

# Docs Prescriptions



The Newsletter of the Government Documents Round Table of Ohio

Issue 62

Fall 2005

## From the President

Joseph A. Salem, Jr.  
Kent State University

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It is my great pleasure and honor to serve as President of Ohio GODORT at such an exciting time. As an organization, we are rapidly approaching a milestone anniversary: 2006 will mark our 25<sup>th</sup> year as a venue for professional development, support, and friendship for government information librarians in Ohio. Like any milestone, our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary gives us an opportunity to pause and take stock of our work as an organization and as a profession. At our fall meeting, we will be assembling an ad hoc committee to plan the anniversary celebration. As President, I look forward to working with the committee and ask you to consider serving. It will give us all a good opportunity to look to our past and help us chart our path through the next twenty-five years and beyond.

As we consider Ohio GODORT's past, I would like to take an opportunity to thank our current Secretary/Treasurer, Jennifer McMullen, for her efforts to preserve the archives of the organization. As many of you know, the archives were lost for nearly six years and were rediscovered at Kent State last year. In the meantime, Jennifer recompiled an impressive archive of records and documents from the past twenty-five years. As a result of her indefatigable work, our present archive is more complete than ever, and is being digitized to preserve and increase access to our organizational history.

Of course, government information librarianship has a much longer history in the State of Ohio than Ohio GODORT. We will be celebrating a significant milestone in that history at the fall

meeting of Ohio GODORT on October 28<sup>th</sup> as we join Ohio Wesleyan University in celebrating its 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a depository library. To accommodate the anniversary celebration, we will be holding our business meeting in the morning. Program Chair/President Elect SaraJean Petite and Joy He from Ohio Wesleyan have put together an exciting program. Professor John Walters, author of *U.S. Government Publication: Ideological Development and Institutional Politics from the Founding to 1970*, will give the keynote address. Considering his research on the history of government publication, Professor Walters is a perfect choice to commemorate the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ohio's oldest depository library.

The fall meeting will not only allow us to look back, but to plan for our future as well. As we all know, our profession is in a period of significant transition, which can be especially frustrating when there seems to be nothing that we can do to help that transition along. Among all of the ideas that we have discussed as a profession, one that seems to receive much support is increasing electronic access to our legacy collections of government information. Considering all that is being done to digitize federal documents — including the Google initiative, GPO's plans, and a possible digitization project from the Association of Research Libraries — I would like to begin working with the Access to State Government Information and Publications Committee to devise a plan to coordinate a state-wide effort to digitize the documents of the State of Ohio and provide no-fee public access to the historical record of our state government.

I hope to see you all on October 28<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate the history of government information in Ohio with our colleagues at Ohio Wesleyan and continue to build our path into a thriving future.

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Documents Round Table of Ohio

Issue 62 • Fall 2005

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## From the Editors

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Does it seem to you as though we're in a state of perpetual transition, not always able to see over the hill just ahead? Given the nature of what we do, government information librarians and staff have long learned how to balance the need to preserve the past while looking ahead to future technologies and possibilities, and our Ohio colleagues have often been in the vanguard. And over the past few years, the GPO has set forth some exciting possibilities for depository libraries and non-depository libraries alike.

But we face other pressures, too, that can make dealing with these changes a little more difficult. Many libraries, public and academic alike, face ongoing budget crises that may mean extensive weeding of collections, cutting staff hours, or combining departments – none of which are inherently bad solutions and can offer exciting challenges, but they can make us wonder when the whirlwind of change will ever settle down.

If you look around the state, you'll see that many of our Ohio GODORT colleagues have met these challenges with their usual determination and foresight. John Graham reports that though budget cuts have necessitated combining departments at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, they have managed the merger "with no interruption of service." Martha Powers of Ohio Wesleyan University notes that their ongoing cataloging of older government publications continues, making many volumes from our state's oldest depository library available through OhioLINK. Audrey Hall from the State Library shares two new electronic services in her column in this issue, and Mary Prophet of Denison University announced at a consortial meeting that their digitization of War Relocation Authority documents is nearing completion, offering the rest of us an example for how to structure our own future digitization projects. A number of Ohio depositories have done some heavy weeding this year, making many older documents available to the rest of us for our collections. (And don't forget, folks, you can also offer your weeded documents to GPO for the National Collection, or sit tight on weeded

series to offer to the hurricane-damaged libraries on the Gulf Coast!)

There are many more examples throughout our state of government information staffs that are making the best of uncertain times. If you're facing big changes at your home library, don't forget that you can always call on your colleagues in Ohio GODORT, whether through our discussion list or by contacting individual members, for advice and support. Though our organization is coming up on its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, there are many more years of collective experience in our membership, and part of our reason for being together as an organization is to help one another. And if you have faced these challenges at your library and found ways to manage change effectively, well... have you considered writing an article for *Docs Prescriptions* to share your experiences with the rest of us? We'd love to hear about it!

