

Docs Prescriptions



The Newsletter of the Government Documents Round Table of Ohio

Issue 55

Spring 2002

To the Members

Heidi Good, President
University of Dayton

Just as we finish saying “farewell” to winter and “hello” to the next season, this spring meeting will also mark a number of farewells and new beginnings.

Since the last spring meeting, we saw the retirements of several active documents librarians in the state: Judy Daso, Margie Powell and Barbara Kussow. As noted in the last newsletter, Judy Daso retired from Ohio University and Margie Powell retired from the College of Wooster. Their tenure in and contributions to the field of documents librarianship is worth observing again.

Most recently, Barbara Kussow left her position as the Government Information Consultant at the State Library. I think the many emails on the day of her retirement were a wonderful testament to her leadership and tireless patience and to the respect she inspired by being just an all-round great person. Barbara’s accomplishments included automating the Needs & Offers lists and procuring Census tract maps for the depositories. Coleen Parmer spoke for all of us when she wrote, “We in Ohio are going to miss you Barbara. It has been wonderful having a friend in the State Library—a true friend for all of us docs folks! You brought fresh ideas, energy, and commitment to the depository program. Ohio GODORT has benefited so much from your leadership.”

After the May meeting I will be stepping down as President, and Sherry Engle, our current Program Chair, will become the new President of Ohio GODORT. This past year Sherry worked with the Indiana and Michigan documents groups to organize a tri-state fall meeting and program at Bowling Green State University. I look forward to the program she has organized for the spring meeting, which strikes me as very timely and relevant. Dr. Rosemary

Gleim, Director of The Ohio State University Extension Office Data Center will discuss County Profiles; and Ms. Jocelyn Tipton, Government Documents Coordinator at Eastern Illinois University Library, will present basic data concepts for librarians. I am a statistics-shy person, so this kind of program is just what I need. Look for me in the front row—I will be the one busily scribbling notes.

Also stepping down is our current Secretary/Treasurer, Jan Schnall. I would like to thank Jan for all the assistance she has given me personally as well as for her contributions to the group. Jan’s contributions included rebuilding our archives collection, securing our new logo, and taking on responsibility for our web site, in addition to the regular duties of compiling meeting minutes and maintaining the group’s finances. Thanks for all your help, Jan!

One constant amid all this change is Karen Kimber, who will continue as editor of our newsletter, *Docs Prescriptions*. In the spirit of “new beginnings,” however, Karen welcomes anyone to join the Newsletter Committee.

And if work on the Newsletter Committee does not necessarily play to your talents, there are other opportunities in Ohio GODORT to showcase your abilities. Members are also needed for many of the other standing committees. These committees are a wonderful way to network with other librarians and to make a change. Please consider joining a committee if you are not already a member of one.

This year’s Nominating Committee—Karen Kimber, Carol Singer and Barbara Kussow—has put together a great slate of candidates for the upcoming year, so come to the meeting prepared to vote. (In the interest of fairness and clarity, we will not be using the butterfly ballot, just a single sheet of paper.) I look forward to a new “administration” and wish them well.

And finally, on a minor farewell note, I will be saying goodbye in July to my last name. When we

meet again in the fall, you will know me as Heidi Gauder. Until then, I hope to see as many of you as possible at the spring meeting on May 3 at the State Library of Ohio.

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

<http://www.maag.yzu.edu/ohgodort/>

Barbara Kussow Retires from the State Library

Nicole Merriman
State Library of Ohio

Barbara Kussow was the Government Information Services Consultant at the State Library of Ohio from 1998 through February 2002. She completed her M.L.S. through the Kent State University program in Columbus. Her career spanned teaching in junior high and high school and at Columbus State Community College. She was a reference librarian at Westerville Public Library for five years before starting at the State Library of Ohio in the Government Documents department, when Clyde Hordusky was the Head of Documents. She was promoted to Government Information Services Consultant, reflecting the name change of the department from Government Documents to its present name.

The Consultant job was a new position for the State Library, and Barbara set about to define the role that the State Library plays as the Regional Depository of documents for Ohio. While the job had many duties, Barbara most enjoyed working with librarians around the state. She thinks that the future will be an interesting and exciting time for government documents, especially with the recent publicity surrounding the restriction of government information on the web.

