Letter from the Chair
by W. David Gay
Young Law Library, Leflar Law Center
University of Arkansas

Feedback for GPO on Electronic Access

GPO needs feedback from users of electronic federal information! What has been your experience using electronic government information? We need members of the SIS to contact Mary Alice Baish with feedback on:

1. A. Problems that they and users experience using federal electronic information, either through GPO Access or agency websites.
   B. Cost concerns, or better yet, budget information on what it costs for them to be a depository.
   C. Their role in service/outreach to the general public and to other depository libraries in their area.

2. Specifically, she would appreciate comments from users of the CFR on GPO Access (see Admin. Notes, 10/25/96, p. 11). The URL is http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara.cfr. Also, what future enhancements would law librarians like to see?

Send comments to Mary Alice Baish, voice: 202.662.9200; fax: 202.662.9168; email: baish@law.georgetown.edu

Grants for Depository Council

The SIS is providing 2 grants of $300 for attendance of the Federal Depository Library Council Meeting in April. Information and applications are available elsewhere in this issue of JURISDOCS. Questions and comments may be directed to Carol Moody and/or the chair—yours truly!

Officers for Next Year

You too can chair the GovDocs SIS! We are asking for nominations for Vice-Chair, Chair Elect for the SIS. Kay Schleuter, our past chair, has agreed to chair the nominations committee this spring. Contact Kay at the Texas State Law Library, voice: 512.463.1722; email: ulcg001@access.texas.gov.
Baltimore

AALL Annual in Baltimore should be a great meeting. Thanks to Paul for all of his work. As to program scheduling, talk to the Donald Dunn and the Education Committee. Would you like to be involved in program planning? Volunteer! If you volunteered before and were not contacted, we apologize. Try again. We can use volunteers for the SIS booth in the exhibits area as well as for a table during CONELL. Contact Paul or myself for more information!

I hope you enjoy this information-packed issue of JURISDOCS. Once again Mary Alice Baish reports news straight from the capitol in her column D.C. Insider. New columns on preservation issues in government documents and the hottest doc websites were kindly supplied by Chris Anglin and Paul Arrigo. Marianne Mason updates the SIS e-mail distribution list, while Susan Dow not only details what happened at Fall Council but explains why Council is so important to law librarians.

And, speaking of the Depository Council, you have an opportunity to attend the meeting in cherry-blossoming Washington with help from grants offered by the SIS. See inside for details from Grants Chair Carol Moody.

As to the next issue, I would like to see a review of and/or cheat sheet for a government document CD-ROM used frequently in law libraries. HCFA? NCJRS? Foreign Affairs? Volunteer anyone?

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Materials for publication may be submitted to the editor. The editor reserves the right to reject materials submitted for publication. The only exception to this rule is letters submitted for the “Letters to the Editor” column by current GD/SIS members. This exception provides members 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 AALL.

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1997 Baltimore

Request for Nominations
by Kay Schlueter
Nominations Committee Chair
Texas State Law Library

Was one of your New Year’s resolutions to get involved? If so, have we got a deal for you. The GOVDOCS SIS Nominations Committee is looking for candidates to run for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. If you are interested in running or would like to draft one of your peers, please contact:

Kay Schlueter  Phone: 512-463-1725
Nominations Committee Chair  Fax: 512-463-1728
Texas State Law Library  E-Mail: ulcg001@access.texas.gov
Box 12367
Austin, TX 78711

GOVDOC SIS Booth Volunteer Request
by Paul Arrigo
GOVDOC SIS Vice-Chair
Washburn University of Topeka
School of Law Library

Volunteers are needed to man the GOVDOC SIS booth at AALL this year in Baltimore. Please call or email Paul A. Arrigo if you are interested. My phone number is 913-231-1010, ext. 1785, and my email address is zzarri@acc.wuacc.edu

AALL Government Documents
SIS Officers and JURISDOCS Staff 1996-97

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Title 44 Revisions Redux:
Because Congress has made welfare and campaign finance reform the top priorities, legislation to revise Title 44 probably will not be introduced until late spring or summer. Still, meetings with various committee staffers yielded some promising information:

★ the Senate may take a more incremental approach by focusing on the FDLP rather than revising all of Title 44

★ Senate staffers recognize that enforcing agency compliance to allow GPO to perform its central functions is essential to any revisions

★ GPO Access is looked on with favor

★ changes in appropriations committee leadership, with a good mix of rural and urban districts and some long-time library supporters, may prove beneficial to the library community.

