Letter from the Chair
by Pegeen G. Bassett
Northwestern University School of Law
Pritzker Legal Research Center

Dear Fellow GOVDOC SIS Members,

It is hard to believe that this is my last issue as Chair of the Government Documents SIS and that the annual conference is only a few weeks away. Thanks to all of you for making these last two years such memorable ones for me both professionally and personally.

Congratulations to Hays Butler who was elected Vice-Chair, Chair-Elect and to Rob Richards who was elected Secretary/Treasurer. Hays, as Vice-Chair, has the responsibility for coordinating the planning of the SIS programs for the annual convention. He and Greta Boerger are in the process of developing program proposals for the next conference. If you have ideas for a program or would like to be involved in a program for the Minneapolis conference, please contact either Greta or Hays. I know that they would appreciate your suggestions and help. All of the SIS officers rely on you to give them input on possible program topics.

In this issue I have included a finalized and corrected schedule of the GD-SIS educational programs and business meetings. I hope many of you will find them worthwhile and will be able to attend them. The Depository Update will be held in the Convention Center. The Welcome to Government Documents Breakfast and the Business meeting will be held in the Philadelphia Marriott. Check the AALL website for room locations. <www.aallnet.org/events> Sheila McGarr will speak at our Depository Update on Sunday, July 16th, from 4:00 to 5:00 P.M., and will give us an overview of late breaking developments at the GPO. She will bring handouts developed for her ALA presentation. The free Welcome to Government Documents SIS Breakfast (supported by CIS) is on Monday July 17th, from 7:30 to 8:30 A.M., and will feature a continental breakfast. Please e-mail me if you are planning to attend so that we will have an estimate of the number of attendees. I encourage those of you who are early birds to attend the Business Meeting on Tuesday July 18th from 7:30 to 8:30 A.M. Coffee, tea, and pastries will be served. The agenda is enclosed in this newsletter issue.

I want to thank Cecily Giardina, the Editor of JURISDOCS, for her skill and hard work in editing the newsletter. Another person to whom I am indebted is Mon Yin Lung, the production manager of JURISDOCS. She has worked (cont on p. 2)
behind the scenes for many, many years to handle the mailings of JURISDOCS issues. Marianne Mason who runs the GDSIS listserv from Indiana University has also played an important role for our SIS for many years. Eric Parker, the new GD-SIS webmaster, has fine-tuned the GD-SIS web pages. I want to thank Peggy Jarrett, Charlene Cain, Hays Butler and Greta Boerlinger for chairing their respective committees and making everything come together. Thanks to Pam Tull for keeping our finances in order.

It has been a real pleasure to get to know many of you this year. I look forward to meeting many of you face to face at the various meetings at the Philadelphia Convention Center.

On a final note, Mary Alice Baish has been giving us the updates on potential funding crises for the GPO. We will all need to monitor the issues closely to lobby our congressmen/women in support of the Federal Depository Library Program. It is possible that the depository program will be drastically curtailed if we do not help in the fight for adequate funding. Nothing can be taken for granted, especially the availability of dual format materials and the publication of key titles such as the United States Code. I urge each of you to write to your representatives to give personal anecdotes emphasizing the benefits that the depository materials have provided to your local citizens and businesses. Congress must be reminded of the important role depository libraries and librarians play in their communities.

SEE YOU IN PHILADELPHIA!
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<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>PROGRAM/MEETING</th>
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<td>Sunday, July 16</td>
<td>1:00 p.m - 2:00 p.m</td>
<td>Presidential Libraries</td>
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<td>Coordinator &amp; Moderator: David Gay</td>
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<td>Speakers: Regina Greenwell, Lyndon Baines Johnson Library</td>
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<td>Nancy Smith, National Archives &amp; Records Administration</td>
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<td>4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>GDSIS GPO Depository Update</td>
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<td>Coordinator: Pegeen Bassett</td>
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<td>Speaker: Sheila M. McGarr, Library Division, GPO</td>
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<td>Monday, July 17</td>
<td>7:30 a.m - 8:30 a.m</td>
<td>Welcome to Government Documents SIS Breakfast (CIS Contributor)</td>
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<td>Coordinator: Pegeen Bassett</td>
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<td>10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Legislative &amp; Regulatory Update</td>
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<td>Coordinator: Rita T. Reusch</td>
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<td>Speakers: Rita T. Reusch, University of Utah Law Library</td>
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<td>Mary Alice Baish, Washington Affairs Office</td>
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<td>Robert L. Oakley, Washington Affairs Office</td>
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<td>1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Reconsidering Depository Status</td>
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<td>Coordinator: A. Hays Butler</td>
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<td>Speakers: Cheryl Nyberg, University of Washington Law Library</td>
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<td>Betsy McKenzie, Suffolk Law School Law Library</td>
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<td>Sheila McGarr, Government Printing Office</td>
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<td>Tuesday, July 18</td>
<td>7:30 a.m - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>GDSIS Business Meeting</td>
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<td>1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Skills for Government Documents Librarians in the New Millennium, or, How Can We Get There from Here?</td>
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<td>Coordinators: Virginia Thomas, Pegeen Bassett</td>
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<td>Speakers: Timothy Coggins, University of Richmond Law Library</td>
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<td>Susan Tulis, Government Information Consultant</td>
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<td>John Carlo Bertot, School of Information Science &amp; Policy, SUNY Albany</td>
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<td>Wednesday, July 19</td>
<td>2:00 p.m - 4:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Federal/State Administrative Decisions (Pts 1 &amp; 2)</td>
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<td>Coordinator: Paul Arigo</td>
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<td>Speakers: Barbie Selby, University of Virginia Law Library</td>
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<td>Cheryl Nyberg, University of Washington Law Library</td>
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<td>Kathryn Hough, CCH</td>
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BUSINESS MEETING
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION
TUESDAY, JULY 18TH
7:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.
PHILADELPHIA MARRIOTT

AGENDA

I. Approval of the Minutes from Washington, DC Meeting
II. Treasurer’s Report: Pam Tull
III. Report of the Nominations Committee: Charlene Cain
IV. Report of the Programs Chair: Greta Boeringer
V. Report of the Grants Committee: Peggy Jarrett
VI. Report of the Publications Review Committee: Hays Butler
VII. Report of the GD-SIS Webmaster: Eric Parker
VIII. Report of the Public Relations Committee: Pegeen Bassett
IX. Report of the Web Tutorial Project: Charlene Cain
X. Report on GD SIS/AALL Strategic Planning: Pegeen Bassett
XI. Discussion of Programming for Minnesota Conference: Hays Butler
XII. Turn Gavel over to Greta Boeringer
XIII. New Business
XIV. Closing and Adjournment
GD-SIS ELECTION RESULTS:

Hays Butler elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect
Rob Richards elected Secretary/Treasurer

We appreciate the willingness of the candidates who ran for office and hope that those who were not chosen to serve at this time will be willing to serve in the future. Many, many thanks to the nominees and voters.

