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

As we head into the final lap before conference in July, I want to thank the members of the SIS for electing me to the position of Chair. This has been an unusually busy and exciting year, and many projects are now on their way to fruition.

In the last JurisDocs I reported that the work on web-based tutorials for depository library paraprofessionals was mired in questions related to appropriate software and expertise. Since then, ALA GODORT’s Education Committee has sent a deliverer in the form of Larry Schankman, Electronic Resources Librarian at North Hall Library, Mansfield University (Pennsylvania). Larry is a member of GODORT, a documents librarian, and a webmaster who is currently finishing up a second master’s degree in Instructional Technology at Bloomsburg University. Larry is donating his time to the project, but he will also use the tutorials to satisfy a class requirement for a course he will take this summer. Our contribution will come in the form of purchasing the software for the project, my services as subject matter expert, and the recruitment of evaluators for early testing of the product. I have identified three modules to cover depository activities of critical importance to the training of paraprofessionals in all types of libraries: basic standards for documents processing, collection maintenance guidelines, and a guide to the SuDocs classification scheme. Each module will include tutorials, practice questions after each skill presented, and a quiz. Larry and I have made plans to discuss text, storyboards, and timelines when ALA convenes in New Orleans. Larry thinks we can be finished by early fall, which may be an optimistic assumption. Wish us luck.

I am also pleased to report that our AALLNet professional development discussion list, "Law Libraries in the Depository System: Measuring Success," which ran from May 3rd to May 14th, worked out very well. During the course of the list we covered a lot of ground: the ways in which law libraries contribute to the depository system, the advantages and disadvantages of depository status, self-studies v. physical inspections, and the viability of the partnership program. We ventured about problems associated with public access, measuring service, and determining our own status among law librarians. All
(Letter from the Chair, cont.)

in all, there were 119 subscribers to the list and 52 postings. I was amazed and
gratified by the frankness of the messages and the passion with which the
participants view our profession. If you missed the listserv but are interested
in reading some of the postings, they are archived on AALLNet at
http://www.aallnet.org/prodev/listserv.asp. Moderating the list was a challenge
for me, and I couldn’t have gotten through it without help from the
wonderfully articulate librarians who posted, Jason Hinkle at AALLNet, Mary
Hotchkiss (U.S. Courts Library, Seattle), and the incomparable Sally
Holterhoff (Valparaiso Law), all of whom kept me on course.

Invitations have gone out for our reception celebrating the twentieth
anniversary of the induction of academic law libraries into the depository
system. The gathering will take place Tuesday, July 20th, at 5 PM in
Constitution Ballroom E of the Grand Hyatt Hotel. Please stop by the GD SIS
table in the Exhibit Area to pick up a GD SIS button celebrating the
anniversary.

Last, but not least, congratulations to Greta Boeringer, our newly-elected
Vice-Chair, Chair-Elect, and Pam Tull, who was re-elected
Secretary-Treasurer. Please be sure to give Greta help with program planning
for the 2000 conference in Philadelphia. In the meantime, we have a
wonderful conference ahead of us, and it will be marvelous to watch it
unfold.❖
Grants Awarded:

by Peggy Roebuck Jarrett
University of Washington Gallagher Law Library

Rob Richards, Technical Services and Documents Librarian at the University of Colorado Law Library and Katrina Stierholz, Access Services/Government Documents Librarian at Washington University School of Law Library, were the recipients of $400 grants to attend the Federal Depository Library Conference in April, 1999. The purpose of the GDSIS 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. Both Rob and Katrina have written reports on the Federal Depository Library Conference in this issue of JURISDOCS.

For the first time, a grant of $400 has been awarded to financially assist a library school student who is interested in law libraries and government information, and who wants to attend the AALL Annual Meeting. The recipient of the grant for the 1999 AALL Annual Meeting is Tara Dirst, a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Please look for Tara at GDSIS functions this summer and welcome her to AALL and documents!
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS/SIS
WASHINGTON PROGRAMS

FRIDAY, JULY 16TH
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
LAW LIBRARIANS MEET THE 106TH CONGRESS—AALL ADVOCACY TRAINING AND LEGISLATIVE DAY
(WORKSHOP JOINTLY SPONSORED WITH OTHER SIS GROUPS)

SUNDAY, JULY 18TH
CYBER CONGRESS: ITS FUTURE AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST
4-5 PM
COORDINATOR: JUDY GASKELL, DEPAUL UNIVERSITY LAW LIBRARY
MODERATOR: ROBERTA L. SHAFFER, COVINGTON AND BURLING
SPEAKERS: GARY RUSKIN, CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT
CHRIS CASEY, DEMOCRATIC TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE, U. S. SENATE
ELLIOIT CHABOT, HOUSE INFORMATION RESOURCES, UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEPOSITORY UPDATE
5-6 PM
FRANCIS BUCKLEY, SPEAKER