As for Barbara's future plans, she is enjoying both her grandson and mother, with the opportunity to see four generations of her family spend time together. She is getting some projects done around the house, but plans fun outings in the future. Currently, she is taking courses to get a certificate in medical coding and plans to work part time in the future.

Back at the State Library, Audrey Hall and I will miss Barbara's expertise and humor. She was always willing to help out with research requests, and felt that working at the public service desk kept her "grounded" to the everyday aspects of government information.

Mary Prophet Appointed to Depository Library Council

In March it was announced that Public Printer Michael DiMario has appointed Mary Prophet to serve on the Depository Library Council. She is one of five new appointees and will serve for three years. All her colleagues in Ohio know of her keen intelligence and her dedication to documents, and we are delighted that she will be participating in this important advisory function.

Karen Kottsy Memorial

Jan Schnall, Secretary/Treasurer, reports that the following letter was received from Cheryl Albrecht, Head of Information Services Division at the University of Cincinnati, in response to Ohio GODORT's donation to the Karen Kottsy Memorial Book Fund:

Thank you for your recent donation to the Karen Kottsy Memorial Book Fund. Your monetary donation has made it possible for University Libraries to have lasting memories of Karen. With these funds, University Libraries will purchase several books in the areas of Government Documents and Genealogy. These subject areas were of great interest to Karen. Once these books arrive, they will have a specialized bookplate inserted. This endeavor will serve as a lasting tribute to Karen's many years of dedicated service.

Documents Librarians and the OhioLINK Reference Chat Service

Carol A. Singer
Bowling Green State University

In August, 2002, OhioLINK plans to begin a statewide reference service using online chat as a means of communication between librarians and library users. What part, if any, should government documents librarians play in this new service?

The service will use the Groopz software, designed by Digi-Net Technologies Inc. This type of software, called web contact center software, allows the library user to ask a question over the Internet and have it answered in real time by a librarian. The librarian can push web pages to the library user and can walk the questioner through a database or Internet search.

During the hours the OhioLINK service is open, there will initially be two queues staffed. That is, there will be two operators (librarians or trained library staff members) on duty to take questions. These operators may be able to interact with more than one questioner at a time, although it takes experience to handle even two questions at once.

OhioLINK has purchased more than these two queues, both to allow for expansion as the service becomes busier and to allow for subject-specific queues. Some of the initial suggestions for subject-specific queues are science/engineering, music, medicine, or law. However, government documents librarians in Ohio could choose to set up a government documents queue. A person who asked a question might choose to send that question to the government documents queue or they might send their question to a general queue and later be transferred to the government documents queue if the librarian who was answering the question thought it was appropriate.

If documents librarians want to offer this service, what would they would need to do? They would have to do all of the organization of their own queue. They would set the hours the queue would be staffed and make the staffing schedule. This project is being planned by the Web-Based Reference Subcommittee of OhioLINK's User Services Committee, and the subcommittee already has it's hands full planning and implementing the general queues. Documents librarians would not have to provide the training for the operations because OhioLINK will offer training to librarians who plan to be operators for the chat reference service, using the same type of regional training model that has been used for Dataware training.

If government documents librarians do not want to have a separate subject-specific queue for government documents, individual government documents librarians could also be operators on one of the general OhioLINK queues, but would have to be prepared to answer any type of reference question.

What issues should Ohio GODORT examine to see if it wishes to sponsor a government documents queue? How much government information is available electronically? How many of the reference questions would be short answer or ready reference? How many of the reference questions would be very time consuming, which might not be as appropriate for chat reference? Are there enough government documents librarians who can commit several hours each week to sitting at or near a computer waiting for a government documents question? Who would do the scheduling and other management tasks for a subject-specific queue? What hours would the government documents queue be available? These are only some of the questions that would need to be answered.

The current OhioLINK timeline calls for a pilot project to test the software from early April to mid June. The eight institutions taking part in this pilot project are Bowling Green State University, Miami University, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, the Ohio State University, Sinclair Community College, the University of Dayton, University of Toledo, and Wittenberg University. All of the operators will come from these institutions, and only faculty, staff and students of these institutions will be able to ask questions. Full implementation is planned for August 1, 2002. Because each subject queue is being run by a different group, they can begin at any time after full implementation.