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## Minutes

### Spring Meeting • May 6, 2005 State Library of Ohio

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#### Welcome from Chair

Thirty-four people remained after lunch for the business meeting, which Doreen Hockenberry convened at 1:05 PM. She thanked Audrey Hall, Nicole Merriman, and other State Library staff for arranging everything for the meeting. Doreen also thanked Joe Salem for his work in putting together a fine program, and final thanks went to George Barnum for his part in the morning's program.

#### Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Jennifer McMullen noted that the minutes from the fall meeting and the treasurer's report were tucked into the folders set out for attendees. A motion for the minutes to be approved was made by Mark Gooch and seconded by George Kline; minutes were approved by acclamation. The treasury stands at \$2663.61, though expenses for today's refreshments and award have yet to be deducted. Coleen Parmer moved to approve the treasurer's report, George seconded, and the motion carried by acclaim. Jennifer reminded the group that dues are due at this meeting; if you haven't already paid, please do so.

#### Report from State Library

Audrey shared portions of a letter from Judy Russell regarding our proposal for a GPO consultant: "current financial pressures" mean that program has been postponed, and only one (in Michigan) is being funded as pilot project. The Michigan coordinators indicated that we need a definite project for the consultant to do in order to improve our chances of success with the plan, so if you have ideas, please send them to Audrey.

In other news, Audrey briefly discussed their new flood map collection; they don't circulate but arrangements can be made, and you can stop by after the meeting to see them. Audrey has also been visiting libraries around the state, just to meet people and tell what SLO can do for you; don't panic, there's no inspection involved! Ohio House and Senate journals are now online, and the catalog record is updated, so you can discard paper if you link to the online version.

If you are interested in Ohio bill analysis on film from the 109th to the 119th General Assembly, they are available from MTC Document Management. There are a total of 45 rolls of film at \$25 per roll. Film for individual General Assemblies rather than the full amount can be purchased. Audrey agreed to send out contact information on email.

Finally, Audrey received an email from Barbara Kussow, our former regional librarian, on Monday. Barbara has been teaching part time at Academy of Court Reporting and enjoys the contact with students; she has also been writing short stories and poetry, with one story to be published soon.

#### Report from Executive Board

Executive Board met at the State Library on March 11 to discuss our ongoing work and to prepare for the spring meeting.

*Mentorship program:* Jennifer announced that the mentorship program was now up and running, with the first mentor/mentee pairing made and ready to start work. She noted that each mentorship pair works out their own goals and agenda, though Jennifer has asked them to provide a written report at the end of the first

year to assess the program. If you are interested in participating as a mentor or a mentee, please visit the mentorship web page.

*Clyde Award:* Doreen presented the Clyde Award to Karen Kimber in recognition of all her hard work for Ohio GODORT: as an officer, a committee member, and recently as newsletter editor. Doreen showed the addition to the Clyde Award (a wooden base with room to add more names) and gave Karen a smaller version of the bowl with a stuffed toy eagle. Karen spoke briefly on her start in government documents, and George Barnum added a few words about the inspiring example that Karen has been for him and for many other folks in our organization.

### **Reports from Committees**

*Membership:* Coleen thanked Lorna Newman and Jennifer McMullen for their help in compiling an e-mail directory of all depository staff in Ohio. From this list, Coleen was able to send out letters inviting everyone to attend our spring meeting, and she reported hearing back from some new people as well as welcoming new faces to today's gathering. The committee will continue to work to find new ways to draw people into our group.

*Access to State Government Information and Publications:* The committee members had no report, save that one more person is needed on this committee. Nicole Merriman added that the State Library continues to add state government publications to the digital archive (cataloging them as well), and she and other SLO staff will be attending a conference soon on the digital archiving of state government information.

*GODORT of Ohio Homepage:* Jennifer thanked Joe Salem for scanning a handful of meeting announcements and minutes to add to the web site; these have been linked on the meetings page, and they hope to fill in the rest of the gaps over time. Jennifer also pointed out a new page on the Clyde Award, giving information about why the award is given and a list of the recipients (including today's recipient).

*Newsletter:* Since John Graham and Sandy Duwel were unable to attend, Jennifer reported that the latest issue of the newsletter went out last month. She didn't have a total number of

copies sent, but she reported that since John was unable to get the total cost from his library's mail room before copies were sent out, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County would pick up the tab for this issue. Jennifer added that the committee was considering some new ideas for upcoming articles, so be prepared to be asked to contribute!