Of course, a few battles remain:

★ the library community is pushing the 105th Congress to revise Title 44, and we’re developing a draft public access bill

★ some staffers feel that the number of libraries in the depository program should not increase (unless unanimously approved) because staffers believe that all government information will be electronic.

United We Stand:
In mounting a fortified argument to withstand the winds of Congressional change, AALL, ALA and ARL developed three documents to respond to the adverse legislation that had been proposed in H.R. 4280, “Government Printing Reform Act of 1996.” In addition to a section-by-section analysis and issues statement of the act, the documents propose recommendations that would ensure no-fee public access to electronic government information through the FDLP. The full text of the documents may be found on the Washington Affairs Office homepage at http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/aallwash/.

New House Rule for Electronic Info:
Despite initial and well-publicized intentions by the House leadership, public access to electronic Congressional information has not gained much beyond bills and the Congressional Record. In January, the House adopted a new rule requiring committees to publish electronically “to the maximum extent feasible.” How this rule translates into results has yet to be proven.

APDU, We Love You:
The 1996 meeting of the Association of Public Data Users revealed common concerns with the law library community. Themes such as equal access, broadened use of public statistical sources, and the reliability and authenticity of electronic data echoed during the meeting.
Sharing APDU’s outlook, a GOVDOC SIS Baltimore program will focus on “Understanding and Using Federal Statistics.” Like AALL, APDU is frustrated by agencies which use government information to raise revenues and is concerned about the technical burdens for users and financial burdens for libraries. AALL has found a new ally to help surmount the technical and budgetary challenges ahead.
W.I.P.O. Wipeout:
Vocal protest by many organizations, including AALL, succeeded in deferring action on the database protection treaty during the Dec. 2-20 meeting of the World Intellectual Property Organization. The treaty would have effectively removed some government information from the public domain. Alas, we expect to see provisions of the database treaty reintroduced as legislation during the 105th Congress. For documents relating to the W.I.P.O. conference, see http://www.wipo.int/eng/diplconf/.

GPO Access Just Grows and Grows (and Gets Better and Better All the Time!):
GPO Access currently includes more than 40 titles in more than 70 databases. Since GPO Access became free to users in December 1995, its use has ballooned. Compare the number of documents retrieved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Number of Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 1995</td>
<td>837,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1996</td>
<td>2,880,998</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Four new valuable sources recently appeared on GPO Access: selected titles of the CFR, Supreme Court opinions (1937-74), the Commerce Business Daily, and the Congressional Pictorial Directory.

GPO Access is a GILS Best Friend:
Professor Chris Simpson of the School of Communications at American University reported at the second annual Government Information Locator System (GILS) conference that his students found using GPO Access the most thorough and least confusing way to access GILS. Through GPO Access, you can search through the GILS records of 26 agencies at one time.

And, Speaking of GILS:
Two library science professors are conducting a research project, “The GILS: An Evaluation of U.S. Federal Government Implementation.” Charles McClure and William Moen have set the goals of this project to determine:

★ how GILS serves various user groups
★ how GILS improves public access to government information
★ how agencies are progressing with their implementation

Visit their web site at http://www-law.unl.edu/slis/GILSEVAL/ to see more information about their research.

State Headlines

The “We Know It When We See It” Award:
Illinois SB 1036 proposed that each county might define obscenity. With efforts by AALL, CALL, and the Illinois Library Association, the Illinois House rejected the bill by eight votes in December.

