Letter from the Chair
by Charlene Cain
Louisiana State University
Paul M. Hebert Law Center Library

Once again the Government Documents Special Interest Section is off and running! Just yesterday it seems we were in Anaheim and suddenly fall is upon us. As I write this, Hurricane Georges is bearing down on the coast of Louisiana - a situation which lends an uncommon perspective to this article discussing our plans for the coming year, I can tell you.

First and foremost, Paul Arrigo is to be commended for his estimable tenure as chair of the SIS. He wrote a strategic plan, kept all the committees going, and handled conference with aplomb. It will be hard to fill his shoes. I would also like to thank Sharon Blackburn for her work as JURISDOCS editor and welcome Cecily Giardina as her successor. Like Sharon's work on JURISDOCS, Kay Schleuter's leadership on the Publications Review Committee has been a tremendous asset to the section. A. Hays Butler has agreed to step in as chair of that committee, and I look forward to working with him.

If you did not attend the conference in Anaheim, you missed several great programs. The "Welcome to the Gov Docs SIS' program turned up a good number of newcomers with ideas and willingness to serve. "My Dinner with GPO" worked out beautifully, due to Paul Arrigo's naturalistic portrayal of (surprise!) a documents librarian having a leisurely dinner with newly appointed Superintendent of Documents Fran Buckley. "Policy, Guidelines, and Gentlemen's Agreements: Government Information in the Shadows" was a hit, with a large crowd, sensational speakers, with support from the audience by Fran Buckley. The Gov Docs SIS sponsored two of its own programs on Monday evening--"Teaching Legal Research Using Government Documents" and "Local Government Information on the Internet" for a capacity crowd --which was a real coup, considering it came right before the West party.

(cont. on p. 2)
(Letter from the Chair, cont.)

We are planning a few new things for this conference, as well as continuing to build on the foundation that Paul began. We will hold a “Welcome to the Gov Docs SIS” breakfast (most likely on Monday, July 19), and we hope that all of our members attending the conference will come to greet new and prospective members. Bringing new members into the section is one of the goals of the strategic plan, and in my estimation nothing works better than the testimony of an enthusiastic crowd. We will also hold a reception, co-sponsored by the Government Relations Committee and the Council of Chapter Presidents, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the legislation that brought law libraries into the depository system. Greta Boerger has graciously agreed to coordinate this reception, which will be funded by the Congressional Research Service. Our program chair Pegeen Bassett (who is also vice-chair/chair elect) has put together a host of wonderful programs for Washington. I am looking forward to all of these events.

In the meantime, there is a lot of work to do. If you are considering applying for a grant to attend a documents-related conference in the spring, check this issue of JURISDOCS. Our Grants Chair, Peggy Jarrett, will be gearing up to receive your applications in February. Following time-honored tradition, Paul Arrigo will take the reins of the Nominations Committee. If you have prospective candidates in mind, please contact him. If you have ideas or questions about the direction of the SIS, please call or write me or Pegeen Bassett. The coming year will be exciting and exhausting, I’m sure, but we are off to an excellent start.

From the Editor
Cecily Giardina
Dickinson School of Law
Pennsylvania State University

I’m looking forward to the many challenges of being editor of JURISDOCS. Thank you to all of the contributors to this issue, to Sharon Blackburn for her expertise, and to my law library colleague, Gail Partin. I encourage the submission of articles, comments, suggestions, recommendations preferably by email: chg3@psu.edu. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS OF NEXT ISSUE: FEBRUARY 1, 1999.

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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 GOVDOC 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 GOVDOC SIS or AALL.

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21:1 JURISDOCS (Fall 1998):2
Agenda Item no. 1 - Approval of the Minutes.
The Government Documents Special Interest Section met on the last afternoon of the 91st AALL Conference in Anaheim, California on July 15, 1998. The meeting was called to order. The first item of business was to approve the minutes of the last meeting held in Baltimore, Md. These minutes were published in the Fall 1997 issue of Jurisdocs. No changes or corrections were deemed necessary. The minutes were approved.

Agenda Item no. 2 - Treasurer’s Report.
The Treasurer’s Report was the next item on the agenda. Melanie Putnam, (Ohio State University College of Law Library) Secretary-Treasurer of the GovDoc SIS since 1995, gave her last report before turning over the Treasurer’s duties to the incoming officer.

The ending balance for the 1997-1998 GovDoc SIS year of activity was $9,663.89. In summary, a total of $1,195 in grants were disbursed to support travel requests made by GovDoc SIS members. Two grants at $400.00 each were given to two members to attend the April 1998 Federal Depository Library Conference in Washington, D.C. The third grant was provided to another member to attend this annual meeting in California.

The state bibliographies continue to generate a good revenue stream for the SIS. This year a total of $690.00 was added to the coffers from the sale of state bibliographies. One error, however, provided additional cash to the GovDoc SIS treasury. This will have to be returned to the appropriate AALL group. This error reduces our ending balance by $750.58. Thus, our corrected ending balance would be $8913.31.

The final large addition to the treasury comes from the annual dues collected for membership to the GovDoc SIS. Our dues income, added in Sept. 1997, totaled $2,070.00.

Agenda Item no. 3 - Report of the Nominations Committee.
David Gay, Chair of the Nominations Committee reported the names of the newly elected officers for the GovDoc SIS. The new Vice Chair/Chair-Elect is Peggeen Bassett from the Northwestern University School of Law. The new Secretary/Treasurer of the GovDoc SIS is Pamela Tull, from the University of Kansas School of Law. Congratulations to our new officers.

