

JURISDOCS

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION |
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

FALL 2023 | VOL. 43 ISS. 1

ISSN 0162-3079

FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings! This edition of *JURISDOCS* is a bit tardy but brimming with exciting updates! Our mascot Addie the Eagle and our newsletter both sport fresh new looks.

The Board is actively preparing for the 2024 Annual Meeting in Chicago. We're hopeful for our program proposals and already planning for 2025. Don't forget about our grants, and stay tuned for a social event at the 2024 meeting!

We have an update on the GPO evolution towards a digital Federal Depository Library Program, a crucial step towards digital-first information access. Your engagement during this phase is invaluable for shaping our community's future with GPO.

I'm also delighted to announce our latest Veronica Maclay grant winner, a library student passionate about government information. Read about her experience at the 2023 AALL Annual Conference in Boston and join us in celebrating her achievement.

On a playful note - our Halloween-themed piece on the Salem Witch Trials, originally planned for a pre-Halloween release, is here to extend the spooky season charm a bit longer thanks to my tardiness. Consider it an early kickstart for next year's enthusiasm!

Your participation makes *JURISDOCS* a dynamic resource. Here's to our continued journey of learning, growth, and enjoyment.

Thanks,
Charlie Amiot
JURISDOCS Editor, Secretary/Treasurer

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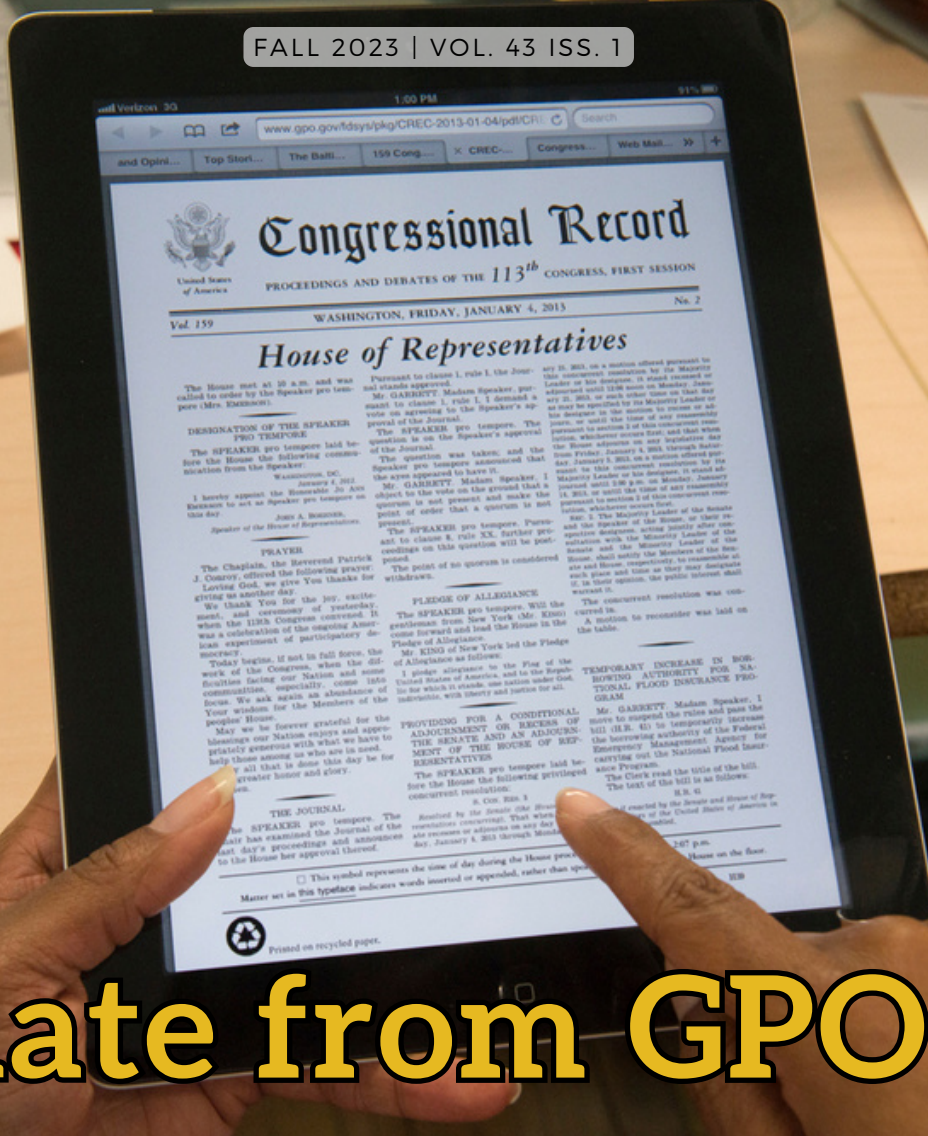
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ADDIE THE EAGLE