MONDAY JULY 19TH
WELCOME TO THE GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS SIS BREAKFAST
7:30-8:30 AM

FEDERAL DOCUMENTS WEBPAGE CREATION
4:45-6:15 PM
COORDINATOR: STEVEN MILLER, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW LIBRARY
SPEAKERS: EMILY CARR, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
CYNTHIA ETKIN, LIBRARY PROGRAMS SERVICE, GPO
DEBORA CHENEY, PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY JULY 20TH
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS BUSINESS MEETING
7:30-8:30 AM

ELECTRONIC SERVICE GUIDELINES FOR FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES: THE IN'S AND OUTS OF
MEETING GPO'S EXPECTATIONS
2:15-3:30 PM
COORDINATOR AND MODERATOR: VIRGINIA C. THOMAS, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI LAW LIBRARY
SPEAKERS: PETER HERNON, PROFESSOR, SIMMONS COLLEGE, GSLIS, GAIL SNIDER, LIBRARY
PROGRAMS SERVICE, GPO, BRUCE M. KENNEDY, UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO LAW LIBRARY

21:3 JURISDOCS (Summer 1999):4
TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION: A CELEBRATION OF LAW LIBRARIES AS DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS
5-6 PM

WEDNESDAY JULY 21ST
7:30-8:30 AM
EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS
COORDINATOR: CECILY GIARDINA, DICKINSON SCHOOL OF LAW LIBRARY
MODERATOR: PEGEEN BASSETT, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW LIBRARY
SPEAKER: DR. JAN CHAIKEN, BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AT THE CROSSROAD: SELECTION POLICY OF GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS IN THE ELECTRONIC ERA
8:30-10:00 AM
COORDINATOR: CAITLIN ROBINSON, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LAW LIBRARY
MODERATOR: KATRINA STIERHOLZ, SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY LAW LIBRARY
SPEAKERS: MARGARETA BOERINGER, PACE UNIVERSITY LAW LIBRARY
ANNE MARIE SANDERS
LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN, LAW LIBRARY
THOMAS OERTEL, LIBRARY PROGRAMS SERVICE, GPO

THURSDAY JULY 22ND
GPO DEPOSITORY LIBRARY WORKSHOP
8:30 to 4:45
TO BE HELD AT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, 732 NORTH CAPITOL ST., NW, WASHINGTON D.C. (UNION STATION EXIT ON THE DC METRA SYSTEM)
COORDINATOR: PEGEEN BASSETT, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW LIBRARY
SPEAKERS: WELCOMING REMARKS, FRANCIS BUCKLEY AND SHEILA MCGARR AND STAFF OF THE GPO

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT MANY OF THE PROGRAMS. MANY OF THE PROGRAMS WILL ADDRESS RECENT POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AND GUIDELINES FROM THE GPO PARTICULARLY IN THEIR IMPACT ON DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES. I THINK ALL OF US FEEL THAT THE "TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGING" AS THE FOLK SONG GOES AND THAT WE ALL NEED TO KNOWLEDGEABLY REPRESENT TO OUR ADMINISTRATIONS HOW THESE ISSUES WILL AFFECT AND CHANGE THE SERVICES OF DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES.

THE GPO WORKSHOP WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUALIZED QUESTIONS IN AREAS OF CONCERN TO YOU. THOSE OF YOU WHO PLAN TO ATTEND THE GPO WORKSHOP CAN E-MAIL ME WITH ISSUES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADDRESSED. SHEILA MCGARR AND I HAVE PROVIDED A HALF-HOUR PERIOD TO "ASK THE INSPECTORS".

PEGEEN BASSETT, VICE-CHAIR AND PROGRAMS CHAIR, GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS SIS, E-MAIL:
p-bassett@nwu.edu

+/+/+/+/+
The following report includes an overview of all remarks made by GPO staff members. As I was unable to attend all of the programs presented, only selected presentations are represented in this piece. I urge you to consult GPO's Administrative Notes (http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/adnotes.html) and the conference proceedings to be published by GPO for more detail.