Maryland, So Close and Yet So Far:
While acknowledging that the new Maryland General Assembly website was a welcome resource for citizens, AALL points out in a letter to the Washington Post that the Maryland Division of State Documents refuses to provide Internet access to the Code of Maryland Regulations and the Maryland Register.

Late Breaking News

The Bill That Will Not Die:
Legislation allowing each county to define obscenity has been reintroduced in the Illinois legislature. CALL and the Washington Affairs office will monitor legislative activity and oppose the bill’s passage.

★ how GILS works as a tool for information resources management.

U.S. Government Information...
ELECTRONICALLY
New Hot Document Web Sites
by Paul Arrigo
GOVDOC SIS Vice-Chair
Washburn University of Topeka
School of Law Library

Federal

IBM/Optipat Patent Searching Site
URL: http://www.ibm.com/patents
or
http://patent.womplex.ibm.com/

This site is a product of IBM and Optipat. It contains bibliographic access to patents from 1/5/74 to the present. It also has full-text patent images from 1987 to the present. Prior years will be added in early 1997. To obtain the full-text patent, one must order it from Optipat for a nominal fee ($2.50 per patent, up to 100 pages, shipped within 24 hours of receipt of order).

This site also provides hypertext links between patents. It links U.S. and International Classification numbers referenced patents and patents that have cited the patent retrieved. With a click of a button all claims for the patent can be displayed as well.

There are also many different types of search interfaces. One can search by patent number, keyword, phrase, and with boolean operators. The advanced search mode includes proximity searching, making it one of the most powerful and inexpensive sites for patent searching. Field searching is also available to help narrow a search. The fields include: inventor, assignee, title, abstract, claims, and agent.

There are a few caveats. Not all of the patent images have been loaded since 1988. Approximately 16,000 patent images are missing from the database since 1988. Another concern, raised on Patent-l listserv, is the ability of IBM to track what each person or company is searching, allowing them to see what the competition is doing. Still, this is a very worthwhile project as long as the price remains low. The CNI patent server has more fields to choose from but the IBM server provides access to more bibliographic/full-text information (patent images) than CNI.

State

National Court Directory/
Superior Information Services Inc.
URL: http://www.courts.net

This site is a commercial product, but it gets its revenue from WWW builders and not the searchers. It charges $100.00 per trial court to create and maintain a homepage for them. This site's emphasis is on trial courts. Currently it has pointers to five federal district courts. It also has links to state trial and appellate courts. The site is arranged geographically by state. Once a state has been selected and retrieved, the format is framed. One may also wish to visit the State Courts Directory set up by PiperNet Resources to compare. There is a large Internet void for federal district court information. This site, if it truly takes off, may provide one more way for legal professionals to access trial courts.

Local

Municipal Code Online WWW
URL: http://www.spl.lib.wa.us/collec/lawcoll/municode.html

Seattle Public Library has created a new site for accessing Municipal Codes directly on the Internet. One no longer must first find the Official City WEB to locate the City Codes. It is arranged by state and then by city. It currently points to 29 cities from 15 different states.

Municipal Code Corporation
URL: http://www.municode.com/database

The Seattle site also provides links to the Municipal Code Corporation Home Page, which has even more City Codes and Ordinances. It links to 165 cities from 20 different states. However, 88% of the city links are to Florida City Codes. Both of these sites should be good for professors or citizens interested in what other cities are doing. Once other states post their city ordinances on the Internet, these two sites will be even more valuable.
Federal Depository Library Council
Its Impact on Law Libraries
by Susan Dow
Charles B. Sears Law Library
State University of New York at Buffalo

Background

The Depository Library Council to the Public Printer was established in 1972. This body would continue the work of seven librarians who had been asked by the Public Printer to serve on an advisory committee on depository libraries during the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration consideration of legislation to revise the depository library program in 1963. The mission of Council, as adopted in November 1963, is