Agenda Item no. 4 - Report of the Strategic Planning Committee.
Paul Arrigo, Chair of the GovDoc SIS described and encouraged discussion of his draft of the SIS’s own Strategic Plan. Copies of the plan were distributed to the officers prior to the July 1998 business meeting. It was also published in the Summer 1998 issue of Jurisdocs. (Vol. 20 issue 3). The Chair was looking for comments, additions, or deletions to the plan. Some discussion ensued at the Business Meeting. The Chair described the effort for a strategic plan as similar to the strategic plans drafted by AALL and PLL. The Chair also discussed the results of the membership survey (which had a low response rate). The results of the GovDoc SIS Membership survey were mainly drawn from the general AALL membership information. The survey responses are charted out and published in the Summer 1998 issue of Jurisdocs.

Discussion on the plan at the Business meeting focused on whether or not the members of the committee want to adopt the strategic plan. The resulting discussion highlights were:
1 - Paul Arrigo, draftsman of the strategic plan, will improve some of the language in the plan;
2 - The purpose of the plan was further defined: it is to provide a structure that can be followed by each successive executive board;
3 - Programs for all government documents personnel, including paraprofessionals should be offered at the national level. A web site could be created for this level of documents staffing;
4 - The Strategic Plan was adopted.

Agenda Item no. 5 - Report of the Public Relations Committee.
Paul Arrigo, heading up the Public Relations Committee, reported that there was a fairly good turnout at the Welcome to the GovDoc-SIS Reception held during the annual July 1998 AALL meeting. About 15-20 persons attended. The purpose of these kinds of receptions is to invite new members or revive inactive memberships. Paul Arrigo also attended the CONELL activities in order to attract new membership. The Chair of the GovDoc SIS
would like to see the SIS reception coordinated with the CONELL conference for better chances to inform new AALL members about the GovDoc SIS.

**Agenda Item no. 6 - Report of the Programs Chair.**
Charlene Cain, Programs Chair, reported that the government document programs run at this year’s AALL annual meeting were all well received. A list of the proposed program ideas for the 1999 Washington, D.C. annual AALL conference was distributed and discussed. Members attending the Business meeting had the opportunity to indicate which program ideas might work best for next year. This list of programs is viewable at the GovDoc SIS Web Page (http://www.aallnet.org/sis/gd/aallpr.html). Program ideas included:

1. Department of Justice Overview;
3. Cyber Congress: Legislative Activity on the Internet;
5. Workshop: One Day Workshop at the GPO for Depository Librarians;
6. Survey of Federal History Resources: From Maclay to JFK;
7. Creating a Federal Government Documents Webpage;
8. Census 2000 Data; and

Discussion concerning the GovDoc-SIS plans for special receptions and workshops followed. Charlene Cain would like to have a special reception in Washington D.C. inviting AALL headquarter staff, GPO staff and others. It is our opportunity to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the GovDoc-SIS.

Another idea is possibly have a reception with the Government Relations Committee. Tim Coggins, a member of the GovDoc-SIS, is heading the local arrangements for the AALL annual meeting in D.C. We have to let Martha Brown from AALL know about our intentions as soon as possible so that registration for such a reception may be organized.

The Workshop idea (Program Idea no. 5) was also discussed. There will be some work to squeeze in a workshop before the Conference because there are many other SIS's that try to organize pre-conference workshops. The Friday before the conference is about our only choice.

David Gay also suggested that another possible type of reception could be one where a federal government agency holds a reception for the government documents librarians. This type of reception was successfully accomplished by ALA GODORT.

**Agenda Item no. 7 - Report of the Grants Committee.**
David Gay reported on the activity of the Grant Committee. Two grants were awarded to two individuals to attend the Federal Depository Library Program in April 1998 in Washington, D.C. The recipients were Jackie Wright and Erolyn Smith. Charlene Cain also received a grant to assist her in attending the 1998 AALL Conference. The GovDoc SIS is interested in supporting those who are interested in obtaining a degree in law librarianship, or those members who need to attend meetings, such as AALL conferences, or the FDLP. Additional grants may also be provided for prospective library school students. This information needs to be promoted further through the AALL Chapter associations.

**Agenda Item no. 8 - Report of the Publications Review Committee.**
Kay Schlueter provided this report for the Publications Review Committee. The members of the Publications Committee are Hays Butler, Cecily Giardina and Kay Schlueter as Chair. The Committee has had four charges for this year. The status of each charge was presented along with issues for further study.

1. State Bibliographies. The Rutgers-Camden Law Library has agreed to begin scanning the state bibliographies and offer them in electronic format for the SIS. Hays Butler is coordinating the project. For the foreseeable future, the bibliographies will be offered in paper or electronic format. The SIS Executive Board and SIS committee members will need to set up new procedures and decide upon charges for the bibliographies.

2. New Brochure for the SIS - Cecily Giardina researched brochure design and created a new brochure for the SIS. Delivery of the brochure is expected at the Conference.

3. Style Manual for the Design of the GovDoc SIS Homepage - Hays Butler has collected various style manuals as examples. He will continue his work in this area in the coming year and will be making a recommendation in the months ahead.

4. Availability of Jurisdocs on the Internet as a means of distribution. Not much work has been done on this charge. Issues to consider:

   a. Would distribution in this method take away a "perk" of membership?
b. Would potential advertising in Jurisdocs complicate Internet distribution?
c. Should only previous issues be posted, thus keeping the current issue available for paper distribution?
d. What is the cost of paper distribution vs. Internet distribution?
e. What do our members prefer?
f. Would an Internet version of Jurisdocs be "pushed" to the user? If not "pushed" then how will members be alerted to its availability?

