

Addie the Eagle



Government Documents  
Special Interest Section  
American Association of Law Libraries

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## From the Editor

Dear GD-SIS Members and *JURISDOCS* readers:

You may recall from our previous issue that the proverbial winds were blowing change. Indeed, more change is upon us. GD-SIS Chair, Seth Quiddachay Swan has some updates leading up to this summer's AALL Conference.

Next up, GD-SIS elections. In this issue we invite you to read the candidate profiles for the members running for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. A big thank you to those who agreed to run. Voting opens May 5th and closes May 18th. More on page 3.

GPO continues to usher in change as well, as they move towards a more digital FDLP. Our own Scott Matheson, U.S. Superintendent of Documents, writes to us more about this change. GPO also just hosted a busy slate of virtual events and training full of new material.

And last, but not at all least, member Jenny Wondracek has written an opinion piece thoughtfully questioning the current existence of GD-SIS, seeking reflective conversation from her fellow members.

Sincerely,  
Charlie Amiot, Editor



## Message from the Chair

Seth Quidachay-Swan  
Assistant Director for Collections & Access Services and Librarian  
University of Michigan Law Library

Dear GD-SIS,

It has been another relatively quiet year for the SIS. I would like to say thank you to our Nominations Committee for presenting a great slate of candidates to run for our three open board positions and also a special thank you to the candidates for volunteering to run. You can read more about each one in this issue. I hope everyone takes the time to participate in the election.

I hope to see many of you in Boston in July. The board hopes to hold our annual business meeting in person on Tuesday, July 18 at 7:30 am. We are hoping to provide breakfast for all who attend. Once we finalize the details of the event we will disseminate that information as well as the Annual Business meeting packet.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me or anyone else on the board. My email address is [sethqs@umich.edu](mailto:sethqs@umich.edu).

Seth Quidachay-Swan



## GD-SIS Elections: Your Candidates!

This year GD-SIS will be electing our upcoming Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer.

Election ballots will be sent out to all members on May 5th. Emails containing voting information will arrive from [governmentdocuments@connectedcommunity.org](mailto:governmentdocuments@connectedcommunity.org), delivered to the email address the member receives their AALL emails at. Voting will close on May 18th. All members are encouraged to vote.

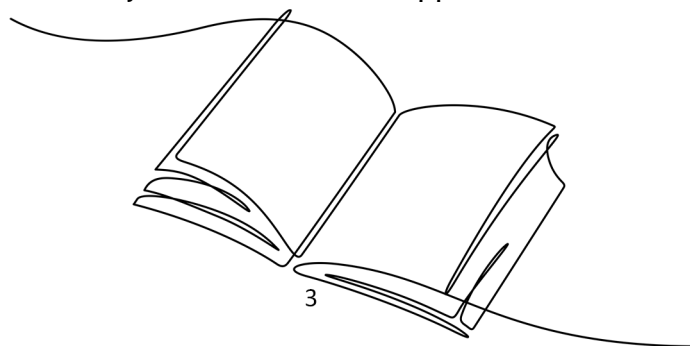


### GD-SIS Chair Candidate, Stephen Parks

Stephen Parks  
State Librarian  
State Law Library of Mississippi

A few years ago I took a step back from being active in AALL in an effort to become more active in the Mississippi Library Association. I had a goal of joining that Association's Board and working my way up to the office of President. I am happy to say I achieved that goal and became the first law librarian in that Association's history to serve as President. Now as I sail off into the sunset as its Past-President, I have a desire to become more active in AALL through the special interest sections to which I belong. While relatively new to the Government Documents SIS, I am not new to government documents having served on the Depository Library Council and a GPO Task Force. I am grateful to the nominations committee for reaching out to me, and I look forward to becoming more active in GD-SIS within the role I am seeking. — Stephen

Stephen Parks is the current State Librarian of Mississippi. As State Librarian, he oversees the State Law Library of Mississippi. Before being selected and confirmed as State Librarian in 2016, Parks was the Research, Instructional Services, and Circulation Librarian as the Mississippi College Law Library. He has served on the Depository Library Council (2018-2021) and, most recently, served as a member of the GPO Task Force on a Digital Federal Depository Library Program. Aside from his duties at the State Law Library, Parks teaches as an Adjunct Professor in the Library and Information Science Department at the University of Southern Mississippi where he focuses on government resources and documents.