For more information about the proposed chat reference service, contact Carol A. Singer, who is a member of the Web-Based Reference Subcommittee of the OhioLINK's User Services Committee or the chair of the subcommittee. Email: singerc@bgnnet.bgsu.edu; Office phone: 419-372-9412.

Historical Documents Cataloging Project Update

The Historical Documents Cataloging Project of the Five Colleges of Ohio has “officially” ended, although work continues to be done by individual libraries. This project, which won the Bernadine Hoduski Founders Award in 2000, was undertaken by the Five Colleges under a three-year Mellon grant and has resulted in over 29,000 bibliographic records for pre-1976 documents. For more details, see the final report at:

<http://www.wooster.edu/Library/Gov/Ohio5Docs/Catalog/project.html>

Other information about the project can be seen at:

<http://www.wooster.edu/Library/Gov/Ohio5Docs/Catalog.html>

State Library Plans for Electronic Publications Archive

Now more than ever, state government agencies are turning to the web to provide information previously available only in paper. This instant access to information saves tax dollars by reducing printing and distribution costs. But the ease by which these publications are added to and removed from the web is creating a dilemma for the State Library of Ohio, which by law is required to maintain comprehensive collections of official documents and publications for the State of Ohio.

To resolve this dilemma, the State Library of Ohio is participating in a project to build a sustainable digital archive with the ability to track, preserve and provide long-term access to web-based publications that exist only in electronic form.

The State Library of Ohio is currently developing procedures and test records of publications to be used in the testing of a new service in development by the Digital & Preservation Resources group of OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) in Dublin, Ohio. Pilot project participants include the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO); the Connecticut State Library; State Library of Arizona; the Library of Michigan; the University of Edinburgh; and the Joint Electronic Records Repository Initiative (JERRI), a partnership of the State Library of Ohio, the Ohio Historical Society's State Archives, the Ohio Supercomputer Center and the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.

As the project continues, the State Library of Ohio, in alliance with the state of Ohio's ERC (Electronic Records Committee) Web Subcommittee, will develop guidelines and best practices for state of Ohio agency webmasters to follow aimed at improving

access to their electronic publications. In addition to making agency publications more accessible to the public, the State Library of Ohio will create preservation information and preserve the publication digitally in an electronic archive.

For additional information on this exciting project, contact James Buchman, Head of Public Services at the State Library of Ohio, 274 E. First Ave., Columbus, OH 43201, phone (614) 644-6954, e-mail: jbuchman@sloma.state.oh.us

(Press Release: March 27, 2002)

Around the State

Another of our long-time colleagues is retiring: Nani Ball will retire from Miami University – Middletown at the end of June. Nani served as Secretary/Treasurer of Ohio GODORT for two terms (that's two years per term, remember!) from 1988-92 and later as Program Chair (1994-95) and President (1995-96). Nani plans to devote more time to gardening, visit family, and do some volunteer work tutoring children in reading. We thank her for her long service to Ohio GODORT, and we wish her a wonderful retirement!

Sherry Engle (Ohio State) has contributed the chapter "The Internet and Government Information Services" to *The Role and Impact of the Internet on Library and Information Services*, edited by Lewis-Guodo Liu (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2001).

At last fall's Federal Depository Library Conference. Mark Gooch (College of Wooster) and Barbara Selbie were co-presenters of "Important Legal Resources (Yes, Even in Your Non-Law Library.)"

Carol Singer (Bowling Green State University) received tenure last fall. Congratulations to her!

Minutes

Fall Meeting • November 2, 2001
Bowling Green State University

More than 50 individuals gathered at Bowling Green State University for the Fall 2001 Tri-State Conference. Cindy Etkin from GPO was the keynote speaker presenting "*How Inspectors View Collection Development in the Electronic Environment.*" A panel consisting of Andrea Morrison (Indiana University, Bloomington), Peter Thayer (Marietta College), Tracy Koenig (Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County), and Bruce Kennedy (University of Toledo Law Library) presented overviews on electronic government information at their libraries.

A catered lunch followed the morning program.

President Heidi Good called the business meeting to order in Jerome Library at 2:00 p.m. A special word of thanks was extended to Program Chair Sherry Engle (OSU) and to Coleen Parmer (BGSU) for all of their efforts in making this conference a success.

