Letter from The Chair
by Greta Boeringer
Covington & Burling

It has been my honor and my pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Gov Doc SIS. I want to encourage each of you to consider becoming active in the SIS. Sometimes people think that they can't or shouldn't serve, or that only certain people will be selected. The truth is, when I am racking my brains about whom to ask to do whatever task I am desperately trying to delegate, I often think of who has done something else lately and ask them. That is why service in associations like AALL can appear clique-like and exclusive. So if you are interested in serving, let me know, whether you have been active before or not.

I have been particularly fortunate this year in that so many of you have stepped forward and let me know you were interested in helping out. Whenever I have needed someone, I have, with a minimum of reflection, been able to think of someone who then embraced the position. I hope you will continue to put yourselves out there and let Hays and Katrina know you are interested in serving.

That said, a very important and very visible position has come open in the SIS, Editor of JURISDOCS. Please contact me immediately if you are interested in serving in this capacity. (Or even if you would seriously consider it). It is an important position. Cecily can let you know the details of the job, like how hard it is to get the chair to write anything before the very last minute.

Although the hardest work of being Chair lies before me (the annual meeting), I would like to indulge in sharing the pleasures of leadership. I love delegating (see supra) and I love it when I speak and create something, like the Education Committee or moving the listserv to AALL. They are small contributions, and I didn't do much, but it feels really good.

Missing deadlines, however, isn't so fun. I missed the deadline to get our meetings into the Annual meeting preliminary program. We will be in the final program.

Go for it. Why not be chair? I'll let you in on a little secret about how to become chair. Run for two years in a row. In the second year the SIS will elect you chair. It is now officially a tradition! So hang in there! I am really looking forward to being ex-chair. I think I will probably excel at that more than any of the positions I have held thus far!

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| Saturday, July 14 | 9:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. | W-4 A Legislative History Primer: Demystifying Research for Congressional Intent Coordinator/Moderator: Virginia Thomas  
Speakers:  
Pegeen G. Bassett, Northwestern University School of Law  
Rick Goheen, University of Cincinnati College of Law  
Michael H. Koby, The Catholic University of America School of Law |
Speaker: T.C. Evans, U.S. Government Printing Office |
|                | 2:45 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. | C-7 Preserving Government Electronic Information: Whose Job Is It? Coordinator: Paul Arrigo  
Moderator: Cheryl Rae Nyberg  
Speakers:  
George Barnum, U.S. Government Printing Office  
Steven F. Daniels, Congressional Information Service, Inc.  
Kenneth Thibodeau, National Archives and Records Administration |
|                | 5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. | GPO Depository Update |
| Monday, July 16 | 10:15 A.M. - 11:45 A.M. | E-2 Legislative and Regulatory Update  
Coordinator: Keith Ann Stiverson  
Moderator: Mary Alice Baish |
| Tuesday, July 17 | 7:00 A.M. - 8:30 A.M. | GDSIS Welcome to Government Documents SIS Breakfast  
Sponsored by Lexis/Nexis Academic & Library Solutions |
|                | 9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. | G-7 New Agency Roles in Ensuring the Life Cycle of Electronic Government Information -- Part I: Are Executive Agencies, Congress, and the Courts Meeting Public Interest Needs?  
Coordinator and Moderator: Mary Alice Baish  
Speakers:  
Kernie L. Gill, U.S. Senate Rules and Administration Committee |
|                | 10:45 A.M. - 12:15 P.M. | H-7 New Agency Roles in Ensuring the Life Cycle of Electronic Government Information -- Part II: Are the Federal Depository Library Program and NARA Meeting Public Interest Needs?  
Coordinator: Mary Alice Baish  
Speakers:  
Lewis J. Bellardo, National Archives and Records Administration  
|                | 4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. | I-2 New Paths into the Trackless Wilderness: New Electronic Resources for Researching State and Local Government Information  
Coordinator: A. Hays Butler  
Speakers:  
Susan Dow, The University at Buffalo  
Susan King, Rutgers University Law School Library |
| Wednesday, July 18 | 7:00 A.M. - 8:30 A.M. | GDSIS Business Meeting  
Coordinator: Greta Boeringer |
|                | 10:30 A.M. - 11:45 A.M. | K-5 Separate but Unequal No More: Integrating Federal Documents Collections  
Coordinator and Moderator: Charlene Cain  
Speakers:  
Charlene Cain, Louisiana State University  
Penny A. Hazleton, University of Washington  
Janet McKinney, Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP |
AGENDA

I. Approval of the Minutes

II. Treasurer's Report: Rob Richards

III. Report of the Nominations Committee: Pegeen Bassett

IV. Report of the Programs Chair: Hays Butler

V. Report of the Grants Committee: Georgia Chadwick

VI. Report of the Publications Review Committee: Katrina Stierholz

VII. Report of the GD-SIS Webmaster: Eric Parker

VIII. Report of the Strategic Planning Committee: Paul Arrigo

IX. Report on Jurisdocs: Cecily Giardina

X. Report of the Advocacy Committee: Hays Butler

XI. Report of the Fugitive Documents Committee: Rob Richards

XII. Report of the List Serv Owner: Michael Samson

XIII. Report of the Education Committee for Next Year: Katrina Stierholz

XIV. Turn Gavel over to Hays Butler

XV. New Business

XVI. Closing and Adjournment
Government Documents Special Interest Section

GD - SIS ANNUAL REPORT

Greta Boeringer
Chair, GD-SIS

Officers of the GD-SIS are Greta Boeringer, Chair; A. Hays Butler, Vice Chair-Chair Elect; Rob Richards, Secretary-Treasurer

The listserv moved from the Polecat server in Indiana to the AALL server in Chicago. Marianne Mason resigned as listserv owner and Michael Samson took over. The new set up has many advantages, but unfortunately limits our list to GD-SIS members only.

The GD-SIS web site http://www.aallnet.org/sis/gd/ was updated and improved by Eric Parker, our Web master.

The new officers for the GD-SIS are Katrina Stierholz, Vice-Chair, and Colleen Manning, as Secretary-Treasurer. Hays Butler will take over as Chair.