*State Plan Revision:* Mary Prophet noted that the constitution called for an annual review of the state plan, but given the current climate at the GPO and the uncertainty of upcoming changes, she thought it was premature to review the state plan yet. If you find anything that needs consideration, please let her know. Audrey added that at the recent depository conference, Judy Russell noted that with no inspections taking place, depositories should "fall back" on their state plan for guidance.

*Constitution Revision:* In Carol Singer's absence, Jennifer reported that while the changes proposed at the fall meeting were approved and incorporated, other minor issues have arisen that necessitate a more thorough review of the constitution. The committee will reconvene and hope to have a more complete report come fall.

*ALA-Ohio GODORT Liaison:* Joe gave a brief overview of GPO news from the ALA Midwinter conference, most of which has been discussed in greater depth on GovDoc-L. He noted that when the GPO first made their announcements at the meeting, the audience was surprisingly quiet (they may have been in shock?). Peter Thayer added that there hadn't been much additional discussion of the issues at the recent ACRL conference; Judy Russell's presentation there focused on GPO's strategic plan in general.

*Archives Liaison:* Jennifer reported that the old archives were unearthed at Kent State University, thanks to persistence on Joe's part and to the eagle eye of their archivist, Cara Gilgenbach. Jennifer has since worked those files into her existing collection and has organized the files enough to be able to deposit a large chunk of the archives at the State Library today, along with an index notebook that can be updated as files are added. Those files that have been left out for now await further organization, scanning, or final gaps to be filled. Peter noted that the initial effort to reorganize the "lost"

archives was spearheaded by Margie Powell, and he moved that the archives be named in her honor (motion seconded by Mary; carried by acclaim). (Margie later privately thanked the membership for the honor but recommended instead that a history of the archives be written in order to give credit to everyone who worked to compile the organization's archives over the years.)

*OhioLINK Liaison:* Karen pointed out that the big issue facing docs folks in OhioLINK right now is the debate over the Readex and the Lexis/Nexis versions of the digitized Serial Set. The Readex version is twice as expensive as Lexis/Nexis (\$2.6 million vs. \$1.3 million), but as Mary noted, the Readex version consistently returns more and better results in searches (though Coleen added that printing from Readex was more confusing). Please be sure to send your comments to your CIRM representatives so that our input is considered when they make a decision.

### Report from Federal Depository Conference

Doreen reported briefly on the Depository Library Council meeting in Albuquerque. She mentioned Free Government Information (freegovinfo.info) which posted a number of reports of their own from the conference as well as have links to supporting documents. (George Kline mentioned that a public library version was on urbanlibraries.org.) GPO held another "controlled session" with questions submitted on cards, but a large number of questions were not answered. Other information from GPO includes:

- SOD 71 has now been renamed ID 71.
- Tangible distribution will be continued for those items only produced or usable in tangible format.
- About 60% of depositories responded to the Essential Titles list, but no one is happy with results.
- Print on Demand is dead at this moment.

### Old Business

There was no old business to discuss (that had not been covered by committees).

### New Business

Coleen reported from the Nominating Committee that SaraJean Petite of CWRU Law agreed to stand as candidate for Program Chair. No nominations came from the floor, so SaraJean was elected by voice vote.

Mary noted that in 2009 Denison University, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, and Toledo-Lucas County Public Library will all have 125<sup>th</sup> anniversaries as depositories, so we need to think ahead for possible celebratory programs. Jennifer also noted that Ohio GODORT would have its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Fall 2006, and the Executive Board is already discussing plans for a special anniversary program.

Coleen tentatively offered to host the fall meeting at Bowling Green State University; she will get back to the officers on that. Jennifer noted that there may be some interest, at least from Indiana, for holding another joint meeting with other states' documents organizations.

### Adjourn

Doreen passed the gavel to Joe Salem, who adjourned the meeting at 2:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer McMullen  
Secretary/Treasurer

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## Treasurer's Report

As of October 1, 2005

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Beginning Balance (5/1/05)	\$2,663.61
Income: Dues	\$ 520.00
Interest	\$ 5.65
Expenses: Refreshments	\$ 122.77
Clyde Award	\$ 104.44
Ending Balance (10/1/05)	\$2,962.05

**\*\* Have you paid your dues yet? \*\***  
**\$20 for members, \$5 for MLS students**

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2005-2006, please give them to Jennifer McMullen at the fall meeting OR send them to her at:

Jennifer McMullen  
Government Information  
The College of Wooster  
Wooster, OH 44691

Checks should be made out to **GODORT of Ohio**. Your dues go toward our meetings (speakers' travel reimbursement, refreshments) and administrative expenses such as the publication of our newsletter.