Hayes Butler and Cecily Giardina were thanked for their outstanding work on this committee. Hayes Butler has agreed to chair the Publications Review Committee.

Agenda Item no. 9 - Report of the Webmaster (for GOVDOC SIS web page).
Emily Carr was not present to give a report. She relayed to the membership that she will post as much information as possible about the upcoming Washington Conference. To view the GovDoc SIS Web Page, see http://www.aallnet.org/sis/gd/.

Agenda Item no. 10 - Recognition of Jurisdocs Editor.
Sharon Blackburn was recognized for all of her hard work editing Jurisdocs.

Agenda Item no 10a - Recognition of Carol Moody’s work.
As Carol Moody will be retiring, many members wish to recognize the continuous contributions made by her to the government documents community and the library community at large. She will be receiving a plaque in the mail from the GovDoc SIS. We thank her for her playful GovDoc SIS tables set up at the conferences for many years.

Agenda Item no. 11 - Announcement of the new Jurisdocs.
Cecily Giardina has taken over the role of editor of Jurisdocs. The membership wishes her well.

Agenda Item no. 12 - Turn Gavel Over to the New Officers.
With great fanfare, the gavel was turned over to the new Chair of the GovDoc SIS, Charlene Cain. Congratulations to the new Chair.

Agenda Item no. 13 - Report on the Status of the Univ. of Illinois Law Library’s StateList Project.
With the demise of the Monthly Checklist of State Publications, and other traditions in the publication of information about state government publications, a new project has begun with the StateList Project. For more information describing the project and its current status, see http://www.law.uiuc.edu/library/check.htm. Thus far the web site contains links to 27 states that currently make their state publications lists available electronically.

Agenda Item no. 14 - Comments on newly proposed federal legislation.
Mary Alice Baish provided extensive remarks on the status of the Government Publications Reform Act of 1998. Much of the material on this topic, as discussed in the Business meeting, is available at the Inter-Association Working Group on Government Information Policy web page: http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/IAWG/.

1998 ANAHEIM PROGRAM REPORTS

POLICY, GUIDELINES, AND "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENTS": GOVERNMENT INFORMATION IN THE SHADOWS (Monday, July 13, 1998, 8:30-10:00 AM)

This session, moderated by Cheryl Nyberg, was designed to discuss how policy is promulgated and legislation formulated at the highest levels of the federal government. Senate Librarian Gregory Harness examined the most efficient means of locating internal documentation of the work of Congress. National Security Archive Director Thomas Blanton enthralled the audience with tales of several hair-raising incidents from his experiences with bringing classified information to light through the use of FOIA. Supreme Court Librarian Shelley Dowling provided a thorough discussion of the organization and publications of the Court. All the speakers examined the
pros and cons of Internet access to internal documentation, with some pessimistic assessments of how the archiving of materials will be accomplished. As Nyberg fielded questions from the audience, Superintendent of Documents Francis Buckley came to the microphone to address some of the problems uncovered by the speakers, adding to the informational content of the session. Evaluations of the program indicated that the audience found all the speakers dynamic and the content directly applicable to many problems encountered by documents librarians.

MY DINNER WITH GPO (Monday, July 13, 3:15-5:15 PM)

In this program, a take-off on the theatrical film "My Dinner with Andre," GD SIS chair Paul Arrigo was joined by Superintendent of Documents Francis Buckley to examine recent and expected changes to the Federal Depository Library Program. Topics for discussion included the give and take of depository status, the advance of technology, and the new "collection management" approach of the Federal Depository Library Program. The two dinner companions examined the maintenance of bibliographic control of documents and electronic sources, training available for both public and technical services, and the partnering of depository libraries with agencies to ensure preservation of electronic publications. After the presentation, Mr. Buckley fielded questions from the audience, many of which related to the specific problems of serials distribution and the evolving nature of the FDLP.

TEACHING LEGAL RESEARCH USING GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS (Monday, July 13, 1998, 5:30-6:15 PM)

ADVOCACY AND LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

by Greta Boeringer
Pace University Law Library

During my years as a GPO Inspector I learned that there is often a difference in the way the documents department views itself and the way that the library administration views it. Sometimes I felt I was discussing a different department when I got to the administrative suite. My role as inspector was different when interacting with the two groups as well. During the inspection I sought to get information from the documents librarian and staff. When I spoke to the administration my goal was to report my findings and ultimately motivate the administration to continue to support the work of the documents department, or to inspire them to direct additional resources to the department.

Even when I was seeking to motivate the department itself (also part of the job), I used a different language than I used with the administration. So last summer when I was appointed moderator/coordinator for a documents program...
at AALL, I decided to ask a library administrator to speak. The typical documents program is presented by a practicing documents librarian or a government bureaucrat. A library administrator would bring a fresh perspective.

I hoped to attract library directors and supervisors of documents departments to the program. I also believed that documents librarians would learn not only how the administration views the department but also a language for communicating our needs effectively. By better understanding what is important to our library director, we can express our needs in terms of theirs. For instance, if prestige is important to your library director, be sure to emphasize the prestige aspect of being a depository. Furthermore, as more and more information about individual depositories is available over the web, it is important that the work be done right. It isn't prestigious to be a bad depository.

The library director is an advocate. He or she must advocate the needs of the library to the law school faculty and to the dean, and often to the University as well. Likewise, every documents librarian is an advocate. We must advocate for our departments to make sure we get the resources we need to do our jobs well. So what are the concerns of the library director when considering the depository operation?