GD-SIS Nominations Committee

CONGRATULATIONS TO SARAH (SALLY) G. HOLTHERHOFF
Sarah (Sally) G. Holterhoff, Government Documents Librarian, Valparaiso University Law Library, was elected to a three-year term on the AALL Executive Board.

GDSIS GRANTS COMMITTEE AWARDS STUDENT GRANT
Donna Nixon, a student at the University of North Carolina, is the recipient of a $400 travel grant to attend the 2000 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference in Philadelphia, PA.

GDSIS TIME CAPSULE
The GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS SIS is participating in the AALL Public Relations Committee’s special project to prepare time capsules. Please contact Pegeen Bassett with your suggestions for the GDSIS time capsule. Pegeen Bassett, Documents Librarian, Pritzker Legal Research Center, Northwestern University School of Law, 357 E. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. Phone: 312-503-7344. Fax: 312-503-9230. E-mail: p-bassett@nwu.edu.
ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM COMMITTEE
by Peggy Jarrett, 2001 AMPC Committee Member

2001 Program Planning: The Time Is Now!

As you are thinking about what to pack for Philadelphia, it is also time to think about program ideas for the 2001 AALL Annual Meeting in Minneapolis! The theme for the Minneapolis meeting is “2001: New Realities, New Roles,” and there are five tracks: Agents of Change, Globalization, Practitioner’s Toolkit, Reinventing Law Librarianship, and Partnership. The Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC), when thinking of themes and tracks, recognized that our professional roles and job expectations are changing rapidly. Those of us with an interest or specialty in government publications have faced several years of rapid change: in how many of our libraries have the challenging issues of public Internet access, cataloging web sites, and migrating formats that initially come from the Documents Department?

So where to start? First, take a look at the preliminary program for Philadelphia’s meeting. Consider which programs could use some follow-up treatment next year. What current topics of interest to you are not in the Philadelphia program?

Then, reflect on recent events. Did something discussed at the Spring Depository Library Council Meeting sound like a good program idea? Has there been GovDoc-L or Law-Lib traffic on an unfamiliar topic you’d like to pursue (or on an all too familiar topic that needs a fresh perspective)? Are you excited about something in particular? Or irritated? Think about it - if a topic interests you, chances are it will also interest some of your colleagues. What have you been talking about with your coworkers, friends, and colleagues? You might run a few ideas by people you know. And think outside of your comfort zone!

Next, consider speakers. Is there someone you’ve heard recently who is knowledgeable and interesting? Is there someone you’ve heard wonderful things about?

What else can you do? Go to AALLNET and preview the 2001 Program Planner’s Handbook. It’s rather long, but the text reads quickly and is packed with examples, forms, and tips on constructing strong proposals. The Program Planner’s Handbook also has good information about the theme and tracks, including lists of ideas under each track to boost your creativity.

And once you have some ideas? If you are interested in the GD-SIS sponsoring a program, contact Hays Butler, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, who will be chairing the GD-SIS Program Committee. His email is abbutler@crab.rutgers.edu, and he would be very happy to hear your ideas! Program proposals don’t have to go through an SIS or Chapter, though, so if you want to propose a program on your own or with other colleagues, check out the Program Planner’s Handbook for the necessary forms. All program proposals are due at AALL Headquarters by the close of business on Monday, August 14, 2000.

You might also consider attending the 2001 Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC) Open Forum in Philadelphia on Monday, July 17, 2000 from 5:00-6:00 PM. The Open Forum is a great place to ask general questions about filling out the proposal form or about the program selection process.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I’ll be the AMPC liaison to the GD-SIS for the 2001 meeting and am excited to work with members of my very own SIS! My e-mail address is pjarrett@u.washington.edu.
Since the early development of the World Wide Web in the early 1990's, search engines have been available on the Internet. Search engines, such as Google, EasyAsk, Ask Jeeves!, and Northern Light, are computer programs that collect all publicly available web pages and classify and index them so one can search them by keywords. However, today's ten major search engines collectively index less than one-half of all web pages. Also, many of the major search engines are somewhat biased toward commercial content. Only a small percentage of the websites indexed by search engines today are in less biased areas of science, education, and scholarly research.¹

**SEARCH ENGINES IN GENERAL**

The legal research or documents librarian trying to find answers on the Web must use search engines with their limitations in mind. Some search engines provide specific online databases for government information. For example, Google (www.google.com/unclesam) and Northern Light (http://usgovsearch.northernlight.com/publibaccess) provide a separate database for federal government information.

**Government Information Search Engine Databases**

When searching for government documents, more relevant results can be obtained using a special government information search engine; in this situation, a general search engine might yield many unwanted results. For example, try searching for information regarding the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) using Google's or Northern Light's government documents search engine. You will retrieve many relevant hits regarding the FMLA. You can also use federal agency search engines that are limited to particular topics, such as those provided by the OSHA website (http://www.osha-slc.gov/htmldfsearch.html) or the Department of Labor website (http://www.dol.gov/dol/public/search/schall.htm).

**Drawbacks of Using Search Engines**

Query a general search engine for specific government information about alcoholism, for example, and it may point researchers to Alcoholics Anonymous rather than government studies on the topic. The problem with all search engines is that they do not have the requisite artificial intelligence to think as a human being. Search engines simply match keywords or phrases. As most Internet users have discovered, "looking for words is a lot different than looking for meaning."²

Another weakness of search engine technology is that it can be too focused. For example, it often finds a relevant match but nothing more. It would be ideal if a search engine that does not find a match (e.g., cordovan shoes) would return alternative suggestions. "You might want red shoes, but you'd really take another color," comments Simon Hayward, an analyst with the Garner Group, in a recent *Boston Globe* article.³ "It's important to start the search process but then branch out [to capture alternative information]."⁴

Two search engines receiving much publicity lately are Google and Northern Light. In less than two years, Google has experienced enormous growth. Founded in 1998 by two Stanford Ph.D. students, Google is now considered one of the more successful search engines in retrieving relevant information. Another good documents database is Northern Light, which also has its own documents search engine.⁵

**NORTHERN LIGHT'S GOVERNMENT SEARCH ENGINE**

In 1996, a team of librarians, software engineers, and information professionals founded Northern Light Technology, Inc. Headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Northern Light recognized the need to improve search engines and online research services. The company first introduced its search engine NorthernLight.com or LNResearch.com for businesses.
and researchers in August of 1997.6

Long known for its online periodical sources,7 Northern Light also provides its usgovsearch search engine mainly for public libraries, public schools, and federal depository libraries. You can search Northern Light’s comprehensive collection of millions of web pages from government and military websites for authoritative information by and about the federal government.

