

Docs Prescriptions



The Newsletter of the Government Documents Round Table of Ohio

Issue 54

Fall 2001

To the Members

Heidi Good, President
University of Dayton

This time of year finds many of us in the throes of research--usually assisting patrons with theirs. As both a reference and instruction librarian, I find myself exhorting students to read and evaluate what they have just pulled up on the computer screen. All too often I watch students click the Print button without taking the time to consider the utility or the veracity of the citation or document they've just opened. And just as bad, I see students ignoring potentially vital research information because they cannot access the material online.

The events of the past few weeks have left me more appreciative of that rapidly changing electronic environment in which documents librarians find themselves. As a rule, we know that online government material is valid and trustworthy. I was amazed and grateful for the web bibliographies that were disseminated so quickly after the September 11 events; having these pages on hand made creating our own local page much easier, and I know I can recommend those sources with confidence. Moreover, when a patron comes across an online document, especially one in our online catalog, I am happy that we are able to provide direct access to it. We all know that there is a certain "docs fear" associated with our collections and any

time that reluctance is overcome--regardless of the format--we know our patrons are better served for it. So, we quickly added the URL for the Afghanistan Country Study to our online catalog. And we located additional titles at the GAO and DTIC websites, thanks to postings from our colleagues.

Although we still face many technological uncertainties and funding challenges, government publications still remain an important and viable part of any library collection. Especially now, they are more relevant than ever in whatever form they take.

I hope that many of you will be able to make the fall meeting, which will be November 2 at Bowling Green University. We will be hearing from Cynthia Etkin about how GPO inspectors view collection development in the electronic environment, and we will also have a panel discussion about our own efforts to manage electronic information. Given the ever-changing nature of everything electronic, I am sure the morning program will be lively and informative. As usual, our business meeting will be held in the afternoon.

This meeting promises to be fairly exciting in another respect, as it will be a cooperative tri-state effort with Ohio GODORT, Michigan GODORT and INDIGO from Indiana. As a relative newcomer to the Ohio documents group (does three years still count as new?), I have yet to participate in

this kind of endeavor. According to my *Docs Prescriptions* archives, the last time these groups met was nine long years ago. In any case, it was about time to organize another one. My thanks in advance to Sherry Engle and Coleen Parmer for leading the Ohio effort to make this meeting possible. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

From the Editor

Karen Kimber
Wright State University

These last few months have been painful ones. The terrible events of September 11 and their aftermath continue to reverberate through our lives. However, we must forge ahead with our duties. We will continue to play our part in contributing to that fundamental building block of democracy, an informed citizenry.

An event of less global impact, but no less important to those of us who knew her, was the death of our dear friend and colleague Karen Kottsy on August 29. Several Ohio documents people attended her funeral (including some people who had to travel long distances across the state), and a beautiful flower arrangement was sent from GPO's Federal Depository Library Program. George Barnum has written a moving tribute to Karen which appears elsewhere in this issue.

A fund at the University of Cincinnati has been established to honor Karen's memory, and a contribution will be sent from Ohio GODORT after our November meeting. If anyone wants to send an individual contribution, the address is: Karen Kruger Kottsy Memorial Book Fund, Langsam Library, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221.

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The Web page of the Government Documents
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<http://www.maag.ysu.edu/ohgodort/>

Remembering Karen Kottsy

George Barnum
U.S. Government Printing Office

It's a sad day, indeed, when a group of friends sustains a loss of the kind that GODORT/Ohio did on August 29. Karen Kottsy was, for this organization and for many of us as individuals, a good and true friend of the kind that we seem only to have a few of in a given lifetime.

A glowing obituary in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* tells us things that Karen's colleagues already knew: that her enthusiasm for research made her an outstanding librarian; that her passion for librarianship, and for our particular corner of that game, was nearly boundless; that among her keys to success were good humor and idealism, tempered with a good dash of wry skepticism.

My own recollections of Karen begin with that infectious good humor, and extend to the care she took to see me included in things when I was first part of GODORT/Ohio, the care that she took over any task that ever came her way from GODORT/Ohio, and the care that she, along with several others, took when I was faced with taking over for George Kosman at Case Western Reserve after his sudden death in 1989.

Karen cared deeply about GODORT/Ohio, and about its individual members. She and others in the group taught me, by shining example, how important and how vibrant a group of professional colleagues can be. GODORT/Ohio can be extremely proud of the standard it sets for professional cooperation, and I have observed over the years that the reason for that success at a professional level is the abiding care that the members have for one another personally.