In today's declining budget atmosphere costs must be the first consideration. While it appears that the materials in the depository program come in for "free" we all know that they are far from free. Larry Wenger, who spoke at the program "Law Libraries and the Federal Depository: Balancing the Interests", mentioned a study that concluded that libraries spend $4 for every $1 they "save" by not purchasing the materials. The Depository Program may be one of the best "matching grants" in government today!

The truth is that law libraries receive well in excess of $20,000 of needed materials through the program and additional desirable titles. Of course we also receive what I affectionately call "dreck," and it must be processed and tended to like the "hotter" pieces. But the staff time devoted to the department is costly. Summing up the personnel costs of the department itself does not include the costs of the depository generated at the reference desk and in the technical services departments, and these costs can be substantial.

Which brings us to one important consideration for the administration. Many academic law libraries are choosing to close their doors to public patrons and set up paid access programs. As depositories they must continue to admit public patrons for depository use. As one examines the reasons for closing the library one realizes that depository status may be inappropriate for the current situation. There is no question that documents based reference questions can be exasperating and time consuming. There is no question that dealing with lay people at the reference desk is especially challenging for law librarians. These considerations radically increase the reference costs associated with depository collections.

One of the main concerns libraries face today is safety. While one does not guarantee safety by serving only students and faculty, paid and public patrons can be particularly challenging to control without the sanctions available to us in dealing with students and faculty. Each depository operation must be certain that they have access to security forces sufficient to meet foreseeable incidents inherent in having a public collection. Librarians are not trained and should not be expected to solve problems that security departments are there to handle.

Another consideration is the strong movement toward electronic resources available free over the World Wide Web. Many library administrators are contemplating whether depository status is worth it any more, even in light of the otherwise paid databases that depositories receive free. Considering the wealth of resources already on the Web and moving to the Web, this is certainly an open question.

Another consideration the proliferation of online sources brings about is the issue of printing. Just as the issue of charging for photocopying had to be solved when that technology was invented, and charging for paper copies of microfiche documents had to be solved in the 70's, now we are faced with the issue of printing and downloading electronic sources. What shall we provide, and how do we recoup these costs? Usually the answer to this question is different when we are serving our primary patrons than when we are serving public or paying patrons.

This is just a taste of the types of depository issues that may be on the mind of your library director. Taking time to think about them, not just from our own perspective as documents librarians, but from the viewpoint of our administrators, can only help communication. And communicating our needs is essential to effective depository administration.


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The GovDoc SIS will be sponsoring several programs for the annual meeting in Washington, D.C. They represent ideas that were highly rated by members of the GDSIS in the survey I distributed and also by members of the 1999 Annual Meeting Program Selection Committee. I want to thank all of you who spent time to complete the survey and also the members who have volunteered to be involved in various aspects of the programs. We have speakers who will provide a wide spectrum of ideas on government information issues and I hope that all of you will have an opportunity to attend many of the programs.

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS. A speaker from the Bureau of Justice Statistics will not only provide an overview of the current data services and products the agency provides in the criminal justice area, but also developments in their electronic data archiving project. Discussion will also center on the development of more sophisticated search engines to search this data and the developments in presenting data in a reusable form to enable the end user to manipulate data in statistical software.

CYBER CONGRESS: ITS FUTURE AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST. This program will feature two speakers (one with a public interest group and another within Congress) to discuss the political and economic realities of providing current Internet access to draft bills, committee markup information, lobbying information disclosures, and CRS reports.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AT THE CROSSROADS: SELECTION POLICY FOR GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS IN THE ELECTRONIC ERA. This program will guide participants through the process of formulating a collection development plan that provides for the integration of electronic resources. Participants will have a practical exposure to the application of the process through presentations by librarians who have worked through the process, and a presentation by a speaker from the GPO will discuss a model collection development policy for law libraries. A round table discussion will follow to allow participants to query the experts.

WORKSHOP: ONE DAY WORKSHOP AT THE GPO FOR DEPOSITORY LIBRARIANS. A one day workshop sponsored by the GPO Library Services Division and the Government Documents Special Interest SIS. The topics will include: depository inspection process and depository responsibilities and also a tour of the Library Programs Service, a demonstration of the GPO Pathways Services, GPO ACCESS, and the Federal Bulletin Board.

CREATING A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS WEBPAGE. This program will include speakers from libraries that have created innovative webpages for federal government document links. They will give an overview of their experiences and suggestions on how to do this in an effective manner. In addition, a GPO speaker will give an overview of what future goals there will be for depositories in regard to webpage creation.

ELECTRONIC SERVICE GUIDELINES FOR FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES: THE INS AND OUTS OF MEETING GPO’S EXPECTATIONS. This program will present 3 perspectives on GPO’s electronic service expectations. First, a member of the GPO Library Programs Service will explain the specific provisions of new electronic service guidelines. Second, an expert on U.S. government information policies and practices will offer his views on the guidelines and share his insight on their potential impact on federal depository libraries. Finally, the director of a depository law library will discuss some of the practical effects the new guidelines will have on that library’s policies, services, and training goals.

JOINT WORKSHOP

In addition to the above listed programs, the Government Documents SIS is co-sponsoring with the Government Relations Committee, the Washington Affairs Office, and the Copyright Committee a one day workshop on legislative advocacy training. The program is entitled:

Sen. John Warner (R-VA), Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration, introduced S. 2288 on July 10th, 1998. The bill was designed "to provide for the reform and continuing legislative oversight of the production, procurement, dissemination, and permanent public access of the Government's publications". Key provisions of the bill included:


- Affirmed the long-standing policy of no-fee public access to federal government publications through a system of geographically-dispersed designated libraries.