To assist the Government Printing Office in identifying and evaluating alternatives for improving public access to government information through the Depository Library Program (DLP) and for optimizing resources available for operating the program.¹

Membership of the council "shall be structured to provide the Public Printer with a diverse range of opinions and expertise. Additionally, it shall represent a cost-section of the various types of libraries in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP)."² Law Libraries of accredited law schools joined the FDLP in 1978 as a result of Public Law 95-261³ and became partners with other depository libraries in the provision of government information at no cost to the user. One of the most interesting aspects of being a member of the Council is the chance to interact with individuals who share a concern for the FDLP. While members of Council do not always share the same view on an issue, all are respectful and interested in the perspectives that members bring as a result of their experience working in various types of depository libraries.

Council is an advisory body to the Public Printer and transmits its view to the Public Printer twice yearly in recommendation format. Council also compiles reports, such as the Council’s Response⁴ to the GPO Study Report,⁵ when requested by the Public Printer.

Law Library Concerns

Over the past several years, the Depository Library Council has focused its attention on several issues that directly affect law libraries. These issues are distribution of the Serial Set, the GPO Study Report,⁶ and revisions to Title 44 of the United States Code.⁷

The Serial Set, selected by many depository libraries, is especially important to law libraries. The Executive Board of AALL has demonstrated its importance by adopting several resolutions urging Congress to appropriate sufficient funding to allow the Government Printing Office to continue to distribute this title in paper.⁸

Limited Congressional funding in the early 1990s led GPO to seek Council’s assistance with identifying ways that the Serial Set could be distributed more economically. In 1993, Council recommended several alternatives which included distribution of the bound volumes to regionals with selective libraries receiving the slip reports and documents in either microfiche or paper. Selectives could receive the bound volumes if they selected microfiche slips, and those libraries receiving paper slips would be ineligible to receive the bound volumes. An alternative recommended by Council suggested that only regional libraries and states without a regional receive the bound volumes in paper with selective libraries receiving the slips in either paper or microfiche.⁹

In June 1994, the Public Printer established the Serial Set Study Group which was charged with "[investigating] alternatives for producing the bound U.S. Congressional Serial Set (SS) and reducing its cost."¹⁰ A law librarian and a member of Council were among the members of the Study Group. In October of 1994, the Study Group recommended that regional libraries receive the bound Serial Set in paper with the option to select a CD-ROM version when it became available. Selectives could choose online access through GPO Access¹¹ to the slips instead of selecting either paper or microfiche with the selective having the option of selecting either the Serial Set in paper or CD-ROM when it became available.¹²

Congressional funding was appropriated for distribution of the bound volumes of the Serial Set to depository libraries through the 104th Congress. The “Case Study on the Congressional Serial Set”¹³ found in the GPO Study Report provides dissemination alternatives for House and Senate reports and documents that reflect a more electronic depository library program.

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Unfortunately, it appears that the bound *Serial Set*, beginning with the 105th Congress, will be distributed to regional libraries only as a result of limited congressional funding. Selectives will continue to have the option to select either paper or microfiche copies of House and Senate reports and documents. Although this is distressing news for many law libraries, the *Serial Set* has been saved many times and all can be thankful that has continued to be available for selection through the 104th Congress.

**GPO Study Report**

In June 1996, GPO issued its report: *Study to Identify Measures Necessary for a Successful Transition to a More Electronic Federal Depository Library Program.* This report was the result of many months of discussion concerning the integration of electronic media into the FDLP. The Study Group included representatives from all three branches of government, including the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. The Chair of Depository Library Council and the Assistant Washington Affairs Representative for AALL were selected for membership in the Advisors Group and provided GPO with comments and advice during the study process.

