.mallonee@cyber.widener.edu

Mason, Marianne
Documents Librarian
Indiana University Law Library
Inet: masonm@indiana.edu

Montagano, Marcella
Government Documents/Preservation Librarian
University of Connecticut
Law School Library
Inet: mmontaga@holmes.law.uconn.edu

Carol L. Moody
Documents Librarian
Law Library
St. Louis University
Inet: moodycl@sluvca.slu.edu

More, Susan L.
Collection Development Librarian
Pappas Law Library, Boston University
Inet: lawacq@acs.bu.edu

Nelson, Mary Ann
Executive Law Librarian
The University of Iowa Law Library
Inet: mnelson@lawnet-po.law.uiowa.edu

O’Brien, Lois
Head of Technical Services
Marquette University Law Library
Inet: 9726obrienl@vms.csd.mu.edu

Pritchett, Carla Downer
Reference/Documents Librarian
Loyola University Law Library-New Orleans
Inet: pritchet@beta.loyno.edu

Randall, Lynn E.
State Law Librarian
Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
Inet: lynnr@ursus1.ursus.maine.edu

Riley, Camille M.
Library Director
West Virginia University College of Law
Inet: cmriley@wvnvm.wvnet.edu

Robinson, Caitlin
Head, Technical Services & Automated Systems
University of Iowa Law Library
Bnet: cadcaits@uiamvs
Inet: caitlin-robinson@uiowa.edu

Ross, Janice S.
Serials/Government Documents Librarian
Florida State University
College of Law Library
Inet: jross@law.fsu.edu

Ryan, Lee
Reference Librarian
University of San Francisco Law Library
Inet: ryanl@alm.admin.usfca.edu

Ryoo, Heija B.
Head of Technical Services
Southern Illinois University
School of Law Library
Inet: hyroo@siu.edu

Schlueter, Kay
Director
Texas State Law Library
Inet: ulcg001@access.texas.edu

Selnness, Sushila
Collection Services/Government Documents Librarian
University of San Diego
Legal Research Center
Inet: sselness@pwa.acusd.edu

Smith, Tana
Technical Services Librarian
Sacramento County Law Library
Inet: saclaw@class.org

Taylor, William
Georgetown University Law Library
Inet: wtaylor@law.georgetown.edu

Thomas, Julie A.
Technical Services Librarian
Drake University Law Library
Inet: jt2171r@acad.drake.edu
Thomas, Virginia C.  
Associate Law Librarian  
University of Miami School of Law Library  
Bnet: vthomas@umiamivm  
Inet: vthomas@umiamivm.ir.miami.edu

Tulis, Susan  
Documents Librarian  
University of Virginia Law Library  
Inet: set7c@virginia.edu

Walker, William M.  
Documents/International Librarian  
Alyne Queener Massey Law Library  
Vanderbilt University  
Inet: walker@library.vanderbilt.edu

Waterstone, Marek Baxter  
Head, Government Information Services  
O’Quinn Law Library  
University of Houston  
Inet: mbcmw@uh.edu

Williams, Leonette  
Assistant Director for Technical Services  
University of Southern California Law Library  
Inet: lwilliams@library-law.usc.edu

Wright, Judith M.  
Director  
University of Chicago D’Angelo Law Library  
Bnet: jmwr@midway.bitnet  
Inet: jmwr@midway.uchicago.edu

Wright, Madelaine  
Government Documents/AV and  
Microform Librarian  
Suffolk University  
School of Law Library  
Inet: mwright@acad.suffolk.edu

Zich, Joanne  
Chief, Government Documents & Nonprint Media  
Department  
American University Law Library  
Bnet: jzich@auvm.bitnet  
Inet: jzich@american.edu

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