



DocumentOr

Web address: <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/govdocs/digor/documentor/>

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A Newsletter of the Documents Interest Group of Oregon

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Message from the Chair

Carrie Ottow
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As I write my first "letter from the chair" I look forward to an interesting year for DIGOR. First, I would like to thank Dena Hutto for all her hard work as chair of DIGOR for the last year, and congratulate her on her appointment to the Depository Library Council!

Well, life for Documents librarians continues to be challenging! By now you have all read Francis Buckley's letter to depository library directors outlining GPO's accelerated transition to a "primarily electronic" depository library program. Because of budget cuts, Buckley asserts that GPO cannot continue to distribute materials in dual formats. Following this letter, a draft Dissemination/Distribution Policy was issued on October 6th. Fortunately, this policy does include sensible exceptions: online materials which are incomplete, unofficial, difficult to use, or of significant reference value will continue to be disseminated in physical formats.

Despite these exceptions, the new policy raises a couple of concerns about access to and preservation of government information. First, the problems of identification and bibliographic control of online publications have yet to be resolved. Although GPO has made great strides in cataloging Internet publications, they are yet to systematically catalog all online publications. For example, online versions of thousands of congressional and GAO publications on GPO Access are not currently cataloged. Second, we all know web publications are often here today and gone tomorrow. GPO has not yet come up with a comprehensive plan to prevent web publications from disappearing or being compromised by hackers, let alone figured out how to archive them and assure that proprietary formats will not become obsolete.

The policy, though flawed, is a result of real budget difficulties for GPO. Our only hope for changing direction is to continue to make our feelings known to those who control the purse strings: Congress. We need to continue to stress the importance of the public's access to government information now and in the future. An electronic depository program may be inevitable, but it will be our job to make sure that it retains the fundamental tenets of the current program: free access, bibliographic control, and preservation of government information.

NEXT DIGOR BUSINESS MEETING

December 8, 2000

10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Business meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Afternoon Program: Demonstration & Discussion of
FindOr, the State of Oregon GILS
(followed by a tour of the new WOU library)

Western Oregon University Library
Monmouth, Oregon

Contact: Carrie Ottow (Carrie.Ottow@orst.edu) to
submit agenda items.

Fall Depository Library Council Meeting

By Dena Hutto, Reed College
(and new Council member)

Fall Depository Library Council Meeting

As most of you know, this was my first meeting as a member of the Depository Library Council. For me, the entire experience gave new meaning to the phrase, "trial by fire"! For a council member, the working sessions begin on the Sunday evening before the Depository Library Conference begins and continue from 8:30 AM and into the evening each day. Council's work culminates in the presentation of resolutions and commendations on the final afternoon of the conference. It's a grueling schedule, and tensions were especially high at this meeting. The Superintendent of Documents' letter to directors of federal depository libraries on August 25th stated that the Government Printing Office is accelerating its transition to electronic distribution of government information. While many of us in the depository library community have anticipated this transition since the early 1990s, I believe that the idea of an electronic program took on a new level of reality at this meeting. Most documents librarians are very concerned about whether the program, libraries, or their users are prepared to handle electronic government information. Nevertheless, it was clear to all of us at the meeting that there will be no more "business as usual" in the Federal Depository Library Program.

As is often the case, this particular stage of the transition was precipitated by a budget cut. Due to a reduction of \$2 million in its appropriation from Congress, GPO plans to cease distribution of tangible products that are available in an online electronic format. A draft policy statement distributed to the depository community via GOVDOC-L prior to the conference provided specific guidelines for how GPO staff will decide when a title can be distributed solely in an online format.

Council responded to this policy statement by approving the idea of electronic-only distribution for some government publications, particularly in light of GPO's reduced appropriation. However, many concerns were raised in our discussions:

- The guidelines state that GPO will move to electronic-only distribution only if the electronic version of each title is complete, reliable, and if not easy to use, at least not difficult to use. Does GPO

have the ability to reliably evaluate electronic products according to these criteria?

- The guidelines include an "essential titles" list of documents, which should continue to be distributed to libraries in paper format as long as they are published in paper. Council recommended that GPO seek additional input from the documents community before finalizing this list.
- Some Council members questioned exactly what is meant by "dissemination" of online government documents. It can be difficult to predict when a title will be included in GPO Access, indexed by locator services, or cataloged by the GPO cataloging branch.
- There was widespread concern about preservation and fugitive documents issues for online government documents.

At this meeting, Council drafted resolutions to address these concerns. Council is recommending that GPO accelerate its efforts to establish partnerships to ensure permanent public access to electronic titles. Another recommendation encourages GPO to establish a working group to track fugitive online publications at selected government web sites. On the cataloging front, Council requested that GPO publish its cataloging priorities for electronic government titles.