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## News from the State Library

Audrey Hall  
State Library of Ohio

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The most recent microfiche collection acquired by the State Library of Ohio is Reports Required by Congress: CIS Guide to Executive Communication for 2001 and 2002. Each year Congress requires submission of thousands of reports prepared by executive and judicial branch officials and agencies. These reports, referred to collectively as Executive Communications (ECs), are required by statute to be sent to the Speaker of the House and/or the President of the Senate. After receipt, the reports are assigned sequential numbers, and a notice of transmittal is published in the Congressional Record. Most ECs are issued in limited numbers with narrow distribution making them difficult to locate.

In addition to a list of the documents, the printed guide contains indexes by subject and name, Executive Communication number and statutory authority. As funds are available, the State Library plans to expand this collection. There is a bibliographic record in the catalog for the collection.

LearningExpress Library provides online, interactive practice tests, career building tools, and writing aides. This two year pilot project is funded by the State Library and OPLIN. It is available to all Ohio residents through the state's public libraries, K-12 schools, colleges and community colleges, and adult education

centers. LearningExpress Library offers students and adults unlimited, 24/7 access to targeted skill-building interactive courses in math, reading, and writing, as well as hundreds of online interactive practice tests that prepare them for several types of exams including grade school achievement tests, the SAT, GED, U.S. Citizenship, and civil service positions.

Once patrons set up their accounts at an authenticating site, LearningExpress Library can be accessed from any web-enabled computer in the library, computer lab, office, or home. More information is linked on our front page at <http://winslo.state.oh.us>.

The Ohio eBook Project is a statewide project that allows libraries to provide digital books, including e-books and audio books, to library customers at a considerable savings. Patrons from member libraries can browse and search hundreds of great titles and download them to computers, transfer them to portable devices, or burn them onto CDs for reading and listening anywhere, anytime. The Ohio eBook Project is funded in part using LSTA funds awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to the State Library of Ohio. The commitment for participating libraries, information on the scope of the project and the shared catalog are available from a link on our front page.

As a cost-saving measure, the State Library of Ohio NEWS will not longer be printed for distribution to depository libraries. A pdf file of the NEWS will be available each month online. The pdf version of the September State Library NEWS can be found at: <http://winslo.state.oh.us/newsletter/sept05.pdf>

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## Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws

Carol A. Singer and Jennifer McMullen  
Bowling Green State University and College of Wooster

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The Constitution Review Committee has compared versions of the Ohio GODORT Constitution and discovered that the following changes have all been approved at previous meetings. Changes are in boldface type:

## ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

SECTION 2. The Executive Board (Formation date: 1981)

The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers, the Editor(s) of the Newsletter, the Government Information Consultant of the State Library of Ohio, and any Committee chairs necessary for the work of the Board.

*Note: This was made necessary by changing the editorship of the Newsletter to a shared position.*

## BYLAW 2. MEMBERSHIP DUES

SECTION 3. Dues for Ohio GODORT may be changed as needed and shall be determined by a **two-thirds vote** of the membership present at any meeting of Ohio GODORT and shall take effect at the next Spring meeting.

*Note: This change from a majority vote to a two-thirds vote was approved at a meeting on May 19, 2000.*

## BYLAW 6. COMMITTEES

### SECTION 2. STANDING COMMITTEES D. GODORT OF OHIO HOME PAGE COMMITTEE

*Note: The name of this committee was changed from the Ohio GODORT Electronic Communication Committee at a meeting on November 2, 2001.*

## BYLAW 7. THE CLYDE AWARD

SECTION 4. The permanent award will be an engraved pewter bowl with the name of the recipient added each time the award is given. This bowl **will be housed at the State Library of Ohio.**

*Note: The bowl was previously kept by the current recipient until the award was given again. This amendment was proposed May 3, 2002 and approved at a November 8, 2002 meeting.*

## BYLAW 9. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Honorary membership in Ohio GODORT may be bestowed upon an individual

as recognition of outstanding achievement(s) or service in the field of government information in Ohio or the nation.

SECTION 2. Honorary membership in Ohio GODORT shall consist of a lifetime subscription to the Ohio GODORT newsletter and a waiver of annual dues to the organization.

SECTION 3. Candidates for honorary membership may be proposed at any time to the Executive Board of Ohio GODORT by a member(s) of Ohio GODORT. The Executive Board shall consider each name and bring it to the membership for a vote. Honorary membership shall be conferred by a majority vote of those members present at the meeting and shall take effect immediately.

*Note: The bylaw was proposed at the Fall 1999 meeting, and the complete version of the bylaw was approved at the May 19, 2000 meeting.*

The updated version of the Constitution has replaced the older one online at <http://www.wooster.edu/library/gov/ohgodort/constitution.htm>.

