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 Library 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 2 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 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 2004. 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 SIS’s. 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