The usgovsearch full edition is a subscription to the full version of usgovsearch, which provides access to Northern Light’s Special Collection of over 6,200 sources. The full edition costs $250 per year. It includes National Technical Information Service (NTIS) abstracts, which one can order on a transactional basis. The full edition also searches Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) websites as well as other federal government and military websites.

Searching for Relevant Information using Northern Light

Most answers to questions related to searching, displayed usgovsearch results, Custom Search Folders, and Northern Light’s specific search forms including Power Search and Agency Search can be found under the Search Help tab. To help the researcher retrieve better search results, usgovsearch requires most of the words in one’s search to be contained in the document results. To retrieve the most relevant hits, the following pointers are helpful.

1. Northern Light supports the Boolean search strategy (AND, OR, NOT), including parenthetical expressions, in all search forms. There is no limit to the level of nesting that you can use in a query.

2. If Boolean operators appear in quotes, or as part of a quoted phrase, they will be interpreted as a search term or part of a search term, rather than a Boolean operator. For example, typing the phrase, penguins AND NASA, will return NASA documents about penguins. But, typing the phrase “Pride AND Prejudice” will return documents with the same phrase “Pride and Prejudice” such as a discussion or review of the book by Jane Austen. Whereas typing the search terms, Pride AND Prejudice, will return documents that contain the word “Pride” and the word “Prejudice”.

3. Use the Boolean operator “OR” to retrieve documents that include any of the search terms rather than every word. For example, typing the search terms, encryption OR cryptography, will return articles containing either the word “cryptography” or the word “encryption”.

4. Use NOT to indicate a word that must not appear in the documents. For example, typing the search phrase, penguins NOT NHL, will return documents about penguins rather than articles about the Pittsburgh Penguins of the NHL.

5. Use quotation marks around specific phrases to target your search on occurrences of the actual phrase. For example, typing the search phrase [proposals for “transit planning,” “Advanced Technology Transit Bus”] will return Federal Transit Administration documents on the Advanced Technology Transit Bus (ATTB).

6. In addition to AND and NOT, you may use a plus sign (+) to indicate terms that must be present in the search results and a minus sign (-) for those terms that must not be present in the search results. For example, typing the search [+penguins -NHL] will return search results that must contain the word “penguins” but must not contain the abbreviation “NHL”.

7. Another example: To retrieve information about Senator George Mitchell’s final report regarding Northern Ireland, type the search [+Mitchell +“Northern Ireland” -Major].

Custom Search Folders

In addition to providing customized searching and a specialized search engine, Northern Light’s usgovsearch provides customized subject classification for organizing your search results. Information is organized into Custom Search Folders. You can open specific folders to retrieve the results that you need. The Custom Search Folder is one feature that differentiates Northern Light from its rivals.

Glossary

Northern Light also includes a glossary of electronic information and Internet related terms. For example, you can click on any one of the twenty-six letters in the alphabet to retrieve a list of Internet terms under a particular letter and the definition to each of the listed terms. If you cannot find the term that you are looking for in the glossary, you can contact Northern Light’s Customer Service, and they will consider adding the term.

Public Library Access Program

Northern Light’s Public Library Access Program is committed to providing services that assist libraries in better serving their patrons for access to government information. The free access version of Northern Light’s usgovsearch can assist patrons of public libraries, school libraries, and federal depository libraries in connecting to the millions of web pages of government information. It can be found at http://usgovsearch.northernlight.com/publibaccess. The free version of usgovsearch does not provide access to the
search forms with the Special Collection or the NTIS summary abstract database.

Two Types of Northern Light Accounts

Northern Light offers two types of accounts that allow researchers to access its Special Collection of over seven million documents. For individual users or small organizations, there are member accounts. To set up an individual member account, point your web browser to http://standard.northernlight.com/cgi-bin/new_account.pl?govsearch_enroll=1. For larger organizations with multiple users, there are Enterprise accounts. To set up an Enterprise account, point your web browser to http://www.northernlight.com/docs/acct_help_enterp.html. If you are part of a government agency with a deposit account, you also can contact NTIS Customer Service via e-mail at gov.search.da@ntis.fedworld.gov.

Enterprise Edition Account

The usgovsearch is available as a subscription-based Enterprise edition (http://standard.northernlight.com/cgi-bin/govsearch_login.pl) that extends your search across Northern Light’s online premium content research library of more than twelve million articles from professional and technical journals. Sources include such items as Defense Daily magazine, FedNet Government News, and the NTIS document abstracts database, among many other publications and databases.

With the Enterprise Edition subscription account, researchers can purchase information with their credit card. After a simple registration process, researchers can purchase a daily, monthly, or annual pass to Northern Light’s usgovsearch. Researchers then can select, order, download, and print information from the premium collection. Also, they may order online directly from NTIS for its full-text documents. Special pricing for corporations, organizations, and institutions is also available based on the total number of users in their community. A money-back guarantee is available for anyone who does not find the ordered information has met his or her research needs.

What is the Special Collection?

The Northern Light Special Collection is a specialized database of 6,200 full-text journals, books, magazines, and newswire sources. Its content is fully searchable on usgovsearch, integrated with the Web or on its own, through the Power Search feature. Products and services available on Northern Light include the following items.

(1) Medical abstracts from Medical Data Exchange
(2) Magill Book Reviews
(3) Online customer support
(4) Twenty-four hour access to your account
(5) Ability to update your own personal information
(6) Ability to implement your own refunds
(7) A ninety-day detailed transaction history
(8) A detailed monthly account statement via e-mail

Currently, Northern Light contains sixteen million full-text documents in the Special Collection, and it adds nearly 250 sources each month. Most of these Special Collection sources include articles that date back to January 1995. Some of the book reviews date back to 1990, and most NTIS titles and abstracts date back to 1964. Since Northern Light periodically adds new sources of information, some of Northern Light’s titles have more recent start dates.

What Do Special Collection Items Cost?

Most Special Collection documents range in price from one dollar to four dollars per article with a few other sources, such as Wharton Economic Forecasting Associates (WEFA), Inc. reports and Thomson Financial’s Investext documents, costing more. If you find a summary relevant and decide to purchase the full-text version, you can order the complete report with a credit card. After the transaction, the documents are displayed on your computer screen, and they can be downloaded to your hard drive or sent to your printer.

Choices among Search Engines and Online Vendors

Librarians find choices among search engines and online vendors to be very important. Northern Light differentiates its suite of online products by offering certain value-added items in its Special Collection. One example of this is Investext. Searching Investext on Northern Light is a way to identify and retrieve selected analysts’ reports by page or full report, depending on format availability, without logging onto account-based systems including Investext Group’s Research Bank Web, Dialog, or Lexis-Nexis.

