

Docs Prescriptions



The Newsletter of the Government Documents Round Table of Ohio

Issue 60

Fall 2004

From the President

Doreen Hockenberry
Ohio University

Last fall when Peter Thayer wrote about the changes being planned for GPO and the FDLP, who knew we would be so involved in casting votes for preferences and giving responses to a variety of issues and filling out surveys. It seems that operating a federal depository library allows us to be on the cutting edge of technology, as well as knocking on the frontier of library science and the debate of the future of libraries as a physical “store house of knowledge.” Public Printer James is building a team of players that is taking the ball and running with it, as well as trying to create a new ballpark. The GPO is reorganizing staff along with plans for more electronic information and services, as well as building a new shop and repository. There are very few of us that can anticipate reorganizing or a new building or expanded space all due to limitations of staff and money. In the libraries, there are different scopes, processes, and atmospheres depending on location, population base, collections, and management styles. There are many legitimate comments from the array of libraries on all the different sides of issues. I am finding the common issue is the dissemination of government information unfettered and in perpetuity (or as I skillfully stuttered at the spring meeting “in petunias”).

I am sure this will be one hot topic of many that will be discussed at the Federal Depository Library Conference and Council Meeting to be held in Washington D.C. during October 17 – 20, 2004. I look forward to Ohio’s having good

representation at this essential meeting. It is an excellent way to learn about the latest issues in government information and make contacts to help in the future. I have found valuable assistance and confirmation that I am not alone with the various issues in working with a depository collection and the service provided by GPO.

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming fall Ohio GODORT meeting that is at the University of Cincinnati co-sponsored with the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library on November 5, 2004. We wanted this meeting to be held after the Depository Conference so that we could update everyone on issues discussed there. Joe Salem, vice president, is working with Lorna Newman in organizing the day. The business meeting will be in the morning and one topic will be the modification of the Ohio GODORT Constitution. Please check the Ohio GODORT web site for proposed revisions. Take a gander at the scavenger hunt – prizes are being planned and late entries are welcomed. In the afternoon, we will join Superintendent of Documents Judy Russell in commemorating the University of Cincinnati’s 75th Anniversary of being a designated Federal Depository Library. I hope that many of you will be able to attend this meeting and celebration.

The Executive Board of Ohio GODORT met at The College of Wooster August 20, 2004 to make the transition of responsibilities between last year's officers and this year's, and to work through plans for the upcoming year. I wish to thank the executive board members for their hard work and effort they have committed to this organization. I think we have some excellent ideas and we look forward to sharing them with you in Cincinnati on November 5.

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

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

Dues Reminder: Members who have paid their dues for 2004-05 will see ** after their name on the mailing label. If you haven't yet paid, there's still time to join. Bring your dues to the meeting, or mail them to Jennifer McMullen, Secretary/Treasurer (address above).

From the Editor

Karen Kimber

Wright State University

It is with mixed feelings that I finish putting together this issue of *Docs Prescriptions*. As I announced at our meeting last spring, this will be my last issue as editor.

I'm glad to have an issue like this one to finish my tenure. It's chock full of interesting articles and news and ideas. Carol Singer gives us more of her wide-ranging research into the history found in documents, Doreen Hockenberry writes about the GAO, and Jennifer McMullen reviews the *9/11 Commission Report*. Their contributions are valuable to all of us. Let me take one last opportunity to encourage others of you to share your ideas and research in future issues.

My six years as editor have passed quickly, and I've enjoyed the opportunity to work closely with colleagues in Ohio GODORT. However, it's time for someone with fresh ideas to take over. A big thank you to all of you for your help and encouragement over the years.

Constitution Revision on Fall Meeting Agenda

FROM: Ad Hoc Constitution Revision
Committee

Carol A. Singer, convener

Mark Gooch

Jennifer McMullen

One of the agenda items for the Fall meeting will be the proposed revisions to the Ohio GODORT Constitution. These revisions have been made to reflect the gradual changes in our group's operating procedures. Please review these proposed changes before the Fall meeting so that we can vote on them.

You will find a copy of the Constitution & Bylaws, with the changes and related comments in red, at: http://www.wooster.edu/gov/ohgodort/constitution_draftrev.doc

Minutes

Spring Meeting • May 7, 2004 State Library of Ohio

Thirty-nine people attended the spring meeting at the State Library of Ohio. Michael Lucas, State Librarian of Ohio, welcomed the Ohio GODORT crowd.

Doreen Hockenberry opened the program by giving an overview of the Depository Library Council meeting in April. The Government Printing Office has released four draft documents for opening a discussion on the future of the depository program and the future role of the GPO, and Public Printer Bruce James has indicated that he wants responses from depository libraries. This is our chance to influence the direction of the program, Doreen stressed, and she noted that she will be taking notes and presenting to the GPO the ideas that result from today's round table discussions.

Among the other news items from the Council meeting:

- The FDLP Desktop is being redesigned; comments are requested.
- The Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) used to authenticate PDF files will be used on GPO Access documents from the 108th Congress on and will require Adobe Acrobat 6.0 for proper viewing.
- Contract negotiations are still ongoing for Integrated Library Systems.

