From the Editors

Dear Fellow GD-SIS Members,

Welcome to the Summer/Fall 2012 issue of your newsletter. In this issue we have reports from our Chair and Chair-elect, as well as highlights from the AALL Annual Meeting.

The next issue of Jurisdocs will be out in late Winter 2012, and it will have a review of the FDLP Conference taking place this October in Arlington, Virginia.

As always, we love hearing from you! Submissions to Jurisdocs are welcomed and encouraged. Please consider contributing an article. Submissions can be forwarded directly to either Kate or Camilla.

Sincerely,
Kate Irwin-Smiler and Camilla M. Tubbs
Your Editors
AALL Government Documents SIS  
Annual Report for 2011/2012  

Submitted at the AALL Annual Meeting by:  
Eric C. Parker  
Immediate Past Chair of the Government Documents SIS & Acquisitions Librarian, Pritzker Legal Research Center - Northwestern University School of Law

As has been the case for each of the past several years, the Government Documents SIS has had an active and productive year in 2011/2012.

GD-SIS has continued to produce and grow the AALL State Documents Bibliography series. Since July, 2011, four new or updated bibliographies have been released: Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Washington (State), and Alabama. There are currently 16 additional bibliographies being worked on for future release. GD-SIS’ arrangement with William S. Hein & Company for the distribution of the bibliographies continues. Electronic versions of the new and historical bibliographies are included in the Spinelli’s Law Librarian’s Reference Shelf library on HeinOnline. Additionally, Hein sells print copies of both new and historical bibliographies. This arrangement has allowed GD-SIS to receive a total of $6,252 in royalties this past year.

During this past year, GD-SIS awarded several grants to further librarians’ and one library school student’s educational opportunities. It awarded 2 grants of $750 each to GD-SIS members to attend the Fall Federal Depository Library Conference and Council Meeting in Crystal City, VA. The winners of these 2 grants were Stacy Fowler of St. Mary's University Law Library, and Sarah Glassmeyer of CALI. GD-SIS also awarded the 2012 Veronica Maclay Grant, in the amount of $1,000, to Michelle Hook Dewey, a library school student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, to assist her attendance at AALL in Boston. Finally, GD-SIS awarded 2 grants of $1,250 each to Ed Hart (University of Florida) and Miriam Childs (Law Library of Louisiana) to assist in attending AALL in Boston.

GD-SIS is pleased to have been able to sponsor two AMPC-selected programs in Boston. Those programs were A6: “The New FDLP: A Collaborative Future for Government Information” and B3: “Digital Content: The What, the How, and the Where.” Additionally, as in past years, GD-SIS had a presence in the convention center exhibit hall as well as at CONELL.
The Section also undertook a couple of housekeeping efforts this year. The first is was an effort to draft a new strategic plan. The last strategic plan for GD-SIS was done in the late 1990s, and covered the period 1998-2003. A committee consisting of Eric Parker (Chair), Janet Fischer (Vice Chair), Jennifer Wondracek (Secretary/Treasurer), and Sally Holterhoff began work on this issue. It reviewed other SIS strategic plans, and in February, 2012, conducted a survey of SIS members to inform its work. The survey asked members about the things they like and dislike about GD-SIS, how long they have been members, communication format preferences, trends that they see affecting government documents librarianship, and more. The survey received 48 responses, (representing about 15.5% of current membership). Unfortunately, the strategic planning committee did not make much additional progress beyond the survey, due to members’ work commitments. However, hopefully work on this important issue will continue in 2012/2013.

