



From the Editor

Karen Kimber
Wright State University

The first thing I imagine you noticed about this issue is that the masthead has a new look. The beautiful new version of our logo was prepared by Patricia Beike, the owner of PB Graphics in North Jackson, Ohio.

My thanks go out to all the contributors to this issue of *Docs Prescriptions*. Carol Singer once again shares her knowledge and research with us in her article on the FBI's criminal justice statistics reporting. Sherry Engle provides an informative report on the APDU workshop she and several of our members were able to attend last fall. Nicole Merriman gives information about the new Joint Electronic Records Repository Initiative in Ohio. And if the name Merriman doesn't sound familiar to you, I'm sure you will all join me in congratulating Nicole Berendsen on her recent marriage!

I know everyone is looking forward to getting a tour of the new facilities of Government Documents at the State Library of Ohio. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there at the spring meeting on May 11.

State Library Move Completed

All of us who have moved a department or a library can empathize with the relief Barbara Kussow and the rest of the Documents staff must feel at having their big move over. The full address is: 274 East First Ave. Columbus, OH 43201. Their phone number remains the same: (614) 644-7051.

Around the State

At a workshop sponsored by the Collection Management Interest Group of the Academic Library Association of Ohio last spring, Coleen Parmer and Carol Singer (both of Bowling Green State University) gave a well-received presentation "Moving from Paper to Web: The Case of the Disappearing Documents."

On the publishing front, Carol Singer (besides writing for *Docs Prescriptions*) has published an article which will interest all of us: "Researching Recent U.S. Legislation Using Free Sites on the Internet." *Reference Services Quarterly*, 5 (2000): 31-47.

Docs Prescriptions
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Docs Prescriptions is available on the GODORT
of Ohio Web page at:

[http://www2.kenyon.edu/people/goochm/
godort/index.html](http://www2.kenyon.edu/people/goochm/godort/index.html)

Federal Depository Library Conference, Fall 2000

Karen Kimber
Wright State University

The Federal Depository Library Conference of fall 2000 was a brought together about six hundred people, and twenty-five of them were from Ohio. A majority of the Ohio librarians met for dinner on the Tuesday night of the conference, thanks to the organizing efforts of George Barnum (now the Electronic Collection Manager at GPO, but formerly at Case Western Reserve). Jan Jorgensen, now at Central Washington University but formerly at Wright State, was able to join us. It was also good to see Sherry Mosely, now at Florida International University but formerly at Youngstown State University, although she wasn't able to join us for dinner.

Many of us met new people at the conference. I enjoyed talking with Margaret Lane, who was one of the original Depository Library Council members when it was started in the early seventies. (I didn't feel it would be tactful to ask her how old she was, but she mentioned that she had retired at age 75.)

As one person said: "Where else can you go to get together with so many other people who share who share our passion?"

Although the conference took place at a time of great uncertainty in regard to GPO's funding and the fate of the depository program, I left with a feeling of optimism. It is inspiring to be among a large group of people who truly care about making government available to the citizens of our democracy. I can't help remaining optimistic that whatever the difficulties, we will fight on and continue to make progress in our mission.

Minutes

Fall Meeting • November 10, 2000 Dayton & Montgomery County Public Library

President Margie Powell called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A special word of thanks was extended to Nicole Eby for hosting the meeting, and to Heidi Good for her work with program arrangements. The Friends of the Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library were thanked for their generous underwriting of the lunch. A letter thanking the Friends will be sent by the Ohio GODORT secretary.

Minutes of the Spring 2000 meeting were read and approved.

Jan Schnall presented the treasurer's report. The balance is currently \$1,365.12.

Report on State Library move and the Regionals' Meeting at Council

Barbara Kussow distributed a Fact Sheet about the State Library's move, outlining the hours for the temporary closing. OhioLINK libraries will not be able to page books from the State Library during the temporary closing. Interlibrary loan activity will be suspended. Barbara will be available for assistance as much as possible, but cautioned that materials will be difficult to locate during the move.

Due to the move, the Offers Lists are a little backed up. Please be patient.

JERRI (Joint Electronic Records Repository Initiative) is awaiting funding in the amount of \$750,000. JERRI is a joint project of the Ohio Historical Society, Ohio Super Computing Center, Ohio Historical Society, The State Library, and the Ohio Department of Administrative Services. The purpose of JERRI is to assure long-term storage and access to electronic agency records and publications.

The Regional Depository meeting was held October 22, 2000, in Washington, DC. Highlights as reported by Barbara:

- Role of regionals in permanent retention:

Perhaps do an inventory of who has what. Suggested web sites for more information: <http://www.libofmich.lib.mi.us/services/regional.html> has all the State Plans. Also, see Oklahoma's site: <http://www.odl.state.ok.us/usinfo/uspecial.htm> Barbara would like to do a page similar to Oklahoma's.