Update from GPO

SCOTT MATHESON
 U.S. SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
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Hello GD-SIS members, and greetings from GPO where we are moving forward with implementing a digital Federal Depository Library Program. This week there will be meetings of the National Collection Service Area (NCSA)[1] groups to begin determining criteria for the new limited print distribution. This change to a digital-first distribution is one of the first steps in moving to the digital FDLP of the future. By moving to a digital-first model, we will be able to increase access to online documents and agency information and leverage technology to help your patrons find and use Government information.

This week's meetings[2] are for libraries to determine the criteria that are important to each NCSA when distributing the limited number of copies of print titles. More details on the print distribution titles has been shared in webinars and on a dedicated web page[3] about the digital implementation.

The [Limited Print Distribution page](#)[4] includes the [list of titles](#)[5], including titles that will be limited to 20 and 50 copies. Also listed are the seven titles that are NOT limited. So if your depository selects these titles, you will continue to get them in print until you deselect them. These unlimited titles includes GD-SIS favorites like Statutes at Large, the United States Code, and one of my favorites, Constitution of the United States, Analysis and Interpretation (Forthcoming edition pictured [below] in the GPO Bindery in pallets of 160).

Please participate in the meeting for your NCSA, or if you can't make it, watch for follow-up questionnaires to help determine which criteria are important to your library. If you want to get one of the limited number print titles, you will have the opportunity to respond to a questionnaire in December to note the titles you want and how your library meets the criteria selected by your

NCSA. As always, you can ask questions at [askGPO](#)[6] or [check the FAQ](#)[7] on the digital implementation page of [FDLP.gov](#)[8].

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GPO

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

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A portrait of a young woman with long, straight brown hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a white, short-sleeved top with a lace-like pattern. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and palm fronds.

Veronica Maclay Travel Grant Report

SAMANTHA GINSBURG

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LAW LIBRARY FELLOW, DANIEL F. CRACCHIOLO LAW LIBRARY, JAMES E. ROGERS COLLEGE OF LAW



I am greatly appreciative of the Government Documents SIS for awarding me the Veronica Maclay Travel Grant this year, because it enabled my attendance at the AALL Annual Meeting in Boston. I had the opportunity to meet individuals with the potential to influence and shape my career. As someone whose goal is to graduate and enter the profession within the next year, I would like to reflect on my unintentional journey to law librarianship and share some of my experiences and impressions of the Annual Meeting.

After completing my bachelor's degree, I started working as a legal assistant in a prosecutor's office and planned to attend law school. While this role made me realize I did not want to be an attorney, it did allow me to advance as a criminal paralegal. At this time, the pandemic became a lingering reality. That situation enabled me to reconsider the direction of my career and yearn for something that

would be more fulfilling and impactful. My temporary solution was to join the Dispute Resolution Team at the county juvenile court. I had the opportunity to work in the court's newly opened resource center, and this led me to consider law librarianship. I applied to the Master of Library and Information Science program in Arizona. After my acceptance, I was offered a position as a Fellow at the Daniel F. Cracchiolo Law Library at the James E. Rogers College of Law, and it has been incredible experience thus far.