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## News from GOVDOC-L

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“After several years, the successful partnership between the University of North Dakota's (UND) Chester Fritz Library and GPO for the support of the National Needs and Offers (N&O) List has ended. The success of this service would not have been accomplished without UND's dedication and commitment. GPO wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the contribution that UND has made through its N&O service. At this time, GPO will be providing this service as it currently exits while we continue to investigate other modes of making the N&O service available.

The National Needs and Offers List is a tool used by depository librarians for collection and development purposes, in which selective depositories seeking to dispose of publications withdrawn from their collections may place publications with other depositories.”  
[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/tools/needs\\_of/index.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/tools/needs_of/index.html). (Posted 7/25/05)

“As part of its ongoing planning efforts, GPO's Information Dissemination (Superintendent of Documents) organization has undertaken a review of the item number system used by libraries in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) to select tangible and electronic titles. As the number of electronic publications disseminated continues to grow, GPO raised questions about the continued utility of item numbers in its initial planning statement on the National Bibliography. In response to a request from the Depository Library Council, GPO conducted a review of the current item number system and examined possible alternatives.

“As a result of this review, GPO is releasing three briefing papers and soliciting comments from the depository library community. The deadline for comments is Monday, October 31, 2005.

“‘Depository Selection: History and Current Practice’ is provided as background information for the other two papers. It provides an overview of the item number process in its current form.

“‘Depository Selection Mechanisms: New Model for the Selection of Online Titles’ proposes new mechanisms for the selection of online titles.

“‘Depository Selection Mechanisms: New Model for the Selection of Tangible Publications’ proposes new mechanisms to support a more flexible model for selection and distribution of tangible publications.

“All three papers are available for review at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/selection/index.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/selection/index.html) along with links to related information. All comments should be directed to [jrussell@gpo.gov](mailto:jrussell@gpo.gov). The deadline for comments is Monday, October 31, 2005.”  
(Posted 9/22/05)

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## Clyde Award

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At the May 2005 meeting, Ohio GODORT presented the award “...for outstanding achievement(s) or service in the field of

government information in Ohio or the national document community” (the “Clyde” Award) to Karen Kimber, Social Sciences/Humanities Team Leader at the Dunbar Library of Wright State University.

Karen’s nomination letter spoke eloquently about her work as “a willing and effective worker in GODORT of Ohio for many years. She embodies the spirit of collaboration and collegiality that has been the driving force of the organization throughout its life.” Many members of our group can testify to Karen’s dedicated work as an officer and committee member, her long-standing run as editor of *Docs Prescriptions*, and her general support of all her fellow colleagues in the documents community.



Karen’s colleague Desiree Loewit, Copy Catalog and Receiving Coordinator at Wright State University Libraries, took this photo of Karen with then-Chair Doreen Hockenberry (Ohio University) and George Barnum (GPO) and shared it with us. The Clyde Award given to Karen included the traditional engraved pewter bowl as well as the toy bald eagle nesting in the bowl.

Congratulations, Karen, on your award. We all salute and thank you for your years of hard work and dedication to Ohio GODORT!

The Web page of the Government Documents Round Table of Ohio is online at:

<http://www.wooster.edu/library/gov/ohgodort/>

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## Beeghly Library Celebrates 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Federal Depository Library

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Ohio Wesleyan University

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The Ohio Wesleyan University's Beeghly Library is one of the oldest federal depositories in the country. It was designated in 1845, three years after the founding of the university. It maintains a rich historical collection of nineteenth and twentieth century documents. Beeghly Library receives publications from all three branches of the federal government with concentration in documents from the following agencies: Bureau of Census, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Congress, Education Department, Internal Revenue Service, Judiciary, and the U.S. Geological Survey. This reflects the university's strengths in economics, history, political science, education and geology. Our depository collections provide access to demographic, statistical and federal legislative and regulatory materials, including *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, *Census of Population*, *United States Code*, and *Code of Federal Regulations*.

In the *Official List of Depository Libraries* corrected to January 1, 1909, Hon. D. Duncan was listed as the person who designated us as a depository library. This D. Duncan is Daniel Duncan, who was born in Shippenburg, Pennsylvania in 1806 and moved to Newark, Ohio in 1828. He became a member of Ohio State House of Representatives in 1843, and served in the 30<sup>th</sup> Congress representing the 10<sup>th</sup> district, which covered Delaware, Franklin and Licking Counties. Carol Holliger, our Archivist, researched and found that Ohio Wesleyan University had a strong connection with Newark, Ohio, at least during its early days. In *Subscriptions for the Ohio Wesleyan University* taken by Uriah Heath, who became a financial agent for the university in 1843, there were a lot of items donated by people from Newark. For example, Hon. Daniel Duncan donated a pair of globes valued at \$20 to the university. It is probably this Newark connection with Ohio Wesleyan University that made Daniel Duncan designate us as a federal depository library.