Coleen Parmer (Bowling Green) suggested starting with a survey done several years ago by Mary Prophet. A committee composed of Karen Kimber (Wright State), Barbara Kussow (State Library) Mark Gooch (Kenyon College), and Sherry Engle (Ohio State) was formed to investigate the feasibility of such a site.

- In general, the regional role in the new depository environment would be more towards training and leadership.
- Tim Byrne's (University of Colorado - Boulder) proposal concerning the regional role generated considerable discussion.
- The proposal is on the web at <http://spot.colorado.edu/~byrnet/>

Membership

Coleen Parmer sent email to all depository libraries in Ohio inviting them to our meeting. Diane May finished a new Ohio GODORT brochure, which is now available on the web.

Newsletter

Karen Kimber reported a cost of \$58.13 for preparation of the last newsletter. Seventy-two copies were made; 66 were distributed to members. Karen thanked Carol Singer for her article reviewing the electronic transition of the Depository Program. The next newsletter is scheduled for January. Article contributions are always welcome. Share information concerning recent activities in your library; or useful web sites you have discovered.

ALA Affiliation

Mark Gooch (Kenyon College) reported that we are now officially ALA affiliated. ALA GODORT is drawing up a list of purposes for affiliates and is also trying to re-establish some sort of "instant contact" process.

OLD BUSINESS

Margie read a letter from George Barnum expressing his gratitude to Ohio GODORT for his honorary membership.

NEW BUSINESS

Archives

Jan Schnall updated the membership on the archival problem. It has been discovered that the archival material at Kent State Library School is no longer at Kent State. We will need to rebuild our collection. Jan will post a notice on our listserv indicating what we have in the secretary's archival collection. Hopefully, others will be able to supplement the collection.

Nominating Committee

Nicole Berendsen (State Library), Nicole Eby (Dayton Public) and Ruth Connell (John Carroll) have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. Nicole will serve as coordinator.

Reports from the Fall Depository Council/Conference

- **Peter Thayer** (Marietta College) provided perspectives from a first-time attendee.
- **Ellen Conrad** (Five Colleges) reported on the conference presentation concerning the retrospective cataloging project.
- **Jennifer McMullen** (Wooster) gave an update on a cataloging meeting.

Report from APDU (Association of Public Data Users) Conference

Sherry Engle noted this was much like an agency update session. The Bureau of Labor Statistics is going to launch a new page in mid November. Speakers from CDC, NCHS, and BEA were there

Spring Meeting May 2001

Possible meeting dates: May 11 or May 18.

- Invite Tom Sanville to speak. Meet at OhioLINK? Documents librarians are encouraged to provide feedback on OhioLINK issues.
- Contact Heidi Good (Univ. of Dayton) for other program ideas.

Barbara Kussow offered the use of the meeting room and training facility at the new State Library location.

Coleen Parmer suggested a joint state meeting with neighboring libraries to be held at Bowling Green for Fall 2001, featuring a speaker from GPO.

Once again, Nicole Eby and Heidi Good were complimented for all their efforts in planning and organizing the Fall 2000 meeting.

President Margie Powell adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Jan Schnall
Secretary/Treasurer
11/20/00

Geographic Imaging Projects

Many thanks go to our speakers at the fall 2000 meeting. John Millard, the Geographic Information Systems Librarian at Miami University, gave information about the Ohioview project, and Stu Davis discussed the Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program, where he works. If you missed the meeting, you can find out about Ohioview at <http://www.ohioview.org/>. The OGRIP home page is at <http://www.state.oh.us/ogrip/index.htm>. Stu Davis has also made his PowerPoint presentation for us available from the OGRIP Spotlight page: <http://www.state.oh.us/ogrip/spotlight.htm>. Just scroll down to "GODORT Presentation."

Best Wishes to Sheila McGarr

To documents people in Ohio, as well as around the rest of the country, the name Sheila McGarr is very familiar. Some of us first met her when she visited our depositories as an inspector from the Government Printing Office. In recent years she served as Chief of the Library Division at GPO. As many of you know, in December she left GPO after nineteen years to become the Director of the National Library of Education. During her years with GPO, we respected her for the knowledge and intelligence she brought to her many duties. We appreciated her good advice and her sense of humor. It is with particular poignancy that some of us look back on the pleasant time we had last fall in D.C. at the Federal Depository Conference, when she joined a large group of Ohio documents people for dinner. We have enjoyed knowing her and wish her all the best in her new position.

Five Colleges Retrospective Cataloging Project Revisted

It was last spring that we learned that the Five Colleges of Ohio Documents Group had been awarded the Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award by ALA GODORT for their retrospective cataloging project. At the ALA Annual Conference in July, many Ohioans were on hand for the formal presentation of the award in the impressive setting of the Harold Washington Library in Chicago. George Barnum (our old friend and Honorary Ohio GODORT member) presented the award to Ellen Conrad, the Project Coordinator, and other library staff from the College of Wooster, Denison University, Kenyon College, Oberlin College, and Ohio Wesleyan University.