Upon starting the fellowship and learning an academic law library's structure, operations, and purpose, I realized librarianship was my ideal career. I finally felt like my curious nature and research abilities were valued. I was encouraged to actively share and seek out information as opposed to being overly cautious with client files and information. Having always been intrigued with how our government functions and how information is shared or obtained on various levels, I was eager to enroll in my program's Government Information course. Concurrently, I joined the law library's research team dedicated to investigating and presenting our university's land-grant status and history. These immersive experiences set me on a path that introduced me to the world of government documents, which fostered a deep affection for this area of law librarianship.

By now, I've reached out to everyone in my library who is involved with our Government Documents collection. Our current archivist, Jamie Valenzuela, formerly managed our federal depository materials and generously imparts his institutional knowledge to me whenever possible. Our cataloguing specialist, Kristen Keck, informs me whenever we receive materials from GPO. Because it is a selective institution, our print acquisitions are limited. However, when we do get physical items, Kristen guides me through the process of adding the MARCIVE record to our library management system and allows me to stamp and shelve the books. Our present Government Documents librarian, Sarah Gotschall, has provided me

with valuable insights into our library's selection process and has welcomed me to collaborate on our new collection development policy for government documents. She also connected me with the government information librarian at our main library, as well as the federal documents librarian at our regional institution in Phoenix.

I am truly fortunate and deeply grateful for the support of my colleagues as I embark on a career involving government documents. Additionally, I have received encouragement to explore other specializations, but my passion remains with Government Documents. When the opportunity arose to join Special Interest Sections, I prioritized the Government Documents SIS, because I wanted to gain insight into the supplementary responsibilities of government documents librarians and to connect with like-minded individuals who share a passion for government information. Hence the motivation for attending CONELL and the AALL annual meeting.

CONELL provided a valuable platform for engaging with both novice and seasoned librarians. Everyone was willing to openly discuss their individual paths into the profession. Following CONELL, I had the opportunity to meet Seth Quidachay-Swan and Keith Lacy at the SIS marketplace, along with other chapter and caucus representatives that were previously unknown to me. While sometimes I felt I attended the conference prematurely given that I did not meet any other current library students, now I see that it has given me a distinct advantage for when I do transition into a librarian role.

The most memorable part of my entire trip occurred before the main meeting's opening remarks, when Scott Matheson graciously met me for a coffee chat to explore potential pathways for involvement with the Federal Depository Library Program. Additionally, it's worth noting that despite not formally enrolling in the AALL Host Program, Venita Hoover, the Director of the Oklahoma County Law Library, thoughtfully assumed an

informal mentoring role and led me through the exhibit hall and other AALL vendor events.

In terms of programming, my leaders advised me to aim for two sessions a day, but not to worry about making every single time slot. Trying to attend every panel or program at the conference can be overwhelming. This was great guidance, because it allowed me to focus more on networking and enjoying the experience. I attended an assortment of programs that seemed interesting or discussed relevant issues that have arisen in my first year of working in libraries. Among these, my personal favorite was "Withdrawing Large Collections: History, Methods and Paths Forward." The discussion highlighted a mission-based approach to academic law librarianship, and posed questions like whether students derive more benefit from a study-friendly, aesthetic space rather than extensive, underutilized print collections. During the breaks, a group of colleagues and I submitted a poster on display in the exhibit hall about how the James E. Rogers College of Law provides pathways to a career in law librarianship.

On the final day, I joined the Government Documents SIS for breakfast and attended my first business meeting. I was captivated by the discussions unfolding around me. During the business proceedings, I learned that next year is the 50th anniversary of the SIS and was intrigued by the upcoming programming ideas for Chicago. All members, myself included, were enthusiastic for the updates from Scott regarding GPO and forthcoming dates for the Federal Depository Library Conference. I learned what a Preservation Steward Agreement is and again observed a dialogue regarding digital versus physical materials.

