

JURISDOCS

Fall/Winter 2002-03



ISSN 0162-3079



Volume 25, Issue 1



Government Documents
Special Interest Section

From the Chair

by Sue Lyons

Government Documents SIS to sponsor three programs at Seattle Conference

The 2003 Conference Program committee approved three of the five proposals submitted by our SIS. The three programs are:

On the Loose, on the Run: Fugitive Federal Government Documents

Fugitive government documents are federal publications that have not been integrated into the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) and are often not represented in depository library collections. There's a renewed interest in fugitives in the law library community, partly because federal agencies and departments are increasingly using the Internet as their sole publication medium, and partly because the policies for identifying, promoting and preserving these publications are varied and disparate. Libraries are making an effort to tackle the fugitive document problem. This panel presentation will feature a representative of the AALL Washington Affairs Office speaking on fugitive government information in the law library setting; a representative from the AALL GD-SIS' Fugitive and Electronic-only documents committee speaking on the committee's work since May 2001; and a representative from the Government Printing Office speaking on their work with fugitive documents.

Electronic Archives and Partnerships— Preserving Government Information for Tomorrow

Will today's electronic documents still be available ten years from now – in fifty years? Critical challenges for the future of digital libraries are how to preserve large quantities of information for the future, how to ensure the authenticity of the information and how to provide permanent public access. The Government Printing Office is responding to these challenges with two approaches: archiving electronic data through a partnership program with

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OCLC and enlisting depository libraries as an official partner who will store government information no longer available on agency web sites. This program will inform librarians about the technical challenges of preserving digital information and identify opportunities for libraries to enhance their web content through partnerships with the Government Printing Office.

This program will include a speaker from the Government Printing Office. Also, Cathy Hartman, government document librarian at the University of North Texas and current chair of the Depository Library Council, will speak about Electronic Partnerships with GPO. Her library has formed a partnership with GPO to serve as the electronic repository of government web sites of agencies no longer in existence.

A Tragedy or a Farce: Preservation of Electronic Government Publications in the Post-9/11 World

In the first half of the 1990s when GPO Access was in its nascent stages, various critics including archivists, librarians, historians and public information advocates began to express concerns about preservation of electronic government documents. There was not a comprehensive program initiated by the government to make sure that the electronic collection, though more immediately accessible to the general public, remains accessible for the long haul. Though some items did disappear (either accidentally or otherwise) in the first eight years of the existence of GPO Access, the situation became widespread and critical after 9/11 when information itself was viewed as a weapon and the government became very concerned with who had access to it. This program looks at some of the ramifications of policies which had their roots prior to the 9/11 attacks on America but whose results are still being seen to this day, and have ominous consequences for the future.



MEMBERSHIP/COMMITTEE NEWS

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Colleen Manning, Secretary/Treasurer

Our financial situation appears to be solid. As of September 30, 2001, the date of our latest financial statement from AALL Headquarters, our balance was \$7,069.25. Our total revenues for this fiscal year were \$2,716.00, reflecting dues and slow but steady sales of state bibliographies. Our Expenses for the fiscal year were \$1,256.82. This includes \$400.00 for the student grant to

the 2001 AALL meeting; \$400.00 for a grant to the 2002 FDLC meeting; and \$631.55 for the refreshments at annual meetings events.

Since September 2002, our expenses have included \$400.00 for the student grant to the 2002 AALL meeting and our revenue includes \$930.00 in state bibliography sales.



2002 ANNUAL REPORT

AALL GD-SIS Fugitive & Electronic-Only Documents Committee

Rob Richards, Coordinator

On behalf of the AALL GD-SIS Fugitive & Electronic-Only Documents Committee, I am pleased to present the Committee's 2002 Annual Report.

The Committee's members during 2001-02 were Christopher Anglim, Mark Bartlett, A. Hays Butler, Georgia Chadwick, Cecily A. H. Giardina, Gwendolyn Lohmann, Susan Lyons, Susanna Marlowe, Scott Matheson, Rob Richards, Caitlin Robinson, Randall Tenor, and Alice I. Youmans. Susanna Marlowe resigned during the year after taking a new professional position.

The purpose of the Committee is to:

- ◆Identify and report to GPO fugitive and electronic-only U.S. federal documents on law and policy.

A "fugitive document" is defined as a U.S. federal publication that, according to U.S. Code Title 44, should be distributed to libraries through the Federal Depository Library Program, but that has not been cataloged or distributed by GPO. An "electronic-only" document is defined as an electronic U.S. federal publication that GPO has cataloged and assigned a Persistent URL, but that GPO will not distribute to depository libraries in tangible format.

- ◆List fugitive and electronic-only U.S. federal documents on law and policy on the GD-SIS website.

- ◆Facilitate hard copy publication of some of these documents.