The other housekeeping effort addressed the Section’s bylaws. The Section’s bylaws had not been revised since the mid-1990s. A committee consisting of Ed Hart, Kate Irwin-Smiler, Larry Meyer, and Joel Fishman drafted an updated set of bylaws, based on the model AALL bylaws for SISs. The GD-SIS Executive Board (Eric Parker, Janet Fischer, Jennifer Wondracek, and Dee Wood) has reviewed the draft, making a few minor changes, and plans to offer it to the Section’s membership in fall 2012 for approval. However, before addressing the draft’s broader changes, GD-SIS first needed to amend its bylaws to allow for bylaw changes by way of electronic ballot. The electronic bylaws balloting issue was voted on at the Business Meeting in Boston, and should pave the way for easier, cheaper, and more democratic voting on the larger set of bylaw changes worked on by Ed, Kate, Larry, and Joel this past year.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Parker
GD-SIS Chair, 2011/2012
July 27, 2012
Chair’s Report

Janet Fischer
Collection Development Government Documents Librarian
Golden Gate University Law Library

The AALL conference in Boston is now behind us. For academic law librarians, the fall semester has begun, and our days are full with classes, meetings, correspondence, and budget reviews. We also have a busy year ahead of us as members of the Government Documents SIS.

I want to thank everyone who served on a committee last year, and also those who have agreed to continue to serve this year. I especially want to thank our new committee chairs: Eric Young, Grants Committee; Rosemary LaSala, Nominations Committee; and Lynn McClelland, Public Relations Committee. Thank you for stepping up to chair these important groups!

Last year the Executive Board began work to update our Strategic Plan and our Bylaws. This work will continue with the goal of having both completed by our 2013 meeting in Seattle. The following people serve on the Bylaws committee: Ed Hart (University of Florida), Larry Meyer (San Bernardino County Law Library), Kate Irwin-Smiler (Wake Forest), and Joel Fishman (Duquesne/Allegheny County).

All SIS web sites that are hosted by AALL (ours included) are scheduled to be transferred to the new AALL web site format. This means that while we still control the content of our web site, the design (look and feel) will follow the AALL template. The good news is: the template is a good one! Our pages will look sleek and clean. You won’t be disappointed! Eric Young retired as our webmaster at our annual meeting; since I have some experience in this area, I appointed myself as our new webmaster. Our current pages have been adjusted and updated so that the content will fit into the new template. You can view the updated pages here. The AALL web folks have much to do to move over all the content from the many SIS and committee web sites, and we’re told that the redesigned pages will be published “soon.”

Camilla Tubbs, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, has already posted a great deal of information about submitting programs for the 2013 conference. My only addition is to encourage anyone who has an idea for a program to seek out Camilla’s guidance for submitting it to the AALL Annual Meeting Program Committee. Because of the new program rules, the SIS will not be sponsoring programs as we have in the past, but we still have great ideas that we need to support.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in the GD-SIS.
Vice Chair’s Report

Camilla Tubbs
Deputy Director Thurgood Marshall Law Library
University of Maryland Law School

First, I wanted to send a special thank you to our members who completed the needs assessment survey distributed shortly after the 105th Meeting in Boston. Over 1,000 respondents participated in the survey, and the AMPC is currently in process of reviewing the results. A summary of the initial findings is available from here; however, the results from this survey are not the only thing AMPC will consider when selecting programs. AMPC will also consider any emerging topics during the next few months. Further, we are encouraged to share ideas with our AMPC liaison David Mao to discuss issues currently affecting our members that were not reflected in the survey questions and responses. So, although the program proposal process is different, our SIS’s goal of offering the best programming relating to the promotion and use of government information remains the same.

Therefore, I think it is most useful to think about the theme of the 2013 Annual Meeting, “Rethink Your Value,” when brainstorming program proposals. Currently, the Government Printing Office is redefining the value of the Federal Depository Library Program to better meet the needs and demands of the community in an increasingly online environment; while government documents librarians are embracing the changes occurring each and every day in the distribution of government information. This challenge of evolving and adapting to demonstrate our value is shared with others outside of government documents. As Brewster Kahle once mentioned in an interview with The Economist, “[t]he internet has become the medium of choice for a great deal of cultural production.”¹ However, it oftentimes takes librarians to bring meaning, authenticity and value to the wealth of human knowledge online. With that spirit in mind, think about supporting and promoting collaborative learning partnerships with other SISs when devising programs. Advocate the importance of acquiring new skills and competencies. And if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me for guidance or brainstorming. I know that our group has a lot to offer to the rest of the community – and I am very excited to see what our group puts forward. Below are some other resources you may wish to consult:

Annual Meeting page on AALLNET
Program Proposers Information page on AALLNET
Annual Meeting Program Ideas Community

¹ The Internet's Librarian, THE ECONOMIST (March 5, 2009).
End-of-the-Year Treasurer’s Report
Jennifer Wondracek
Instructional Services Reference Librarian
University of Florida, Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center

Dates covered: 5/31/2011 - 7/16/2012

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| Starting Balance                          |         | $32,729.01
| Revenues                                  |         |
| SIS breakfast sponsorship                 |         | $1,200.00 |
| Dues                                      |         | $3,050.00 |
| Spinelli’s Law Librarian Reference Desk Royalties | $4,500.00 |
| Print Bibliography Royalties              |         | $1,752.00 |
| Total                                     | $10,502.00 | $43,231.01 |
| Expenses                                  |         |
| AALL Misc Expenses                        | $156.67 |
| VIP AALL Travel Grant                     | $1,498.67 |
| AALL Travel Grants: Carullo, Eastman, Wondracek | $2,959.72 |
| AALL Speaker Expenses: Tauberer           | $126.11 |
| AALL GD-SIS Breakfast                     | $3,228.12 |
| AALL Sign, Room & AV Fees                 | $1,000.42 |
| DLC Travel Grants: Fowler, Glassmeyer     | $1,318.36 |
| Total                                     | $10,288.07 | $32,942.94 |
| Final Total                               |         | $32,942.94 |
Special Library Tours in Boston for the GD-SIS
by Janet Fischer

Members of the SIS were treated to two special library tours while in Boston. First, we made our way to the State Library of Massachusetts, where Documents Librarian Bette Siegel showed us their wonderful, historic State House. We received a private tour of the legislative chambers and the library, which houses the most complete collection of Massachusetts state documents in existence. The librarians assist patrons both in person and online with all kinds of research pertaining to the state and the city of Boston. Bette took us through a rabbit warren of old stacks built on glass floors, which gave some of her guests the willies!

Afterwards, we proceeded to the Boston Public Library which serves as the regional depository library for Massachusetts. Documents librarian Linda MacIver was one of our VIP guests at the conference. Her colleague, Patricia Feeley, led our tour of BPL. The BPL buildings are a blend of old and new architecture and we were able to visit the rare book room as well as the grand reading room. The building boasts many murals and colonnades. Most impressive were a series of murals representing the Quest for the Holy Grail. The newer portions of the library host the children’s collections, periodicals and other popular materials. Like most other libraries, their government documents collection is spread out over several areas as they are able to find space.

We are very grateful to Bette and Patricia for giving their time and expertise to a few traveling souls!
GD-SIS Welcomes Three Distinguished Guests to the AALL Annual Conference

The GD-SIS was very pleased to welcome three distinguished guests to its Annual Breakfast and Business Meeting in Boston: Shari Laster, James Jacobs and Linda MacIver. Shari Laster is an Assistant Professor of Bibliography and Government Documents and Reference Librarian in Research and Learning Services at the University of Akron, as well as the newest Chair of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Council. Within University Libraries, she chairs the Government Documents Task Force and is a member of the Web Development Group. Ms. Laster takes over the role of FDLP Council Chair from James Jacobs, a Government Documents Librarian at Stanford University. Mr. Jacobs is a co-founder of the Free Government Information website, as well as a member (and past Chair) of the Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) of the American Library Association. He has also been on the State and Local Documents Taskforce (SLDTF) and the International Documents Taskforce (IDTF). Linda MacIver is the Reference Librarian in Social Sciences and Government Information at Boston Public Library. Linda graciously gave members of the GD-SIS a tour of the Boston Public Library during the conference.