Sheila McGarr & Michael DiMario—Opening Remarks
The meeting started out Monday morning with Sheila McGarr's usual Q & A about where folks are from, whether they were funded by their institution, etc. Michael DiMario, the Public Printer, began the speeches from GPO with a legislative update. There have been a few changes with the new Congress. The Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) was not funded. The Senate Rules Committee and the House Administrative Committee have taken over the duties of the JCP. Bill Thomas (R-CA) will serve as the Vice-Chair from the House side, and Steny Hoyer (D-MD) will be the ranking minority member from the House. On the Senate side, Mitch McConnell (R-KY) will be the Chair and Christopher Dodd (D-CT) will serve as the ranking minority member.

Library Programs Services has requested $31.2 million, an increase of $1 million. At the House Appropriations hearing, Ridley Kessler testified in support of GPO. The Senate hearing focussed on Y2K problems. Mr. DiMario then addressed the legislation that Senators Warner and Ford attempted to move through the Senate during the Fall of 1998. Mr. DiMario called it an ideal situation. However, as most librarians know, it was an opportunity lost. The bill, S.2288, got out of committee but never made it through the end-of-the-year rush. Currently, as Senator Ford has resigned and Senator Warner has moved to another committee, GPO and LPS have no champions in a position to help them. Mr. DiMario called for librarians and advocates of free access to government information to cultivate champions and work to find those in Congress who would support the ideals behind the Depository Library Program.

Fran Buckley—Gil Baldwin read for him.
Mr. Buckley began by discussing two issues involved in moving toward a digital depository library program; (1) the loss of information and (2) the lack of archival copies. A permanent public record of the information generated by the Federal Government is necessary for the historical record of our country. Also, as different agencies move information to the Internet, some information is lost (or it appears, only to disappear). In order to study the move from paper to electronic information, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) was commissioned to examine the transition of libraries from paper-based to electronic information. Sixteen key findings were presented in the report by NCLIS (more about this report later on). Basically, the range of formats for delivery of electronic information, coupled with the lack of an overarching policy for all aspects of government information were cited as the two greatest challenges to a successful transition. The phrase used most frequently at the conference was "tangible and intangible" products. This phrase seemed to resonate as a new way of describing information in its various formats—intangible information still has challenges that need to be resolved. Fran Buckley also praised the partnerships GPO has taken on—particularly the DOE Information Bridge partnership, which received the Hammer Award. The Sales program has suffered as agencies continue to use private/public partnerships to avoid GPO and earn money from the sale of government information.

T.C. Evans—Office of Electronic Information Dissemination Services (EIDS)
Perhaps one of the most surprising bits of news that day was that the new Access Web pages had almost doubled their hit-rate from the previous year. In 1998, the GPO Access pages had roughly 10 million downloads a month. In February 1999, GPO Access had 19.1 million downloads. Following the installation of a new server in mid-March 1999, the Access site had 22.2 million downloads a month. Mr. Evans also pointed out some new features of the GPO Access site—the House Journal is now available, one can now browse Public Laws, the Congressional Pictorial Directory is up, and a site search feature is coming soon. Mr. Evans also pointed out that in the March 15th issue of PC World, GPO ranked ninth out of the 100 state and federal government and education sites listed, and second out of the Federal sites.
Gil Baldwin—Library Programs Service (LPS) Director

Mr. Baldwin began by examining GPO’s progress with the Study to Identify Measures Necessary for a Successful Transition to a More Electronic Federal Depository Library Program: as required by Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1996, Public Law 104-53, GP 3.2:EL 23/FINAL (remember that plan?). The five-year plan called for 28 specific activities. According to Mr. Baldwin, 86% of the suggested activities have been accomplished. The future of the Depository Library Program is based on a few key assumptions:

1) In three years, the majority of the transition to electronic information will be complete.
2) The laws that define the Depository Program are not going to change.
3) The move from paper to electronic collection and distribution of government documents will continue, both by GPO and by agencies, which will, in turn, be reflected by changing budget priorities.
4) Users of government information will expect more information electronically and be able to handle more information electronically.

In response to the continuing transition to electronic information, LPS has formed an Electronic Transition Committee. The committee is charged with examining the assumptions and making recommendations for the Federal Depository Library Program. Library Programs Services and the Electronic Collection Team will be looking at ways to improve access to electronic publications (the never-ending task).

Finally, Mr. Baldwin suggested that some items that are currently available in microform be made available electronically as an official version. Permanent access has long been the issue, but perhaps the time is now ripe for consideration of this idea. He also announced that GPO has asked its General Counsel to issue a memorandum on the legality of libraries withdrawing tangible (i.e., paper or micro) publications when an official electronic version is available.

