DocumentOr

Message from the Chair

By
Ted Smith
DIGOR Chair
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Two years ago, the Government Printing Office published a book entitled *Fulfilling Madison's Vision: The Federal Depository Library Program*. The book consists of testimonials gathered from library users from all areas of the country who had found their local depository library to be useful in meeting a wide variety of information needs. The title of the book reflects James Madison's premise that democracy requires an informed citizenry in order to be an effective form of government. These published testimonials are confirmation of what we depository librarians already knew: that depository library programs have been and remain a remarkably effective method of providing the citizens of this country with access to government information.

Even very effective institutions and programs, however, must adapt to change in order to maintain their effectiveness. And certainly no one would dispute that recent years, with their rapid developments in telecommunications and information technology, have been a time of monumental change in our field. That is why it is very timely and appropriate for Congress to consider revising the Federal Depository Library Program, and why I am strongly in support of S. 2288, the Wendell H. Ford Government Publications Reform Act of 1998. This legislation would update and strengthen the depository program and provide improved mechanisms to ensure that all federal government publications (whatever their physical or electronic format) are made available to the depository libraries.

Hopefully by the time you read this, the bill will be well on its way to passage, because time is very short for this Congress to complete its work. But whether the bill is enacted or not, we as government information specialists must be prepared to continually adapt to the changes that are certain to confront us in the years ahead, as we continue to work through the current "information revolution". Now, more than ever, our profession requires practitioners who are able and willing to quickly incorporate new technologies, new methods and new ideas into our daily work of helping citizens find and use the government information they need.

This is my last message to you as Chair of DIGOR. Beginning this month, I leave the leadership of our organization in the very capable hands of Arlene Weible and Dena Hutto, the incoming Chair and Vice-Chair/Chair-elect respectively. I would like to thank Arlene and Dena for their great work as DIGOR officers this year. It has been a pleasure to work with them both. I also thank all of you, my fellow DIGOR members, for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President during this important transition year. It has been a rewarding year for me, and I look forward to our future work together in providing access to government information for all Oregonians.

NEXT DIGOR MEETING

September 18, 1998
Stevenson Union, Room 305
Southern Oregon University
Ashland, Oregon

11:00 am-12:00 pm - Business meeting
12:00-1:30 pm - Lunch
1:30-3:30 pm - Program

Program Description
In order to get prepared and inspired for the new academic year, we will take up the topic of instruction for government information. We hope to have some faculty from SOU come to discuss their use of government information in the classroom, and will have an open discussion on strategies, tips, successes, and failures for government information instruction activities. We would like everyone to come prepared to describe the instruction activities at their own institutions, and bring along any instructional materials you may have to share with others.

Please RSVP for the meeting to: Arlene Weible (aweible@willamette.edu Phone: 503-375-5343)

Please contact Deb Hollens (hollens@sou.edu Phone: 541-552-6850) if you have any questions about accommodations in Ashland.

LIBRARY PROFILE

At the suggestion of DIGOR members, we will be profiling all Oregon depositories in this new column. We start out with our Regional Federal Depository, Portland State University.

The Portland State University Documents Department

The Portland State University Library has been a federal depository since 1963, and the Regional depository for Oregon since 1972. As the Regional depository, we receive all government publications available for selection, must keep them permanently and have the authority to permit Selective depositories in Oregon to discard their selections after a 5-year period. We also provide interlibrary loan service and serve as a consultant to the Selective depositories.

Federal Documents in the PSU Library are primarily in a separate Documents Collection, along with Oregon, Washington, local and UN publications, but many older publications, including long-running series, periodicals, annual reports and monographs have been cataloged under LC numbers in **Sirsi**, the library's on-line catalog. Federal Documents in the Documents Collection which have been published since 1976 can be found in **Sirsi**, but one must cursor down to the bottom of the screen and change the "**library**" from "**main**" to "**documents**" or "**all**" in order to find them! There are over 300,000 documents in the collection, and approximately 50,000 added each year in paper, microfiche or electronic format.