Besides Ellen, staff who deserve our congratulations are Barbara Bell, (Wooster), Cynthia Cort (Denison), Beverly Gage (Denison), Joy He (Ohio Wesleyan), Tom Hinders (Oberlin), Jennifer McMullen (Wooster), Judy Orahoad (Ohio Wesleyan), Andrea Peakovic (Kenyon), Margie Powell (Wooster), Mary Prophet (Denison), Cecilia Robinson (Oberlin), and Donna Wilson (Kenyon).

In October, attendees at the Federal Depository Library Conference were able to hear details about the project when Ellen Conrad presented a paper on it. Mary Prophet had prepared PowerPoint slides and assisted Ellen in the presentation. Also in attendance were Margie Powell, Barbara Bell, and Jennifer McMullen, who helped answer questions from the audience, and there were plenty of those. The number of interested and enthusiastic questions was one indication of the success of the presentation. The most exciting result was that several participants from other states expressed an interest in initiating complementary projects for other SuDocs classes. So the Five Colleges' project is in the category of the best kind of enterprise: one that not only accomplishes something on its own but starts a widening

circle of progress. All of us in Ohio are very proud of our Five Colleges colleagues!

Ellen's paper is available in the conference proceedings at: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/proceedings/00pro6.html

JERRI

Nicole Merriman
State Library of Ohio

JERRI (Joint Electronic Records Repository Initiative) is a joint effort of the Ohio Historical Society, Ohio Supercomputer Center, Ohio Department of Administrative Services, and the State Library of Ohio. The goal of JERRI is to provide online access to current and archived Ohio records and publications.

As of today, the State of Ohio has not funded JERRI. The Ohio Historical Society has secured some funding from the National Historic Publications and Records Advisory Board, but this is dependent upon attaining state funding for the project as a whole. The general consensus is that the State of Ohio may fund JERRI in the next biennium with budget allocations to each of the four partners.

In the meantime, the State Library Board approved a \$58,000 personal service contract with the Ohio Supercomputer Center to begin a pilot project. This pilot, known as EP3 (Electronic Publications Pilot Project), will focus on State of Ohio web publications. EP3 is currently in the planning phases and involves staff from the State Library, an electronic archivist from the Historical Society, and a project manager from the Ohio Supercomputer Center. It is hoped that this pilot project will work out some of the kinks expected in the course of identifying, retrieving, and storing web publications.

For more information, please feel free to contact Nicole Merriman at the State Library at (800)686-1533 or nmerrima@sloma.state.oh.us.

APDU Workshop: Using Public Data in Libraries

Sherry Engle
The Ohio State University

The Association of Data Users (APDU) held a "Using Public Data in Libraries Workshop," in Arlington, Virginia on October 26, 2000. This workshop was aimed at both APDU members and the Depository Library Community. It was similar in style to Agency Update sessions held at Federal Depository Library Conferences with representatives from five government statistical agencies presenting information about their agencies' data resources.

Jocelyn Tipton, Government Documents Coordinator at Eastern Illinois University, opened the workshop with "Basic Data Concepts for Librarians." Tipton stated that in order to understand data, one must consider five factors – the population, sample, unit of analysis, time, and space. Population is the entire group of interest and the sample is the subset chosen to represent that population. Time is the frequency of the survey, whether the same questions are asked each time, and whether the same sample is queried or a new sample chosen. Space is the geographic level. Both time and space impact the unit of analysis, or what is being observed. Data is collected via surveys, administratively by agencies, and by direct observation. The way data is collected and the reasons for collecting the data impact the uses, quality, and focus of the data. Code books and data dictionaries are vital tools for working with data.

Cavan Capps, a computer specialist for the Census Bureau demonstrated a new version of the Data Ferret. He referred to it as "a Napster for Data." The Ferret provides access to databases from multiple government agencies. The old Ferret contained roughly 200,000 variables from 10 statistical agencies and provided simple cross-tabulations. The new Ferret will contain more than 500,000 variables. It will allow users to tabulate data form microdata sets including the Current Population Survey, American Housing Survey, various NCHS databases, and the American Community Survey. Macrodata sets (pre-tabulated data) also can be accessed. One of the features of the new

Ferret is a Hot Report Writer which will allow users to build web pages and reports by dragging and dropping live data graphics and tables.

Delores James and Tracy Jack, of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, provided an overview of six major BLS programs and surveys administered under them. They also demonstrated the new version of the BLS's web pages. This version provides more links on the homepage grouped under headings the average person will understand.