The travel grant to the Annual Meeting was named for Veronica Maclay who passed away in 2000. Mr. Scott Matheson, a student at the University of Washington, received the grant.

The Public Relations committee will sponsor a Welcome to GD-SIS breakfast. The breakfast will be funded in part by Lexis/Nexis Academic Solutions. There will also be a GD-SIS table in the activities area.

GD-SIS is sponsoring 8 programs this year: Legislative History Primer, Using Metadata, Preserving Government Documents, Legislative and Regulatory Update, New Agency Roles Parts I and II, New Electronic Resources, Integrating Federal Documents Collections.

JURISDOCS is now distributed via the web site in Adobe Acrobat format saving the SIS postage and photocopy expenses.

Two new committees were formed. Rob Richards is leading a fugitive documents committee that is monitoring agency websites, reporting fugitive titles to GPO, and coordinating their efforts with the Depository Library Council.

The other new committee is an education committee. In years past the vice chair began to plan programs for the following year's annual meeting immediately upon being elected. In order to ease the pressure, a committee was formed consisting of the nominees for vice chair, the current vice chair and the chair, to get the ball rolling, and to share experience. This worked well and we suggest the SIS continue this approach.

Thanks to all the officers, past officers, committee members, JURISDOCS contributors, and members for making this year a success.
State Administrative Law Bibliographies

After I wrote the first part of this article in the Spring 2001 Jurisdocs, 23:2 (pp. 4-8) <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/gd/jurisdocs/>, I learned of two excellent brand-new resources for compiling a state legal bibliography. I summarize them here, and add a few other materials and suggestions I learned about from reading these two titles. I predict one of these two recent publications will receive AALL’s Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographical Award at the 2001 Annual Conference due to their usefulness, comprehensiveness and the difficulty in compiling such large bibliographies of disparate materials. As Ms. Nyberg notes in her introduction, “No other work has attempted to comprehensively list these sources before, and for good reasons” (p. xi). The two titles are:

Cheryl Rae Nyberg, State Administrative Law Bibliography: Print and Electronic Sources (2000).1


Ms. Nyberg’s compilation should probably be renamed State Administrative Law Bibliography (3000), as there are over three thousand different bibliographic entries in this 600 page book. Her bibliography covers “the published administrative codes, registers, decisions, and opinions of administrative agencies in the fifty states” (p. xii) and other U.S. jurisdictions, arranged by state and then by topic. I highly recommend this title for documents and law libraries seeking “to facilitate the identification and retrieval of these elusive [state] materials” (p. xi). The introduction in State Administrative Law Bibliography is very helpful also in outlining the kinds of materials to include in a single state legal bibliography.

Mr. Manz’s Guide to State Legislative and Administrative Materials is a wonderful compendium of “the major print and electronic sources of administrative and legislative information for the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the commonwealths and territories” (p. ix). It represents a significant update to Mary L. Fisher’s prior works of the same title (1979-1988). I particularly like the multiple electronic sources (including specific LEXIS, Westlaw, Loislaw, CD-ROM and Internet resources), as well as the state law guides, manuals and contact information listings for each jurisdiction. The layout and typeface are easily understood and clear, too. The appendix in Guide to State Legislative and Administrative Materials lists sources and URLs for more detailed information, including fifteen Internet sites “offering unusually large numbers of links to state-related databases” (p. 552). If you are compiling a state legal bibliography or working with state documents, you need this book.

State Research Guide Helps

“Sources Consulted” in State Administrative Law Bibliography, pp. xxii-xxv, contains many useful resources for locating titles. Many of these are lists of state legal bibliographies. A few contain suggestions on what to include in a state legal research bibliography or guide:


Marcia Singal Zubrow, Pimsleur’s Checklists of Basic American Legal Publications (3 vols., 1962-date).


A nice how-to on compiling and publishing general legal research guides.


Fritz Snyder, "State Legal Research Guides," 4 Legal Reference Services Quarterly 3-15 (Spring 1984). Includes nine areas helpful to have in a state legal research guide: "The state's constitution or constitutions; Statutory law and finding aids; Legislative history and intent; The state's court structure and jurisdiction; Court reports and finding aids; Court rules; Administrative law; Legal publications of the state (an annotated bibliography); and Legal citation of state materials (p. 4).


Additional Helps

Some other useful titles related to state legal bibliographies are:


Lynn Hellebust, State Legislative Sourcebook (2000). This is related to her State Reference Publications (1998-99) which I listed in "Part 1" of this article, but is no longer being updated or published.


1 Privately published. Order information: Send a check for $250.00 plus $7.00 handling per volume to Boast/Nyberg, 1347 Maple Avenue, Twin Falls, ID 83301; phone: 208-734-8349; email: carolr@cyberhighway.net.
2 Published by Fred B. Rothman Publications, Littleton, CO as no. 61 of the AALL Publications Series, available for $65.00 from W. S. Hein & Co.

MEMBERSHIP/COMMITTEE NEWS

GD-SIS ELECTION RESULTS

Katrina Stierholz elected Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
Colleen Manning elected Secretary/Treasurer

Congratulations to the new officers and thanks to all of the candidates for their willingness to run for office.

GD-SIS Nominating Committee:
Pegeen Bassett, Chair; Marsha Baum and David Gay, committee members
Paul Arrigo appointed to Depository Library Council

Paul Arrigo, Reference Coordinator/Government Documents & Electronic Services Librarian at Washburn University School of Law Library, has been appointed to serve on the Depository Library Council beginning October 2001. The Depository Library Council advises the Public Printer and Government Printing Office Officials on issues related to public access to Government information products through the Federal Depository Library Program. Paul was Chair of the Government Documents SIS 1997-1998 and has remained active in GD-SIS activities. His dedication to documents librarianship and his awareness of government information issues facing depository libraries will make him a valuable member of the Depository Library Council.

AALL Government Documents Special Interest Section Awards Student Grant

The Government Documents Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL GD-SIS) is pleased to announce the winner of its 2001 Student Grant: Mr. Scott Matheson, a student in the law librarianship program at the University of Washington Information School and intern at the Gallagher Law Library at the University of Washington. Mr. Matheson is especially interested in how changing business models in both the government and private sectors might reduce public access to vital government information. Attending the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference will provide Mr. Matheson the opportunity to learn about the law library profession outside the classroom.