Depository Administration Branch—Robin Haun-Mohammed

Ms. Haun-Mohammed listed new items coming through the Depository Program, some problems with currently received items, and discussed agency outreach. The National Institutes of Health conducted an audit of their information dissemination practices in the Spring and Summer of 1998. NIH discovered that less than a quarter of the publications that should be distributed through the depository program were actually making it there. Ms. Haun-Mohammed said that LPS has seen an increase in publications coming from

NIH. Ms. Haun-Mohammed discussed several concerns that librarians have about various electronic products coming through the depository program. Consult her remarks in Administrative Notes for the details.

Cataloging—Ted Downing

Mr. Downing announced that GPO was implementing a new policy concerning Persistent Uniform Resource Locators (PURLs) and Uniform Resource Locators (URLs). The policy requires the use of one subfield “u” per 856 field for recording a PURL. Mr. Downing discussed PURLs extensively, and his comments are also available from Administrative Notes. PURLs will be discussed further later in this report.

Electronic Transition Staff—George Barnum

Mr. Barnum is one of two librarians who serves GPO and the depository community by taking a leave of absence from his position as a documents librarian and working for GPO for one year as an Expert Consultant to GPO, assisting the Electronic Transition Staff. GPO solicits applications every year for two new librarians to fill these positions to continue helping GPO with the transition to a more electronic depository program. Mr. Barnum discussed the many outreach projects established by GPO in an effort to continue to build the electronic collection. He also listed five major areas that the Electronic Transition Staff was working on—a collection plan, building the collection, simplifying partnership agreements by creating a model agreement, initiating pilot projects with agencies, and other miscellaneous projects.

National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS)—F. Woody Horton

Mr. Horton reviewed the report commissioned by GPO to assess the practices and procedures of agencies as they move information from tangible to intangible formats. The entire report is available at www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/nclisassessment/report.htm 1 or via the NCLIS web site (www.nclis.gov). The key findings listed in the report were probably no surprise to a documents librarian—a lack of overarching policies guiding the dissemination of electronic government information, a failure to plan for permanent public access, an absence of centralized sources of information, a loss of historical information, the occurrence of multiple formats, the problem of fugitive documents, the imposition of user fees, and a lack of standardization. NCLIS’s next step is to analyze the data further and offer some conclusions and recommendations. I wish them the best of luck in finding a solution.

Dept. of Energy, Office of Scientific & Technical Information (OSTI)—Walter Warnick
Mr. Warnick discussed the DOE’s information dissemination policies, particularly in light of the Internet and its increasing use. He said that the agency recognizes that its most significant product is information. The OSTI collects, organizes, and presents their data in order to make it more useful to a wide range of constituencies. He announced that OSTI was pursuing a new online index for the sciences, PubScience. PubScience is to be modeled on PubMed, with a focus on the physical sciences. OSTI plans to offer free access on the Internet.

**Building the FDLP Electronic Collection—Judy Andrews & Laurie Hall**

Ms. Andrews and Ms. Hall discussed the work of the GPO Electronic Collection Team. They articulated three goals for building the FDLP Electronic Collection— to provide permanent public access to Government information, to recognize the reference needs of its user community, and to provide quality bibliographic control of Government information. The electronic collection consists of four types of materials:

1. Core legislative and regulatory information under the control of GPO and available on GPO Access.
2. Other Internet products managed by either GPO or by institutions with which GPO has a formal agreement.
3. Government information on the Internet, that has been identified and described by GPO, but which remains under the control of the originating agency.
4. Tangible electronic products distributed to Federal depository libraries.

It is the third type of material, items we often find in our Marcive loads, that have become problematic for GPO. Many agencies offer useful and important information via the Internet. However, they lack an awareness of what they are doing to library catalogs, librarians, and their public when they change the URLs, drop or add years of coverage, delete last year’s information, or continually revise the information without a plan for permanent, historical, public access. Ms. Hall and Ms. Andrews also cited the second type of electronic material as a work in progress. Those projects that agencies create in partnership with GPO are very useful, but crafting a new partnership agreement each time has been an arduous task. One goal of the Electronic Collection team is to produce a model agreement, so that GPO and the partner agency can focus on making the information available, rather than crafting a new agreement.