Minutes from the Spring 2001 meeting were read and approved. Secretary Jan Schnall read a letter from Superintendent of Documents Fran Buckley thanking Ohio GODORT for awarding him an honorary lifetime membership.

The treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted. The current balance is \$1,983.54.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Newsletter

Karen Kimber (Wright State) distributed 54 copies of the Fall 2001 Newsletter at a cost of \$65.04.

OhioLINK Interest Group

Karen Kimber gave a brief update on the group. Karen Kottsy had served as chair, with Karen Kimber, Jeff Wanser (Hiram), and Jan Schnall (YSU) as committee members. There has not been much committee activity during the last year or so. Heidi Good suggested that perhaps Ohio GODORT can act as a group and address issues within OhioLINK if that would serve a purpose.

Collection Development Group

Mary Prophet (Denison) gave an update on the revision of the State Plan. Copies of the draft outline were distributed. All members are encouraged to review the document and to provide input. Barbara Kussow (State Library) reminded members that the State Plan is to emphasize state resource sharing. Barbara will also post a URL to the listserv where other State Plans are available for viewing.

Nominating

Carol Singer (BGSU), Karen Kimber (Wright State), and Barbara Kussow (State Library) volunteered to serve on this year's Nominating Committee.

Current Committee Structure

In reviewing the current list of committees, Heidi Good noted that a number of committees need chairs: (1) Membership (2) OhioLINK Interest Group and (3) GODORT of Ohio listserv and homepage.

Barbara Kussow put out a call for more members to serve on the State Plan revision committee.

J. McMullen (Wooster) moved that the name of the Web/listserv Committee be changed to the Ohio GODORT Homepage Committee. Karen Kimber seconded the motion. Motion carried. Jan Schnall (YSU) will chair as the homepage is currently hosted by Youngstown State. J. McMullen (Wooster) will serve on the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

A memorial gift honoring Karen Kottsy was proposed. George Kline (Toledo Public) moved and B. Kussow seconded that Ohio GODORT donate \$100 to the Karen Kruger Kottsy Memorial Book Fund at Langsam Library, University of Cincinnati. Motion carried.

Heidi Good (Univ. of Dayton) gave an overview of the Depository Conference held last month in Alexandria, VA.

Sherry Engle (OSU) extended another round of thanks to Coleen Parmer and the other Bowling Green staff members for making our visit to their campus so successful. Barbara Kussow volunteered to host the Spring 2002 meeting at the State Library in Columbus.

Some suggestions for the spring program:

- Speakers from statistical bureaus/offices, such as BLS, Ohio's Budget Office, Jobs and Family Services, Ohio Department of Health
- Sherry Engle, Program Chair, will check with some of the agencies and see who might be available.

The spring meeting will be scheduled for late April or early May, depending on the date of the spring Depository Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Submitted by
Jan Schnall
Secretary

Nominations

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate of candidates for the election of officers at the spring meeting on May 3. Nominations from the floor will also be welcome at that time.

Peter Thayer is the committee's nominee for Program Chair/President Elect. He received a Bachelor of Professional Studies (business and public management) and a Bachelor of Science (accounting) from the State University of New York Institute of Technology, and an MLS from the State University of New York at Albany. He has served as the Reference/Access Services Librarian at Marietta College since September 1997 and in the fall of 1999 was asked to take over the depository operations at the library.

The committee presents two nominees for the two-year office of Secretary/Treasurer: Jan Marotta and Joe Salem.

Jan Marotta is Systems Librarian/Head of Government Documents and Serials at Ashland University Library. She has been Head of Documents since 1987. Prior to that she was a documents assistant. She has been involved with documents and libraries since 1980. She was the Head of the Northeast Ohio Documents Group for two years and is a member of ALAO.

Joseph A. Salem, Jr., is currently Resident Government Documents Librarian at Kent State University Libraries and Media Services. He began as a Graduate Reference Assistant while attending the School of Library and Information Science at Kent State and joined the faculty in January of 2000. This summer, Kent State will be integrating Government Documents with Reference and Technical Services, and he will begin a new position as Government Documents Librarian in Reference Services during this July.