The AALL GD-SIS Student Grant is given to financially assist a student currently enrolled in an ALA accredited library and information studies master’s program in attending the AALL Annual Meeting & Conference. Preference is given to those individuals interested in government information and a career in law libraries.

The American Association of Law Libraries was founded in 1906 to promote and enhance the value of law libraries to the legal and public communities, to foster the profession of law librarianship, and to provide leadership in the field of legal information.

The Government Documents SIS (GD-SIS) was established in 1974 to disseminate information on government documents to AALL members, to further the continuing education of law librarians in documents librarianship, to coordinate the activities of law librarians in representing their interests to public and private groups, and to work in cooperation with documents groups in other associations and organizations.

For further information regarding the Association or the Section, see our website at www.aallnet.org. Questions about the grant can be directed to Georgia Chadwick, AALL Government Documents SIS Grants Committee Chair, at gdchadwi@lasc.org (letter L)

Introducing the Fugitive & Electronic-Only Documents Committee

The Fugitive & Electronic-Only Documents Committee grew out of the work of the AALL GD-SIS Policy Committee which identified fugitive and electronic-only documents as a pressing issue for the law library community. The Committee will focus on a project to identify fugitive and e-only federal government publications that deal with legal and policy matters, list these titles on the GD-SIS website, and facilitate hard copy publication of some of these titles. If you are interested in participating in the project, please contact Rob Richards, Committee Coordinator, at rrichard@stripe.colorado.edu or telephone 303-492-2706.
GPO Access Training for AALL Attendees

The University of Minnesota's Government Publications Library is sponsoring free GPO Access training in conjunction with AALL in Minneapolis in July. The training, presented by staff from the Government Printing Office (GPO), will be all day Friday, July 13, on the University's West Bank campus, just a few minutes from downtown and easily accessible by bus or taxi. An added incentive is that over the long lunch break you would have time to drop in on the University's Law Library and the brand new Andersen Library, which houses archives and special collections as well as the famous underground storage caverns.

3rd Annual Advocacy Training Session

Kicking off the AALL Annual Meeting in Minneapolis this year will be the 3rd annual Advocacy Training session to be held on Saturday, July 14, from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM.

One of AALL's top priorities this year is the very challenging state-by-state battle over UCITA, and so the session will give you practical tips on how to explain library concerns about UCITA to legislators; how to respond to the proponents' pro-UCITA sound bites; and how to mobilize and participate in a state anti-UCITA coalition.

Other important issues will be covered as well, including access to government information, the electronic FDLP and digital copyright legislation. The training combines a mixture of content about the issues with practical strategies on how you can take those first steps in becoming an effective advocate!

Mary Alice Baish, AALL's Acting Washington Affairs Representative, would like to extend a special invitation to GD-SIS members. The training is especially geared for those who would like to become more active in their Chapter's government relations or legislative committee.

AALL recognizes the importance of these training sessions and covers the costs of this activity, so there is no registration fee. A continental breakfast and morning snack are provided.
Federal Depository Library Council Meeting
April 1-4, 2001

Highlights

by Susan E. Tulis
Government Information Librarian
Southern Illinois University

The Spring 2001 DLC meeting took place in San Antonio, TX on April 1-4. Unlike some previous meetings, this one didn’t seem to have much in the way of controversial issues. Some of this may be due to the fact that GPO is sort of in a holding pattern, waiting to see who the new Public Printer will be. Despite the calm, there was still plenty to hear and learn about.

After the usual introductions and welcome, Fran Buckley, Jr., Superintendent of Documents, gave the first update. In March he spoke at the annual FLICC Forum - “Preserving Our Nation’s Heritage in the Digital Era” and was on a panel addressing “Roles of Central Federal Agencies in Creating the Government’s Digital Archives.” Panel members all agreed on the importance and necessity of preserving digital information. Both NARA and LC are involved in pilot projects to model the best concept for archival programs. GPO has instituted a pilot project in which George Barnum is managing to capture those collections at risk.

GPO anticipates being involved in the planning effort by LC to develop a national digital information infrastructure preservation program. LC has developed a plan with other national libraries, federal agencies and other public and private organizations involved in efforts to preserve, collect and disseminate information in digital format. The plan is to set forth a strategy for LC in collaboration with other federal and nonfederal libraries to identify a national network of libraries and other organizations with responsibilities for collecting digital materials that will provide access to and maintain these materials. (Note this is not just government information.) LC was given an authorization to work on this in the last appropriations.

GPO’s FY 2001 funding bill directed GAO to conduct a comprehensive study of the impact of providing documents to the public solely in electronic format and to assess how to transfer the FDLP to LC and methods necessary to ensure the success of such a transfer. The representative from GAO was unable to attend and talk about the report. [Note you can get the report from GAO’s website now - report # GAO 01-428.]

GPO had one week to respond to a draft of this report. GPO was rather surprised and had a strong reaction to the report. They felt that GAO hadn’t gotten their facts straight and that there were 109 actual errors in the report. GPO had concern about the scant attention to all the issues involved in an all electronic program. The draft didn’t address how public access to government information would be improved by transferring FDLP to LC. It didn’t examine in any detail incongruence between missions, how things would be organized or costs involved. The draft report only addressed superficial things.

With regard to the NCLIS report, GPO feels that NCLIS’s proposal to create a new information structure is too sweeping and not really very feasible or necessary.

Buckley also commented on public/private sector interaction. The Software Information Industry Association, in their White Paper, has issued a statement calling for a diversity of information sources in an information age. In their proposal for government information policy, they stated “as we progress further into the digital era, advancements in information technology promise to continue to dramatically increase the ease of public access to government information, both directly and through private sector redisseminators. However, when considering new models for dissemination of public information, the government must continue to uphold the greatest commitment to the free flow of information through a diversity of information sources. The public is not served when the government is the only source of public information.” Buckle counter that the public is not served when a fee based private sector product is the only source of public information.