I'm convinced that the pattern for that was set from the very earliest meetings of the group by the people who started the group, including Karen.

So many things make me smile when I remember Karen Kottsy: Stories that she and George Kosman told on one another about who was the more avid in pursuit of dessert. Her busy hands doing needlework during Depository Library Council meetings. Sharing frustrated amusement through the many chapters of implementing OhioLINK and making documents a meaningful part of it all, in particular the early work with AutoGraphics. Her long editorship of *Docs Prescriptions*. Her delight when she received the "Clyde." Karen, Margie Powell, Mary Prophet and others gathering around me at George Kosman's memorial service. Seeing her last fall, along with other Ohio friends, at the FDL Conference meeting.

The headline of the obituary in the *Enquirer* reads, "Karen Ruth Kruger Kottsy built UC library collection." She'd be very proud of that headline. Karen was a builder for us in GODORT/Ohio too. She helped build the strong and vital organization we share, and she helped build the sturdy foundation of concern that it rests on. I know I'm not alone in the certainty that she already is and will be missed, terribly.

And I feel that it's absolutely incumbent on me to do for Karen something that she did in George Kosman's memory. I hope all of you who are able will join me on the Tuesday evening of the Depository Library Council/Federal Depository Library Conference (October 16) for an event in Karen's memory. We'll go out for our usual "Ohio gang" dinner, and be sure that we locate the messiest, most decadent chocolate desserts we can find, so that we can raise a spoon to our friend. I'm assured by her assistant of many years, Kathy Kinsey, that Karen would approve.

Minutes

Spring Meeting • May 11, 2001
State Library of Ohio

The Spring 2001 meeting at the State Library in Columbus was well attended. The morning program consisted of a Census 2000 training session conducted by Barry Bennett of the Ohio Office of Strategic Planning and a guided tour through the State Library's new facility. A catered lunch at the Library followed the morning program.

Program Chair/President Elect Heidi Good called the business meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

A special word of thanks was extended to Barbara Kussow and the State Library for hosting the meeting.

Minutes of the Fall 2000 meeting were read and approved.

Jan Schnall presented the treasurer's report. The balance is currently \$1,442.82.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee chairs had been contacted and only two had news to report.

Newsletter

Karen Kimber (Wright State) distributed a total of 89 copies of the spring newsletter--69 to members and 20 to depository libraries throughout the state. Karen is converting the newsletter mailing file to the Access database. Members are encouraged to contribute articles to *Docs Prescriptions*.

Nominating

Nicole Merriman (State Library), Nicole Eby (Dayton Public), and Ruth Connell (John Carroll) served on this year's Nominating Committee. Sherry Engle (Ohio State) was nominated for Program

Chair/President Elect. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. Sherry was unanimously elected to serve as Program Chair/President Elect.

NEW BUSINESS

State Library Issues

Barbara Kussow distributed copies of Chapter 9, "Publication Disposal Process" (Regional Services), from *INSTRUCTIONS TO DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES* and encouraged everyone to review the discard process and offer comments as to streamlining and/or revising.

Barbara showed the Department of Development's County Block Maps and informed the group that the State Library will receive maps for all Ohio counties.

The Collection Development group will meet before fall and try to work through a collection development plan to be incorporated into the State Plan.

Barbara will post ideas to the listserv.

GPO Inspection Visits

Peter Thayer (Marietta) and Doreen Hockenberry (Ohio University) reported on their recent GPO inspections as being overall positive experiences.

Depository Library Council

Barbara Bell (Wooster) attended the Depository Council meeting in San Antonio. Many issues were addressed, such as the GAO report issued concerning GPO, NCLIS Report, staffing and budget issues for GPO, and expansion of the list of titles to be retained in paper.

The Summary of Population and Housing, Social and Economic Characteristics, and Unit Counts for the 2000 Census will be printed.

Barbara also noted that this was the first Council meeting without Sheila McGarr in attendance.

Fall Meeting 2001

Plans are underway to organize a tri-state meeting with Indiana and Michigan. Coleen Parmer indicated that Bowling Green State University is willing to host the meeting. Possible dates are November 2nd or 9th.