- Expanded the scope of the FDLP to include publications in all formats from all three branches of government.

- Expanded the definition of "Government publication" in Chapter 19 to: any information product or discrete set of Government information, regardless of form or format, that is created or compiled--(i) by the Government, or (ii) at Government expense-- in whole or in part, or (iii) as required by law; and that an agency discloses, disseminates, or makes available to the public; and shall not include information that is required for official use only or is for strictly internal administrative or operational purposes having no public interest or educational value, and publications classified for reasons of national security.

- Resolved the problem of "fugitive documents" by establishing incentives as well as strong enforcement mechanisms to ensure participation in the Program and compliance by agencies with the Chapter 19 dissemination requirements of Title 44.

- Addressed the loss of electronic government information by establishing in law the affirmative responsibility of the federal government to provide current, continuous, and future public access to electronic publications at no fee to the public.

- Authorized the Superintendent to issue regulations to improve the dissemination of government publications and to maintain permanent public access to federal government publications.

- Prevented any agency from delegating or contracting for the creation, storage, reproduction, or dissemination of a government publication without providing in advance for the full content of that information to be made available to the Superintendent for inclusion in the Program.

Bob Oakley testified in strong support of the legislation, along with other representatives from the library community, at a hearing held on July 29th. Opposition to provisions of the legislation that centralized procurement through GPO was led by Xerox Corp. and other information technology companies who were represented at a second hearing held on September 16th. Although the Senate Rules Committee favorably reported S. 2288 on Sept. 28th, the strong opposition succeeded in killing the bill and the 105th Congress adjourned without passing the Government Publications Reform Act of 1998.
The testimony of all the witnesses at both hearings are on the Committee's homepage at: www.senate.gov/~rules. For more information about the bill, the hearings, and Inter-Association Working Group on Government Information Policy (IAWG) action alerts, go to the IAWG homepage at: www.lib.berkeley.edu/IAWG. We will continue to support this legislation next year, although chairmanship of the Joint Committee on Printing will revert back to Rep. Bill Thomas (R-CA). We are hopeful that our strong report language (S. Rept. 105-413), including sections that I wrote regarding improved access to federal court opinions, will help us move towards enactment of this important legislation in the 106th Congress.

WEB RESOURCES

FOR THE FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY INSIDER
BY MELANIE PUTNAM
Ohio State University College of Law Library

Administrative Notes
http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/direct.html

Amendment of Item Selections Web Form
http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/amendment.html

Basic Depository Library Documents: The Unauthorized HTML Editions
http://www.du.edu/~ttyle/bldthome.htm

Browse Electronic Titles
http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/

CD-ROMs

1. U.S. Government CD-ROMs Available to Depository Libraries
http://www.clark.net/pub/lschank/web/gpo-cd.html
****last updated Mar. 1, 1998

2. CD-ROM List
****contains descriptive catalog records; last updated Jan. 3, 1997

3. CD-ROM guides
http://www.d.umn.edu/~mgerber/dcd/dcdbase.html
****contains DOCBASE 4.1 guides; last modified Sept. 29, 1997

4. CIC CD-ROM Technical Documentation Project
http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents. center/cicdoc/cicdoc.htm

Cataloging Guidelines for Computer Files (GPO’s)
http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/cgcomp01.html

Depository Library Home Pages

Direct Mail Items
http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/direct.html

Electronic Documents (List of)
http://www.unca.edu/library/elecdocs.html

FDLP Administration Web Site
http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/ndlppro.html

GILS-aware Software
http://www.usgs.gov/gils/software.html

GODORT
http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/GODORT/

GODORT Handout Exchange
http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/godort.html

GPO MARC Internet Resources (GMIR)
http://www.du.edu/~ttyle/bldthome.htm
****a collection of more than 3,000 abbreviated MARC Records with 856 fields

Government Periodicals
http://www.louisville.edu/library/ekstrom/govpubs/

IAWG (Inter-Association Working Group on Government Information Policy)
INTERNET LEGAL RESOURCES
RESEARCHING THE LAW & GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
by Steven R. Miller
Northwestern University School of Law

Last winter, I was asked to prepare course materials by Professor Chris Simoni, the Associate Dean for Library & Information Services at the Northwestern University School of Law. I was a part of a small team of law librarians that taught Advanced Legal Research, a two-credit hour, letter-graded elective taught to second- and third-year law students at Northwestern. Professor Simoni had assigned the Internet Legal Resources component to me. I put materials together based primarily on student questions regarding what types of legal information could be found on the Internet.

What I had observed over the past few years was that a majority of Northwestern University law students did not have a fundamental understanding as to what could be found on the Internet or how they could verify the validity of information found on the Internet. Students knew how to connect to CNN or ESPN, but most did not know how to use a search engine or how to find official U.S. Supreme Court decisions. What resulted was an eight-page outline, sample web pages, and practice exercises for the Internet class component of the course. The following is a sampling of the World Wide Web sites that were highlighted in class last spring. At the end of this article are four sample exercise questions that were used to test each student’s understanding of the material.

Comparing Internet to Proprietary Online Services

Fundamentally, the Internet is a decentralized network of millions of independent computers. Today, the best legal information found on the Internet is often recent changes in domestic and foreign and international law. Official case law is generally only available from the early 1990’s forward. Many web sites on the Internet mix business, professional, and recreational information. Search engines generally vary in quality and sophistication.
Access to the Internet is by computer or WebTV® using one or more standard communication protocols. Much of the information on the Internet is often free, but some publishers charge fees to download information from their proprietary databases. Nonsubscribers are often given just sample information, asked to register, and later asked to subscribe in order to retrieve additional information. There are though still vast amounts of free factual information on the Internet, but often posted anonymously, thereby raising some concern as to the validity of the information.