A lot of our early documents were gifts. According to Irwin Maurine, author of *The History of the Ohio Wesleyan University Library 1844-1940*, in 1843, Rev. Uriah Heath and Frederick Merrick were appointed agents to "raise funds by sale of scholarship and from donations" (p. 22). Individuals donated books, and publishers gave magazines. "Various members of the United States Congress, upon application, likewise sent government documents" (p. 62).

I have been going through the Librarian's Reports that have been submitted to the President over the years. The library does not have a complete collection of these reports, and in the reports I have found, government documents were seldom mentioned. Below is what I have managed to find about what happened in the area of government documents in the past.

As early as 1915, there was some cataloging of government documents. According to the 1915-16 Librarian's Report, the cataloging work for 1915 "has been chiefly confined to the U.S. documents." Documents were kept together, and "classification adopted in the Office of the Superintendent of Documents and issued in the 'Checklist of U.S. Public Document, third edition' was followed." Only documents in most demand were catalogued, and they included publications of the Bureau of Education, Department of Commerce, Department of Labor, and Interstate Commerce Commission. The cataloging work of 1916 and 1917 was also confined to the government documents. The 1917 Librarian's Report states that "the classification of the United States Documents has been practically completed to the convenience and efficiency of the loan department. In the interest of immediate service the full cataloging of these documents has been deferred until other unclassified material is made available." At that time, only minimum cataloging of author and subject was done.

Maurine notes that the documents did not receive very good care during the 10 years before 1924. But when a Miss Semmons came to work for the library in 1924, things changed. In addition to developing the reference department, Miss Semmons began to "reorganize the arrangement of the departmental

set of documents and to place them on the shelves according to the Superintendent of Documents classification. A checklist for these documents was made, and the serial set was checked on the Document Indexes” (p. 197).

The documents were shelved in the basement of the Slocum Library, which served as the university library before Beeghly Library was built 1966. In the 1940 Librarian’s Report, the space problem in the Slocum Library was reported. In 1941, a new stack was installed in the basement to temporarily solve the space problem, and unused documents were moved to the basement of Sturges Hall.

There were efforts to keep statistics on the use of government documents. In 1953, control cards were used to keep track of the use of Government Documents. For example, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the 1953-1954 academic year, 22 departments used a total of 222 titles in 19 series with the heaviest use in the Education Department. The 1955-56 Librarian’s Report points out that government documents were used extensively by students, especially by History and Political Science majors.

There were efforts made by librarians to teach students how to use government documents. The 1963-64 Librarian’s Report noted that students needed a lot of help using the government documents due to “specialized guides, different numbering and shelving systems, and the often complex arrangement of the contents.” The Documents Librarian at that time did some library instruction and taught students from the Political Science Seminar how to use the documents, and had plans to do more.

The Serial Set was shelved in a different building over the years, making it hard to maintain and use, and the 1957-1958 Librarian’s Report indicates that the set was moved back to the main library during that year.

In 1966, Beeghly Library was built, and government documents, with other library materials, were moved to the new facility. But the move, according to Hilda Wick, who was the Documents Librarian from mid -1960s until her retirement in 1982, was a messy one. The movers would pile boxes of documents up on a truck like they were piling hay on a farm, and made a big mess when the boxes all fell out.

When I asked Hilda Wick what were the most heavily used documents during the 22 years she served as a documents librarian, she gave me the following list:

*Statistical Abstract of the United States*  
*Congressional Serial Set*  
*Congressional Hearings*  
*Census Bureau publications*  
*Labor Department publications*  
*Publications from Smithsonian*

These are the same publications that are used a lot nowadays!

The 1983-84 *Bijou*, the university’s yearbook, indicates that other things remain the same, too. One item from the list of “DON’T”s is:

“Don’t attempt to read every book in the library, you will find too many congressional records.”

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## Digitized Gov Docs from the Library of Congress ILL

Carol A. Singer  
Bowling Green State University

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The Interlibrary Loan Department of the Library of Congress has put up a web site that provides access to digitized documents that have been requested, but are too fragile to lend. Beginning in 2000, LC decided to scan in these uncopyrighted documents because they feared photocopying might cause them to deteriorate more rapidly. All documents are available as PDF files and each includes a link to the catalog record. The collection is on the Internet at: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/loan/illscanhome.html>.

This online collection includes a number of government documents. On September 7, 2005, the following government documents were online:

**Acts of Congress Relating to Steamboats.** United States. Laws, statutes, etc. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1867.