An ad hoc program committee was formed with the following volunteers: Sherry Engle (OSU), Barbara Kussow (State Library), Barbara Bell (Wooster), Joe Salem (Kent), Ruth Connell (John Carroll), Carol Singer (BGSU), and Coleen Parmer (BGSU).

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by Jan Schnall, Secretary

Web Site and Listserv Changes

Many of you probably know that our longtime webmaster Mark Gooch has moved to a new position (as Technical Services Librarian at the College of Wooster) and has therefore turned over the control of our web site and listserv to others. Thank you, Mark, for all the work you have done for us!

If you haven't bookmarked the new address of the Ohio GODORT web site go to: <http://www.maag.ysu.edu/ohgodort/>
Thanks go to Jan Schnall for taking on this responsibility.

Thanks also go to Barbara Kussow for taking over the listserv, which has been moved to the State Library's server. Directions for subscribing are below. If you have questions or problems, you can contact Barbara at BARBARAK@sloma.state.oh.us

1. Send email to:
ohiogovdoc-request@winslo.state.oh.us
2. Put this text in the message:
subscribe [your email address]

3. When you receive a "confirmation for subscribe ohiogovdoc" message, you must send the command line in that message to:
majordomo@winslo.state.oh.us
4. You will a confirmation message "Welcome to the ohiogovdoc mailing list!"

Around the State

Jean Sears (Miami University) and her coauthor Marilyn Moody have done it again! The third edition of their indispensable reference book is out, with a slightly changed subtitle to reflect current emphasis in government information:

Jean L. Sears and Marilyn K. Moody. *Using Government Information Sources: Electronic and Print.* Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 2001

Retirement is the new adventure for some of our longtime Ohio GODORT members. Margie Powell (our immediate outgoing president) retired from the College of Wooster, and Judy Daso from Ohio University. We will miss them both but hope they enjoy their new opportunities to the fullest.

Dues Reminder

Just a reminder that membership renewals are due in May of each year. If you haven't renewed yet, please help keep our organization running by sending your dues of \$20.00 to our treasurer, Jan Schnall. Her address is on page 2 of this issue.

If you can't remember if you've paid, look at the membership list on the Ohio GODORT web page at: <http://www.maag.ysu.edu/ohgodort/members.html> Members who have joined for the 2001-02 fiscal year are designated by **. You can also contact Jan at jwschnal@cc.ysu.edu with any questions.

The Government Documents Round Table of Ohio Officers and Newsletter Editors 1984-2001

Compiled by Karen Kimber

Thinking about Karen Kottsy and her contributions as editor of *Docs Prescriptions* inspired me to go back through my old issues and review the history of Ohio GODORT as reflected in its officers and editors. (One more tribute to Karen: as I looked through the old issues, I was impressed all over again with how much information she packed into each issue she edited and how frequently she produced them!)

I had been thinking for some time that this compilation would be useful to do, especially for those who serve on the nominating committee and are always trying to remember who has already served.

You will notice that there are gaps in some of the early information. If anyone can help me fill those in, please let me know. You can contact me at karen.kimber@wright.edu.

Date	President	Program Chair/ Pres. Elect	Secretary/ Treasurer	Docs Rx Editor
1984-85	George Kline	?	?	George Kline
1985-86	Jean Sears	?	?	"
1986-87	?	Clara Smith	Coleen Parmer	"
1987-88	Mary Prophet	Carol Singer	"	Karen Kottsy
1988-89	Carol Singer	Graham Walden	Nani Ball	"
1989-90	Graham Walden	Liese Adams/ Coleen Parmer	"	"
1990-91	Coleen Parmer	Jeff Wanser	"	"
1991-92	Jeff Wanser	George Barnum	"	"
1992-93	George Barnum	Karen Kimber	Lynn Lenart	Melanie Putnam
1993-94	Karen Kimber	Cheryl Paine	"	"
1994-95	Cheryl Paine	Nani Ball	Megan Mitchell	"
1995-96	Nani Ball	Andrea Peakovic	"	George Barnum
1996-97	Andrea Peakovic	Megan Mitchell	Mae Schreiber	"
1997-98	Kathy Webb	None (K. Webb became pres.)	"	"
1998-99	Barbara Bell	Mark Gooch	Nicole Eby	Karen Kimber
1999-2000	Mark Gooch	Margaret Powell	"	"
2000-01	Margaret Powell	Heidi Good	Jan Schnall	"
2001-02	Heidi Good	Sherry Engle	"	"