Note that if a particular web site is not a .gov cite, one should always assume potential errors and omissions. Unlike a portable display formatted (PDF) document found on a U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) web page, the electronic version of any other electronic document might appear different from the printed version because of screen configuration variation, scanning, character recognition, formatting, or text conversion errors. As a general rule, Internet address extensions, such as .com, .edu, and .org oftentimes offer a degree of accuracy far below that provided by a .gov site maintained by the United States Government and by many foreign and international governments.

Furthermore, I caution law students to keep in mind that whenever the fate of their future clients rests in their hands to never trust completely the accuracy of a .com, .org, or .edu site or a Lexis or a Westlaw version. Above all, never trust a printout! Remember that printouts may have been inadvertently or purposely altered, especially those appearing in a word processing format.

Understanding the Web

For the most part, accuracy is only guaranteed at U.S. Government (.gov) web sites. Currency is good for most U.S. Government and foreign and international government (.int) web sites. However, completeness is lacking. The biggest weakness of any Internet resource is that no archival material is generally stored. However, this weakness will hopefully ameliorate over time. Recent efforts in Congress have paved the way for the GPO to store more and more archival governmental material. The storage of large amounts of archival material is one big advantage that large proprietary mainframe databases have over web site document storage or retrieval. Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw, for example, aggregate large amounts (terabytes) of archival material in one central place.

Rise of Law-Related Web Resources and Search Engines

According to The Internet Lawyer--Microsoft

Corporation Survey of Internet and Online User Trends in the Legal Profession (1997), Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw have dominated the computer-assisted legal research industry since the late 1970's. Recent technologies, including CD-ROM and the Internet, however, have begun to erode the market penetration of these two large online services. The Microsoft study indicated that about 70 percent of legal professionals now use the Internet for legal research. Federal case law and legislative information are the most commonly accessed Internet legal materials. Nearly one-half of the respondents were using the Internet to retrieve federal court opinions, statutes, and regulations. Nearly 35 percent were using the Internet to access state legal materials.

Members of the legal profession have preferred the following Internet search engines to help them conduct legal research on the web.

1. Yahoo! (http://www.yahoo.com/) is the 'grand-daddy' of search engines. It is a master list of organized topics and subtopics similar to online library catalogs.

2. Alta-Vista (http://altavista.digital.com/) is my personal favorite. It provides the user with Boolean and field searching and proximity connectors.

3. WebCrawler (http://www.webcrawler.com/) allows the user to search by keyword, channel, and services.

4. Infoseek (http://www.infoseek.com/) allows keyword searching, toolbar browsing, and channel surfing.

5. Excite (http://www.excite.com/) sorts documents with a color-coded confidence ranking system, and it provides users with Boolean searching capabilities.

6. Lycos (http://www.lycos.com/) allows for Boolean searching, and uses the $ sign for root expansion. Other options include the use of search refinements such as loose, fair, good, close, and strong.

7. Open Text (http://www.opentext.com/) indexes every word of each document, but it does not index every document on the Web.

A new search engine service that has received much publicity recently is Northern Lights (http://www.northernlight.com/). It was the subject of some discussion in some programs at last summer's American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting in Anaheim, California. Enterprise accounts provide corporations, libraries, and other organizations access to the full text of over 4,500 journals, books, magazines, databases, and news wires from the Northern Light...
Special Collection. Another popular search engine, HotBot (http://www.hotbot.com), has received much attention this year. Several leading Internet publications have rated HotBot as the best search engine service.

WEB RESOURCES FOR FEDERAL MATERIAL

Judicial Materials

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts maintains the Federal Judiciary Homepage (http://www.uscourts.gov/) on behalf of the U.S. Courts. This site serves as a clearinghouse for information from and about the federal judiciary. It includes hot new items, answers to frequently asked judicial questions, federal court-related documents for public review, links to federal court-related web sites, a search engine, publications and the electronic public access directory, news, press releases, and employment opportunities.

The Emory University Law School is in charge of the Publishing Project for three U.S. Courts of Appeals. The site is located at: http://www.law.emory.edu/FEDCTS/. Emory University maintains three of the federal appellate case law collections, and it gives access to all other federal circuits. This site takes advantage of the interactive and graphic nature of the Web. For example, Emory provides a context-sensitive map of the United States, which one can click on using a mouse to directly access the federal opinions relevant to the selected jurisdiction. If one clicks on the state of New York graphic on the map, one is connected to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals decisions at Touro Law Center and Pace University School of Law.

The Law Journal Extra’s (LJX’s) Federal Court Decisions (http://www.ljextra.com/courthouse/feddec.html) provides a very extensive collection of opinions for all federal circuits. The opinions generally date back one year and may have been downloaded from the federal court bulletin boards. LJX does not explicitly provide information describing the authenticity of the opinions, thereby raising some concern about the complete accuracy of the material. It is often unclear to the user where documents on a web site originated and what process was used to convert and upload them to a web server. As with all nongovernmental web sites, assume that errors and omissions can occur affecting accuracy, completeness, formatting, and added emphasis.

Located in Topeka, Kansas, the Washburn University Law School Library (http://lawlib.wuacc.edu/washlaw/doclaw/fedres5m.html) typifies the efforts made by law school libraries and other entities to collect Internet legal resources and make them available from one easy-to-use menu. Washburn not only provides links to all U.S. appellate court opinions on the Internet, but also to other relevant federal practice materials, including Supreme Court opinions, court rules, and administrative materials.