**Selecting Housing Arrangements from the Law Library**

Perspective—Robert Richards (Technical Services and Documents Librarian, Univ. of Colorado Law Library), Sharon Blackburn (Texas Tech Univ. School of Law Library), Martha Jo Sani (Assistant Librarian, Business Library, Univ. of Colorado), Laurel Stiebler (Government Documents Coordinator, Minnesota State Law Library)

The speakers addressed several issues relating to law libraries and their selective housing sites. Sharon Blackburn began the discussion by offering several reasons for having selective housing agreements—better service to the community, alleviate space constraints, improve service to the law library’s principle patrons (they will be able to get material and reference support from a staff that knows all about that topic), and both libraries form a valuable partnership. The steps for establishing a selective housing agreement include writing an official memorandum of agreement, reviewing the libraries’ collection development policies, amending the item selection list, devising procedures for handling the documents, communicating FDLP news to the selective housing site, and monitoring adherence to the depository guidelines. Robert Richards gave a demonstration of the University of Colorado’s web site designed specifically for the selective housing sites (the University of Colorado’s Law Library has four selective housing arrangements). Mr. Richards has created a web page with links to GPO’s Administrative Notes and Administrative Notes Technical Supplement, as well as other useful items. The selective housing agreement should contain the following: an agreement to adhere to the FDLP policies, justification for the transfer, duration of the agreement, conditions for termination, maintenance of the collection, policies for access & interlibrary loan, and an agreement for disposition of the collection should a ‘divorce’ occur. A selective housing arrangement can be highly beneficial to both parties, allowing for materials and expertise to be held in the same location, and fulfilling one of Ranganathan’s laws—save the time of the user (reader).

**PURLS: What Do I Need to Know?—Nan Myers**

(Government Documents Librarian, Wichita State University) and Arlene Weible (Government Documents Librarian, Willamette University)

This program drew a large crowd, as many librarians are searching for ways to handle URLs and Persistent Uniform Resource Locators (PURLS) in their catalogs. The text and accompanying handouts are available at http://www.willamette.edu/~aweible/dlc/ . I will summarize, but I would encourage anyone who has any hot links in their catalog to consult the full-text of the program on the web as this was a great presentation on a very important topic. Ms. Weible began the talk by discussing what PURLS do: they provide a constant link to an Internet resource, and a history of changes to the actual URL. PURLS only work if they are maintained. There are times, however, when the content has been changed but the PURL remains unchanged (e.g., continually updated regulations). GPO has 2 FTE (at least) who work to maintain the accuracy of PURLS produced by GPO. The cataloging vendors do not have any systematic process to keep PURLS up-to-date.
At this point, GPO does this work and has made a commitment to keeping PURLS accurate. Ms. Weible encouraged librarians to also make a commitment to check the URLs and PURLS in their catalog—if problems are found report them to AskLPS, GPO’s online question & comment service. This serves the library’s primary patrons and everyone who relies on PURLS for hot-links in their catalog. Ms. Weible has monthly tasks that she performs to keep her PURLS and URLs accurate. Ms. Weible uses the online catalog to create a file of records that contain URLs. She then converts the file to HTML using Tom Tyler’s Xgen software. She uses Linkbot, link verification software, to verify the validity of the links. Errors are checked, resolved, and information is sent to AskLPS.

Ms. Myers gave the second half of the presentation. She discussed many of the issues that surround the use of PURLS in the catalog. Ms. Myers surveyed the library community in March and presented her results at the meeting. Many librarians are cataloging Internet resources, but she noted that most feel that current solutions of PURLS and link checking will not meet the needs of their library or their users for very long. Clearly, PURLS will not be the last solution, merely the latest. Ms. Myers outlined the planning and practical steps involved in adding URLs to titles and providing hot-links. She made clear that there is additional work involved in the process of providing this access to patrons, so the decision is not without costs. She suggested that one consider beginning with a pilot project and make decisions about what will be done and to what extent following the results of the pilot project. Of course, the limitations of one’s catalog, combined with collection development, staffing, and maintenance issues will shape libraries’ ability to provide quality Internet catalog records for their patrons.

Improving the Quality of Reference Services & Web Pages for Training and Reference—John Graham (Head, Public Documents and Patents, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County), Lillie Dyson (Public Libraries and State Networking Branch Chief, Maryland State Dept. of Education), Kay Collins (U.S. Government Information Librarian, University of California, Irvine)
This was my “other” favorite session of the conference. The focus was on improving the quality of reference service and specific behaviors that have been identified as leading to a more successful reference outcome. Mr. Graham began the presentations with a discussion of a training program at his institution where goals of quality reference service are outlined in a handbook given to staff, which includes those goals as well as specific policies and procedures that support those goals. At the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, a reference philosophy was established first, then the procedures that met the goals of the philosophy were set. Both philosophy & procedures were incorporated into the handbook. Staff are trained and then evaluated on their performance of these reference standards. Ms. Dyson was the second presenter, sharing her experiences evaluating and improving reference service throughout the state. In the State of Maryland, the Department of Education decided to attempt to find a way to improve the quality of reference. They conducted four state-wide, unobtrusive surveys, from the patron’s point of view (i.e., people expect complete and accurate answers). The results were that only 55% of the questions were answered accurately (as has been measured in other studies). So, Maryland’s Department of Education took steps to improve the quality of public service. The surveys also revealed that certain behaviors were associated with good reference, behaviors that relate to communication skills. After training staff to improve their communication skills (active listening, approachability, open questions, etc) a follow-up survey was performed. The survey demonstrated significant improvements in quality of service (77% correct answers for those trained, as opposed to 60% correct for those not trained). Ms. Dyson, of the Maryland State Library, identified several key factors in making the training even more successful—peer coaching and supervisor support. Ms. Collins was the final speaker. She gave information about web pages for training and reference. Ms. Collins provides training to general librarians for locating government information. Among her many suggestions for government documents librarians training non-documents staff were: having each trainee use a computer terminal; giving students time to do searches on their own topics; discussing results, methods, and evaluations; having an anchor page for all beginnings; and conducting follow-up workshops.