**Claims of Confederate Soldiers.** United States. Congress. House. Committee on invalid pensions. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1916.

**Claims of Delaware Indians ...** Delaware nation. [Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1910]

**Human Relations in Industry.** [by Whiting Williams. [Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1918]

**Procedure in "Section 6" and Other Chinese Immigration Matters for the Use of Consular Officers,** by John B. Sawyer. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1924.

**Report.,** by the American Samoan Commission. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1931.

**Report of the Select Committee on the Petitions for the Amendment or Repeal of the Free School Law. .** by the New York (State). Legislature. Assembly. Select Committee on the Petitions for the Amendment or Repeal of the Free School Law. [New York : s.n., 1850]

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## Public Documents and Patents Department Merges

John Graham  
Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

Due to budget cuts at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, the Main Library's Public Documents & Patents Department merged with the Government and Business Department effective July 1, 2005. All the GPO and Patent & Trademark Depository Library functions are now being performed in Government & Business Department, which has a staff of 16 terrific employees. We accomplished the merger with no interruption in service. Our new phone number is (513) 369-6932.



(Clip art from the Government Printing Office)

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## Technology Tips

Jennifer McMullen  
College of Wooster

Feeling blogged down? With the recent proliferation of weblogs, or *blogs*, especially in the field of libraries and especially government information, you might be feeling a little overwhelmed.

For example, the GPO has recently set up an RSS feed (Rich Site Summary or Really Simple Syndication) for FDLP Desktop News and Updates. What does this mean? Whenever GPO updates the FDLP Desktop with new information, you can have that information made available to you without having to visit their site. ([http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdldp/index.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdldp/index.html))

On top of that, you might want to keep up with what's been added to the Free Government Information site at <http://freegovinfo.info> to know what new topics have come up in the news related to government information. But maybe you don't have time to check the site every day and would rather just know when something new has been added.

I resisted setting up an RSS feed aggregator (or news-reader) on my browser for a while because I thought, oh sure, I'll be able to keep up with everything I've got bookmarked! Nope. There's too much good stuff out there, and only so much time in the workday to look at any of it.

Setting up that RSS feed aggregator takes very little time. First, check Google or Yahoo for possible aggregators or news-readers: Bloglines ([www.bloglines.com](http://www.bloglines.com)) is a big general favorite, though I decided to try using Firefox-compatible Sage (<http://sage.mozdev.org>) in my browser. Follow the installation instructions (it's easy!), and once you have the reader set up, you can visit all those blogs or other sites with XML/RSS feeds (look for the little orange rectangle that says XML), click on the button, copy the URL, and add it to your list. (I'm simplifying here, obviously, because the readers have their differences; but I hope you get the gist.)

Once you have your bookmarks added, it should be pretty easy for you to check the feeds

whenever YOU want and to have the new entries show up right in your browser window.

If you want more information on RSS feeds and how to get set up, you can start with the GPO's page at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/rss/> or talk to your local tech expert.

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## What's New on the Web

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Everywhere you look on the World Wide Web these days, there's something new and exciting pertaining to the world of government information. (And I'm not just talking about the aforementioned blogs!) More collections and documents are being digitized and made available to the general public, and the selection below is only a small fraction of what has been added to the Web over the summer.

First of all, who among us didn't feel a frisson of subversive pleasure when a pair of emails on GOVDOC-L announced not one but *two* web sites dedicated to making Congressional Research Service reports available – and searchable! Though it has been traditionally difficult to pry CRS reports from the hands of Congress, now you can find digitized copies of many reports (not all, yet!) both at the University of North Texas's Digital Library (<http://digital.library.unt.edu/govdocs/crs/>) and through the Center for Democracy and Technology (at <http://www.opencrs.com/>).

Other reference titles are starting to find their way to the web as well. Evergreen State University has had its digitized version of the *1909 Checklist* up for a while, and Carlos Diaz continues to add to it: <http://www.evergreen.edu/library/govdocs/tools/1909checklist/index.html>. Now you can also find *Popular Names of U. S. Government Reports* as an online searchable database through Indiana University: <http://www.indiana.edu/~librcsd/popname/index.html>

As the nation celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II this summer, we also celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons. Much has been made available online regarding the history of nuclear weapons, both the development and the use (or non-use) of the atomic bomb and later generations of weapons. The National Security

Archive has created two fine collections on the subject: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II (collecting primary sources at <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB162/index.htm>) and Secret Understandings on the Use of Nuclear Weapons, 1950-1974 (<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB159/index.htm>).

The Atomic Archive has an interesting site about "Broken Arrows: Nuclear Weapons Accidents" (<http://www.atomicarchive.com/Almanac/Brokenarrows.shtml>) which sheds some light on the darker side of testing weapons.