However, Investext on Northern Light is merely a selection of what is available compared to the complete collection on Research Bank Web. Unfortunately, there is no easy way of knowing what is missing. Also note that while an online system such as Dialog has a more comprehensive archive than Northern Light, it does not contain reports available only in Portable Display Format (PDF) from Northern Light, Research Bank WeC, or Lexis-Nexis.
The Future of Legal and Government Document Research on Northern Light

The future of search engine technology and document retrieval was made clearer when earlier this year, the West Group and Northern Light Technology, Inc. announced an agreement to create a comprehensive legal search engine. Legal professionals and documents librarians soon will have access to Westlaw databases and Northern Light’s database of over 220 million web pages in a single, integrated search.10

Internet legal researchers often have to sort through many hits to find relevant information. The partnership of Westlaw and Northern Light may help shorten the research process because subscribers to the new system potentially will be better able to narrowly define their search results. Northern Light will use its unique classification technology to help organize search results based in part on the classification system provided by West.11

The new legal search engine will organize search results in Custom Folders, such as “Intellectual Property” or “Environmental Law,” giving researchers access to potentially more organized and relevant information.12 What this eventually will mean for the legal researcher and the documents librarian remains to be seen. One thing is clear however. A new, more powerful method of obtaining online government information soon will be made available to legal researchers and documents librarians because of this new partnership between West and Northern Light.

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1What You Need to Know Now to Get The Most Out of Internet Searchers, SAFETY DIRECTOR’S REPORT (IOMA), Mar.1, 2000, at 5, available in LEXIS, News Library, Current File.
2Stephanie Stoughton, Technology & Innovation / Fast Forward; Find Meaning on the Net, BOSTON GLOBE, May 8, 2000, at C1 (quoting Larry R. Harris, Ph.D., founder and chair of EasyAsk, Inc. of Littleton, Massachusetts.), available in LEXIS, News Library, Current File.
3See id.
4See id
5See id.
8Amelia Kassel, Powerize: If It’s Free, It’s for Me, But (Company Business and Marketing), SEARCHER 8, no.3 (March 1, 2000): 10, available in 2000 WL 14720389.
9See id.
11See id.
12See id.
Be prepared -- this is not a detailed report about the Spring 2000 Depository Council Meeting. By the time you read this, the full reports will have been published in AdNotes and you will all know the details of what happened and all the official recommendations and responses. Instead, these are the impressions of a first time Council attendee.

I’m not really a documents librarian; I’m the depository coordinator disguised as the Head of Technical Services. And I’d never seen as many REAL documents librarians in one place in my whole life as I did at the Depository Council meeting in Newport in April. In spite of having read Susan Tulis’s excellent DLC summary reports on GOVDOC-L in the past, I didn’t really know what to expect. Much to my relief, I found the librarians and GPO staff members to be friendly and more than ready to welcome those of us who were new to all of this excitement.

And there certainly was a lot going on, starting with the weather! People who think Chicago is the Windy City have never been to Newport in April – we had 50 mile an hour winds and all sorts of moisture from light mist to snow squalls. That didn’t dampen the enthusiasm of the almost 200 librarian attendees, who set a record for the “out of Washington” DLC meeting. Many of us were from the New England area and attending our first DLC meeting. This is why one of the two meetings each year is held away from Washington and rotated around the country, to encourage participation by people who often can’t attend national meetings.

But I digress.

I started on Sunday afternoon with Sandy Morton-Schwab and Sheila McGarr introducing the newbies to the ins and outs of the Depository Library Council and each other. There were approximately 40 of us attending our first Council meeting, including four law librarians. It was nice to have company and see some familiar faces! We learned about the role of the Council and that GPO staff would be updating Council and the rest of us prior to their deliberation and discussion. We also learned how the meeting time was structured and, last but not least, the language of the various colored ribbons attached to our badges. Hmmm, I suppose this was the equivalent of going to Connell!

Monday and Tuesday mornings were filled with plenary sessions with presentations and updates by the many GPO people we know and love. Then while Council was off in one wing deliberating over proposals and action items, I attended a session for new documents staff, one on GPO Access, a Cataloging and Locator Services Report, and a session for regionals on disposition and replacement issues. Miscellaneous things I learned:

- The US Code will be reprinted in 2001 by statutory requirement.
- Since 1990, GPO staff has been reduced by 39%.
- Sales of publications is losing substantial money each month, almost directly attributable to the success with GPO Access.
- “Permanent public access” to government information means different things to different agencies who don’t even use the same definitions when they talk about it. GPO is facilitating discussions on how to pursue this comprehensively and effectively.
- GAO publications on microfiche will cease after September 30, 2000.
- The FDLP webpages are being redesigned as the FDLP Desktop.
- GPO is installing a T3 line to increase bandwidth to increase capacity of GPO Access.
- 90,000 users accessed the Microsoft decision on GPO Access within the first 30 minutes of its release.
- Superseded lists should be up on the web soon in revised form.
- NARA is working with the San Diego supercomputer on ways to preserve electronic data independent of proprietary software while still presenting it to the user in a form that replicates the original presentation.
The MoCat CD-ROM will be discontinued at the end of the 2000 issue.

Browse Electronic Titles will become more of a current awareness tool.

An interactive module-based training CD on how to use GPO Access should be ready to send to depositories within a few weeks. In phase 2, this will go on the web.

Hearing regional libraries talk about disposing of items was fascinating. One thing I noticed was that they kept talking about working with their selectives and their state plans on whatever strategies they were using. This was news to me; I'd never heard about a state plan - Sheila told me we don't have one here in Massachusetts, so I didn't feel quite so ignorant. But a plan sounds like an excellent idea for many reasons - if you don't have one, or aren't sure if you do, it's worth asking your regional whether one exists or if there are plans to develop one. One outgrowth of that session for me is an effort on the part of documents librarians in the Boston area to start working with our regional on creating a plan.

My favorite program of all was the last one I attended, presented by T.C. Evans reporting on a review of search engines and their performance in retrieving specified pages from GPO Access (Federal Register, Congressional Record, Ben's Guide, and several others). Their goal is to get their pages displayed in the top 30 hits retrieved by over 30 different search engines, and they are working with individuals as well as following the "routine submission" paths to improve performance. I learned more about the practical application of metadata in that program than from many articles or theoretical discussions. We looked together at the web page Title, Metadata Description, and Metadata Keywords to see how to change the scope of one or more of these three areas to improve hit rate and ranking within retrieved entries. You could feel the energy as we shared from our experiences with users at different levels, and ideas multiplied rapidly. This program had immediate practical applications for me, as I found myself thinking of ways to improve descriptors on the library pages I maintain.

So what did I think of it all? I found the DLC to be a very friendly and manageably sized meeting with focused presentations and discussions. Getting to know other librarians and GPO staff over breaks, in the hall, or at a meal was great - I learned a lot just from casual conversations. And contacting LPS and posting to GOVDOC-L will be much easier for me now that I know who is reading my mail!