21:3 JURISDOCS (Summer 1999):9
I am very grateful to Peggy Jarrett and the members of the Government Documents SIS Grants Committee, who awarded me a travel grant to attend this conference. Two factors made this Depository Library Conference especially memorable for me: the opportunity to work with Sharon Blackburn in presenting a program designed for law librarians, and the chance to attend the Depository Library Conference for the first time.

The focus of this conference for me was our law library program, "Spreading the Riches Around: Administering Selective Housing Arrangements from the Law Library Perspective." Sharon and I originally conceived of this program during a conversation at the GD-SIS reception at the AALL Annual Meeting last summer. On the afternoon of Tuesday, April 13, Sharon, Martha Jo Sani, and I presented this program to an audience of thirty librarians, and one GPO inspector. Many thanks to all who attended!

Our program gave an overview of selective housing arrangements, and then discussed ways to use Internet resources to ease the administration of such arrangements. At least three audience members were from law libraries that are now preparing to implement selective housing arrangements, and these librarians expressed their gratitude to us for sharing our insights. Many other librarians in the audience said that they planned to imitate our Internet site for selective housing administration. We were also very pleased that Mr. Tom Oerert, a former law librarian and now a GPO inspector, praised our program, and asked if he could use our handouts during inspections and refer depository librarians to our Internet resources on selective housing arrangements. He said that our resources would likely be effective in generating enthusiasm for selective housing arrangements in the depository community. Sheila McGarr, Chief of Depository Services at GPO, thanked us for presenting a program that highlighted law libraries in the depository program.

Slides from my part of the program are available on the Internet at: http://www.Colorado.EDU/Law/lawlib/ts/riches/ Many thanks to Sharon Blackburn for all of her work to make this program a reality!

The rest of the conference offered many exciting learning experiences. Between 400 and 500 depository librarians attended, including about 140 first time attendees. Reports from GPO personnel brought us up to date on efforts to pass Title 44 reform legislation, and bid us consider the significance of the new report from the National Commission on Library and Information Science, "Report on the Assessment of Electronic Government Information Products." Updates on successful GPO meetings with agencies to secure electronic resources for the depository program were quite encouraging.

I was especially interested in presentations about GPO's new Electronic Collection Team. This team has responsibility for implementing the GPO Electronic Collection Plan, and for securing permanent public access to the federal information resources that GPO considers within the scope of that plan. News that GPO has begun to test procedures for archiving "in-scope" resources that reside on other agency's servers -- referred to in the GPO Electronic Collection Plan as "Category 3" titles -- was particularly heartening to me: earlier this year, my research on an article about government documents services in law libraries convinced me that most preservation plans for federal and state electronic government documents are terribly inadequate. Updates at this Depository Library Conference afforded optimism that GPO might succeed in minimizing the loss of federal agency information in electronic form. Presentations on GPO partnerships with depository libraries to provide permanent public access to agency electronic resources underscored the importance of these partnerships for securing free public access to this information in the future. Should GPO cease to exist at some time, such partnerships could be the only non-commercial -- and in some cases, simply the only -- sources for vital federal information.

