Dear GD-SIS members,

The AALL Annual Meeting is approaching and this issue includes plenty of suggestions on how to make the most of your time in Charm City. After attending what is sure to be a weird and hilarious keynote address from John Waters, be sure to make your way to the two GD-SIS programs on July 15: *Rewriting the Rules of the Federal Depository Library Program: The Struggle to Amend 44 U.S.C.* and the Section’s Annual Business Meeting and luncheon.

As always, thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue and to anyone who is thinking of contributing in the future: we hope to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kunkel & Stacy Fowler
Dear GD-SISers,

I can’t believe it’s time for the Annual Meeting again already! The Board has been busy preparing for Baltimore these last few months. As I reported in the previous issue of JURISDOCS, we lost sponsorship for our Business Meeting. We felt strongly that we should continue the tradition of providing a full meal to our members during this popular event, so the Board decided to move it offsite this year. We were able to create a robust menu for a much lower cost at a location right next to the conference center. Here are the final details:

**GD-SIS Business Meeting and Luncheon**  
Sunday, July 15 1:00-2:30PM  
Pratt Street Ale House  
206 W. Pratt St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201
Message from the Vice-Chair

Stacy Fowler
Technical Services Librarian and Associate Professor, St. Mary’s University School of Law
 GD-SIS Vice-Chair 2017-2018

Fellow GD-SISers:

Spring semester is winding down, so it’s time to start thinking about the Annual Meeting. I hope to see most of y’all in Baltimore this year for some great programming and networking opportunities. As I prepare to step into my new role as Chair, I look forward to the opportunities that will arise as we continue to strive for the free-flow of government information to all citizens who seek it, in whatever format comes next. Besides our GD-SIS sponsored program (see page 7 for information), here are my suggestions for must-see programs:

C1: Give Me Your Knowledge!
Sunday, July 15, 2018 4:00 PM–5:00 PM
One of the major issues in any organization is the danger of knowledge walking out the door every time someone leaves, whether due to job changes, retirement, or other reasons. Over the past decades, many organizations have undergone hardware and software system changes. One area, however, is often overlooked—the knowledge that exists in people’s heads and was never put on paper, the so-called, "tacit knowledge." This program will define tacit knowledge and explore at least three methods to extract and deliver tacit knowledge to future users.

D5: The Foibles of FOIA: How to File and Respond to a Freedom of Information Act Request
Monday, July 16, 2018 10:00 AM–11:00 AM
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and their state equivalents are essential tools for enforcing the public’s right to know about government actions. However, as local and national politics have become more contentious, predatory FOIA requests have increased in an attempt to chill expression and intimidate individuals who hold political views contrary to the requester. This program examines the procedures and the social implications of FOIA requests from all sides: distinguishing legitimate FOIA requests from predatory ones and exploring best practices in submitting and responding to FOIA requests.

G7: The PEGI Project: Preserving Electronic Government Information
Tuesday, July 17, 2018 8:30 AM–9:30 AM
Librarians have long collaborated to provide government-produced information to their patrons—on a large scale via the Federal Depository Library Program and the National Archives—and on smaller scales through state government information programs. The models for these collection-building and preservation activities were developed in the print era and have struggled to adapt to the digital era. This session will provide an update on a national effort to define government information for collection and preservation in the electronic age. Participants will spend time in facilitated discussion about their government information needs, which will inform the report produced by the PEGI project in fall 2018.
Advocacy Committee Report

Peggy Jarrett
Head of Collection Development
Gallagher Law Library, University of Washington School of Law

GD-SIS Advocacy Committee Chair

Erik Beck
Digital Services Librarian
William A. Wise Law Library, University of Colorado School of Law

The GD-SIS Advocacy Committee has quite a lot to report this issue.

CRS Reports Are To Be Made Public

At long last, after almost 20 years of continual advocacy from library organizations and from open government activists, non-confidential reports of the Congressional Research Service will finally be made public. The FY2018 omnibus spending bill, Public Law No: 115-141, which Congress approved and President Trump signed into law last March, lawmakers included a provision requiring that all CRS reports be published on a public website. The “Equal Access to Congressional Research Service Reports” section state reports shall be made “searchable, sortable, and downloadable, including downloadable in bulk.”

The Congressional Research Service is an agency within the Library of Congress which provides members of the House and Senate with non-partisan analysis of policy and legal issues relating to legislation. The CRS issues more than 3,000 reports each year which up until now were only available to legislators and staff. This bill effectively gives members of the public the same access to CRS reports as any member of Congress. Only reports that Congress requests for confidential analysis or that are not available for general congressional access would be excluded.
The provision specifies the public website hosting the CRS reports be maintained by the Library of Congress. GPO then announced that once CRS reports are publically disseminated, they will be in scope of the Federal Depository Library Program.

**FDLP Modernization Act of 2018**

If you have been following events, you know that the FDLP Modernization Act, [H.R. 5305](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5305), was introduced March 15, 2018. It was referred to the House Committee on House Administration (CHA) and also the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

A quick recap: CHA members and staff worked on a bill to reform the Federal Depository Library Program for quite a while (and we, the community, have been talking about it as well). Last fall, the Committee held a series of hearings, and AALL, the Depository Library Council, other library associations, and individuals discussed and commented on a future FDLP. In December, a draft bill circulated that raised serious concerns, mostly due to language in the non-FDLP portions that would allow the privatization of government information. But after the new year, the committee started work on a bill focusing on the FDLP only and in March, H.R. 5305 was introduced, with the support of the three major library associations involved (AALL, American Library Association, and Association of Research Libraries). In April, CHA adopted an [Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute](https://aall.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/H.R.-5305-Amendment-in-the-Nature-of-a-Substitute.pdf) to make a few changes and corrections. You can find a version with the changes tracked on [AALLnet](https://aall.org/).