Would I go again? You bet! Not every year, certainly. But there is much to be gained for us as law librarians by not restricting ourselves to conferences with other law librarians. All the libraries in the depository program are working with the same guidelines and challenges, and by pooling our resources and "tricks of the trade," we can all do our jobs more efficiently and with greater effectiveness.
Yes, it’s true, we did experience snow in April in Newport, RI. We also had winds, rain, sun and overcast skies. But the weather didn’t detract from the beauty of the location, nor the fine work of the Depository Library Council. This report attempts to summarize the various update reports given by GPO staff and the work of Council itself. Unfortunately, I didn’t make it to any of the other informational sessions! Hopefully someone else will report on those programs.

Barbara Weaver, State Librarian of RI (and a former Council member), began the Spring 2000 Depository Library Council meeting with a warm welcome and compliments to all who are involved in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

Mike DiMario, Public Printer, talked about funding issues related to GPO and the FDLP. There has been a gradual reduction in funds for the FDLP due to flat funding. GPO’s FY 2001 budget request for the S&E (which includes the FDLP) was $34.5 million - a 15% increase over last year and includes 5 additional positions. DiMario anticipates budget cuts due to the current climate in Washington - at least in the House. Neither house has acted on their budget request as of yet.

Last year GPO experienced a shortfall of $5 million against a $765 million overall budget. While this shortfall is a small percentage of the budget, the Sales Program has experienced a greater loss - due to more publications being put on GPO Access. Prices have been raised in the Sales Program, but it isn’t enough to cover the loss.

If the decision is made to close NTIS, GPO would be happy to continue that program in GPO provided they were given sufficient resources to make that transition. DiMario firmly believes those publications belong in the FDLP.

Francis J. Buckley, Jr., Superintendent of Documents, began with the recognition of the importance of the partnership between libraries and the government in the provision of access to government information to the public. This was followed by a success story, Ben’s Guide to U.S. Government for Kids, released in December 1999. This resource for students, parents, and teachers provides a fun and educational introduction to how the U.S. Government works based on information resources available through GPO Access.

In its first month, the site received just over 100,000 retrievals. By February 2000, this number jumped to approximately 350,000.

Since its release, Ben’s Guide has received excellent feedback and many forms of recognition, including the ALA’s 2000 Notable Children’s Web Sites Award, USA Today’s Hot Site of the Week, and Pacific Bell’s Blue Web ‘n.

Virtual Ben receives e-mail from individuals (especially children) all over the world asking such questions as “Can Ben come to my birthday party?” to “Does a person running for president have to have lived in the U.S. for 14 consecutive years?”

Next, Buckley gave an update on the activity of the Permanent Public Access Working Group which recently held its third meeting. In the coming months, members of the PPA Working Group will be formulating goals. Some draft goals include:

- Facilitating discussion among stakeholders engaged in digital archiving research or applications.
- Providing a forum for sharing information among the participants, and informing a wider audience about U.S. Government PPA activities.
- Identifying a set of core values regarding current and future public access to U.S. Government electronic information.
- Developing and publicizing a set of "best practices" for digital archiving that will facilitate cooperation among agencies and organizations.
- Identifying "at risk" electronic information and developing collaborative solutions or partnerships to ensure its permanent public accessibility.
- Creating an environment to foster the development of collaborative PPA projects.
Formulating policies and programs to assure ongoing access to Federal government information.

Staff from the Library Programs Service and the Office of Electronic Information Dissemination Services (EIDS) in conjunction with GPO Production staff are working on a public website on GPO Access that will include information about the group and its members, its goals, and links to resources relevant to the topic.

This update was followed by a report on the research project GPO has been participating in (along with several other agencies), on government websites. The project is headed by Dr. Charles McClure and is designed to explore appropriate performance measures for Federal agency websites. Among the topics GPO sees as important for Federal websites are depository library access, Permanent Public Access, how agency pages are located and retrieved on commonly used search engines, no fees or copyright like restrictions, customer satisfaction ratings, user support, and training. Dr. McClure plans to develop a recommended set of criteria for agencies to use in evaluating website performance. These will be tested on participating agency sites and the results included in the project’s final report, scheduled for release in September of this year.

Buckley also talked about the impact of the digital revolution on the FDLP. Increasingly more government information is in electronic format only. Resource constraints and legislative direction dictate that GPO move to electronic versions and discontinue the simultaneous distribution of titles in two or even three formats.

This digital revolution presents the challenges of the constantly evolving technology to access and use government information. GPO feels that it is time to raise the bar for both service provided and equipment used in depositories. As a result, Council was presented with a number of proposals for consideration. Depository Services Staff Proposal #3 would revise the “Depository Library Service Guidelines for Government Information in Electronic Formats” to establish a service requirement for tangible electronic products. Another proposal has to do with the Recommended Specifications for Public Access to Workstations in Federal Depository Libraries for 2000. These recommended specifications are intended to assist depository librarians in making informed purchases which will best achieve the goal of providing public access to Federal government information in a variety of electronic formats.

Lastly, Buckley discussed the Sales Program which has seen both a decline in sales volume and in the number of salable titles available. GPO is working on short- and long-term strategies to deal with this situation, including price increases, cost-cutting measures, new methods of increasing public awareness of the products for sale, and an analysis of where a predominantly print sales operation will fit into the increasingly electronic future of Government publishing. GPO is also re-examining the role of its bookstores, as well as its reimbursable services activities in the Washington area and at the Distribution Center in Pueblo, Colorado. GPO has just completed a study of the Pueblo operation’s future workload potential at the request of the House Appropriations Committee, since the overall declining workload in print publications distribution is a factor there too.

Buckley ended by saying he looks forward to working with members of the Council over the next 3 days as they plot our future course in this ICE Age - Internet Changes Everything.

Gil Baldwin, Director, Library Programs Service, gave a topical overview of LPS activities with a preview of related programs and discussions for the rest of the meeting. In terms of the transition to a more electronic FDLP, Baldwin stated that absent a legislative change when the transition is over the FDLP will look pretty much as it does in 2000, only more so. More information will be provided solely electronically; more users will download more content; there will be more emphasis on cataloging and locator services; there will be more electronic acquisition and archiving; there will be more partnerships for a greater variety of purposes; and there will also be expectations for more services, not just from GPO, but also more services from libraries to users.

Naturally, GPO’s ability to move forward on these issues is dependent upon the availability of resources. The continued pattern of level funding is a real concern and constrained funding may prevent GPO from undertaking everything that they would like to do, and might possibly require the curtailment of some traditional products or services.