Several other presentations dealt with bibliographic control issues, which are of great interest to me and my colleagues at the University of Colorado Law Library. Tad Downing announced a new policy for adding PURLs to GPO bibliographic records, and heralded the public availability of the GPO PURL server, at http://purl.gpo.gov. Also enlightening was a presentation on PURLs by Nan Meyers and Arlene Weibel, whose survey on this topic I and my colleagues had answered. The presentation discussed the technology and management of PURLs, and the results of a survey of technical services librarians on how they
administer PURLs in their local catalogs. In addition to learning much about the variety of PURL practices in libraries, I learned several important things. First, GPO has stopped linking to "lost links" pages when it cannot identify the correct URL for a PURL; this change should improve the accuracy of our URL verification reports. Second, at the discussion session following this program, Tad Downing announced that GPO has decided not to send out periodic notices listing the URLs that have been converted to PURLs. He noted, though, that Browse Electronic Titles does list URLs that have been converted to PURLs in the past week. We at the University of Colorado Law Library now plan to use Browse Electronic Titles to learn of new PURLs.

Another rewarding program was a discussion session for newer depository librarians, moderated by Sheila McGarr. Though I have worked as a depository librarian for over two years, I learned a great deal by listening to the questions posed by librarians who are very new to depository work, and was able to share some expertise to help these colleagues. I also learned some tips on successful claiming of depository serials.

In addition to programs, numerous library tours afforded many insights into government information provision and the depository program. Laura Orr-Waters graciously arranged two tours for the law librarians, to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and to the Office of Law Revision Counsel in the House of Representatives. My colleagues who attended the AOUSC tour found it to be a fascinating experience, and a chance to obtain many valuable fugitive documents. I attended the tour of the Office of Law Revision Counsel: eight law librarians learned how the U.S. Code is created, how USC titles are revised and proposed as positive law, and how public laws are codified. All of us learned a great deal about the codification and revision process, and marveled at the knowledge required to perform this work. Thanks to Laura for coordinating this!

My experience at this Depository Library Conference was fascinating and very rewarding. Our program for law librarians was very well received, and I learned a great deal from other programs and from interaction with colleagues. Many thanks to the GD-SIS Grants Committee for allowing me to attend this conference.

D.C. Insider

by Mary Alice Baish
AALL's Assistant Washington Affairs Representative

Freedom of Information Day Celebration
The 10th anniversary of the Madison Award was celebrated by the American Library Association and the Coalition on Government Information, of which AALL is a member, as part of a special conference on Access to Information: Strategies and Solutions held at the Freedom Forum on March 16, 1999. The ALA Washington Office and the Freedom Forum collaborated on planning this conference on FOI issues that brought together members of the press, government agency officials, librarians, historians, representatives of the non-profit community, former congressional staffers, attorneys and others interested in FOI and the declassification of government information. The 1999 Madison Awards were presented to the board members and congressional sponsors of the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review. See the June column in Documents to the People

EPA and WCS Information
House and Senate committees have held hearings this spring to air concerns that EPA's plans to disseminate through the Internet important public information as mandated by provisions contained in Section 112(r) of the 1990 Clean Air Act might lead to terrorist attacks. Chemical companies have until June 21, 1999 to submit to the EPA their Risk Management Plans that contain chemical hazard information needed to reduce the risks of industrial accidents, save lives, protect health and property, and prevent pollution. AALL has joined environmental, community and other right-to-know groups in insisting that broad dissemination of "Worst-case Scenario" (WCS) data will motivate chemical companies to reduce hazardous risks while alerting the
The new draft legislation provides an incremental approach to solving two of the most urgent challenges of electronic government information:

1) to broaden, strengthen, and enhance public access to electronic government information, including both tangible and online information products; and,
2) to provide permanent public access to and ensure authenticity of electronic government information.

I will be working closely with other library associations and coalition partners to find congressional sponsors for the "Next Generation Electronic Government Information Access Act of 1999" (http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/aallwash/whatsnew042299.html).

GPO/NCLIS Assessment Report Published
GPO and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) have just released the long-awaited Report on the Assessment of Electronic Government Information Products (http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/nclisassessment/report.html) commissioned by GPO and prepared by Westat, Inc. under a contract from NCLIS.

Since that hearing, S. 880, the Fuels Regulatory Relief Act and H.R. 1790, the Chemical Safety Information & Site Security Act of 1999, have been introduced. Both of these bills exempt WCS and chemical hazard information from FOIA and propose that federal depository libraries provide electronic access to the information but that it be restricted—no copying and no downloading allowed. Stay tuned!

New Title 44 Discussion Draft
Having completed its work, The Inter-Associations Working Group on Government Information Policy is being formally disbanded. Nonetheless, a handful of us has continued to work together to develop a new discussion draft bill. Our strategy for the 106th Congress has changed somewhat. We have moved away from the more comprehensive chapter 19 approach used last year to draft legislation that would repeal and amend chapter 41, the GPO Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act (P.L. 103-40) that established the GPO Access system.