The Fall 1995 meeting of Depository Library Council, held in Memphis, Tennessee, was devoted to the topic, “The Role of Depository Libraries in a New Government Information Infrastructure.” One of the outcomes of the discussions at this meeting was the realization that the Depository library community needs to work with one another as the existence of the FDLP is being questioned by both the legislative and executive branches of government. While it was true that the various types of libraries in the FDLP were often at odds with one another, it is more likely today that that tension is between technologically-capable and technologically-needy libraries. As a result, Council recommended in October 1995 that the Public Printer, as part of his FY 1997 proposed budget, request funds to assist needy Depository libraries in the initial acquisition of computer hardware so that their patrons could utilize electronic products distributed through the FDLP.

As a result of input gathered at the meeting, Council issued its “Report of the Depository Library Council to the Executive Working Group of the Study to Identify Measures Necessary for a Successful Transition to a More Electronically Based Federal Depository Library Program.” This report focused on how technology would affect the staffing of Depository libraries, the need for librarian and patron training in the use of government electronic products, the need for retention, long-term access and preservation of government information, and the need for legislative changes to Title 44. As a result of Council action and comments from the Depository Library community, the initial time frame for the conversion to an electronic program was revised from two to five years. Council also continued to reiterate its view that paper was a viable format for the dissemination of certain publications.

Service expectations in an electronic environment were of particular concern to specialized Depository libraries, including law libraries. The development of the GPO website with its pointer capability had lead GPO to feel that once a website was linked to from the GPO home page, it was considered selected by all Depository libraries. One of the strengths of selective Depositories is the ability for selectives to acquire, with a few exceptions, only those items it feels are of use to the clientele of that library. The selection of these items is complimented by the selection of commercial indexes and publications. Law libraries and other specialized Depository libraries felt that the ability to provide adequate reference assistance to those who accessed websites outside the subject specialty of the library might be lacking.

Council considered the issue of service expectations for Depository libraries in the electronic environment at its Fall 1996 meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. As a result of discussions held at this meeting, Council recommended to GPO that, “GPO require the Depository Libraries to develop policy statements for service issues.” These policies should include provisions that indicate the library's policies on printing and downloading from electronic products, Windows/DOS instruction, Internet access, and photocopying fees. Council did acknowledge that these statements should reflect the diverse local environment within Depository libraries.

**Revision of Title 44**

Several suggestions for revisions to Chapter 19 of Title 44 of the U.S.C. were identified during the working group sessions that led to the GPO Study Report. These suggestions were transmitted from the Public Printer Michael DiMario to Senator John Warner, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration in a letter dated August 22, 1996. The changes were also the result of an informal consultative process that among others included the Depository Library Council and representatives from the American Library Association, the American Association of Law Libraries, the Special Libraries Association, and the Association of Research Libraries.
As might be expected, many of the changes reflect the emergence of electronic government information. One long-sought-after change includes changing Government Publication to Government Information. Government Information would include information regardless of form or format which is created or compiled by employees of a component of the Government. Another suggested change includes the requirement that components of the Government notify the Superintendent of Documents when they initiate, modify, or discontinue any Government information product. This is seen as a way to alleviate the fugitive document problem.

On September 28, 1996, the “Government Printing Reform Act of 1996” was introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Thomas. Although this bill was not acted on during the 104th Congress, it is expected that this bill will be reintroduced in the 105th Congress. The bill is especially troublesome as Title V of the legislation attempts to revise the FDLP. The cost of dissemination and republication for depository library dissemination is transferred from legislative branch appropriations for the Government Printing Office to the entity of the Federal Government that produces the publication. This will probably result in less dissemination of materials.

Section 504 of the bill is of special interest to law libraries since it repeals the bylaw designations of depository libraries as of January 1, 1997. Therefore, there would be no additional law school libraries designated as depository libraries. Council stated in a Fall 1996 resolution that it cannot, “recommend support for this or similar legislation since it runs counter to the principle of enhancing public access to government information.”

Conclusion


The issues under consideration impact not only law libraries but all FDLP participants. Gone are the days of concern about wrinkled shipping lists, incorrect item number assignment to publications, and the condition of microfiche in GPO shipment boxes. Limited funding and separation of powers issues are threatening to destroy the FDLP. All who value free access to government information need to join the Depository Library Council and others in their efforts to preserve and improve the FDLP.