Buckley already mentioned the 2000 Recommended Specifications for Public Access Workstations. Also presented to Council was Proposal #2 - “Increase the Minimum Technical Requirements for Public Access Workstations in Federal Depository Libraries at Regular Intervals.” The “Recommended Technical Specifications” for new public access workstations coexisted in a confusing way with the technical requirements used for inspections. LPS is working to clear up the confusion, which will result in better service to the public. They propose to establish a rolling schedule of announcing new specifications, giving depositories about 15 months of lead time, and then beginning to use them as the requirements for inspections.
These technical upgrades are linked to a service proposal as well. Proposal #3 is to “Revise the “Depository Library Public Service Guidelines for Government Information in Electronic Formats” to establish a service requirement for tangible electronic products. What this would mean is that all depository libraries must make tangible electronic products and services (CD-ROMs, DVDs, floppy diskettes) which they select available to the general public in a timely manner. While circulation of CDs and DVDs is encouraged, this alone does not relieve the depository of its duty to assist patrons in accessing the information. The depository must demonstrate a "good faith" effort in providing in-house assistance to patrons wishing to use CDs and DVDs.

These proposals are essential steps to move the program forward. But it is also essential for depository libraries to improve and expand their own capabilities to deliver electronic content to end users.

Online electronic U.S. Government information is the most prevalent dissemination medium in the FDLP, amounting to about 52% of new titles added this year. At the same time, the distribution of tangible products continues to decline compared to FY 1999. Paper is holding steady at about 20% of the program titles, while microfiche has declined to 27%. Tangible electronics, now almost all CD-ROM, have almost dropped off the charts, down to about 1/10 of 1%.

LPS is phasing out the physical distribution of certain FDLP microfiche titles and migrating to the online version, when an official, reliable electronic version is available. As part of this migration process, LPS is identifying groups of titles that agencies issue in both print and online versions. When LPS determines that the content of the online version is substantially equivalent or superior to the print version, LPS selects the online version for the FDLP.

LPS will discontinue distributing GAO publications in microfiche as of September 30, 2000. LPS will also discontinue distribution of the Congressional Bills on microfiche effective with the last of the 106th Congress Bills. Bills are permanently accessible on GPO Access beginning with the 103rd Congress.

The archive component of the FDLP/EC is now in operation. Issues of two publications in the FDLP/EC recently became unavailable from their agency source and users are being redirected, via PURL, to archived copies on GPO servers. Electronic publications acquired for the FDLP/EC in online form only (with no tangible equivalent in the FDLP) are being captured, documented, and stored. GPO staff are still learning to effectively manage a multiplicity of file types, formats, and web design issues, but are actively transferring earlier experimental captures to the archive server, and are adding newly acquired publications regularly.

GPO is still pursuing the vision of a distributed electronic archive, as described in the 1998 plan for Managing the FDLP Electronic Collection. Electronic content may be stored on GPO servers, at the originating agency, at partner sites, or at other external sites, or at combinations of these. To this end, GPO continues to meet and work with OCLC to develop the requirements, technical infrastructure, and the business model for digital archiving from OCLC.

In light of problems with batching, misdirected shipments, delayed receipts and resulting processing problems for depository libraries, LPS elected not to exercise its contract option year with Potomac Business Center (PBC). Previous mail contracts have covered all GPO mailers and were not specific to the needs of the Federal Depository Library Program. Unfortunately, this resulted in more generic contractual language with insufficient safeguards for quality service to libraries. However, because of the many inconsistencies in the performance of this past contract, LPS is now able to segregate its pick up and delivery requirements and has completed a much-strengthened Statement of Work to begin the procurement process for an upcoming mailing contract. GPO’s Procurement Office announced the requirement for pick up and delivery services in the Commerce Business Daily on March 2, 2000. In addition, LPS began date stamping all outgoing boxes in early March, and is also upgrading its TanData system to increase the ability to track depository materials from the time shipments leave GPO to the time shipments arrive at depository libraries. All changes should be in place by mid-June, 2000.

The FDLP Administration Web pages on GPO Access are extensive and sometimes it’s not so easy to find the article, product, or service that you want. As a result, GPO has come up with a prototype design for a new set of pages, called the FDLP Desktop. Please check it out [www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/test/FDLPDESKTOP.HTML].

TC Evans, EIDS, gave an update on the ever-changing state of GPO Access. The most recent online survey of GPO Access users (19% of which identified themselves as representing depositories) garnered the following:

- When asked how they learned of GPO Access, 31% of the respondents indicated that they had found us through an Internet search, 25% by exploring links from other sites, 11% through a class, 9% through a Federal Depository Library, 7% through word of mouth, 6% through articles

2:3 JURISDOCS (Summer 2000) :15
or notices, 4% through a GPO Access gateway library, 3% at a conference, and 4% gave other answers. The class answers were significant in that they were all write-in responses.

- In terms of frequency of use, 44% of respondents indicated that they use GPO Access at least once per week, 24% use it a few times per year, 20% use it every few weeks, and 12% use it once a year or less. Responses from depositories showed higher use, with 39% using GPO Access daily, 38% at least once per week, and 17% every few weeks.

- When asked what they use GPO Access for, 27% checked tracking legislation, 26% legal research, 26% patron assistance, 26% for academic research of various types, 21% business decisions, 21% homework, 19% checked public policy, and 11% teaching. There were also some interesting write-in responses, including 9% personal use (One of whom indicating it was research for a science fiction novel), 2% library administration, 1% buying GPO stuff.

- The use of finding aids results showed a great deal of differentiation between depository and non-depository respondents. 74% of depository respondents indicated they use the online version of MOCAT, while 45% of non-depository respondents checked it. It was still the most used at 51% overall, with the LSU Agency Internet Sites coming in a close second at 49%. This order was reversed for non-depository users.

- High marks were received on users finding the information they need, the timeliness of the information, and user support.

- Also of note was the shifting technology of respondents. More seem to have better systems with larger monitors and are using faster connections that in any of the previous surveys.

In terms of system performance, GPO continues to try to provide the fastest possible response times. Data indicates that the BigIP server controller array has definitely provided a superior balancing of the user load and effectively distributed the workload throughout GPO’s resources. Some delays have been encountered in upgrading the bandwidth and this continues to pose problems during the busiest hours of the day. GPO is working closely with their ISP to maximize performance through the existing circuitry. The bandwidth upgrade is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

February was the busiest month ever on GPO Access, with almost 23.3 million downloads recorded. Based on GPO’s monitoring of the bandwidth utilization reports, it is reasonable to assume that GPO Access retrievals would have been even higher if more bandwidth had been available. Keep in mind that there is some unknown amount of additional usage that is unmeasurable.

GPO Access now contains more than 106,000 electronic titles, points to over 68,000 others, and there are almost 1,500 databases available.

The GPO Access User Support Team handled almost 7,000 inquiries in February, the most since last April. Of these approximately 4,500 were telephone calls and over 2,400 were e-mails.

The redesigned Online Bookstore <http://bookstore.gpo.gov> is receiving more traffic which translates into increasing electronic sales. New data indicates that more users are starting to submit their orders electronically, rather than printing them out and sending them in.