SIIA is calling for adopting policies as necessary to ensure that a diversity of sources be encouraged, not
discouraged. Government initiatives to disseminate public information electronically should not result in expanding the role of government in providing commercial information services. Rather, government efforts to disseminate information should take full advantage of public-private partnerships or independent private services and products to efficiently and effectively provide the desired added value for the public.

A number of private sector information aggregators are tending to call into question government information indexing and abstracting and even full text products which agencies are producing in mission related, subject-oriented fashion which incorporates those government publications. Suggestions have been made that the government should not produce such products or if they do, they should only be available within the government and not be made available for public access. In a related development, in October 2000, the Computer and Communications Industry Association produced a report titled “The Role of Government in a Digital Age.” The authors laid out principles for on-line and informational government activity and labeled them green, yellow and red lights. Green means providing public data as a government role; yellow means government should exercise caution in adding specialized value to data; red means government should exercise substantial caution in entering markets in which private sector firms are active. The fate of some databases currently in the FDLP are at risk if this comes to pass.

Buckley found the push by the private sector ironic in light of comments made by the Director of Government & Industry Relations from Lexis-Nexis at the FLICC Forum. He was very frank and honest about private sector interest and ability to preserve proprietary value added databases of government information. Essentially he said, there is little room for altruism in the private sector, they must make money to stay in business and reward shareholders. If a product is not generating funds to support itself or provide sufficient returns on investments, it will be cut. Even a sympathetic CEO who may have public interests at heart, is not able to continue a product or program if it is not producing revenue. Thus the role of the private sector in preservation of government and non-government digital information would only last as long as there is a market for the information and someone was paying for it.

Buckley concluded with a discussion of filtering since those libraries receiving federal funds are to include filtering on their technology and this would affect a number of libraries in the FDLP. He directed librarians to the FDLP Internet Use Policy Guidelines, effective January 15, 1999 [Admin Notes, vol 20, no. 2, January 15, 1999] which presents options for dealing with this issue.

Gil Baldwin, Director of Library Program Service (LPS), began by announcing LPS personnel changes, all of which have been reported in the Jan. 15, 2001 issue of Administrative Notes. If you are currently job hunting and would like to be an inspector, a publications management specialist, a cataloger, a program analyst, Chief of the Micrographics Section in DAB, Chief of DAB, or the Library Division Chief, contact Baldwin. These are not new positions, although LPS has requested additional personnel as part of its FY2002 budget proposal. LPS would like to bring on additional catalogers, another inspector, and personnel to work on enhancing the FDLP Electronic Collection.

Since last fall, GPO has been pushing ahead with the transition to a primarily electronic FDLP - as directed by Congress and reduced funding. As a result, for the October through February period, 61% of the new titles in the FDLP were online electronic. And we can expect this trend to continue.

Baldwin noted that the Superintendent of Documents’ policy statement on “Dissemination/Distribution Policy for the FDLP” (SOD 71) and the expanded related list of “Essential Titles for Public Use in Paper Format” were published in the January 15, 2001, issue of Administrative Notes and are also available on the FDLP Desktop. This fiscal year GPO will begin producing the 2000 bound cumulative edition of the U.S. Code. This essential product will be made available to all selecting depositories in case-bound format, although International Exchange libraries will get the paperbound edition. Note, this is the single most expensive product in the FDLP; at almost $1.9 million it uses up almost 20% of the FDLP acquisitions budget. LPS continues to make product-by-product decisions that will ultimately reduce multiple format distribution in the FDLP by trimming the distribution of physical products.

Since last summer LPS has been taking action to terminate the physical distribution of numerous titles when there is an official and reliable online version available. Unfortunately, GPO has run up against some product acquisitions problems. Many agencies will attach a rider to the term contract for depository copies - often ignoring GPO’s directions to stop acquiring these print copies for depositories. Therefore, the publications show up at GPO and they are getting charged for it. Up to this point, GPO’s policy has been to go ahead and distribute it, but this has a couple of big disadvantages. First, depository libraries are getting a mixed message: we are told that a title is going electronic only, but the paper copies keep showing up. And second, GPO isn’t realizing the savings that they need.

LPS is working with GPO’s Customer Service department
to get the agencies to follow their directions. Agencies will be charged for stock that they over-order on the FDLP's behalf, and the excess copies will be returned to the publishing agency. This produces a lot of follow-up work, but the cycle of faulty ordering by agencies must be stopped.

As a result of the shift to a primarily electronic FDLP, LPS has reviewed the guidance on the recommended basic collection for any depository library, found in the Instructions to Depository Libraries. This list was last revised in 1993, and in the meantime some of the products have ceased, some have changed titles, and several now have online versions. A discussion draft to revise the "Basic Collection" was available at the meeting. In revising the list, LPS staff focused on the content rather than the distribution media.

Another result of the movement toward a primarily electronic FDLP is that the tasks of the catalogers are much more complex. Catalogers are now involved in the discovery, evaluation, and selection of online resources, as well as assigning PURLs to those resources and archiving them.

Inevitably this work has been accompanied by evolving policies and practices. LPS has just completed a thorough revision of its cataloging priorities guideline: one that gives full recognition to the importance of cataloging the online resources in the FDLP. Included in this priority guideline is the statement that, "In general it is GPO's policy to create a cataloging record based on the format that was distributed or made accessible via the FDLP. Therefore, if a publication is included in the FDLP solely in online format, GPO will create a cataloging record for the online version, and appropriate record links will be made from a record describing a physical manifestation of the same content." This cataloging priority guideline appears in GPO's response to Recommendation 1 from the fall 2000 Council meeting, or in the April 15 issue of Administrative Notes.

Another guideline that LPS is working on is the classification policy for online products. They have developed a draft guideline for classifying online resources and they are test-driving it within LPS. Later this spring LPS will post the draft guideline on the FDLP Desktop for comments and feedback before being finalized.

LPS has begun the early steps to modernizing the automated systems used in LPS in support of the FDLP. The four legacy systems are:
- DDIS ( Depository Distribution Information System) designed in the late 1970's.
- McCat system for cataloging and Monthly Catalog production, started about 1976.