While we do not have a large historical collection of government documents, we do have all the major retrospective indexes to federal publications. Among these are a complete run of the <u>Monthly Catalog of U. S. Government Publications</u>, the <u>Checklist of U. S. Public Documents</u>, <u>1789-1909</u>, the <u>Documents Catalogue 1893-1940</u>, the <u>Cumulative Title Index to U. S. Public Documents 1789-1976</u>, the <u>Cumulative Subject Index to the Monthly Catalog of U. S. Government Publications 1900-1971</u>, and all of the major CIS Congressional and Executive Department indexes.

Additionally, the Documents Department is an Oregon state depository. Most documents are in the on-line catalog, but new publications are in Documents under OrDocs. Numbers. We also have the **UN microfiche collection** from Readex from 1970 on, as well as their CD-ROM and on-line indexes. Furthermore, we have the **Statistical Masterfile** CD-ROM which indexes statistical publications of the U. S., International intergovernmental agencies, as well as state, university and trade publications. We have the non-depository microfiche collection of federal publications and the international statistical publications in microfiche.

The Library has several important and useful on-line services accessible on the PSU campus. These include **Stat-USA**, CIS's **Congressional Universe**, Readex's **Access UN** and Autographics web version of the **Monthly Catalog**. The Documents Department has a web page with links to these services, as well as links to federal, international and state government sites. Additionally, I have included information for Oregon documents librarians, such as the **State Plan** and **GPO Library Programs Services** sites. Our URL is: http://www.lib.pdx.edu/resources/govdocs/index.html

Documents are housed in open stacks and accessible all hours the library is open. Anyone is free to come in and use the collection, but only those holding PSU, Portals or outside user cards may check materials out. Most materials circulate through ILL.

The combined Business/Documents reference desk is staffed until 9:00 PM evenings we are open, but full time staff are only at the desk 8-6 weekdays. Documents staff members are Gwen Newborg, Documents Librarian, and Karen Nordgren, Library Tech III. Our reference desk phone Number is 725-4123.

Internet Resources Review

Agricola

By
Linda Maddux
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For years I have been applauding the federal government for their resourceful use of the Internet to make information available to the public. USGS, NIH, and EPA are just a few of the agencies that were forerunners in the area of free electronic access. When the National Library of Medicine made available their free versions of PubMed and Internet Grateful Med, I

along with agriculture librarians everywhere waited for the National Agriculture Library to follow suite with Agricola. Well, the wait is over. This past July NAL launched the web version of Agricola (http://www.nal.usda.gov/ag98/), currently free with no plans to charge for access.

In addition to being an excellent means of locating journal literature for agriculture and related sciences, Agricola serves as the main access point for publications of government agencies such as the USDA and USFS (Experiment station publications, agency reports, and until recently, extension publications), invaluable resources to researchers in these fields. Having free user-friendly access to this database will prove invaluable to researchers everywhere.

Is the information available from the web version of Agricola the same as what's available through commercial sources? Yes and no. The scope of the database is the same, although date coverage is 1984-date for articles on the web version. (NOTE: NAL is retrospectively adding records and will eventually have the entire database, back to 1970, loaded). The web version of Agricola promises to be more up to date, however; it is updated daily as records are added to the database. In fact, a brief search of the web version of Agricola and the Agricola database on Dialog resulted in the same records.

Usability is a different issue. Because access to the database is via a VTLS front end, there are many quirks that I'm not sure inexperienced users will be able to overcome. For instance, the average non-librarian user will not know the CAB Thesaurus subject terms, or the NAL call number scheme. Also, the advanced search language may be too advanced for users who are not familiar with the VTLS OPAC commands. Luckily, NAL has provided a very nice "SEARCH HINTS" section for each search type (Browse, Keyword Search, and Advanced Keyword). Limiting your search to a particular date, language, or publication type will also be difficult because of the restrictions of the keyword search format.

Probably the most disturbing characteristic of NAL's web-based Agricola is the fact that the database is divided into two sections:

- **Online Public Access Catalog** (Books, etc.): {Records created 1970 to Present} "Books, serials, audiovisuals, and other resources held by NAL and its Cooperators."

- **Journal Article Citation Index** (Articles, etc.): {Records created 1984 to Present} "Journal articles, book chapters, short reports, and reprints selected

primarily from the resources described in Books, etc."

Although both sections can be searched in the same way, being able to retrieve all of the relevant citations in one search would be helpful.

