

Docs Prescriptions



The Newsletter of the Government Documents Round Table of Ohio

Issue 58

Fall 2003

From the President

J. Peter Thayer
Marietta College

First of all, I want to let you know that I am honored to serve as President of Ohio GODORT for 2003-2004. When I first joined this organization in the Fall of 2000, I never expected I would be at this point three years later. And since I have your attention, I think a few thank yous are in order. Thanks to Coleen Parmer for encouraging me to get involved with Ohio GODORT. Thanks to Sherry (Engle) Moeller, Robin Gray, and Audrey Hall for their help in planning last year's meetings. Thanks to Jan Schnall for her work on the Ohio GODORT web site. And finally, thanks to so many of you for your advice, your encouragement, and your friendship.

Change. It's becoming more of the exception than the rule. Over the last year alone, GPO has gone through two major changes – the appointment of a new Public Printer and the appointment of a new Superintendent of Documents. Under the leadership of the new Public Printer, the Honorable Bruce James, and the new Superintendent of Documents, Ms. Judith Russell, GPO has initiated a reorganization plan and a three-year visioning process. The reorganization of GPO and the model of GPO that will emerge from the visioning process will significantly affect FDLP libraries.

No matter what happens in the future regarding GPO, there are aspects of the FDLP and its mission that will not change. Among them are the commitment to the provision of no-fee access to government information and the principle that FDLP libraries are partners, not customers, in the provision of federal government information. One thing that will change is how FDLP libraries provide information to the public. Actually, this change already occurring. Libraries are not the warehouses of information that they used to be. Primarily due to the influence of the Internet, libraries are being transformed from repositories to access providers.

So where does Ohio GODORT fit in to all this? How should we respond to all this change? We've already taken one major step – the revision of our State Plan. This revision was drafted to help Ohio depository libraries carry out the FDLP's mission in an age where the paradigm has changed from collecting and maintaining to providing access and serving. We've also responded by providing opportunities for training and education on electronic government resources. In the 3 years that I've been a part of Ohio GODORT, a number of individuals have shared information at meetings as to what electronic government resources exist and how to provide access to them in an effective manner.

We're on the right track, but is there anything more we can do? We have our own web site. Is there anything we can do

to make it an effective resource for helping Ohio depository libraries cope with an FDLP that is becoming more and more electronically based? What role and responsibility should Ohio GODORT take in assisting Ohio depository libraries with promotion? People are using print less and online more. They need to know where to go to find reliable electronic information. We need to get the word out to Ohio citizens that they can depend on us to help them navigate the morass of electronic information that exists. (By the way, a great promotional tool created by Youngstown State's Maag Library and the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County is on the web at <http://www.maag.yzu.edu/17cd/>. It's called the *Wick Avenue Information Bridge*.)

I am confident that in the years to come, Ohio GODORT will continue to be a great resource for helping Ohio depository libraries carry out the mission of the FDLP. The people that are part of this organization are dedicated, experienced individuals who care very deeply about the provision of government information in Ohio. I am proud to be among these individuals

Plans are in the final stages for our fall meeting on October 31 at Wright State University in Dayton. The two speakers for the morning session will be Linda Resler, who is an inspector with GPO and Jane Wildermuth, who will talk about the Wright Brothers collection at Wright State University. I look forward to seeing many of you there

Editor's Notes

Karen Kimber
Wright State University

In this issue of *Docs Prescriptions* I have the pleasure of inviting all of you to come to my library, since the fall meeting will be held at Wright State. I hope a large number will

take the opportunity to visit us. Directions and other information appear elsewhere in the newsletter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about location and accommodations:
karen.kimber@wright.edu or 937-775-2533.

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J. Peter Thayer, President
Dawes Memorial Library
Marietta College
Marietta, OH 45750
(740) 376-4361
thayerp@marietta.edu

Doreen Hockenberry
Program Chair/President Elect
Alden Library
Ohio University
Athens, OH 45701
(740) 593-2718
hockenbe@ohio.edu

Jan Marotta, Secretary/Treasurer
Ashland University Library
Ashland, OH 44805
(419) 289-5410
jmarotta@ashland.edu

Karen Kimber, Editor
Dunbar Library
Wright State University
Dayton, OH 45435
937-775-2533
karen.kimber@wright.edu

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

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

Minutes

Spring Meeting • May 2, 2003
State Library of Ohio

Thirty-five individuals attended the Ohio GODORT Spring Meeting which was held at the State Library of Ohio. The group received a welcome from Gretchen Persohn who is the Head of References Services at the State Library.

Laurie Gemmill, the Ohio Memory Project Manager, presented a program on the Ohio Memory Project. The Ohio Memory Project is sponsored by the Ohio Historical Society.

Coleen Parmer (BGSU) and Sherry Engle (OSU) presented programs on what they were doing at their respective libraries to promote the use of census materials.

The State Library of Ohio provided lunch. At 1:10 pm Sherry Engle called the business meeting to order. The minutes of the fall meeting were approved. The treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted.

The following committees made reports:

Access To State Government Information And Publications

Coleen Parmer reported on the OHIO PRIVACY BILL. She encouraged the group to contact their state representatives regarding this bill. She suggested Ohio GODORT send a letter to the Senate Finance Committee and Representative Buehrer, who sponsored the bill. She informed the committee that there will be a hearing in May concerning this bill. Coleen will put together a draft letter and forward it to Sherry Engle, who will take care of sending it out. More information will be distributed through the listserv. Coleen reminded the group that they should

encourage as many people as possible to send emails so they will be noticed.