Legislative Materials

The U.S. House of Representatives maintains the Internet Law Library (http://law.house.gov/), which lists directories that contain nearly 7,500 links to various law resources on the Internet. Some of the materials available include full-text federal and state laws as well as treaties and international law documents. The site features a fast-loading, graphic-free version of its web page. The Internet Law Library include the laws of all jurisdictions arranged alphabetically. It also features law school law library catalogs, lawyer directories, book reviews, and law book publishers.

At Cornell University’s Legal Information Institute’s (LII’s) site (http://www.law.cornell.edu/ uscode/), a full-text, searchable, version of the U.S. Code can be found. It is based upon the GPO’s CD-ROM version of the U.S. Code. It contains the laws in force. One can then use the update feature to locate amendments to the statutes. The Cornell LII site also offers the LII’s collection of recent and historic Supreme Court decisions, its hypertext versions of the U.S. Constitution, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR.), Federal Rules of Evidence and Civil Procedure, and recent opinions of the New York Court of Appeals. Additionally, the site provides commentary on recent New York opinions from the lilibulletin-ny, the American Legal Ethics Library, and other important legal materials.

Thomas Legislative Information (http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas2.html) is a service of Congress, which contains the full-text of pending and current legislation, the full-text of the Congressional Record, hot legislation, and links to the House Gopher, the C-Span Gopher, the House of Representatives Audit, and other government listings. The site allows for the quick search of the text of bills introduced by members of the 105th Congress. One can search by bill number (e.g., S. 435, H.R. 842, etc.) or one can search by word or phrase (e.g., line item veto, tax reform, etc.).

GPO Access (http://www.gpo.gov/) is a service of the GPO that provides free electronic access to informational products published by the federal government. The information provided at this web site is the official, published version, and includes information retrieved from GPO Access. Unless specifically noted, it can be used without restriction. The Federal Depository Library funds this free service.
groups legal resources into federal, state, and international law locators. The federal court locator page provides a map of the United States. Unlike the Emory University web site, one cannot click directly into the federal circuit of one's choice. VCILP has also created the Virtual Magistrate, which is designed to permit online dispute resolution.

The Legal Information Institute (LII) (http://www.law.cornell.edu/) is considered the "granddaddy" of legal resources on the Internet. Sponsored by the Cornell University Law School, the web site integrates both gopher-based and web-based offerings of the LII. There are links to recent Supreme Court decisions, a full-text version of the U.S. Code, the Cornell University Law Review, menus containing documents and sources by legal topic, and hundreds of interesting legal resources.

The University of Indiana Law School in Bloomington, Indiana maintains the World Wide Web Virtual Library (http://www.law.indiana.edu/law/v-lib/lawindex.html). In 1992, CERN, the originators of the World Wide Web Consortium, chose Indiana University to host the Virtual Law Library. This site shows a topical organization of legal documents and resources, containing hundreds of sources that are alphabetically listed. There is also a list of search tools and other comprehensive sites for law resources.

The Seamless web site (http://seamless.com/) was one of the first well-known commercial web site for lawyers. Founded in 1994, the Seamless web site is an Internet website design and consulting firm. Their services are specifically tailored to exceed the highly specialized requirements of lawyers, law firms, and law-related organizations. However, the Seamless law site also contains information and articles of interest to the legal profession. For example, the Chambers contains introductory news and messages. The Commons contains original articles and writings on law-related businesses. The Shingle contains a listing of lawyers and law-related businesses. The Cross Roads contains links to other law-related sites.

The American Bar Association (ABA) (http://www.abanet.org/) has a vast amount of information and resources for the legal professional. Included within the ABA site is the Legal Technology Resource Center. The ABA site has a lawyer locator service, information on legislative and government advocacy, and a schedule of ABA meeting times and places. It also offers a legal news service to update members of the legal profession. For example, in September 1998, an announcement about intellectual
property law appeared on the ABA homepage outlining the Trademark Law Treaty Implementation Act that the Senate passed (S. 2193) on September 17.

FOREIGN & INTERNATIONAL LAW

University Web Sites

The University of Minnesota Human Rights Library (http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/) is a comprehensive but not exhaustive web resource. The University of Minnesota provides document texts, as well as links to a great number of human rights organizations. Among other universities resources are the University of Chicago Dingell Law Library (http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/ LibInfo/Law/intl.html), the Legal Information Institute of Cornell University (http://www.law.cornell.edu/source. html# foreignandintl), and the Washburn University School of Law Library (http://lawlib.wuacc.edu/forint/ forintmain.html) web sites.

International Organizations

One example of international organizations making material available on the Web is the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) (http://www.wipo.int/). One can view each web page in French, Spanish, or English. The site includes information about WIPO, intellectual property in general, meetings, publications, vacancies, and links. Information about the Patent Cooperation Treaty system, the Madrid system, and the Hague system are found here as well as information on the Standing Committee on Information Technologies, arbitration and mediation, and Internet domain names.

EXAMPLES OF STUDENT EXERCISES

Below are four examples of assignment questions that I used to help law students develop skills in researching Internet legal resources. These were questions similar to those that I had fielded at the reference desk last year. Please note that the sets of answers to the questions below are not an exhaustive list of answers. A couple of students came up with other arguably better or equally good answers to these questions. The primary purpose of this assignment was to encourage students to use a variety of electronic resources for legal research and to start thinking of reasons to use one resource over another under a given set of circumstances.