What are we waiting for? The CHA bill report, which has not been finalized and released, would be of great interest to GD-SIS members. And the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has not acted. The library associations sent a [letter](https://www.aall.org/), urging them to support the bill. Once that happens, the bill could advance to the House floor.

And then what? None of us need a reminder that this is an election year. H.R. 5305 has bipartisan support in CHA, which is excellent, but all legislation is subject to politics outside the substance of the bill. Committee chairs are retiring and Congress will be out campaigning as early as possible. We might see movement on the bill - and be called upon to act - before the midterms, but it is also possible that the bill will move when Congress returns to finish up the 115th Congress in November and December.

Just to keep us on our toes, we also need to look out for any legislation dealing with the issues that concerned us in the December draft. Ideas about privatizing and monetizing government information, reducing core print legal titles, and shrinking GPO’s funding have not gone away. Our work truly is never done!

**GPO and LC Funding**

Good news to report regarding GPO and Library of Congress funding. The House Legislative Branch Subcommittee marked up its FY 2019 appropriations bill, which includes the requested level of funding for GPO, and an increase

**UELMA Update**

Four new states and territories enacted the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA) in the past year. The bill passed in both Washington State and the District of Columbia in April 2017, Maryland in May 2017, and most recently in Utah, which adopted UELMA just last March, 2018. AALL members were at the forefront of advocacy efforts in these states and testified before their state legislatures in support of the bill. Getting UELMA passed in state legislatures has long been a primary advocacy goal of AALL. When a state passes the model law it guarantees to authenticate, preserve, make official, and make permanently available legal publications which it hosts online in digital format.

In addition to these four recent enactments, UELMA has also been introduced in current legislative sessions for Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, and Ohio. Constituents of these states are encouraged to join local advocacy efforts and get these bills to the floor.

**AALL Advocates Community**

Have you signed up for the new [AALL Advocates community](#) yet? This replaces the Advocacy Listserv. If not, there’s no time like the present!

**At AALL**

Will you be in Baltimore this summer? If so, Sunday, July 15, is full of programs to attend:

11:30am-12:30pm. [A:3 Rewriting the Rules of the Federal Depository Library Program: The Struggle to Amend 44 U.S.C.](#)

2:30pm-3:30pm. [AALL Public Policy Update](#)

4:00pm-5:00pm. [Advocacy Leadership: Law Librarians Ignite Change](#)
The 95th Federal Depository Library Conference and Depository Library Council Meeting was held on October 2017 in Arlington, VA. James Shaw acted as chair for the meeting, as Karen Russ was unable to be present. Much of the policy discussion focused around the news that Congress may introduce (and since had introduced) a revision bill to update Title 44, the governing law of the Federal Depository Library Program. At that point the discussions focused on what the library community wanted from a bill, at a high level, as there was no legislative language to look at. Members of the House Committee on Administration staff were present for much of the policy discussion and thanked the community for our contributions. At the end of the meeting, the Depository Library Council announced that they would update their recommendations to the Director of GPO. These updated recommendations were posted at the end of October, 2017.

The depository community was pleasantly surprised by the announcement that Laurie Hall was being promoted from Acting Superintendent of Documents to Superintendent. Hall is a longtime Library Services and Content Management employee and is a familiar face/voice to much of the documents community. Another pleasant surprise was the inclusion of a portrait of Dr. Carla Hayden in the meeting materials. Dr. Hayden was one of the three keynote speakers and stayed to autograph the portraits along with (now, retired) Director of GPO Davita Vance-Cooks. Despite the official insistence that Dr. Hayden wasn’t available for selfies, there were definitely selfies. Additional Keynotes were offered by
James LaRue of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom and Jane Sanchez, the Law Librarian of Congress (formerly of GPO).

The incoming Depository Library Chair for 2018-2019 is Lori Thornton of the Arizona State Library. The incoming secretary is Kirsten Krumsee of the State Library of Ohio. Handouts, recordings & posters are available at the FDLP.gov page for the conference. The official conference twitter hashtag was #GPODLC17. Additional recommendations, including refinements to search capability on the FDLP Academy, were posted to the FDLP.gov site.
GD-SIS Sponsored Program at the Annual Meeting

Rewriting the Rules of the Federal Depository Library Program: The Struggle to Amend 44 U.S.C.

Sunday, July 15
11:30AM—12:30 PM
Baltimore Convention Center Room 327-329

Speakers:

Erik Beck, Digital Services Librarian
University of Colorado Law School, William AA. Wise Law Library

Laurie Hall, Supt. of Documents, Managing Director of Library Services and Content Management
Government Publishing Office

Peggy Roebuck Jarrett, Head of Collection Development
University of Washington Gallagher Law Library

Recently, the Committee on House Administration has held hearings on "Transforming GPO for the 21st Century and Beyond." For the next year, Congress will consider amendments to Title 44 of the U.S. Code concerning the governance and operation of the Government Publishing Office. These changes will have far-reaching effects, especially for law librarians, government documents librarians, and their patron base. This program will convene a panel of librarians and government representatives who are active in the Title 44 discussion to explain what these changes will mean to law libraries and how law librarians can join the discussion and advocate for their interests.

The first part of the program will acquaint participants with the issues concerning the Title 44 amendment. Topics such as redefining the term "government publication," requirements for federal agencies to deposit born-digital, and flexibility for regional depositaries will be introduced. In the second part, participants in groups will respond to the following questions: 1) How has the FDLP been important to your library? and 2) How could the FDLP be changed to better serve your library and your patrons? Groups will share their responses in an open discussion. After the program, responses will be collected and used by AALL's Government Relations Committee to help inform AALL’s advocacy effort on Title 44.
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