The problem is that these old systems do not communicate, interact and exchange data well, and they are unable to support GPO's customers' expectations for service. GPO is looking into replacing at least the first three and possibly all four of the old LPS systems, possibly with a commercial, off-the-shelf, ILS. LPS is currently looking at three very well known ILS packages; coincidentally, they are the top three library systems reported in use at depository libraries. LPS would like input from the library community about our expectations of what an LPS automated system should do.

The need for systems modernization has a very direct impact on LPS's ability to process work, and specifically to answer our inquiries. In the most recent 6 months, LPS received about 5700 email inquiries and processed 5300 (93%). Most of these inquiries come in directly to an individual person, not to the askLPS general email box. The askLPS questions run about 40% about classification, 25% about fugitive documents and "whatever happened to ..." another 25% for cataloging and PURLs, about 5% for distribution and claims inquiries, and an other 5% miscellaneous. Many of these questions require significant amounts of research, and then the results need to be posted to the various legacy systems. It's a time-consuming process, averaging 30-60 minutes per inquiry to research, process, and respond. Keep in mind that LPS doesn't have any staff purely dedicated to responding to askLPS questions and other inquiries. In order to keep up at all, LPS is obliged to perform a triage on inquiries. One category includes inquiries that have already been answered. Another category is the multi-paragraph questions that could take hours of research to unravel all of the threads. The third category, and where LPS puts most of its efforts, are the questions that can be answered in a reasonable amount of time, especially if they involve fairly new material in the program. Answering inquiries has always been a resource issue for LPS, so they are looking for some innovative ways to work together on these questions. One approach that would reduce everyone's frustration is for folks to look in the Serials Supplement, in WEBTechNotes, and so on, before they send in a question. LPS still find lots that have already been answered. Another approach might be to partner with people in the library community to assist with some of the underlying research.

Baldwin concluded by saying that it is an honor to be part of this program. It's a real bargain for the public, in
terms of services delivered for the dollars invested. LPS values our comments and feedback, and they do their best to be responsive. He only hopes that others can learn how much these services mean to constituents, in terms of economic impact, distance education, civic involvement and the like and he encouraged us to write other people who can influence the program as well.

TC Evans, Office of Electronic Information Dissemination Services (EIDS), began by saying he usually gives lots of numbers about size and usage, but suffice it to say, it's big and it gets used a lot. (Note the handout listed that approximately 203,000 electronic titles are currently available through the FDLP Electronic Collection, with 119,000 titles on GPO servers and almost 84,000 titles linked to from GPO Access.)

In terms of usage, EIDS has begun working with the Akamai content delivery network that is already proving to be very beneficial in terms of response time for those things that they've been able to akamaize. [Learn this word - you will be hearing it again.] The process of "akamaizing" the site refers to the work necessary to deliver files through the Akamai network of more than 8,500 servers geographically dispersed around the world when a user clicks on a link on a GPO Access page, including search results. Simply put, this allows GPO to dramatically spread the load for delivering requested files and makes it likely that a user is downloading a file from a server located near to them rather than all the way from Washington, D.C.

Evans gave an example to demonstrate how this akamaizing would make a difference. Suppose you wanted the Supreme Court decision on the election. Instead of the millions of users all trying to download the file from GPO servers at the same time, a maximum of 8,500 requests would arrive at GPO from the Akamai servers, who would then serve up the files to users in their areas when those users clicked on that link on the Supreme Court Web site. Akamai servers first check to see if they have the file in cache, and if not, look in their region and beyond in expanding arcs until coming to GPO as a last resort. Once they initially pull the file from GPO it is held in cache on the local server to handle requests from users for a period of time established by GPO. This is especially important for very large files and GPO dictates how long the files will stay on the local machines.

Supreme Court and the daily table of contents to the Federal Register have been done. EIDS has mapped out a strategy for akamaizing the other files based on usage popularity. While akamaizing is wonderful, it doesn’t solve the problem if Washington, DC goes down. Therefore, GPO has begun establishing a geographically separate mirror site at the GPO regional facility in Denver, CO. Copies of databases will be migrated based on the popularity of the databases at the main GPO Access site.

EIDS has been working hard to measure the performance of GPO Access, especially response time. They are taking a couple of tracks on this. The first track involves a contract with the Keynote performance measurement service. This will allow GPO to gain all the data they can on GPO Access performance as it would be experienced by users who are both geographically and technologically diverse.

The second track will rely on volunteers from the user communities through the performance of a short set of exercises, the first of which deals with files that have been akamaized. Please let GPO know if you are willing to do other sets of exercises.

There are 796 depository web sites registered with LPS and EIDS has recorded 660 referrals from them. Part of the impetus for reviewing referral logs came from a request to determine how many referrals GPO has been receiving from FirstGov. In the first two months, FirstGov totals represented about one half of one percent of the total referrals received. The third month declined to about one quarter of one percent and the total declined further in the fourth month, falling to just over three one hundredths of one percent. This is not good. Evans recently spoke with the director of FirstGov, who expressed great interest in seeing EIDS analysis and in working with them to help users discover GPO Access.

What's new on GPO Access?

* The new Davis-Bacon Wage Determination site. This site provides free access to prevailing wage rates to be paid on federally funded or assisted construction projects.

* The Third Edition of the GPO Access Legislative Resources Comparison Report available on the Federal Bulletin Board (along with the earlier versions). The report compares the congressional and other legislative branch information available on GPO Access with data available on other government and non-government Web sites. I am pleased to report that GPO Access continues to excel among the compared sites, providing access to 19 of the 22 legislative resources measured.

Future Plans
EIDS will be conducting the first Ben's Guide focus group on May 9, 2001 in Long Island, New York - meeting with students from local schools in an attempt to gain feedback about Ben's Guide from age specific groups.
EIDS is also undertaking an examination of Section 508 of the Workforce Investment Act. In particular, they are looking at how the sixteen Section 508 standards increase accessibility, and how each of these standards might be applied to the GPO Access website and its hosted sites to make them more accessible.