In addition to these specific recommendations, Council spent several hours discussing what an electronic Federal Depository Library Program should look like, what it would have to offer to member libraries, and how member libraries could continue to support GPO efforts. We intend to summarize these discussions in a letter to the Public Printer later this fall. However, I'm sure that there will be many more opportunities for input on the direction of the FDLP in the coming months. Please let me know of your comments and concerns on these important issues.



OrDoc Depository Conference

By
Jey Wann
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On October 13, the State Library hosted the Oregon Documents Depository Conference. Around 40 people, fairly evenly divided between depository library personnel and state agency personnel, attended.

The conference began with a welcome from Ernest Perez, Group Leader of the Government Resource and Electronic Services team at OSL. Then all the attendees introduced themselves, which was a great opportunity to put names to faces, or vice-versa, since many of us had only met by email previously.

Next on the agenda was an overview of the history of the OrDocs program. This set the stage for small-group brain-storming about the current status of the program and possibilities for the future.

We were happy to have the opportunity to present "Friends of OrDocs" awards to state agency staff who have made special contributions to the depository program in the past several years. The recipients were: Dagmar Grieve, Oregon State Police; Marlene Meissner, Lottery Commission; Barbara Slimak, Department of Education; Kathi Riddell, Employment Department; Harvey Cookson, Publishing and Distribution Services; and Teresa Trump, Governor's Natural Resources Office.

After lunch at Willamette University, where the conversation tended to stick to library-related topics (although certainly not exclusively!), the depository library folks re-convened in the afternoon for a "talk table" session. Attendees broke into small groups to discuss such topics as cataloging and authority control, publicizing OrDocs, depository program basics, and processing depository documents.

The final session was a review of the Core publications list, with suggestions for additions and deletions. Some attendees also toured the newly renovated State Library Building following the Core session.

The conference generated a lot of material, much of which is on the Conference section of the OrDocs web page at <http://www.osl.state.or.us/techserv/ordocs.html>.

A few things stood out from the conference, especially the need to continue to provide opportunities for depository and state agency folks to interact, and the need to provide increased communication about the depository program. We are considering making the OrDocs conference an annual event. In the meantime, we hope to set up a computer discussion list for all interested parties so that we can share information more broadly.

The OrDocs group (Dee Iltis, Vicki Howe, Karen Hartz and I) was obviously heavily involved in setting the conference up. However, many others from the GRES team assisted and deserve recognition: Merrialyce Blanchard, Deanne Gingerich, Evelyn Kimbrell, Craig Smith, Susan Westin, Deb Sparber, and Chris Adams.

DIGOR NEWS

Items of Note from Around the State

Ordocs Web Page: Besides the material from the OrDocs conference, there's another new feature on the OrDocs web page: the Quarterly Accessions List, which was formerly distributed in paper to depository libraries.

Federal Depository Library Conference: DIGOR was represented at the Federal Depository Library Conference held in October in Arlington, VA by Dena Hutto (Reed College), Judy Andrews (Portland State University), Gwen Newborg (retired), Arlene Weible (Washington State Library), and Ted Smith (University of Oregon).

Minutes

**DIGOR Business Meeting
September 15, 2000
Oregon Institute of Technology
Klamath Falls, Oregon**

**Submitted by Valery King
Digor Secretary**

Present:

Judy Andrews (PSU); Susanna Flodin (OIT); Deborah Hollens (SOU); Valery King (OSU); Carrie Ottow (OSU); Anne Richards (SOU); Ted Smith (UO); Tom Stave (UO)

Chair Carrie Ottow called the meeting to order at 11:06 am. There were two additions to the agenda under New Business.

Welcome and Announcements

- Susanna Flodin was thanked for hosting our meeting.
- We welcomed Anne Richards from Southern Oregon University.
- Deborah Hollens let us know of exciting things happening for documents at Southern: the documents collection will be featured prominently on the 1st floor of the planned new library, in a larger space.
- Tom Stave reports that the Map library at UO has moved into the Knight Library, forming a Documents Center. The Map/GIS librarian and one classified employee join existing staff.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting were approved without changes.

Reports

Membership and Budget (Dena via e-mail)

As of 6/30/00, DIGOR had an account balance of \$302.93. That reflects:

Expenses - Preconference expenses: \$606.49

Income - Preconference net profit: \$270.85

Membership fees/ renewals: 20 @ \$5.00 = \$100.00

Regional librarian's report

Judy has been our regional librarian for a year now. She reports that in that time we have lost one depository (UO Law Library). She discussed two national issues of concern. One was the NCLIS report on NTIS and electronic access, and the other was the letter Frances Buckley sent to depository library directors regarding the switch being made to electronic access to government publications and the decline in printing of tangible publications.