All in all, the pluses out weigh the minuses. I would like to see improvements in the search capabilities of Agricola, but am glad that the database is now available in a more timely manner for a much better price.

Political Activity

Below is the text of a letter sent to all members of Oregon's Congressional delegation on behalf of DIGOR in support of Wendell H. Ford Government Publications Reform Act of 1998 (S.2288) For more information about the status of this legislation, see:
http://library.berkeley.edu/GODORT/iawgpage.html

Dear [Member of Congress]:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Oregon Library Association's Documents Interest Group of Oregon to urge your support of the Wendell H. Ford Government Publications Reform Act of 1998 (S.2288). This bipartisan bill provides for the reform of the production, procurement, dissemination, and permanent public access of the Government's publications. This reform will update the Government's information dissemination activities, ensuring that Oregon citizens will continue to have access to information produced by the Government, at taxpayer expense, into the next century.

For over 100 years, the citizens of Oregon have gained access to government publications through the Government Printing Office's Federal Depository Library Program. Twenty one libraries throughout the state participate in the program, providing information and services that are vital to the educational, research, and daily living needs of Oregon citizens. Below are just a few examples of how the program works to meet the diverse needs of Oregon citizens:

- A taxpayer followed tax reform legislation to aid future investment planning.
- An educator retrieved Dept. of Education studies to help develop elementary education curriculum reform proposals.
- A resident located the legislative history of a Congressional bill that had a provision for testing the water quality of Crater Lake.

- A family consulted Forest Service maps to help plan a backpacking excursion.
- A businessman found the details of President Clinton's "American Heritage Rivers Initiative" and how the Willamette came to be nominated as one of the rivers.
- A student conducted research using Dept. of Energy technical reports on the environmental damage caused by the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

S. 2288 not only strengthens the Federal Depository Library Program, but also updates the Government's information dissemination activities to reflect the changes brought about by technology. The bill includes many of the features of Oregon's own successful legislation to reform the state documents depository program, such as:

- Expanding the definition of government publication to include all formats, including electronic.
- Strengthening agency notification requirements which will make publications in all formats from all three branches of government easier to identify and locate.
- Providing permanent public access provisions that will ensure continuous and permanent access to electronic government publications for future generations.
- Establishing enforcement mechanisms that close loopholes in the law which lead to *fugitive documents*. (Publications compiled at government expense but produced outside of the public domain and can only be accessed by paying fees)

It is imperative that S. 2288 be enacted before the end of the 105th Congress to ensure that government publications will not be lost. As long as the bill's provisions are not in effect, the citizens of Oregon will lose access to information they have paid for and have a right to have, not only today, but in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Please contact me if you would like additional information about the Federal Depository Library Program or the provisions of this bill.

Sincerely yours,
Arlene Weible
Incoming Chair, Documents Interest Group of Oregon

1998-99 DIGOR Officers

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Newsletter Co-Editors:
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Agency Profile

StreamNet Offers Data and Documents on Fish in the Pacific Northwest
By
Dena Hutto
Reed College
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What is StreamNet? I had discovered this web site at http://www.streamnet.org. It's full of data and educational information about fish and fisheries in the Northwest. But who sponsors StreamNet, and where does all of this data come from? As I scrolled through the site map, looking for a sponsoring agency, I saw references to agencies and tribal organizations all over the Pacific Northwest. Who on earth should I call for more information about this site? Then my eyes fell on the link for library -- and the contact information for Gretta Siegel, librarian. Aha! I was sure that a librarian would make clear to me both what StreamNet is and what it has to offer.

I paid a visit to Gretta and her library at the StreamNet Library. It's an inviting facility in Northeast Portland's Lloyd District, just inside the front door of the office building at 729 NE Oregon Street. Gretta explained that this office space is a part of the former home of the Cowboy Hall of Fame. It has been transformed into a beautiful library facility, with ample space and equipment for library users and approximately 8,500 documents and technical reports, journals and newsletters, and other media. The library facility is hosted by The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Commission, which is located in the same building.