Evans concluded by talking about authenticating the information that is delivered electronically through GPO Access. This is of great interest particularly when the decision is made to rely solely on that electronic version and cease the dual distribution in paper. EIDS is making great progress in doing this though Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). PKI will do a couple of things: through its non-repudiation evidence it will provide a dual level of assurances - show that a) the person authorized by law to create the information passed it along to GPO unaltered and b) the people who are charged by section 706 of Title 44 to produce the official version have, in fact, handled it and it has not changed since they handled it. Then they both sign. Most of the work involved with this resides on GPO’s end - they have to get a certificate of authority, make sure these people are who they say they are, etc. All the libraries have to do is load a free reader on their PC that will work with the web browser and any helper applications such as ADOBE Acrobat that will automatically validate or verify these files as they come in. In the event that anything has been changed, you will get a message saying the file has been corrupted and you need to contact the source or re-download. This should go a long way towards assuring that you are getting unaltered official information from the people charged by law to create it. Another part is that section 101 of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (Public Law 106-229) states that “a signature, contract, or other record relating to such transaction may not be denied legal effect, validity, or enforceability solely because it is in electronic form.” GPO will never be able to guarantee that individual courts will accept these things since they have control over what they do, but at least GPO is laying the groundwork that hopefully will move towards that end.

George Barnum, Electronic Collection Manager, gave us an overview of the progress on the comprehensive digital library of US Government Information. In April 2001, we are almost 5 years into the transition to a more or mostly electronic FDLP. In practice, the FDLP has evolved to perform 4 functions: deposit, assurance of current and permanent public access, provision of locator tools, and promotion and facilitation of use by the public. It is in the first two functions that this transition has had the most impact.

LPS published a collection plan in 1998. The universe of government publications fell under 4 broad categories: core legislative and regulatory GPO Access materials, material from partnering that GPO handles on a reimbursable basis, material GPO points to, and tangible electronic products. In the context of the collection plan and these four categories, GPO has identified a group of areas of key activities that taken together comprise the architecture for the collection.

It is important to keep in mind that GPO is focusing on archiving activities for permanent public access - not the traditional archival depository where you are preserving essential evidence of the operations of government. Barnum stressed that this is a hair splitting point, but that is why there are archivists and librarians.

There is not one single solution - GPO's strategy is to put together a menu of solutions that include agreements with agencies, partner sites operating archival sites for GPO, permanent resources at GPO that are not specific FDLP resources, and GPO's own onsite archive. Some other archive solutions include work with contractors/vendors and the LOCKSS Model (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) at Stanford.

Conditions for inclusion in the FDLP/EC Archive: no paper distribution in the FDLP, not covered by an agency agreement, not included in one of the other depository partnership agreements, and not solely available with proprietary access software. Every thing in the archive receives a PURL that is checked periodically.

Archive is not in itself browseable or directly searchable. It operates behind the catalog as a finding aid. At present LPS is still working on a screen that will come up and tell you that this is an archive copy gathered on such and such a date. The biggest problem Barnum is facing right now - serials. Is the system perfect? No. Is it working so far? Yes. Is it a retrospective effort covering every electronic title we have heard of? No. Full scale efforts on adding to the electronic collection were started in 2000. We should be hearing about a new partnership soon that will do some retrospective work to get all the prearchive PURLs that appear in CGP checked, verified and archived.

Other questions about Electronic Collection - see the FAQ issued in January 2001 on www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdpec/faq.html.

GPO has been working with OCLC on various projects - for example with ERIC the part that never got addressed was digital archives. Presently at work on an investigative project - the Digital Collection Management Service - which will accomplish offsite vendor maintenance and archive, a "tool kit" for processes, and an integration of the workflow and tools. Publications that will appear in the archive will be chosen by very
specific criteria - at this point they don't know what the criteria will be. It might be very large or complicated files. It may not be an online but nearline system.

Prototype of this Digital Collection Management System (DCMS) is due in July. Initially the project will gather data out of the acquisitions net, track electronic pubs at the point GPO lays eyes on them, and then direct the publication to the archive. In the succeeding months, functionality will be added that will assist in discovery. GPO will have the ability to direct publication to whatever site GPO chooses.

Other electronic project reports: another partnership is in the works to have a depository community member downloading and archiving Census compressed ASCII files from FTP site and have a front end page that will get you into the files. University of Central Oklahoma is now managing the Browse Topics on GPO Access.

TC Evans, EIDS, also gave a report on GPO's participation with EIA and DTIC in a recent performance measures study. The title of the study was Performance Measures for Federal Agency Web Sites. Objectives: to identify best practices that could be applied across the board, examine the broader setting for website assessment and propose statistics.

GPO Access fared well in the study - doing a lot of good things, but they discovered that others were doing things GPO wasn't. The study is available on Federal Bulletin Board <http://fedbbs.access.gpo.gov/measures.htm>.

The elements of performance included the following:
- legal mandates - laws, Federal regulations, OMB directives, executive orders, court orders
- goals and objectives - agency/program missions, audience, mandates
- appropriate infrastructure - appropriate hardware/software, bandwidth, security, performance, partnerships
- site content - authentic and official information, completeness, timeliness, permanent public access
- design - consistency, accessibility, compliance with regulations, privacy
- user support - availability, scalability, timely responses, quality responses, intermediaries, self-help tools
- user awareness - intended audience, potential audience
- usage metrics - usefulness, appropriateness, consistency
- customer satisfaction - intuitive site organization, responsiveness, effective problem resolution

Last thing - feedback is key - in whatever form you can get it. You need to constantly reexamine what you are doing, you need to evolve, you have to have people assigned to do this as their job - an Internet statistician.

Feedback is priceless, receive it with grace and respect, use what you learn to improve!

Mike DiMario, Public Printer, began by explaining that since he is the only presidential appointee at GPO and the Bush administration has asked that one appointee remain until the transition team does its thing, he will be there until directed otherwise. There have been rumors circulating about his possible replacement - possibly former Public Printer Bob Houk, or an individual from a state printing agency.

In terms of the budget, the electronic transition does impact their budget request. GPO has asked for an increase over what they received last year, but at the time of the meeting, DiMario was not at liberty to state the exact figure. The Sales Section is still losing money.

DiMario briefly commented on the GAO Report and a copy of the letter he sent was available at the meeting.