GODORT is concerned that not enough input has been solicited from working documents librarians for the NCLIS report. Their meetings have had input from administrators, NTIS and the Library of Congress, but librarians have not been asked to participate. The report is to be delivered to Congress by December 15. We would like to have a letter from DIGOR for Dena Hutto, a depository council member, to take to the October depository conference, highlighting one or two critical issues. There is also much concern over the letter Supt. of Documents Fran Buckley sent to library directors regarding the de-emphasis of tangible format publications in favor of electronic access. Much discussion ensued, with concerns raised about preservation of documents, ignoring the need to have decisions regarding format to be driven by the type of information (currently the only important criteria is cost), the (often false) perception that choosing electronic formats over paper or microfiche will be cheaper, and the fear of a lack of the type of staff and of the vision in

GPO to be successful in this endeavor. A committee was drafted, consisting of Carrie, Ted and Judy, to draft a letter on behalf of DIGOR to give to Dena to take to the depository meeting. The committee will also investigate the NCLIS web site for avenues of input there.

GODORT-ALA report

Carrie reports that GITCO is wrapping up its CD-ROM Documentation Project, the development of a web site with information on various CDs with links to help sheets, documentation, problems in mounting the CDs, etc. University of Iowa is hosting the site found at http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/govpubs/gitco_docs/gitco.html.

ORBIS GovDocs Task Force

This task force has now been made into a permanent committee, and is pursuing a project to retrocon federal documents in ORBIS libraries.

Old Business

Winter meeting location and program - Western Oregon University

Western is still willing to host this meeting, set for December 8. Carrie will contact them to confirm this date.

Bibliography on notable state and local documents

Little has happened with this proposed project. Jey Wann has suggested a survey of libraries to discover if there is sufficient interest in pursuing this. Carrie will talk to Craig about the possibilities—whether to redefine/redirect the project or drop it. More discussion planned for the next meeting.

DIGOR webpage move

Our web page has been kept at Willamette, but since Arlene Weible took a job in Washington it has been moved to the UO, where Ted is maintaining it. We have the option of moving it onto the OLA site, but there are difficulties with this, as they refuse to give us ftp access and insist that everything must be e-mailed to OLA's webmaster (a position currently unfilled). E-mailing is not feasible; there is too much currently on the DIGOR pages to do this. Several options were put forward:

- Put it on the OLA site. Advantages: it would be a permanent site. Disadvantages: access is only through their webmaster, and response to requests is not always timely.
- Leave it on the UO server. The advantage to this is that it is easy for Ted to maintain. Disadvantage: no stable URL; depends on webmaster working at UO and would need to be moved if that changes.
- Get our own domain name. Advantages are several: whatever server the site resides on, there will be a stable URL for it; there is prestige in having our own domain name. The major disadvantage is that it would cost approximately \$70/year to maintain the domain name.

For now, we will leave the page on the UO server, and the subject of getting our own domain name can be brought up again in the future for a vote of the membership.

New Business

DocumentOR distribution costs

Willamette University used to cover this when Arlene was the editor; however, University of Oregon is not prepared to do so. Ted's distribution expenses were approximately \$8 for the recent issue. DIGOR will reimburse Ted for this expense, which runs \$8-10 three times a year. Alternative distribution methods and funding was discussed, with electronic distribution or possibly making a .pdf file available on the web site. Some paper copies will always need to be printed, for members without Internet or e-mail access and for archival copies for our institutional members. We agreed to give the option of electronic or paper distribution to each member, and beginning with v.21 will distribute electronically.

Nominating committee

Current officers traditionally serve as the nominating committee for the annual meeting. We agreed to continue this tradition, and Carrie, Judy, Valery and Ted will nominate new officers.

Discard lists

Creating discard lists can be a great deal of work and paper. Alternatives were discussed. Judy's opinion as Regional director is that lists do not necessarily need to be item-by-item, it is okay to create a "general" list containing category descriptions and distribute via e-mail, such as which Congress, committee and/or agency, or "all A1.2 1975-85." Judy can then ask for items that Regional is missing. Detailed hearings lists are somewhat more important to many (such as UO), but anything that is on the superseded list does not need to be listed in detail.

Local communities information access

Portland State was recently contacted by the Association of Oregon Counties, and the University of Oregon by the Oregon Progress Board concerning access to local area governmental data. UO has already collected much local data onto a web site, but certainly more could be done in this direction with things like the Government Information Sharing Project at OSU, the State Data Center, etc. DIGOR members are urged to consider what resources we could contribute: what are the needs of your communities, what other stakeholders might there be in a project like this, what local organizations, collections in local public libraries, and local planning documents from city, county and regional government agencies can we identify, and what are

some ways of sharing these resources. The state of Minnesota is doing something similar to this now. Further exploration of this is indicated; major collaboration would be necessary; a central organization to oversee such a project would be essential (possibly ORBIS?); and LSTA funding might, in the future, be possible.

Program for Annual Conference

Program suggestions for the OLA annual conference in Seaside in April were to be discussed over lunch. Deadline for proposals is Sept.30.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 for lunch.

The afternoon program featured Brian Emmen, Senior GIS analyst for the Department of Natural Science at OIT. He discussed sharing of GIS information over the internet, and the Upper Klamath Basin project in particular.

2000-2001 DIGOR Officers

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