The Committee had a very productive year, and accomplished the following:

* Since May 2001 Committee members have reported 110 fugitive federal publications to GPO on law and policy, which are listed at <<http://www.colorado.edu/Law/lawlib/ts/fugitive>>. Of these titles:

- 5 have been distributed to depositories in tangible format;
- 82 have been cataloged as “electronic only”;
- 23 remain fugitive.

* Cecily Giardina and Caitlin Robinson have several times notified the law library and documents’ communities about the committee’s lists of reported titles, through messages to the LAW-LIB, LAWACQ, and GOVDOC-L lists.

* Susanna Marlowe and Cecily Giardina have coordinated the Committee’s fugitive reporting activities with those of GPO’s Electronic Documents Working Group, to avoid duplication of effort.

* Committee members now monitor the websites of 67 federal agencies and departments, among them all the agencies of the U.S. Department of Justice. Mark Bartlett coordinated the Justice Department monitoring.

* Hays Butler and Scott Matheson assisted AALL’s Washington Affairs Representatives Robert Oakley and Mary Alice Baish in urging the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to provide public access to *The Guide to Judiciary Policies and Procedures*. In its response, the Office stated that our proposal was being seriously considered, and had been forwarded to the U.S. Judicial Conference.

* The Committee has reported to GPO - and GPO has corrected - more than one dozen broken PURLs for federal documents. David Bratman of Stanford University Robert Crown Law Library has notified the committee of many broken GPO PURLs. Through list messages law librarians have been asked to report broken GPO PURLs to the Committee.

* The Committee’s work has been praised publicly by the Superintendent of Documents, the Chief of GPO’s Cataloging Branch, and leaders in the law library community:

-- Francis J. Buckley, Jr., *GPO Update*, Admin. Notes, July 15, 2001, at 16, 20. Also available on Internet (last visited Apr. 5, 2002)

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/adnotes/ad071501.html#9>

-- Peggy Roebuck Jarrett & Cheryl Rae Nyberg, *Should I Stay Or Should I Go Now? Law Libraries and the Federal Depository Program in the Electronic Age*, L. Libr. Lights, Fall 2001, at 1, 1. Also available on Internet (last visited Apr. 5, 2002)

<http://www.llsdc.org/lights/pdf/45_1.pdf>.

-- Jan Oberla, *Fugitive Government Documents*, L. Libr. Lights, Fall 2001, at 14, 15. Also available on Internet (last visited Apr. 5, 2002) <http://www.llsdc.org/lights/pdf/45_1.pdf>.

-- Thomas A. Downing, *LPS Cataloging Update*, American Library Association Midwinter Conference, January 2002, Admin. Notes, Feb. 15, 2002, at 4, 4. Also available on Internet (last visited Apr. 7, 2002)

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/adnotes/ad021502.html#5> .

* In April 2002 the Depository Library Council commended the Committee and its partner, GPO's Electronic Documents Working Group, for helping GPO increase public access to government information. The text of the commendation read

Council commends the efforts of the Electronic Documents Working Group (EDWG) and the American Association of Law Libraries Government Documents Special Interest Section's (AALL GD-SIS) Fugitive & Electronic-Only Documents Committee for their efforts in bringing online titles into the Federal Depository Library Program. Their efforts in discovering titles, examining OCLC records, assigning SuDocs classification, and analyzing appropriate distribution format in accordance with SOD 71 and other collection policies allow GPO's Cataloging Branch staff to expeditiously acquire and catalog many new online titles into the Federal Depository Library Program's Electronic Collection. -- *Recommendations, Commendations, and Action Items, Spring 2002 Depository Library Council Meeting, Mobile, AL*, Admin. Notes, June 15, 2002, at 13, 16-17. Also available on Internet (last visited July 13, 2002) <http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/adnotes/>.

* The Committee developed a Website at

<<http://www.colorado.edu/Law/lawlib/ts/fugitive/committee.htm>>, which features lists of all the titles the Committee has reported to GPO, a roster of current Committee members, links to GPO's Electronic Documents Working Group, references in professional literature to the Committee's activities, and honors the received by the Committee.

* The Committee has developed plans, approved by the Superintendent of Documents, for archiving fugitive federal documents not cataloged by GPO.

* The Committee has developed procedures for identifying and reporting fugitive federal documents.

* The Committee provided information about federal fugitive and electronic-only publications, to the AALL Washington Affairs Office. The Office used this information in creating Congressional testimony, and in educating members of Congress's Joint Committee on Printing, about the issues of fugitive information and electronic dissemination.

* The William S. Hein Co., Inc. has begun publishing print versions of some of the titles identified by the Committee as electronic-only.

A partial group of the Committee's members will meet during the 2002 AALL Annual Meeting to discuss the Committee's activities in the coming year.

The coordinator wishes to thank all of the committee members for their outstanding work during the past year.