Notes


2 Id.


6 Id.


8 For most recent AALL Resolution, see Resolution on the U.S. Congressional Serial and the Bound Congressional Record, Indianapolis, Indiana, AALL Executive Board (July 19, 1996)


10. Id. at 1.


14. Id. at 5.


17. Title 44, supra note 7.

18. Resolutions and Actions Items of Depository Library Council to the Public Printer, Fall 1996 Council Meeting, Salt Lake City, transcript, at 1-2
GOVDOC SIS Grant Application

by Carol L. Moody
GOVDOC SIS Grants Chair
St. Louis University Law Library

For several years, the SIS has funded 2 or more grants to members to fund travel, lodging, and registration for documents-related meetings, conferences, and continuing education programs. Examples are the interagency depository seminar, usually held in May, the April depository library meeting in Washington, ALA/GODORT pre-conferences, regional training opportunities, etc. Funding is not provided for attendance at AALL. This year we have the funds for 2 $300 grants. The committee wants to have the applications in hand by March 12, so we can make a decision in time for the various spring meetings. Speaking from experience with each event, the April and May meetings are absolutely terrific—definitely worth filling out a form! Let us hear from you!

PLEASE SEND THE FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE TO THE ADDRESS BELOW BY MARCH 12

Carol L. Moody
St. Louis University Law Library
3700 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108-3478
314-977-2756 Voice 314-977-3966 Fax
moodycl@sluvca.slu.edu
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES
APPLICATION FOR GRANT - 1997

Purpose: The purpose of the Government Documents Special Interest Section Grants Program is to financially assist members of the SIS and their document support staff to attend documents related meetings, conferences (with the exception of the AALL annual meeting), and continuing education programs. Preference will be given to those individuals who will not receive any support from their employing institutions and/or those individuals who have never before attended the meeting for which they are requesting support.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT IN INK

1. Name: ___________________________ Date: _____ / _____ / _____

2. Current Title: ___________________________

3. Address:

Work: __________________ Home: __________________

___________________________

___________________________

Phone: __________________ Phone: __________________

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

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

5. Previous relevant employment (employers, positions) __________________

________________________________________________________________________

6. Please list your professional activities as they relate to law and/or document librarianship.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

7. Are you a member of the GD/SIS? YES NO* If yes, when did you join? _____

*If not a member of the GD/SIS, a letter from a current GD/SIS member must accompany this application.
8. For what purpose do you wish to use this grant? __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

9. Have you attended this meeting before? YES, NO If yes, how many times? __________

10. How do you feel you will benefit from attending this meeting? __________________________
    __________________________________________________________
    __________________________________________________________

11. Will your employer pay any of your expenses for attending this meeting? ______________
    If so, what portion? _________________________________________

12. Estimated expenses for this meeting:**
    Travel: ___________________________________________________
    Lodging: ________________________________________________
    Registration: _____________________________________________
    **The maximum total award per recipient will not exceed $500.00.

I have not received a GD/SIS grant in the past. I agree that if for any reason I am unable to use
any grant monies awarded (or my employer decides to pay all or a portion of my expenses), I
shall return the grant money (or a portion thereof) to the Government Documents Special Interest
Section. I further agree to furnish receipts documenting my attendance and expenses at the
meeting within thirty (30) days of my return. Photocopies will suffice. I will submit a written
summary of the meeting funded for inclusion in the next issue of JURISDOCS.

Signature: __________________________________ Date: ______________

Please send application to:

Carol L. Moody
St. Louis University Law Library
3700 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108-3478
314-977-2756 V 314-977-3966 F
moodycl@sluca.slu.edu

The GD/SIS does not discriminate on the basis of religion, age, national origin, or sexual preference.
The yellowing, brittle pages of such important sources as the Federal Register and the CFR should concern all of us who rely on the information contained in these pages. Preservation of government documents is important to the law librarian and the depository user because these documents are essential to legal research. Until fairly recently, the preservation of government documents has been completely neglected. Of particular concern was the safety and physical integrity of valuable government documents such as the U.S. Congressional Serial Set.