I have taken the initiative to pursue a career involving government information, and yet it is quite clear that there is a greater abundance of government-related data accessible today. This was an exciting opportunity to hear and share innovative ideas. I hope opportunities will

remain open and that discussion spreads amongst students welcoming them to consider this specialization. Once again, thank you to all those who made my annual meeting a remarkable experience.

The Veronica Maclay Travel Grant commemorates Veronica Maclay's 27-year tenure as a librarian at California Hastings College of Law, where she was a dedicated federal documents coordinator and an advocate for government information access; she also served as Chair GD-SIS in 1993-1994. This annual grant provides \$1,250 to library students who wish to specialize in government documents, to cover professional or educational travel expenses.

A memorial and more information about the grant can be found at:

<https://www.aallnet.org/gdsis/awards-grants/>.



The Season of the Witch

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I was thrilled to be the GD-SIS Annual Meeting Grant recipient this year. I have been a member of GD-SIS for 10+ years. At the advice of a colleague, I joined GD-SIS early in my law librarianship career. She described the section as a smaller, tight-knit group of people where a newer law librarian could take on leadership roles. Her description was perfect. I previously served two terms as SIS Secretary/Treasurer and have chaired the Public Relations Committee for a number of years.

As I was reflecting on the Boston conference, a few major themes stuck out: (1) the rise of generative AI and its impact on legal research and the role of librarians; (2) an increased focus on DEI initiatives; and (3) continued grappling with how to rebuild and improve our community after years of virtual, rather than in-person, contact. These are all, of course, very modern, 21st century concerns.

Maybe because it's fall, however, and my mind is now firmly in spooky season, I keep coming back to the two sessions I attended on the Salem witch trials, events that happened over 300 years ago. The Salem witch trials documents are some of our nation's oldest government documents, predating our current government.

The Legal History and Rare Books SIS presented Dark Dockets: Inside the Salem Witch Trials, a discussion with [Dan Lipcan, Ann C. Pingree Director of the Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum](#)[1], and [Robert J. Brink, Executive Director of the Social Law Library](#)[2].

Program description: "While all students of American history are familiar with the Salem Witch Trials, few give any thought to the fate of the original court documents created in the colonial Massachusetts legal proceedings that examined witchcraft accusations against nearly 200 individuals, leading to the deaths of 25 of them, between February 1692 and May 1693. This program will provide an overview of [the 527 Salem Witch Trials documents transferred from the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem to the Supreme Judicial Court Archives in Boston this past January](#)[3], as well as efforts to preserve them and make them accessible to the public."

The documents include indictments, depositions, and complaints. Through the libraries' and archives' preservation efforts, the documents have been digitized and thus permanently preserved for future generations of researchers. [The digital archives are available through the Peabody Essex Museum](#)[4].

Additionally, LHRB-SIS and Boston's Social Law Library hosted a walking tour of the Boston sites connected with the Salem Witch Trials led by Hon. Ken Bresler, Administrative Magistrate, Division of Administrative Law Appeals (DALA).

At the outset of the tour, Judge Bresler was adamant about the seriousness of the subject and the atrocities that befell these innocent people. He described the witch trials as Massachusetts' great shame and explained that none of the victims practiced witchcraft in any form; this was mass hysteria predicated on a lie. While Salem was at the center of the unfounded witch hysteria, many residents of Boston were also involved. Judge Bresler took

us on a 2-hour tour of various sites throughout Boston, pointing out burial sites, churches, and homes related to the Boston residents involved in the witch trials (both victims and instigators). [He has also written a book on the subject](#)[5].

Of course, those of us who regularly use and disseminate government documents understand the importance of preserving historical documents. But I think the preservation of the Salem witch trials documents, one of the most infamous legal events in early American history, is something that most laypersons would also find interesting and compelling. As we enter spooky season, be sure to fascinate your colleagues, friends, and family with tales of the 200+ people who were falsely accused of witchcraft and the historic documents that librarians and archivists have preserved for future generations.



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