It was previously announced that the House (not GPO) will receive future funding for printing its documents. GPO is hoping to discuss this with those responsible within the House to make sure these publications get into the FDLP. Remember, the House will now be allowed to print wherever they want - they are not required to use GPO.

DiMario concluded with a discussion about the JCP membership, stated that May 10th is the date for appropriations hearings in the Senate, and announced the new Council members starting in the Fall.

Judy Russell, National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), reviewed NCLIS's mission and then went over the chronology of "Comprehensive Assessment of Public Information Dissemination." This assessment is in 4 volumes and includes findings, conclusion, 16 strategic recommendations, 20 other recommendations and 35 appendices. Volume 2 was released Friday, March 30th and covers Legislative and Regulatory Proposals. Russell stressed that the report and legislative proposal represent the opinions and recommendations of the Commission in its statutory role as an advisor to Congress. It is not a consensus of stakeholders nor the position of the current or former Administration. NCLIS was directed not to "pull punches" because a recommendation might appear to be politically difficult. NCLIS feels that its recommendations are not the only way to reform, but they are, in its view, the best way. NCLIS hopes its recommendations will form the basis for meaningful discussion that will result in reform that benefits all Americans.

Russell then outlined some, not all, of the
recommendations:

1. Affirm that public information is a strategic national resource, owned by the people held in trust by the government, that should be permanently available to the people except where restricted by law.

2. Establish the Public Information Resources Administration (PIRA) in the Executive Branch - consolidating NTIS, SuDocs & other information dissemination responsibilities.

3. Include explicit public information dissemination responsibility in all government establishment missions and major programs (all 3 branches).

4. Implement an Information Dissemination Budget to ensure funding for dissemination of public information resources - establish a Reserve Fund for dissemination of Research and Development results, especially STI.

5. Enact the Public Information Resources Reform Act of 2001 (Appendix 11).

6. Establish the Congressional Information Resources Office (CIRO).

7. Establish the Judicial Information Resources office (JIRO).

8. Extend key provisions of the PRA to the Legislative and Judicial Branches - comparable to 44 USC 3506(d) on information dissemination.

27. Develop a comprehensive inventory and database of public information resources.

29. Partner broadly, in and outside government, to ensure permanent public availability of public information resources.

30. Identify the public's more critical unmet requirements for public information resources.

33. Ensure coordination between PIRA and NARA.

Paula Wright, Dallas Regional Office - Census Bureau, began by highlighting some of the changes evidenced by Census 2000 - 3 states (CA, TX, FL) account for 1/3 of the population growth; 12 seats will shift in the House of Representatives - GA, FL, TX and AZ will gain 2 seats each, while MT & PA will lose 2 seats each.

Major changes with this census - people could select more than one race; Hispanic origin is an ethnic characteristic, not a race; American Indian and Alaska Native were combined; Asian and Pacific Islander category was split into Asian and Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander. The outcome of these changes is that we have more information on racial and ethnic diversity. It also means that the Census 2000 race data is not directly comparable with data from 1990 and previous censuses.

How will race and ethnicity be shown in Census 2000 Data Tables? In some tabulations, race data will be shown for 63 categories; in other tables, race will be collapsed and shown as race alone, two or more races, or race alone or in combination. If you combine all of the one race alone and the two or more races group, it will sum to 100% of the population.

The only new question for 2000 was caregivers: presence of grandchildren; responsibility for their basic needs; and how long have you been responsible for their needs. Disability question was revised: vision or hearing impairment, mobility limitation, conditions that limit learning or remembering.

Products Time Line - 5 data sets
PL 94-171 - no later than April 1, 2001
SF1 (100% data) - Summer 2001
SF2 (100% data) - Fall/Winter 2001
SF3 (sample data) - Summer 2002
SF4 (sample data) - Fall/Winter 2002

All data will be released on the Internet first, then followed by CD-ROM, DVD, and/or some printed reports. Software will be on CDs/DVDs - requiring Windows 95 (or higher) or NT. There will be three separate printed report series coming out Jan 2002 - Jan 2003. They will be limited in subject matter and geography. They are: Census 2000: Summary Population and Housing Characteristics; Census 2000: Population and Housing Unit Totals (with selected historical counts); Census 2000: Summary Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics.

Demographic profiles (1-2 pages) will come out in May 2001. The printed reports will go down to place level, Internet versions will go down to Census Tract level.

Census will be producing PUMS Files (raw data with identifying aspects removed) - 1% sample being released 2002; 5% being released 2003. Census will still do special tabulations. Can do Quick Tables only on American FactFinder - these are table shells with population and housing characteristics where the user can specify a geographic area and a population group.

Geographic Comparison Tables, also only in American FactFinder, have population and housing characteristics for a list of geographic areas. Census is still working on the Advanced Query Function - user would specify contents of tabulations from full microdata file and will include safeguards against disclosure of identifying information about individuals and housing units.

Maps will be issued in DVD and CD-ROM; PDF and HP-GL format. PDF capabilities include thumbnail views of maps, zoom and pan, searchable text, print selected portions of maps, etc. Maps are all on the Internet now. Census Tiger/Line Files are on the Internet now, but without the Zip Code Tabulation Areas or all of the final
Census 2000 address range information. They will be reissued at a later time.

Census expects to produce the standard reference maps and some statistical thematic maps ("night time" population density, population density in US, race and ethnicity population density of US, and more.) See <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/geo_flyer.pdf> for more information about Census 2000 Geographic Product Highlights.

Wright ended by talking about the American Community Survey (ACS) which collects timely information every year. Pending funding, the full implementation of ACS will begin in 2003 in every county in the US - which may replace the Census long form in the future.

Performance tips for using American FactFinder - requires Netscape 4.7 or Internet Explorer 5.0, enable JavaScript and accept cookies, review the site tour, look at FAQs and use Help!

The LPS Update handout, available at the meeting, states that the basic Census 2000 reports will be distributed to depositories in paper. The Summary Files will be sent to depositories on discs with accompanying retrieval software. The Summary Files also will be available as compressed comma-delimited ASCII files via <www.census.gov>.

