



DocumentOr

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A Newsletter of the Documents Interest Group of Oregon

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Message from the Chair

Susan Westin
DIGOR Chair
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Greetings from your new Digor chair. I am looking forward to a fun and interesting year leading this group. But the \$100,000 question, is where do we want to be led? At this time when budgets are short and resources are stretched, what new or existing projects or activities do we want to continue or start? What is the priority of the DIGOR group? I think that as a group we still can make an impact in the state concerning federal and state documents. So.....the topic on the table is where do we see DIGOR in the next 1-5 years. What is your vision of DIGOR? Put on your thinking caps, I am looking forward to a lively discussion at the Eugene on November 1.

NEXT DIGOR BUSINESS MEETING

Friday, November 1, 2002
10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Café Soriah
384 W. 13th Ave.
Eugene, OR

Business meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Afternoon program at 2:00 p.m.
attend 'Wanderlust Librarians' at Eugene Public Library
Sponsored by the International Relations Roundtable

Contact: Susan Westin (susan.b.westin@state.or.us)
to submit agenda items.

Craig Smith Retires

by Jey Wann

Information Specialist Craig Smith retired September 30, ending a State Library career of nearly 30 years.

Craig's tenure at OSL spanned a number of changes in technology, all of which he embraced whole-heartedly. As he is fond of saying, during his first few years, the most sophisticated piece of equipment at the library was an IBM Selectric typewriter. Then came searching online databases via a very slow, dial-up connection. Eventually the Internet arrived, and Craig was one of the first to begin designing web pages; this led to his motto of "Never met a link I didn't like."

During the beginning of his OSL career, Craig specialized in areas such as travel, technology, and auto repair. When the library's mission moved away from those public-library related areas, Craig turned his attention and energy to government information, particularly census information. He has produced a number of important products for state agency patrons, including the CensOr email list for people interested in census and demographic information. Craig's article "[Coming to Your Census: Making Sense of it All](#)" was published in the Summer 2002 issue of the *OLA Quarterly*.

In the past few years, Craig added Oregoniana to his list of specialties. In addition to doing research, he devised several projects that have digitized older Oregon items from OSL's collection so that they can be accessible via the Internet. Craig's presentation on "quick and dirty" digitization was very well received at the 2001 Oregon Documents Conference.

Craig has been very active in DIGOR over the years, including a term as vice-president in 1993 and president in 1994.

Co-workers and colleagues from around the state gathered to wish Craig a happy retirement at a reception on September 24. The presentations included several good-natured roasts about Craig's interest in such things as home-brewed beer, bocce, and Hawaiian shirts. Governor John Kitzhaber made a special presentation to Craig, praising him for the reference work he has done for the Governor's Office, and emphasizing the importance of State Library services to Oregon state government.

Craig plans an active retirement of travel, volunteer work in the community, and even a little volunteering in the Special Collections area at OSL.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Valery King is now serving as the Federal Depository coordinator/government information librarian at The Valley Library at Oregon State University. She replaces Carrie Ottow, who has accepted a position at the Corvallis/Benton County Public Library.

Government Information Sharing Project Website Becomes GovStats

The award-winning Government Information Sharing Project website at Oregon State University has been updated and reborn as GovStats. The look has been streamlined and the number of databases scaled down and reprogrammed to improve functionality. GovStats "went live" at <http://govstats.library.oregonstate.edu> on October 4.

The original site debuted in 1995, at a time when the primary format for government statistics was CD-ROM. Funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the website was developed to provide wider access to government data in an easy-to-use format. It has been very successful, used by people across the U.S. and around the world, and has earned significant recognition and positive feedback from site users and from the library community. The original website was "highly recommended" by the journal *Choice* in 2001 and since its inception has logged over 25 million visits.

However, in 2002 government information is much more widely available on the Internet than it was in 1995. Federal agencies have developed their own websites and online databases for distributing information. Much of the data originally included in the Government Information Sharing Project are now available elsewhere. Not wanting to duplicate the efforts of other agencies, OSU scaled down the project, retaining the four most-used databases that were unrepresented elsewhere on the web. These popular sources are USA Counties, the 1997 Census of Agriculture, which also includes data from 1987 and 1992, the U.S. Imports/Exports History (1994-1998) and the 1992 Economic Census. Links to the websites containing the data in the databases that were taken down are provided.

As time and resources allow, OSU would like to reprogram and once again provide web access to some databases that were removed but which are not available online. Those include the 1990 Equal Employment Opportunity File, the 1990 Earnings by Occupation and Education and the 1990 School District

Data Book Profiles. With the exception of the School District data, these are available on CD-ROM at federal depository libraries throughout the country, including OSU.

The Project Redesign team was headed by OSU Libraries' former Government Publications librarian Carrie Ottow, and consisted of library technology staff members John Abe, Mary Caughey, and Richard Griffin, along with librarians Valery King and Cheryl Middleton. Also invaluable in the completion of the project were student programmers Akiko Yoshida, Mason Koo and Nathan Bruner.

Minutes

**DIGOR Fall Meeting
October 29, 2001
Oregon Library Association Annual Meeting
Ashland, Oregon**

**Submitted by Laura Ayling
Digor Secretary**

Present:

Judy Andrews (PSU), Laura Ayling (Lewis & Clark), Jean Caspers (Linfield), Deb Hollens (SOU), Dena Hutto (Reed), Andrew Nicholson (UO), Anne Richards (SOU), Tom Stave (UO), Susan Westin (State Lib.), Kaiping Zhang (UO)

Welcome and Announcements

The meeting was called to order shortly after 10 a.m. by chair Judy Andrews. Introductions and individual reports were made.

Approval of Minutes

Approved with one correction. The name of the director of the Hamersly Library at Western Oregon State should be corrected to Gary Jensen, not Jackson as reported.

Reports

Depository Library Council Report - Dena

Barbara Lovergood, a spring appointee to the council, had to resign as she was moving to Germany with her husband. The Public Printer appointed Roberta Schaeffer, Executive director of SLA, to replace her. Also appointed was Barbara Ford, of Chicago Public Library. Recommendations about the image of the depository program were made during the meetings. Some libraries would like to join the depository program as virtual depositories. There is concern about having geographically separate access from GPO Access. There

is a very vocal group that would like to see GPO distribute electronic data directly. This issue is raised in the September issue of American Libraries. There is a working group that will be looking at the concept of doing this. Dena, as chair of the Cataloging & Locator Committee, would like to see GPO participate in cooperative cataloging.

Orbis Committee Report - Tom

Tom has not yet heard about the LSTA grant concerning local data for communities. Eventually with this project they want to have data come specifically from source. Also, they would like to use the Orbis Union Catalog to catalog the sources.

Preservation Committee - Susan

The State Library will be picking a pilot agency for this project. The agency chosen will help them send out initial report. They would like to have a representative of DIGOR on this committee. The DIGOR chair will designate the representative.

New Business

1. The winter meeting will concern the State Plan. It will be held February 22, 2002 at an as yet undetermined location.
2. Judy reminds us that the 2001 Biennial Survey starts Thursday Nov. 1 and goes to Friday, Nov. 30. It is required by law.
3. Judy will send a letter to the State Library thanking them for their efforts in cataloging old Oregon documents.

Meeting was adjourned at noon.

2002-2003 DIGOR Officers

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