But my all-time favorite web site relating to nuclear weapons is the State Department's treasure: a complete QuickTime video of "Duck and Cover," the educational film featuring Bert the Turtle that showed 1950s schoolchildren what to do when there's an atomic blast. Gather your colleagues around for a special showing of this film classic, located online at <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0305/ijpe/duckncvr.htm> (and be prepared for full audio as well as video!).

If you're wondering how I've managed to stumble across so many gems online this summer, I have to confess that I did not actually spend all summer web-surfing. Instead, I've found that the "Odds and Ends" section of Red Tape, the official newsletter of GODORT of Michigan (at [http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/red\\_tape/index.htm](http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/red_tape/index.htm)), offers a bimonthly listing of some of the new sites mentioned on GOVDOC-L and elsewhere. Jon Harrison, Red Tape's editor, does a superb job of tracking down these sites and keeping the lists. He has also set up the Red Tape Blog to keep GODORT of Michigan members up-to-date on what's going on in documents news across the state and the country (at <http://blog.lib.msu.edu/redtape/>).



(Clip art from Microsoft Office)

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## Save Those Weeded Docs!

Cynthia Cort  
Denison University

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In view of the difficulties experienced at a number of depository libraries in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we in the CONSORT libraries (Denison University, Kenyon College, Ohio Wesleyan University, and the College of Wooster) are holding on to any large groups of documents which we would otherwise put on offers lists until we know if Tulane and other depositories will need these items to rebuild their collections. We encourage other FDLP participants to do the same.

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### SAVE THIS DATE!

*November 3, 2006  
State Library of Ohio  
Ohio GODORT's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
and Fall Meeting*

### Want a Mentor? Want to Be a Mentor?

Ohio GODORT has established a mentorship program for any interested documents librarians and staff members of Ohio GODORT. Whether you are new to government documents or just want to branch out and learn a new aspect of the field, the mentorship program is for you!

Find out more about the program at  
[http://www.wooster.edu/library/gov/ohgodort/  
mentorship.htm](http://www.wooster.edu/library/gov/ohgodort/mentorship.htm)



"Celebrating the Centennial of Flight"  
December 2003 display at the College of Wooster  
Photo by Jennifer McMullen

Got a display you're proud of? Want to show off your new documents work area? Have a book or article you've published lately?

### LET US KNOW!

Share your good news with the rest of your Ohio colleagues by sending your snippets of news or maybe even an article to your local *Docs Prescriptions* editors (Sandy, John, or Jennifer) and we'll make you famous!

We're always looking for contributors... and remember, if you don't come to us, we'll come to you! ☺

# Ohio GODORT Fall Meeting, October 28, 2005

## Ohio Wesleyan University, Beeghly Library, Bayley Room

### Agenda

GODORT of Ohio is pleased to celebrate the 160th anniversary of Ohio Wesleyan University's designation as a Federal Depository Library! We will have our business meeting in the morning and a special anniversary address by John Walters, Utah State University, in the afternoon.

<b>Preliminary Agenda</b>	
9:30 - 10:00	Registration and Refreshments
10:00 - 11:30	Business Meeting
11:30 - 1:00	Lunch in Great Teacher Room, Third Floor Tours of Beeghly Library
1:00 - 3:00	<b>Anniversary Celebration</b> 1:00 - 1:15 Welcome remarks by Theresa Byrd, CIO and Director of Libraries 1:15 - 1:30 Remarks by Congressman Tiberi 1:30 - 2:30 Keynote Speech by John Walters, Utah State University 2:30 - 3:00 Reception

Ohio Wesleyan University has graciously agreed to provide all refreshments for the meeting and the reception, as well as lunch. Please RSVP to Joy Gao at [yyhe@owu.edu](mailto:yyhe@owu.edu) or (740) 368-3238 by October 14 if you are planning to attend. And many thanks to Joy for making these arrangements for us all!

For Conference information, or to RSVP for the meeting, contact SaraJean Petite at [sarajeau.petite@case.edu](mailto:sarajeau.petite@case.edu) or (216) 368-6356.

### Directions

A campus map (PDF format) of Ohio Wesleyan University is available at [http://admission.owu.edu/owu\\_map.pdf](http://admission.owu.edu/owu_map.pdf). The map includes parking locations on campus.

Driving directions to the campus can also be found through OWU's Admissions site at <http://admission.owu.edu/drive.html>. The Bayley Room is located on the second floor of the Beeghly Library.

### Dining and Lodging

If you plan on arriving in Delaware the night before the meeting, you can find a [list of accommodations](#) through the OWU web site.

For those who are arriving early, you may want to consult an online list of local restaurants (<http://admission.owu.edu/rest.html>) for your dining options.