GPO has an ongoing project to evaluate how its resources are presented through major search engines and to work towards improving this performance. In the latest evaluation, the most effective search engines at returning GPO Access resources in their results were:

The Open Directory Project at 58%
Google-Uncle Sam at 54%
IWon at 51%
Snap at 51%
HotBot at 49%
Northern Lights (fee-based) USGovsearch at 43%
Google at 40%
Go.com at 37%
GoTo at 37%
Webcrawler at 33%

The other engines evaluated, presented alphabetically were About, AlltheWeb, AltaVista, AOL.com, DirectHit, Excite, Governmentguide (AOL), LookSmart, Lycos, Magellan, MSN Search, Northern Light (free), Yahoo, and Yep.

Some recent changes to GPO Access include:

- The second volume of the Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States for 1997, covering July-December was added April 8, 2000.
- Supplement 3 to the U.S. Code is now complete
(titles 1-50) for laws in effect as of January 28, 1998. Supplement 4 has been added and contains titles 1-41 for laws in effect as of January 5, 1999

The Economic Report of the President, 2000 was made available in February.
The FY 2001 Federal Budget Documents are also available.
Deschler’s Precedents of the United States House of Representatives was released in January and secure order links have since been added to the page for anyone wishing to purchase a paper copy.

Some upcoming changes to GPO Access are:

- New, easy to remember URLs are also being prepared for the main GPO Access page and for the library services page.
- Statutes at Large application is under development.
- Development of a Web site for the U.S. Supreme Court is nearing completion. [Note – it became available April 17, 2000]
- Work on the daily updated electronic version of the Code of Federal Regulations, known as the e-CFR, is progressing in conjunction with the quarterly update cycle. The current target for release is around the first of the year.
- The Internet bandwidth available to service GPO Access customers will be increased by 150% in the near future.
- A number of enhancements to the GPO Access Online Bookstore are underway. Each is designed to improve a potential customer’s ability to locate and purchase the products they need from our Sales Program.

Council’s Electronic Transition Committee, chaired by Maggie Farrell, reviewed GPO’s progress on the transition to a more electronic FDLP and presented its report at the Spring 2000 meeting. The ET Committee analyzed GPO reports: Completing the Transition to a More Electronic FDLP, Council Discussion Draft, 4/12/99 and Progress Report on the Transition to a More Electronic FDLP, 1996–1999. The Committee looked at the following issues:

Are the assumptions stated valid? Are there additional assumptions which should be considered? What actions should GPO take to strengthen the FDLP in light of these assumptions? Are the current activities of GPO appropriate? Has GPO effectively met the milestones in the Progress Report? Are the reasons for activities deferred valid? What are the next steps of the transition and how should GPO be positioning itself for a more electronic FDLP?

Two strong themes emerged from the ET report: 1) finding aids - more emphasis is needed to locate and use finding aids on GPO website and GPO Access, as well as explaining the relationship between finding aids. These finding aids need to be tools that anyone can use, not just people with a knowledge of FDLP. Farrell suggested that maybe the new FDLP Desktop will address some of these concerns. 2) training - while we have seen training increase, it should be expanded beyond the FDLP or train the trainer so depository librarians can go out and train others in their area who might not be depository librarians.

Overall the report stresses that there is encouragement that FDLP can reach beyond depository libraries.

Greg Lawrence, Chair of the Preservation Committee, presented to Council “Risk Management of Digital Information: A Risk Assessment Workbook for Federal Depository Libraries - Discussion Draft.” Lawrence recommended at the last Council meeting that depository librarians should take steps to refresh digital information. He sees this workbook as a useful way to prepare for internal organizational discussion of this issue. He also feels the workbook will work for online information as well.

George Barnum, Electronic Collection Manager, and Robin Haun-Mohamed, Depository Administration Branch, were asked to give status of nonprint tangible electronic materials with regard to GPO’s deposit requirements with NARA. They, in fact, described what procedures GPO has in place for all tangible items in FDLP and how the transfer works.

The Federal Records Act requires that all government agencies take a variety of steps to ensure that the essential evidence of the functions of government are appropriately preserved. Remember records are more than just publications. A revised Record Schedule for GPO Records was issued in 1996. Under that schedule, all publications cataloged in MoCat are to be retained permanently and transferred to NARA for retention. (In this sense, the “residue” of the cataloging process, including the various marginalia and notes added as part of the cataloging process, are the evidence of GPO carrying out its statutory cataloging and indexing function as specified in 44 USC 1701.) Although these are federal agency publications - the evidence they provide is not of the operation of the agency that created them, but rather of the cataloging and indexing function of GPO.

What constitutes a Federal Record can vary from agency to agency and NARA and the agencies decide which
Federal Records will be accessioned and archived. Not all records are kept forever. LPS works with GPO's Support Services offices to ensure that its records are sent to the Federal Records Center in Suitland, MD as scheduled. A records center is a storage area for records no longer needed for everyday use. These records may be either temporary records (those waiting for their destruction date) or permanent (those waiting to be transferred to NARA). Depository materials are maintained as a collection (kept in SuDocs number order) and kept for 8 years before being sent to the Federal Records Center every 4 years. For publications converted from paper to microfiche, 3 categories of microfiche are produced. The first generation silver halide master copies are sent to NARA every 4 years. The second generation silver reproducible microfiche are used for reprints and blowbacks and sent to LC every 2 years. The diazo copies, sent to depository libraries, are the copies catalogers use for producing the catalog record and are therefore sent to the Federal Records Center on the same schedule as the rest of the cataloged material.

The records schedule GPO is operating under doesn't address much in terms of electronic records. In 1997, the GPO records management officials initiated a request to NARA for additional scheduling of tangible electronic products from the FDLP. In order for any electronic records to be transferred to NARA they have to be independent of any software - most commonly ascii format. Many CD-ROMs do not meet this requirement. During the review process, GPO officials withdrew the request for additional scheduling, since most likely the products would be deemed ineligible for transfer. Until the time that NARA can handle these materials, GPO has retained these items.

The good news is that NARA is working with San Diego Supercomputing Center to address this format independence issue. Plans are underway for an electronic archival system that would receive electronic records without regard to medium, store the information independent of software used to create or retrieve it, and deliver the information based on a sophisticated electronic interpretation of what particular records need to be presented to a user. This system will be developed over the next five years. What NARA is describing could have enormous impact on the FDLP collection. Keep in mind though that there will be a portion of material that NARA may not retain that GPO and the depository community feels needs permanent retention.

Tad Downing, Chief, Cataloging Branch, reported that it is now a member of BiBiography Cooperative (BIBCO) of the national Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC). So they are now members of all four PCC components. In addition, OCLC recently granted GPO National Level Enhanced Status which authorizes GPO catalogers to modify all OCLC records, including those produced by the national libraries. In January 2000, GPO joined OCLC's CORC (Cooperative Online Resource Catalog) project. This project is to develop metadata gathering software and make use of it in cataloging operations. OCLC has asked GPO to provide them with guidance on how this software will be developed.