Summary of the GD-SIS Sponsored Programs at the AALL Annual Meeting

During the AALL Annual Meeting in Boston, the GD-SIS sponsored two programs. The First was program A-6: The New FDLP: A Collaborative Future for Government Information, which was an update on Government Printing Office’s forecasting project during. Janet Fischer moderated the event, which included a presentation by Superintendent of Documents Mary Alice Baish, and Arlene Weible, the Government Documents and Technical Services Librarian at the Oregon State Library in Salem, Oregon. Mary Alice summarized GPO’s initial findings from its surveys, while Arlene discussed how depository libraries throughout Oregon have collaborated to share a comprehensive government documents collection throughout the state. The program is available to view online.
At the time of the presentation, Mary Alice Baish reported that GPO had received 775 library forecasts, representing 64.53% of the approximately 1,200 Federal depository libraries throughout the country. The participation amongst law libraries was high, with over 68% of eligible law libraries participating. GPO had also received 27 State Focused Action plans covering 31 states prior to the initial deadline of August 31, 2012. The original deadline was extended for the State Focused Action plans to September 21, 2012.

Responses were most consistent in the areas of digitization and increased training of government documents librarians. When asked if it would be useful for GPO to provide advice and guidance for libraries that want to digitize publications from the tangible collection, nearly everyone agreed that this would be useful to FDLP libraries in their states. Further, almost 95% of respondents to the FDLP State Forecast expressed a willingness to participate in GPO facilitated virtual meetings or seminars for more database training on FDsys, MetaLib, and other government agency websites.

Although the time to submit Library and State Forecasts through Survey Monkey for inclusion in GPO’s primary data analyses has expired, they are still accepting completed submissions to more comprehensively understand and document the needs and vision of the FDLP community. If you have not yet submitted your Library or State Forecast, please contact GPO. More information on the forecasting project will be presented at the Fall Depository Library Council Meeting.

Equally encouraging as the results from the FDLP study was Arlene Weible’s presentation on the selective housing agreements and collaboration Oregon librarians have devised to better manage its depository collection. Under their model, mini centers of excellence have been established between the Oregon State Library, the Oregon State University Valley Library, the Portland State University Library, and the University of Oregon Knight Library. Each library collects and provides public services in the library’s primary areas of subject expertise, ensuring a comprehensive and easily accessible collection of Federal depository publications.
Arlene noted that the Oregon model is just one idea of the many great ideas out there for managing a tangible collection within the current framework of Title 44. And despite their efforts, there is still a high demand for the digitization of older historical documents to make materials even more accessible. To that end, Arlene suggested the following resources as models for how to participate in, or access, digitized documents:

Ohio’s GORDORT
USDOCS LOCKSS
Committee on Institutional Cooperation
TRAIL
GPO Registry

The second GD-SIS sponsored program was B3: Digital Content: The What, the How, and the Where, which covered the basics of creating digital products, including best practices, specifications, metadata, workflow, quality control and assessment. This program was coordinated by the “other Janet” Fisher, from the Arizona State Library Archives & Public
Records, and was moderated by Tory Trotta from the Arizona State University Law Library. During this program, Stephen Chapman of the Harvard Law School Library discussed a workflow plan for the digitization of documents, including how to identify the proper audience, what technology to use, quality control and the preservation issues surround digital content. David Walls was also on hand to discuss how GPO is capturing, preserving, and disseminating born-digital government, including GPO’s Federal Digital System (FDsys), as well as web harvesting initiatives, and the agency’s partnerships with federal agencies. The following sites can be helpful in finding digitized government information:

Digital FDLP
FDsys
University of North Texas Digital Library
CyberCemetery
Congressional Research Service Reports

A selective bibliography on digitization projects and best practices was compiled by Tory and is available online.

Louisiana’s State Focused Action Plan
By: Miriam Childs
Head of Technical Services, Law Library of Louisiana

When I first learned of the FDLP State Forecasting Project at 2011’s DLC Council Meeting and FDLP Conference, I started stressing out about how I was going to meet the deadlines. I didn’t know how to even begin to fulfill my obligations. I didn’t need to worry because the dedicated group of documents librarians in Louisiana rallied together to “git ‘r’ done.”

At the first state documents council meeting after the conference, the council established a committee to be in charge of the process. I bravely volunteered to chair the committee. First we had to streamline the submission of individual library forecast questionnaires to the committee. We decided to ask librarians to submit their completed questionnaires to me via email. Some librarians submitted their forecasts to GPO before we established a procedure, so we asked GPO to provide us with their answers. Overall about 90% of the state’s depositories completed an individual questionnaire.