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Thanks to the efforts of NCLIS survey coordinator Woody Horton, 74% of the surveys were returned from twenty-four federal entities, including Congressional committees, the Supreme Court, one regulatory commission and 19 executive branch agencies. The two most notable of the sixteen key findings should come as no surprise: first, "there is an overall lack of government information policy guiding electronic publishing, dissemination, permanent public access, or the information life cycle management" that is apparent at the branch and agency levels; and second, "that responsibility for electronic publishing within agencies is decentralized, diffuse and unclear." NCLIS is planning to begin Phase III of the study this summer to analyze the findings, draw conclusions and make recommendations from the survey.

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Reflecting the theme, "At the Crossroads: Information Management, Technology, and Policy, the programs at the 1999 Annual Meeting will confront the issues facing law librarians as the 21st Century approaches. We are at an important crossroads. We must position ourselves not only to survive but also to thrive in the technology based world that continues to evolve around us. Within each of the five tracks at the Annual Meeting, - Management, Technology; Information Access & Policy; Foreign, Comparative & International; and Technical Services - there is a plethora of programming designed to help law librarians address important millennium issues.

The Technology track includes exciting ideas and dynamic speakers. It's All in the Books, Right?: The Ethical Perils of Ignoring Electronic Legal Resources in the Information Age features Judge Robert E. Payne (E.D. Va.) who wrote one of the first opinions acknowledging that attorneys have a duty to stay "abreast of developments in the law" and that there are numerous resources, including online services, serving this purpose. Encryption at the Crossroads features Marc Rotenberg, compiler of The Privacy Law Sourcebook, Director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center and one of the organizers of the grassroots campaign against Lotus Marketplace. The program will feature a discussion of PGP, the current industry standard for email encryption, and current and proposed legislation regulating the use and export of strong encryption products. The proliferation of electronic products, the Hyperlaw decision and the burgeoning number of legal documents found on the Internet has escalated the need for a uniform citation system. The principal drafters of AALL's new Universal Citation Guide will "state their case" for adoption of the guide during the program, AALL's Universal Citation Guide on Trial. A panel of judges representing various segments of the legal system will cross-examine the drafters about the potential problems and impact of such a system on the way judges, lawyers, scholars and others work.

Among the Information Access & Policy track programs, Unauthorized Practice of Law 1999 will feature representatives from Nolo Press, which is currently under investigation by a subcommittee of the Supreme Court of Texas for producing materials which assist individuals to do their own legal work. The preservation of the digital records created by federal agencies is one of the greatest challenges of the upcoming millennium. Lawyers, scholars, judges, reporters all should have an interest in how the federal government and the National Archives and Records Administration plans to meet this challenge. Federal Information Policy and Agency Recordkeeping at the Crossroads will feature Scott Armstrong, a noted author and journalist, and Dr. Lewis Belardo of NARA debating the issue. The consolidation in the legal publishing industry affects law librarians every day. The two-part program, Meeting of the Minds at the Crossroads of Legal Information, offers a panel of law book publishers participating in a roundtable discussion on the state of legal publishing today. Part Two will feature a panel of law librarians reacting to the points made by the publishers.

The Technical Services and Foreign, Comparative & International tracks feature programs of value to everyone, not just the librarians who specialize in those two fields. Crosswalks to Information Management: Metadata focuses on one of the cutting edge issues of searching the Internet. What is metadata? How can it make storage and retrieval of information more accurate? How will it affect search engines? The emergence of electronic publications has caused librarians to rethink the definition of a serial. The program Loose-leafs at the Crossroads: Redefining Seriality will focus on the ongoing discussions of proposals to re-define seriality and the impact that may have on cataloging and processing traditional materials and their new electronic counterparts. The globalization of the world's economy makes the quest for the law of other countries a daily challenge. From Russia With Law, Cuban Legal and Political System and Our Neighbors to the North and South will provide insights in understanding and researching the law of some of the most important of the U.S.'s many trading partners.

A facet of a law firm librarian's life is laboring on research projects and wondering how much of that time will actually make it to a client's bill. The program, Getting the Client to Value Legal Research, in the Management track will offer a number of suggestions about ways to present librarian research time and tools to be used in the client-retention process. The ubiquitousness of technology in today's law libraries often requires that technology professionals be employed in the law library. Ensuring that all employees understand each other's work and that upper
level management (and library staff) understand the need for well-compensated technology staff is the focus of How to Hire the Right Computer People -- and Keep Them From Crossing the Road.

This is just a sampling of the more than 70 programs scheduled for the 1999 Annual Meeting. Want to know more? Watch for “Crossroads Spotlights” postings on the dcedprog and law-lib listservs.

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