Constitution Revision And Update

Jan Schnall has updated our web site. There are still several committees that do not have the number of required members. Carol Singer encouraged members to let Peter Thayer know if they are interested in serving on any of the committees.

Membership

Coleen Parmer asked members to go through the membership directory and make sure their listings are correct. The committee will be working on an updated brochure.

Newsletter

Karen Kimber reported that she spent \$60.82 sending out 75 copies of the last newsletter. She asked the group if they were interested in continuing to receive the newsletter in paper format. It was the consensus of the group to continue it in paper. She encouraged members to contribute to the newsletter.

Nominating Committee

Doreen Hockenberry from Ohio University was nominated Program chair-President elect. She was unanimously elected.

OhioLINK Interest Group

Jeff Wanser thanked Coleen Parmer and Audrey Hall for their work on the RFP for government services for OhioLINK.

Special Resources Committee

Joe Salem reported that his committee is working on the survey of collection strengths which hasn't been done for 10 years. It was decided the survey will be web based. KSU will mount it as a database.

The committee will be marking up a new version of the survey this summer and it will be run in the fall. They are expecting to publish the results for the spring meeting next year.

State Plan Revision Committee

Mary Prophet thanked all those who have signed and returned their state revision signature sheets. Thirty libraries had responded by the time that Depository Library Council met this spring, so Mary was able to show our plan to them. There have been a few more signatures since then and she encouraged all those who had not returned them to do so soon. She encouraged everyone to be aware of the section on amendments and changes so that they can be submitted as needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Report From The State Library

Audrey Hall reported on staff changes at the State Library. She also reported that she has visited 18 depository libraries throughout the state. There will be 8 libraries inspected this year in Ohio. Those libraries have already been notified. Audrey raised a question about the discards. She received a request, from a person in Virginia, who would like to request documents we are discarding. It was decided that no individual might request a discard until it has been posted to the list and no other library wants it. This will be added to our guidelines under the hierarchy of disposal. She also reported that GPO is fully staffed with inspectors at this time.

Report From Depository Library Council And The Spring Conference

Mary Prophet reported on the council meeting and the spring conference. The executive summary of the meeting should be out soon for review. The council drafted a

vision statement. It was reported that 95% of government information will be distributed electronically in the next 5 years. Training was a big issue at this year's meeting as well as the transfer of printing costs and electronic equipment.

Mary Prophet asked the group if there was interest in starting chat reference for documents through OhioLINK at this time. It was reported by those members who work the chat reference desk that there is not enough traffic to warrant it at this time.

Karen Kimber will check into hosting our fall meeting and will let Doreen know. The date is to be in early November.

Sherry turned the gavel over to Peter Thayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Marotta
Secretary

Changes at the State Library

Audrey Hall
State Library of Ohio

The public service area of the State Library was reconfigured this summer. The three service desks, documents, reference and genealogy, are now one very large service desk. The desk is staffed with a librarian for the genealogy area and a librarian for the combined reference and documents area. Connie Ostrove and Cheryl Lubow answer phone, email or walk-up reference and documents questions. Nicole Merriman has accepted the position of documents cataloger and will begin her new duties when she returns from maternity leave in December. Nicole's former position as documents/reference librarian will be posted.

Around the State

Some members around the state are experiencing life changes – good ones, fortunately!

Sherry Engle (Ohio State) has gotten married, and her new name is Sherry Engle Moeller. We all wish her happiness in this new phase of her life. (Surely it is only coincidence that both of our two most recent outgoing Ohio GODORT presidents got married soon after leaving office. Could this help the Nominating Committee in recruitment, however?)

Barbara Bell's good news isn't such good news for the College of Wooster and her documents colleagues. She will be retiring soon and looks forward to more travels in Africa (including work on an African women writers project), as well as the more typical retirement plans to spend more time with her family. We thank her for all her work over the years that helped make Ohio GODORT an effective organization. Her presidency in 1998-99 reflects only part of the contribution she has made. Barbara plans to come to the fall meeting, so we'll get a chance to greet her as a colleague one more time before she goes on to new things.

Honor Roll of Websites

The Wick Avenue Information Bridge
<http://www.maag.ysu.edu/17cd>

This cooperative venture between the Maag Library at Youngstown State University and the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County is a wonderful example of how federal depository libraries can join together to provide government information to the public. Its clean and inviting design

should make it a success with patrons in their district. Jan Schnall at YSU and Debra Bushmire and Michele Mellor at YPL can be congratulated for their efforts.

Census Data Center

<http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/refweb/govdocs/cdc.htm>

Sherry Engle Moeller and her colleagues at the Ohio State University have done a lot of work in compiling information about Census publications. Those of us who were at last spring's Ohio GODORT program got to hear Sherry talk about the *Census Index*, which is found on this page. Also linked from this page are the *United States Censuses*, which outlines basic information about the various censuses, and *Current Population Reports and Other Population Reports Index*, an invaluable guide to information that is hard to find all in one place.

Vital Statistics of the U.S.

<http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/services/govdocs/vitalst.PDF>

Vital Statistics - Current

<http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/services/govdocs/vitalcu.PDF>

Coleen Parmer at Bowling Green State University has also compiled guides to a series of statistical data with a complicated publication history. Anyone needing to track down historical statistics on birth, death, marriage, and divorce will be grateful to her for providing the first guide listed above. In the second one, she untangles the mysteries of the reports on CD-ROM.

The webpage of the Government Documents Round Table of Ohio is at:

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