## GD-SIS Elections: Your Candidates! — Continued

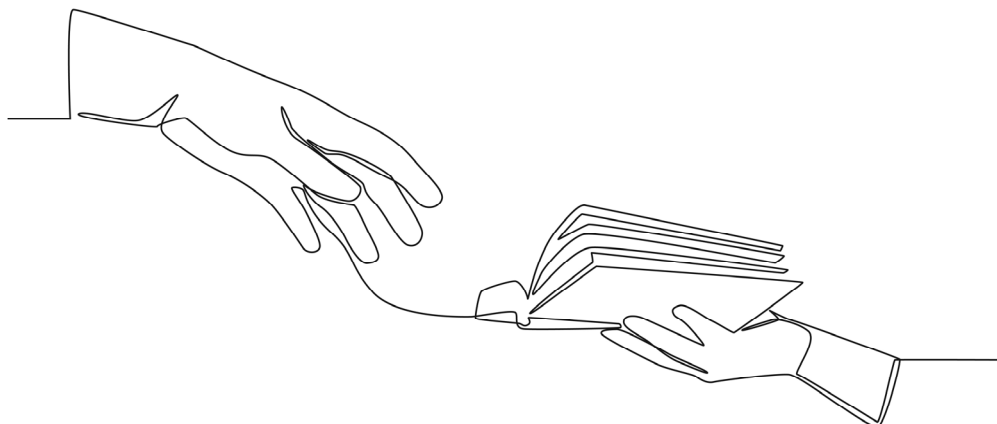


### GD-SIS Vice-Chair Candidate, Rebecca Chapman

Rebecca Chapman  
Senior Assistant Law Librarian, Outreach Liaison to the Undergraduate Law Program and Indigenous Studies Department  
University at Buffalo School of Law

For those of you that do not know me, my name is Rebecca Chapman, and I am excited to be considered for the Government Documents – Special Interest Section position of Vice Chair. While I am a new librarian, I feel that I can serve the community, listen to the concerns of community members, and bring new ideas forward. I believe in service to the community, and I believe in AALL’s community. I believe in the AALL mission of supporting the profession and its members through growth, advocacy, and leadership. I am ready to put my commitment to work for you.

Let me tell you a little about myself. I spent sixteen years in the legal profession as an Indian Law attorney working with Tribal Nations on issues of sovereignty, governance, gaming, housing, and economic development. In that time, I spent 3.5 years with the National Indian Gaming Commission’s Office of General Counsel in the United States Department of the Interior. I have served on association boards like the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association and the California Indian Bar Association. I have spent much of my life in advocacy and committed myself to goals of empowerment and development. I want to bring what I’ve learned forward and use it to help the AALL community. Together we can do so much more.



## GD-SIS Elections: Your Candidates! — Continued



### GD-SIS Secretary/Treasurer Candidate, Charlie Amiot

Charlie Amiot  
Government Information & Serials Reference Librarian  
University of Baltimore, School of Law

My name is Charlie Amiot, and I am honored to be running for the position of GD-SIS Treasurer. I am confident that I already possess or can acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in this role. I have served on the GD-SIS Grants Committee since 2019, where I have enjoyed being part of a team that has helped our members attend the Annual Conference. During my time in law school, I served as a student organization Treasurer, where I demonstrated my ability to save money, spend judiciously, and get the bills paid on time. If elected as GD-SIS Treasurer, I would be committed to ensuring that the organization's finances are managed responsibly and transparently, and would work with our variety of stakeholders to develop and implement sound financial strategies that support GD-SIS goals and mission.

For the last year I've been the Government Information & Serials Reference Librarian at the University of Baltimore's School of Law, where I also serve as our FDLP Coordinator. Previously, I served at the University of Kentucky's College of Law as the Outreach Librarian, where I also taught first-year Legal Research for three years. I attended iSchool at the University of Washington where I learned first-hand from some outstanding librarians without whom I would not be where I am today. Thank you for considering my candidacy for this important position. I look forward to the opportunity to further contribute my skills and experience to the GD-SIS community.

**GO  
VOTE**



## Update from the Superintendent of Documents

Scott Matheson  
United States Superintendent of Documents  
United States Government Publishing Office

Greetings from the U.S. Government Publishing Office – or its southern Connecticut outpost – where the Depository Library Council’s Spring Virtual Meeting marks the true arrival of the season. Spring is of course a time of change and renewal - and the sore back that goes with the weeding and mulching that comes with renewal. Of course, I made a major change in the fall, going to work at GPO. I’ve been here just over half a year and am starting to settle in, just in time for spring, and plenty of change.

The FDLP is changing, as we know. Really, the Program has changed a lot over the years – it moved among departments and branches, had large influxes of new land-grant libraries, divided into regionals and selectives, added microforms and electronic media, and went digital (the first time in 1993 with the *GPO Access Act*[1], if you don’t count the Federal Bulletin Board).

I know many of you are familiar with the recommendations of the Task Force on a Digital FDLP. The Task Force submitted their report[2] at the end of last year and Director Halpern responded[3] in February, largely accepting the recommendations. In March and April, GPO staff spent time prioritizing[4] work that addresses the task force recommendations and moves the National Collection of U.S. Government Public Information[5] forward as well.