StreamNet is a cooperative project of fish and wildlife agencies and tribal organizations in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. This project, formerly known as the Coordinated Information Systems Project, is managed by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. According to the StreamNet brochure, it "provides decision-makers and fish and

wildlife managers with essential baseline data to aid in their efforts to protect and restore the region's fish and wildlife resources." The project receives funding from the Bonneville Power Administration and is authorized under the Fish and Wildlife Program of the Northwest Power Planning Council.

Gretta explained that agencies affiliated with the project collect their own data, then deposit it with StreamNet according to the project's standards and protocol. In addition to data, each project participant is also required to submit source documents for the data. These source documents form the core of the StreamNet's library's collection. However, Gretta is very conscious of the library's role as the only fisheries collection in the Portland area. The library also features technical reports of the NOAA and Bonneville Power Administration, and historical documents, such as a nearly complete set of annual reports of the U.S. Commission on Fish and Fisheries dating from the 1880s. The collection also provides resources on the relationship between Native Americans, the environment, and U.S. policy and regulations. Gretta and her staff recently inherited the library collection of the Northwest Power Planning Council, which emphasizes problems of balancing hydropower with fish and wildlife needs. They are still working on integrating this collection into the StreamNet library.

Access to both the data and library collections of StreamNet is available through the StreamNet web site. Within the last year, new data, library, and map query forms have been added, enabling users to locate library holdings, download data sets, and even create "on the fly" fish distribution maps. The library is open to the public; advance appointments are recommended. For more information on StreamNet and its library, contact Gretta Siegel, Managing Librarian, at (503) 731-1304 or by e-mail at sieg@critfc.org.

Minutes of the last DIGOR Meeting
March 31, 1998
OLA Annual Conference
Eugene, Oregon

Submitted by:
Dena Hutto
DIGOR Secretary
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Present: Ted Smith, Carrie Ottow, Arlene Weible, Oren Ogle, Aryls Fons, Gwen Newborg, Tom Stave, Deborah Hollens, Dena Hutto

Preliminaries
Ted Smith, President, called to order at 5:15 PM, following the DIGOR/BIGOR joint program,

"Government Information for Business Users on the Internet." Minutes of the Winter 1998 meeting were approved as published in the DocumentOr.

Announcements
- Arlene Weible and Ted Smith will serve as co-editors of the DocumentOr beginning with the September 1998 issue.
- Arlene and Ted are also working together as co-editors of the OLA Quarterly special issue on government information, which will be published this summer.
- Cam MacIntosh of the Census Bureau's Seattle office will be doing two workshops on the 2000 Census in Oregon: one on May 4th at the Oregon State University, and another in late May at Southern Oregon University.
- Staff of the Documents and Microforms Dept. at the University of Oregon have just completed second edition of Local Area Data for Oregon: A Bibliography of Sources, which includes links to online information sources. It's on their library's web site at: http://libweb.uoregon.edu/govdocs/localdat.html

Business

DIGOR officers for 1998/99. Dena Hutto was elected by acclamation to serve as vice president/president elect. No nominees for the office of secretary were identified prior to the meeting. Members identified several people who might be interested in serving and agreed to allow Ted to appoint a new secretary by September. Arlene, as current vice president, will serve as president.

Special meeting on completing GPO's "Self-Study of a Depository Library." All U.S. depository libraries in Oregon received letters from GPO this spring directing them to complete the self-study by June 15th. Everyone agreed that a special meeting to discuss the self-study questions would be helpful. Arlene offered to host the meeting at Willamette. The date was set for Friday, May 1st, from 1-3 PM. Gwen Newborg, Arlene, and Dena will attend a workshop on this topic at the Depository Library Conference in April and will use this opportunity to share what they learn.

Fall meeting. There was an extended and lively discussion on the location and program for our next meeting. Deborah Hollens offered to host the meeting at Southern Oregon University in Ashland, and the group agreed on a date of Friday, September 18th. Tom Stave suggested a program on documents of Oregon tribal governments. Several members commented that the topic would reach a wider audience at the spring

meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the Oregon Library Association annual conference. No other ideas for the fall program were forthcoming, so it will be announced at a later date.

DIGOR web page. Arlene, the DIGOR webmaster, asked that everyone take a critical look at the DIGOR web page. She believes that its design and content are overdue for an update. Basic design, coordination with the OLA web site, outdated information, and depository contact information are some of the issues that need to be addressed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.