Four Examples

1. Considered the ‘grand-daddy’ of all Internet search engines, Yahoo! (http://www.yahoo.com) allows an Internet search to be limited to a particular library, e.g., only legal or governmental materials. Go to the Yahoo! site and find the topical index. Find the topic Government and the subheading Law. Then find the subheading Cases@ and click on it. Scroll down the page and find the famous Scopes Monkey Trial. What were the dates of this trial? What happens when you do the same search on AltaVista (http://www.altavista.com)?

Answer

Yahoo!: According to Yahoo!, the dates for the Scopes Monkey Trial were July 10-25, 1925.

AltaVista: Select Advanced Search; go to Browse by Subject; go to Reference & Education; go to Law & Legal Reference; go to Legal Research, etc. Offers no clear and easy path to the Scopes Monkey Trial as does Yahoo!. Therefore, at this point, try typing a search, e.g., “scopes monkey trial” or scopes+monkey+trial to find the desired information. Or execute a simple search, e.g., “scopes monkey trial” or scopes+ monkey+trial in the search box on the Alta Vista homepage.

2. Obtaining authoritative case law from official court sites is a requirement of good legal research. U.S. Supreme Court decisions can be found at Cornell’s Hermes site at http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/. Is the case, Clinton v. Jones, there? Locate the synopsis page and interpret the warning statement.

Answer

At the Cornell LII Hermes web site, select year; type party name; select HTML format; and locate the synopsis. Note that the LII Supreme Court/Hermes home page warns of omissions and errors.


Answer

Type in “migratory bird treaty act” in the search box and press enter to find Section 703. One can then easily locate the first page of section 703 of Title 16 of the U.S. Code, the summary page of the Act and its amendments, and the table of contents page.

4. Go to GPO Access, which is the web site for the Government Printing Office (GPO) (http://www.access. gpo.gov/su_docs/). Find any Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) or Federal Register section relating to the
Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Find any pages that make mention of this Act. What advantage is there in general to researching government documents via GPO Access over Lexis and Westlaw?

Answer


Search Federal Register: Run a similar search when the 1998 date box is only checked. If the student receives no hits, see explanation notes as to why no hits were retrieved.

Run the same search when the 1997 date box is checked on the Federal Register search page. Sample answers included, e.g., vol. 62, no. 112 (June 11, 1997), pp. 31748-31757 or vol. 62, no. 169 (Sept. 2, 1997), p. 46421.

In general, the advantage to retrieving documents from a GPO site rather than from Lexis or Westlaw is that the GPO guarantees accuracy at less cost. Also, the GPO has undertaken a commitment to add more historical documents to its archives under a recent law; however, Lexis and Westlaw could always decide to trim their government document archives in future years.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following sources were used to prepare my Advanced Legal Research course materials for the spring 1998 semester at Northwestern University, and in turn were used to write this article:


SPECIAL NOTE

Please note that because of the quickly changing nature of the Internet, some of the URLs and information presented in this article may change by the time the subscriber reads this article. Please keep in mind the date of this article when reading it.

*Steven R. Miller, J.D., M.L.I.S., is the Reference Librarian for Electronic Resources at the Northwestern University School of Law. Steven is also a graduate student pursuing a master’s degree in information technology at the Northwestern University School of Engineering & Applied Science. He also co-chairs the Chicago Association of Law Libraries’ Internet Committee.*
Thank you to all the SIS members for my "thank you" plaque. I was so surprised! It has been such an interesting time, hasn't it? I have been around for microfiche, CDs, electronic products and all the upheaval associated with that. However, the common effort to make the information available has been our focus all along. I have enjoyed becoming acquainted with so many people from all over the country, participating in meetings, learning how GPO really works--it's been just a great ride! Many, many thanks to all the people who have helped me during my years in Documents--and keep the faith!


GOVDOC SIS Grant Application

Each year, the SIS gives two grants to members to fund travel, lodging, and registration for documents-related meetings, conferences, or continuing education programs. This is a fabulous opportunity for a financially restricted member to attend, for example:


The Interagency Depository Seminar in Washington, DC (June 2-9, 1999),

ALA/GODORT pre-conferences, or

Regional training opportunities.

Please note that funds are not provided for attendance at AALL.

This year, we have funds for 2 grants. Please consider applying!

Please send completed grant application by February 1, 1999.
Government Documents Special Interest Section
American Association of Law Libraries
Application for Grant - 1999

Purpose: The purpose of the Government Documents Special Interest Section Grants Program is to financially assist members of the SIS and their documents support staff to attend documents related meetings, conferences, and continuing education programs. Funding is not provided for the AALL Annual Meeting. Preference will be given to those individuals who will not receive any support from their employing institution 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:
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________ Fax:_____________________

Email: ___________________________

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

5. Previous relevant employment (employers, positions):________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

6. Professional activities (law and/or document librarianship):_____________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________

7. Are you a member of the Government Documents SIS? ____. If yes, when did you join? ____
If not, a letter from a current GDSIS member must accompany this application.

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8. For what purpose (meeting, conference, training) do you wish to use this grant?

_____________________________________________________________________________


9. Have you attended this meeting, conference, or training before? ___ If yes, how often? ___

10. How will you benefit from attending this meeting, conference, or training?

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

11. Will your employer pay any of your expenses? ___ If so, what portion? ___

_____________________________________________________________________________

12. Please estimate your expenses:

Travel: ___________ Lodging: ___________ Registration: ___________

I have not received a GDSIS 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 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 completed application by February 1, 1999 to:

Peggy Jarrett
Gallagher Law Library, University of Washington
1100 NE Campus Parkway
Seattle, WA 98105
Phone: (206) 543-194 Fax: (206) 685-2165
Email: pjarrett@u.washington.edu

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