To help you keep track of all this change, there is a new “big orange button” on the FDLP.gov home page that links to the new Digital FDLP Implementation page[6]. This page has key information and a (long) list of projects and changes that need to be tackled to move us forward to a Digital FDLP. You’ll see that we’ve put a few items on hold for later, and there’s even one that is “Complete.”

We’ll keep this page updated and revised as we make progress in this work. I would really appreciate it if you all could keep an eye on it and provide feedback – what is working well, what seems like it should be reprioritized or adjusted. While we’ve been working together on this digital transformation for 30 years, the information and technology environments are constantly changing, so your input will help shape the plans as we move forward. [cont.]

## Update from the Superintendent of Documents (cont.)

A few of us from GPO will be at AALL this summer, so you'll have a chance to get more updates and to provide us with your input and feedback directly in Boston. For those close to Chicago, we'll be at ALA too – come see us.

Even as we talk of change and moving to a Digital FDLP, and you see increased online and digitized content, print remains important. It's important to some agency publishers, and it's important to many law library patrons and future researchers. Know that core Congressional publications, Court opinions, and official regulatory print materials will continue to be available for selection while the agencies continue to print them.

Thanks for your continued support of the FDLP. And enjoy the spring weather and the change it inevitably brings!

### Sources:

1. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-107/pdf/STATUTE-107-Pg112.pdf>
2. <https://www.fdlp.gov/file-repository-item/feasibility-digital-federal-depository-library-program-report-gpo-directors>
3. <https://www.fdlp.gov/file-repository-item/gpo-directors-response-final-report-task-force-digital-fdlp>
4. <https://fdlp.gov/project/digital-fdlp-implementation>
5. <https://fdlp.gov/about-the-fdlp/the-national-collection>
6. <https://www.fdlp.gov/project/digital-fdlp-implementation>

## Government Publishing Office Spring 2023 Activities

**FDLP Pre-Meeting: Updates from GPO**, April 27, 2023: 84 minutes jam-packed with updates and upcoming changes, presented by GPO's Library Services & Content Management's (LSCM) Chiefs and Managers. All FDLP Coordinators are strongly encouraged to watch!

**Spring 2023 Depository Library Council Meeting**, May 1-2, 2023:

Welcome & DLC Business Meeting;

“Speaking My Language”- Providing Government Information Services in Multiple Languages;

FDLP 101: Collection Management Basics;

To “Serve a Useful and Salutary Purpose”: A Look at 50 Years of the Depository Library Council;

Assessing the GovInfo User Experience;

DLC Open Forum;

DLC Business Recap & Closing.

These sessions and more can be viewed at <https://fdlp.gov/training>.

## Opinion: Is it time to close GD-SIS down or merge?

This is a very difficult question to ask. Out of the seventeen years that I have been a law librarian, I have been a GD-SIS member for fifteen of those years. GD-SIS is part of my AALL home. It was the SIS that I found to be most welcoming when I was a young librarian. Some of my best friendships are with GD-SIS members, past and present. It is the first SIS where I became involved in the leadership. I have fond memories of gathering with GD-SIS colleagues for meetings and friendly catch-ups. And no one can forget the Irish pub dinners for DLC meetings that Larry hosted.

Perhaps it is the pandemic, the changes to the FDLP program, or even my own career evolution, but the SIS seems to be getting quieter and less jovial. While ALL-SIS and RIPS-SIS messages fill my inbox, I hardly see messages from GD-SIS. I miss the warmth from colleagues and meeting the new faces in the SIS. Even a message asking how folks were doing was left largely unanswered, save for a side conversation on the Public Papers discontinuation. It feels as though the enthusiasm for the SIS has burnt out.

I have been thinking about this for several months, as we have sought nominees for the election (Thank you to Charlie, Rebecca, and Stephen for agreeing to the nominations)! If we really are struggling with SIS burn out, is it time to consider alternatives?

I personally see three options:

1. Shut the SIS down.
2. Merge with another SIS, like Government Law Libraries.
3. Reinvigorate and rebuild our SIS.

I hate the idea of the first option. This is my SIS home. But I also recognize the unfairness of relying on the same people to always run the SIS. I don't know how many more committees Ed and Larry can serve on! J And we would not be the only entity to close down as our profession shrinks and consolidates.

The second option has more merit to me. We have synergies and a lot of crossover with GLL, and a combined SIS might be stronger and healthier. GD-SIS is a wealthy SIS, comparatively, and would likely be attractive to GLL. But all of this is pure speculation, as I have not raised the idea with anyone in GLL (well, maybe this article is...).

The third option is the one I hope for the most. I want the next generation of Docs librarians to feel the warm welcome, comradery, and the sense of finding their SIS home. After chatting for a long time with our nominee for Secretary/Treasurer, Charlie Amiot, I have hope that this will be our way forward.

I am also hoping that we, as a SIS, can have a discussion about this and that we can give feedback to our new executive board after the elections on where we hope to see our SIS go. I look forward to hearing from you all.

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## Officers

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