The Federal Depository Library Manual (rev. Nov. 1993) is an appropriate starting point in contending with the preservation of government documents. As with all of its provisions, federal depositories should endeavor to follow the standards contained in the Manual. It plainly contemplates that depositories have a preservation responsibility: "a depository library should have policies and procedures for each of the following functions . . . [including] Preservation and Security." Stressing the importance of the preservation charge, Chapter 6 of the Manual states, "The documents collection, by virtue of its importance as a primary resource for the history of the nation, requires protection from environmental abuse, physical mishandling by staff and patrons, and theft."

Preservation is a systematic effort to prevent deterioration in the library's collection. The Manual stresses proper housing of materials as an essential part of preventing deterioration: 1) "All materials should be housed in a stable environment with no abrupt temperature or humidity changes," 2) documents should be stored in sturdy, acid-free binders, and 3) publications intended as a part of the permanent collection should be bound.

One of the most basic and helpful sources in preserving government documents is Rare and Valuable Government Documents: A Resource Packet on Identification, Preservation, and Security Issues for Government Documents Collections (ALA, 1993), compiled and edited by Jan Walsh, Barbara Hulyk, and George Barnum. The packet includes transfer guidelines, recommendations from rare book experts, organizations, and vendor resources. In addition to the Manual, the packet provides an essential starting point for preserving government documents.

Several SuDoc classification numbers in the checklist can be immediately targeted for special consideration. Of particular interest to law libraries is:

- Any item in the Z section covering the first 14 Congresses. These materials should be considered rare and valuable.

Other sections include:

- N 1.8: Explorations and surveys.
- S 6: International exhibits and explorations
- W 7.5: Expeditions and surveys
- W 7.14: Explorations and surveys for the railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean

Paper and microfilm have been favored as archival medium because paper, when properly cared for, can last for hundreds of years. Microfilm has a similar lifetime. Many paper records over a century old are in much better shape than more modern papers, most of which has a high acid content. The techniques of preserving paper-based materials are well-established. Money, expertise, and personnel can stop the deterioration of paper-based information and preserve that information indefinitely.

Electronic media poses different preservation challenges, the main one being that magnetic tape has a relatively short life span. Even under ideal conditions of controlled storage, a reel of tape is not expected to retain data in a readable state for any longer than ten years. Digitalization, on the other hand, offers promising preservation benefits. It makes sense that a metallic format, such as a CD-ROM, would last longer than paper and certainly longer than the silver nitrate film of microforms, even though we do not really know its longevity. We do know, however, that content stored in digital form is easier to replicate or refresh than traditional library formats. Computer files can be backed up regularly and moved to new and longer-lasting storage media much more easily than paper formats. Successive hardware and software migrations, however, mean that information is lost unless steps are taken to convert that digital data.

One major unresolved question is: who will assume the responsibility of preserving digital data nationwide? Most depository libraries and the GPO lack the resources to perform this function. The Center for Electronic Records at the NARA can preserve digital data, but not all electronic data is submitted to NARA. We in depository libraries need to keep a close watch on electronic data preservation developments, and bring the needs of our users to the attention of policy-makers and the NARA.
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:

1. Send mail to gdsis@mail.law.indiana.edu.

2. The message that you send to that address is automatically sent to everyone on the list.

3. Recipients can reply to the message, but, if they only reply to the original sender, only the original sender will get it.

4. If recipients reply and include gdsis@mail.law.indiana.edu on the To: line, then everyone on the list will see their reply.

The GD/SIS list makes it easy to distribute information, obtain answers to questions, etc.

Thanks for participating in the GD/SIS.

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