Other informational sessions at this meeting included:
* Reference Service Standards for Federal Depository Libraries
* San Antonio Missions National Historic Park
* Local Strategies for Ongoing Access to Electronic U.S. Government Information Possible Solutions
* Models of Partnerships for Virtual Public Access to Government Information: Two Specialized Statewide Projects
* You Don't Have to Keep Up With the Jones! Ways We Can Work Together
  Part I - Gathering Information from the Regionals
  Part II - Regional Web Pages
* Family History: Getting the Most Out of Published Government Documents (the Title Doesn't Have to Say Genealogy to Be Useful)
* Incorporating Federal Government Resources in Virtual Libraries
* LPS Systems Modernization Discussion Group
* Electronic Spanish Language Information Resource Locators

The Federal Depository Conference and the Fall DLC meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 625 First St., Alexandria, VA 22314, October 14-17, 2001. Government rate is $119 (plus tax). Make reservations by calling the hotel directly at 703/548-6300 and mention that you are with the Government Printing Office conference.

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS - Spring 2001** [Note these are still in draft form.]

1. Baseline Electronic Proficiencies Program at the Fall 2001 Conference

Council recommends that GPO develop a program for the Fall 2001 Depository Library Conference on suggested baseline proficiencies for public access to federal electronic resources.

Rationale:
Council recognizes the widespread uncertainty regarding the proficiency level needed for accessing electronic government resources when providing public services. It is the sense of Council that a program delineating baseline proficiencies would serve the dual purpose of providing practical information of immediate use, as well as opening a dialog on proficiencies that could become the catalyst for more advanced training opportunities.

2. Basic Collection Proposal

Council recommends that GPO proceed with the "Basic Collection" revision proposal. Council also requests that GPO regularly review this list. Council further recommends that GPO examine the functions and scope of all collection lists in the Federal Depository Library Manual.

Rationale:
Council agrees that the Basic Collection list is outdated and in need of revision to reflect the changes in currently available, tangible and online, government products. In order for this to continue as a viable list, Council suggests the list be reviewed for possible revision on a regular basis. Council asks GPO to clarify the primary purpose of the Basic Collection and all collection lists in the Federal Depository Library Manual to make sure they are still valid and useful, and that the purpose for each is clearly explained.

3. Clarify the phrase "select or otherwise make available" in the Basic Collection proposal.

Council recommends that GPO clarify the phrase "select or otherwise make available" as used in the Basic Collection proposal.

Rationale:
The electronic environment that we work in makes the concept of "selection" more fluid as libraries can access things that they have not selected. Questions that
Council raised include: does each library have to point to all items in the basic collection or is one pointer to GPO Access enough; should the online catalog include each title; and are there reference service implications? Council believes that an articulated range of options for depository libraries would be helpful.

4. Cooperative Cataloging Partnerships

Council recommends that GPO investigate the feasibility of entering into cooperative cataloging partnerships with depository libraries. The investigation could include the development of criteria and requirements for cooperative cataloging partners.

Rationale:
Through partnerships, depository libraries would have the opportunity to share the results of local and regional cataloging efforts by contributing records for inclusion in GPO's Catalog of U.S. Government Publications and distribution as GPO records. Cooperative cataloging by GPO partners has the potential to add value to other FDLP initiatives, such as the University of North Texas Cybercemetery and the Permanent Public Access initiative. In addition, cooperative cataloging partnerships may enable GPO to discover and obtain cataloging for government information products outside the current GPO cataloging workflow. Once developed, cooperative cataloging partnerships could be used to enable depository libraries engaged in a variety of digitization, retrospective conversion, and discovery projects to share cataloging of GPO-distributed products.

COMMENDATIONS

1. Council commends Sheila M. McGarr for her many contributions to the Federal Depository Library Program during her nineteen-year career with the Government Printing Office and congratulates her on her appointment as Director of the National Library of Education. Through her advocacy, leadership in providing training opportunities, and professional activity in the American Library Association Government Documents Round Table, she helped thousands of depository librarians and those whom they serve.

2. Council commends the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division and the U. S. Government Printing Office for the development and release of the Davis-Bacon Wage Determinations database now freely available on GPO Access. This partnership creates a valuable resource for those affected by local wage scales and for contractors as they bid on government contracts. Council is especially pleased to see GPO reaching out to a variety of government agencies that provide important resources for the public.

3. Council commends GPO and the Partner Libraries for the innovative and wide-ranging partnerships that have been forged over the past few years. These service and content partnerships provide examples of good work, experts in new fields, and an opportunity for FDLP Libraries to serve both their public and other libraries in new and creative ways. In addition to previously recognized partnerships, Council commends:

*University of Central Oklahoma for Browse Topics (Service Partnership)
*State University of New York at Buffalo for the Enhanced Shipping List Service (Service Partnership)
*Louisiana State University for the List of Federal Agency Internet Sites (Service Partnership)
*Library of Michigan's Regional Federal Depository Libraries Pages (Service Partnership)
*U.S. Department of State and the University of Illinois at Chicago's Department of State Foreign Affairs Network (DOSFAN) (Content Partnership)
*University of North Texas Research Collections a.k.a. the "Cybercemetery" (Content Partnership).

4. Council commends the Government Printing Office for taking a leadership role in developing and implementing a wide range of web metrics and evaluation methods. These are essential to assuring that GPO Access continues to be as user friendly, useful, and accessible as possible.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Action Item On FDLP Value In The Digital Age

Council will send to the new Public Printer appointee a letter welcoming the appointee and articulating the values of the FDLP in the digital age. The letter will emphasize the key role of the FDLP in assuring no-fee public access to federal government information and will highlight the defining contribution of the FDLP toward this end.

2. Action Item On Replacement Cost Of A Depository Library Collection

Council will update the information posted to GovDoc-L in January 2001 with the latest average cost figures for GPO sales items and by May 1, 2001 will send the final version to GPO for posting on the Depository Library Council Web site.

3. Action Item on Recommendation Number 3

Council will send examples of acceptable options for "select or otherwise make available" to Robin Haun-Mohamed by June 1, 2001.
AALL Government Documents
SIS Officers and JURISDOCS and Website Staff 2000-2001

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