Mary Burgess, Center for Disease Control/National Center for Health Statistics discussed several NCHS surveys. She stated that the NCHS is moving to primarily electronic formats. Larry Moran, Kathy Albetski, and Jeff Low, Bureau of Economic Analysis provided an overview of their bureau's web pages. Samuel Peng, National Center for Education Statistics discussed NCES databases. He mentioned that NCES offers 3-4 day intensive training seminars on how to use its databases. This may be of interest to Graduate Students in Education fields.

Next year's workshop tentatively is scheduled for the Sunday before the Depository Library Conference.

Wright State Is New Patent and Trademark Depository

The Wright State University Libraries have become the eighty-eighth U.S. Patent and Trademark Depository Library in the United States. The opening was marked by a reception on January 31, at which Ronald Hack, Acting Chief Information Officer for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, was the featured speaker.

The University Libraries join five other PTDLS in Ohio: Akron-Summit County Public Library, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, the Cleveland Public Library, the Ohio State University, and the Toledo/Lucas County Public Library.

Ran Raider, the Patent and Trademark Specialist at Wright State, can be contacted at (937)775-2925 or ran.raider@wright.edu.

The FBI's Crime Statistics

Carol A. Singer

Bowling Green State University

In 1927, the International Association of Chiefs of Police established a Committee on Uniform Crime Records. This committee produced a system that defined crimes and crime reporting techniques. When the IACP asked the U.S. Justice Department to run the system, Congress mandated that the Uniform Crime Reports system be administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, possibly influenced by the fact that J. Edgar Hoover had been an advisor to the Committee. Then, as now, participation in the reporting system was voluntary for local and state law enforcement agencies. Because of this, data coverage was so inconsistent that the FBI didn't begin estimating national data until 1958.

Law enforcement agencies report summary data on crimes to the FBI for inclusion in the system. Initially, data were reported on murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft of \$50 and over, and motor vehicle theft. In 1979, arson was added by congressional mandate. Counts of arrests are reported for an additional twenty-one crimes. Because the system is voluntary, the FBI estimates data for law enforcement agencies that don't report their data or that report data too late for inclusion in the UCR report.

Only one crime is reported for each incident, by a hierarchy. If 18 people are robbed at a convenience store and one of them is killed, the UCR records only the homicide. The total value of everything that was stolen is also included in the value of goods stolen during robberies.

Over the years there have been many complaints about the accuracy of the statistics. Not all agencies have used the UCR definitions of crimes and there have been charges that some have deliberately reported inaccurate statistics. In fact, senior police administrators in New York, Philadelphia, and Boca Raton, Florida, have been forced to resign at least in part because of problems with their reporting of crime statistics.

In 1982, the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the FBI contracted for a study of the Uniform Crime Reports program. They wanted to design a new system that would be more comprehensive and take advantage of modern data processing technology. The result is the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The NIBRS collects individual records for each incident rather than aggregate data. Data are collected on forty-six offense types within twenty-two crime categories (Group A Offenses). For each crime, information on the incident, victim, offender, and person arrested is reported to the FBI, with more details than were possible in the UCR. Local police organizations then have access to their NIBRS database and can use it to help solve crimes or to see crime patterns more clearly.

Some of the definitions of crimes have been changed and additional crimes have been added. Forcible rape is now defined as a crime in which the victim can be male or female, as opposed to the UCR in which the victim could only be female. In addition to forcible rape, the Forcible Sex Offenses category includes three crimes not listed in the UCR, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and forcible fondling. A few of the other crimes included in the NIBRS that aren't listed in the UCR, are bribery, kidnapping/abduction, incest, impersonation, gambling, shoplifting, and weapon law violations.

A major change is that each crime in an incident is reported. The NIBRS report for the robbery of the convenience store would count the murder and 18 robberies. This concerns some law enforcement officials because the number of victimizations might be larger than the number of offenses. Some also worry that the transition from counting a multiple-offense crime once to counting it two or more times would make it appear that crime in their jurisdiction is rising.

As of September 27, 2000, eighteen state-level programs have been certified to send NIBRS data to the FBI. Within these states, 3,501 local law enforcement agencies, plus seven from other states, were reporting their data in the NIBRS format. In 1999, only 14 percent of the data reported to the FBI were part of the NIBRS system.

The FBI will continue to publish the Uniform Crime Reports until all data are submitted to the NIBRS system. Currently, the primary source of FBI crime statistics is still "Crime in the United States." The FBI summarizes the NIBRS data to conform to the UCR. In November 2000, the FBI issued "National Incident-Based Reporting System 1999," which is a sample of some of the data available from the NIBRS in 1999. However, this sample isn't linked from the Uniform Crime Reports home page. It was placed on the Internet by the Justice Research and Statistics Association.

Some of the subject reports which have been published using NIBRS data include: "Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident, and Offender Characteristics," "Characteristics of Crimes Against Juveniles," and "Kidnapping of Juveniles: Patterns From NIBRS."

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