After receiving the completed questionnaires, the committee agreed to use Google Docs to facilitate analysis of the answers. We created a spreadsheet template that listed the questions from the survey and the array of answers. We divided the questions evenly among the members, and each person edited the spreadsheet with answers from each survey received. We then used the collected data on the spreadsheet to complete the state forecast questionnaire.
Our state forecast questionnaire revealed a group of librarians devoted to the success of the depository program. The responses showed a strong interest in local and national digitization projects. Librarians lamented not having up-to-date computers to better serve their patrons. Many responses showed a marked interest in reaching out to non-FDLP libraries. Librarians expressed a desire for continuing education and more promotional materials from GPO. I was pleased to see the proof of such dedication, professionalism, and orientation towards quality service.

The committee next tackled the state focused action plan. We mixed concepts from our existing state plan with the collected information in the state questionnaire to accurately represent the current condition of Louisiana’s documents community, along with initiatives we hope to implement in the next 1-5 years. We proudly turned in our state focused action plan to GPO a few weeks ago. The process would have been impossible without the help and support of my fellow committee members and the participating documents librarians from around the state.

GPO’s next steps are to come to a consensus about the concerns revealed in the 50 state plans and to formulate a shared vision of the future of the FDLP. Data from the state focused action plans will be used to make changes to the existing Program. These changes will inform the resulting FDLP National Plan. The new plan will reflect the voices of the individual libraries that participate in the FDLP and will provide GPO’s answer to their concerns. My hope is for all depository libraries will be on the same page with strategies and support to face the challenges of the future. If most states have the experience that Louisiana had in rallying together, the FDLP community will be in an excellent position to weather future storms.

**Introducing the 1st FDsys Training Video Module Created by GPO**

GPO is now pleased to present the first in a series of online training tutorials on its Federal Digital System (FDsys). The first video (or as GPO prefers to call it “module”) focuses on basic search techniques and working with FDsys search results and can be accessed here. Options for closed captioning, enlarging the video, and volume control are available from the menu in the bottom right-hand corner of the video screen. This is the first of what GPO plans will be many additional modules.

If you have a tutorial that you would like to share with others within the GD-SIS community, please pass them along to either Kate Irwin-Smiler or Camilla M. Tubbs.
Did you know...?

In Spring 2012, AALL president Darcy Kirk convened a task force to study & promote the role of the FDLP among law libraries. Since then, the members of the task force have been conducting targeted interviews with depository law librarians, analyzing the results, and preparing public relations initiatives.

The task force is headed by Sally Holterhoff, with members Camilla Tubbs, Keith Ann Stiverson, Kate Irwin-Smiler, working with the assistance of AALL Director of Government Relations Emily Feltren.

Currently the task force is collecting model language from depository library mission statements, collection development policies or similar. If your depository's policy language reflects your status please consider submitting your language to any member of the task force.

Look for further news from the task force in coming months!

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Missed AALL 2012?

Even if you weren't able to join us in Boston, you can still benefit from the wealth of educational programming offered at AALL 2012. Log in to AALL2go, your online center for professional development, for:

- **Online access** to AALL Annual Meeting program recordings, archived webcasts, and accompanying program handouts

- **Advanced search capabilities** to focus on key areas of interest to help advance your career now

Purchase the full compilation as MP3 downloads, CD-ROM, or audio CD, or buy individual MP3 downloads.

aall.sclivelearningcenter.com
Upcoming Events

Fall 2012 Federal Depository Library Council Meeting
Free Registration Online

Meeting hotel room reservations must be made by Saturday,
October 3, 2012 to ensure the prevailing Government room rate.

The ever popular get together of law librarians (and friends)
attending the Conference and D.C. area law librarians will be held
on Tuesday, October 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the Sine Irish Pub in
Pentagon Row. The restaurant does separate checks. To have an
accurate count, please sign up by emailing Larry Meyer before noon
on Tuesday the 16th.

OFFICERS

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