The committee wishes to thank John Stevenson and our colleagues in GPO's Electronic Documents Working Group; the Superintendent of Documents Francis Buckley; GPO's Director of Library Programs Service Gil Baldwin; GPO's Chief of Cataloging Branch Theodore Downing; all the GPO cataloging staff, and particularly the person responsible for maintaining the PURL data Theodore Defosse; GPO's Supervisory Program Analyst Laurie Beyer Hall and her staff members Cynthia Etkin and Joe Paskoski; GPO's Chief of Depository Services Staff Robin Haun-Mohamed; AALL's President Barbara Bintliff, AALL's Washington Affairs Representatives Robert Oakley and Mary Alice Baish; GD-SIS's leaders Greta Boeringer, Hays Butler, Charlene Cain, and Paul Arrigo; David Bratman of Stanford University Robert Crown Law Library; Tim Byrne of the ALA GODORT Cataloging Committee; Brian Jablonski, Daniel Rosati, and Richard Spinelli of W.S. Hein & Co., Inc.; and our colleagues in the law library and documents communities.



PAUL ARRIGO BECOMES HEAD OF ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARY.

By A. Hays Butler

Last spring Paul left his position with Washburn University Law School and became Head Librarian at the Shenango Library at Penn State University in Sharon, PA.

Paul has had a very distinguished career as a Government Documents librarian. He served in many positions in the SIS over the years, including terms as Vice-Chair and Chair. In addition, he was appointed, in 2002, to a three-year term on the Depository Library Council (DLC). He now serves as Chair of DLC'S Electronic Preservation Committee.

One of Paul's most valuable contributions to the library profession is the spectacular Administrative Law page on "Washdoc," Washburn University Law School's web site. Access to administrative law, in general, has been difficult over the years and this Web site vastly improved access to administrative law materials. It is a key resource on the website of many libraries for accessing this area of the law.

Paul is also noted for his teaching abilities. He gave many excellent programs over the years at AALL Annual Meetings. His presentations were comprehensive, informative, and entertaining. Paul was also willing to pinch hit on programs when needed. For example, he did the Hot Topic one year about the funding crisis concerning the depository program.

While Paul is by any standard, an extremely competent and proficient librarian, his really distinctive quality is the wonderful kindness and helpfulness he showed all of us who were lucky enough to work with him. He gave unstintingly of his time and energy over the years. Many members of the SIS remember all the times they called Paul at home or even on vacation to get his advice on how to deal with some difficult issue or problem. All of us called on to serve as Vice-Chair or Chair of the SIS would have been lost on many occasions if we hadn't been able to turn to Paul for help and advice.

We want to wish Paul all of the best as he continues his career at Penn State.



AWARDS

The Grants Committee of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Government Documents Special Interest Section (GD-SIS) awarded a \$400 travel grant to Frank Richardson, Serials and Acquisitions Librarian, Los Angeles County Law Library, to attend the Fall 2002 Depository Library Programs Conference in Virginia, Oct 20-23, 2002.



VERONICA MACLAY STUDENT GRANT

The Government Documents Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL GD-SIS) is pleased to announce that it will award a grant in the amount of \$400 to a student currently enrolled in an ALA accredited library and information studies master's program.

The Veronica Maclay student grant is to be used to attend the AALL Annual Meeting & Conference held July 12-16, 2003 in Seattle, Washington.

Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate interest in government information and a career in law libraries.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS:

APRIL 30, 2003

(For more information please see:

<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/gd/grantannounce2003.html>)



AALL NEWS

2003 AALL Annual Meeting/Workshop Grants

Deadline: April 1, 2003

The AALL Grants Committee is now accepting applications for grants for the 2003 AALL Annual Meeting/Workshops. The AALL Grants Program provides financial assistance to newer law librarians or graduate school students who hold promise of future involvement in AALL and the law library profession.

Funds are provided by vendors, AALL and AALL individual members. Grants cover registration costs at either the Annual Meeting or Workshops. Preference is given to newer members of AALL or its chapters who are active participants in the association or one of its chapters. For additional information, including the application form, see http://www.aallnet.org/services/grant_application.asp.

The deadline for applications is April 1, 2003.



SEATTLE LIBRARY TOURS

The Preliminary Program for AALL provides your only opportunity to sign up for library tours in Seattle. Take a moment to register for tours of private, public, and academic law libraries. See the public research opportunities at King County Law Library; be dazzled by the glass roof of the library at Davis Wright Tremaine; check out the new and nearly new libraries at Seattle University and the University of Washington; and more!



**AALL Government Document
SIS Information 2002-03**

JURISDOCS (ISSN 0162-3079) is published three (3) times per year by the GD-SIS of the American Association of Law Libraries. The Government Documents Special Interest Section as a matter of policy does not sell advertising in *JURISDOCS*.

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