Downing also reported on the status of a number of publications - when we will see them: Periodicals Supplement Yr 2000 - late April, Congressional Serial Set Catalog - end of April, and Dec 1999 & Jan 2000 CD-ROM issue of MoCat - late April. All of these delays have made GPO wonder if there isn't a better way to access this information.

Note: MoCat CD-ROM 2000 issues will be a new cumulation so you should retain Jan 1998-Dec 1999 issues of CD-ROM.

Laurie Hall, Supervisory Program Analyst, LPS, briefed Council on its report “GPO's Cataloging and Locator Services: Actions in Progress and Proposals for Change.” In Oct 1999 Council recommended “that GPO conduct a comprehensive review of online locator and finding aid tools to evaluate the need, redundancy, and organization of current tools. The report should also address possible development of new tools. The review process will require Council and Depository library input as well as an analysis of available statistics.”

GPO looked at 6 specific tools: CGP (MoCat online), Browse Electronic Titles, Browse Topics, GILS Application, Federal Agency Internet Sites, and Pathway Indexer service. GPO felt there is utility in everything created, but acknowledged there is some redundancy. Therefore, their objectives were to eliminate redundancy, make services easier to use, have more comprehensive coverage of electronic resources, and make sure those electronic resources in the collection were authentic.

GPO proposes to:

1. Find a partner for the Browse Topics application. GPO will continue its oversight and policy direction role.

2. Simplify the browsable GILS applications by consolidating the Browse GILS Records by Agency and Browse GILS Pointer Records into a single browsable tool. The Browse Pathway GILS Records will be eliminated. Pathway GILS Records are created by LPS staff based primarily on information from the U.S. Government Manual, and are not recognized as official and authoritative by the agencies. GPO will continue to partner with publishing agencies to facilitate those agencies' fulfilling their mandated GILS responsibilities.
3. Find a Pathway indexer partner.

4. Refocus Browse Electronic Titles (BET) by posting weekly lists of online resources added to the FDLP/EC. The service will be renamed New Electronic Titles (NET). NET entries will appear in a true title arrangement, instead of the BET's current arrangement by agency. After four weeks, the oldest NET list will be moved to an NET archive. LPS will prioritize cataloging all products listed on NET so they will appear in the searchable CGP as soon as possible. These steps should improve the focus of the BET while encouraging users to search the CGP as the prime resource for identifying, locating, and accessing both tangible and online products.

5. Phase out the MoCat CD-ROM edition following completion of the 2000 issues. The CD-ROM edition's design is not optimal, it is slow and expensive to publish, and it replicates content presented in the CGP on GPO Access. A possible alternative is to reduce the frequency of the Monthly Catalog CD-ROM edition to an annual cumulation.

6. Reconfigure the print Monthly Catalog to a browsable current awareness list of products arranged in classification number sequence. This will speed up the announcement of new FDLP products by allowing LPS to produce the print edition via desktop publishing. This will shorten production cycles, reduce costs, and will still meet the monthly "pamphlet" format requirement of 44 U.S.C. 1711.

New Council Appointees Are:
Charlene C. Cain, LSU Law Library, Baton Rouge, LA;
Cathy Nelson Hartman, University of North Texas, Denton, TX;
Dena Hutto, Reed College, Portland, OR;
Greta E. Marlatt, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA; and
John A. Stevenson, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Fall Depository Library Conference & Council Meeting
October 22-25, 2000 at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn Westpark Hotel, 1900 N. Fort Meyer Drive, Arlington, VA. Rooms are available at $126.00 (includes tax) per night. Call 1-800-368-3408 or 703-807-2000 and mention Code:DLC.

Final DLC recommendations can be found at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/council/rsp00.html

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2:3 JURISDOCS (Summer 2000) :19
FISCAL YEAR 2001 APPROPRIATIONS CRISIS
The House Appropriations Committee reported H.R. 4516 (H.Rept. 106-635) on May 23rd, imposing an 11% cut on GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding (CP&B) budget and 61% cut to the Salaries & Expenses (S&E) that funds the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). The House cuts to the CP&B and S&E would effectively end the print publication and distribution of such key titles as the daily Congressional Record, the Federal Register, the Code of Federal Regulations, congressional reports, documents and hearings, and the 2000 version of the official U.S. Code. House Republicans maintain that Congress should no longer fund government publications in dual formats and that all information is to be made available only on the Internet or, if there is public demand for a print version, through sales. AALL has long believed that the government must not end the print distribution of core titles to depository libraries until it addresses the two most challenging issues of the digital environment:

* assurance of permanent public access, which is critical to guarantee that government information available today only through the Internet will be available continuously and permanently in the future; and
* assurance of authenticity, which is critical to guarantee that the electronic version of all government publications, especially primary legal materials, are certifiable as authentic.

The House legislation also severely cuts funding for the Capitol Police, the Congressional Research Service and the General Accounting Office.

The Senate reported S. 2603 (S.Rept. 106-229) on May 23rd which provides basic level funding for GPO's CP&E and S&E and rejects the House proposed cuts. The Senate version is far more generous than the House bill and shows strong support of the FDLP, but it may not provide adequate additional funding to ensure the print publication and distribution to depository libraries of the 2000 U.S. Code. S.2603 is currently awaiting floor action.

GRASSROOTS SUPPORT FOR THE FDLP CRUCIAL
The appropriations cycle for FY 2001 funding is a stern reminder to us all that staff on the Committee on House Administration, chaired by Rep. Bill Thomas (R-CA-21), have for the past five years attempted to end the production and distribution of print materials to depository libraries and to promote reliance solely on the Internet to provide access to government information. Our concerns and warnings about authenticity, permanent public access--and we might add to that, the digital divide--hold little force when it comes down to Rep. Thomas' commitment to cut legislative branch costs.

The Senate this year is likely to prevail in the funding battle, although the future of the print distribution of core legal titles to depository libraries, including the 2000 version of the U.S. Code, is in real jeopardy. If you haven't yet subscribed to the AALL Advocacy listerv, which posts frequent updates on these issues, along with important action alerts, please do so today through our web site at: http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/aallwash/.

U.S. SUPREME COURT LAUNCHES WEBSITE
The U.S. Supreme Court unveiled its official web site on Monday, April 17, 2000. It provides no fee public access to the Court's 1999 Term slip opinions, 1999 Term orders, argument calendar, schedules, Rules, bar admission forms and instructions, visitors' guides, case-handling guides, special notices, press releases and general information about the Court. "Bench" opinions are available via a link to GPO Access. The Court will continue to publish and disseminate its opinions in paper pamphlets and in the official U.S. Reports. The website is http://www.supremecourts.gov/.

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