John Graham (Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County) and Mary Prophet (Denison University), as Ohio's representatives on the Depository Library Council, continued the discussion. Mary gave a brief historical overview of the depository program, which only began in 1895 although the Government Printing Office was established in 1861 and documents had been sent out prior to that. She noted that the establishment of regional libraries was a fairly new innovation (1962) and pointed to the ability of both GPO and the FDLP to adapt to changing times. John and Mary then briefly outlined the issues behind each of the four draft documents issued by GPO: the Collection of Last Resort, the Decision Framework for evaluating the assurance of print repositories, the

proposed specifications for digital preservation, and the future of the GPO Sales Program.

After a break for lunch, the members assembled in smaller discussion groups, chiefly by type of library (public, large academic, small academic, other) to discuss suggestion questions relating to the discussion drafts.

Peter Thayer called the business meeting to order at 1:35 PM, beginning with hearty thanks to the State Library for hosting the meeting and for once again providing an excellent lunch for the members.

Minutes from the Fall 2003 meeting were approved, and the Treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted with the current balance of \$2004.37.

ROUND TABLE REPORTS

The round tables reported on their discussions of the GPO draft documents. Issues raised included:

- Training: technical support and training strongly needed, including from agencies; provide online tutorials or regional sessions
- Support: grants to help libraries purchase workstations that meet minimum technical requirements; have help lines connect you to a real person
- Digitization: coordinate efforts and communicate regularly with those libraries that wish to contribute to the project; address questions about retention of tangible materials after digitization; searchable access to what has been done; digitizing GPO shelflist
- Regionals: still a need for what they provide; perhaps have tech regionals that can provide more tech support
- Bibliographic control: need good tools to help catalogers handle online materials; further breakdown of item numbers for more accurate selection
- Change GPO's name to Government Information Agency or something similarly comprehensive?

STATE LIBRARY REPORT

Audrey Hall gave an update on the activities of the State Library. She indicated that they have

been receiving 12% fewer Ohio documents than last year. The State Library has also been adding Ohio documents only available in electronic format to the OCLC Digital Archive, using a harvester to find more of these online-only materials. These documents are listed in OhioLINK and therefore available from our own library catalogs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Newsletter Committee

Karen Kimber reported on the Newsletter Committee first since she had to leave early. She sent out 76 copies of the newsletter in April, including 3 honorary members. She noted that one of our honorary members, Fran Buckley, is no longer Superintendent of Documents, but that we could perhaps send a copy to the current Superintendent of Documents if we make a slight change to the by-laws. Karen also noted that the next issue of the newsletter would be her last as she is ready to let someone else take over.

Nominating Committee

This year's nominating committee, Carol Singer and Coleen Parmer, presented their slate of candidates for the officer positions: Joe Salem for President-Elect/Program Chair and Jennifer McMullen for Secretary/Treasurer. No additional nominations were raised from the floor, and both Joe and Jennifer were elected.

Ohio GODORT Home Page Committee

Jennifer McMullen unveiled the new look for the Ohio GODORT web page (now located at <http://www.wooster.gov/library/gov/ohgodort/>) and pointed out new features, including a GODORT-style guides page, a listing of past meetings and programs, and an updated list of additional resources for documents librarians. She also announced an online scavenger hunt to help folks learn more about Ohio's depositories and some of the special collections and services they have to offer. Answers are due back to Jennifer by October 1 so that a winner can be selected at the Fall 2004 meeting. The committee hopes to continue adding to the site in future, including archiving back issues of *Docs Prescriptions* and adding information about more meetings and programs from earlier years.

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Salem tentatively offered Kent State University as the location for the Fall 2004 meeting, pending approval of a date.

Peter Thayer indicated that he did still intend to review the Ohio GODORT constitution and requested volunteers to re-form the ad-hoc Constitution Committee for the work. Carol Singer and Mark Gooch volunteered to help on this project.

Peter then declared the end of his tenure as Ohio GODORT chair and passed the gavel (and paperwork) to Doreen Hockenberry, who adjourned the meeting as our new Chair.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer McMullen
Secretary/Treasurer
(With special thanks to Jan Marotta for taking notes!)

News from the State Library

Audrey Hall
State Library of Ohio

Joanne Budler began her duties as State Librarian on July 1. Jo's prior experience was as Deputy State Librarian at the Library of Michigan and several library positions in Nebraska.

We are very pleased with our latest piece of high tech equipment, a Minolta PS 7000 scanner. We now have the capability of scanning and printing publications or saving the scanned item as a computer file, then sending it by email attachment.

We have also added software to our Minolta microfiche reader/printers which allows us to scan fiche or film one page at a time directly from the machine, save the file to an attached computer, turn it into a PDF and email it.

The State Library of Ohio recently added the following sets of non-depository indexes and microfiche to the collection. The reference staff

will be happy to search hearings for you, duplicate fiche or copy or scan short hearings.

- CIS index to unpublished US House of Representatives committee hearings, 1969-1972, 1945-1968 supplement
- CIS index to unpublished US Senate committee hearings: 95th Congress-96th Congress, 1977-1980

A complete list of our non-depository indexes and microfiche sets is available on our web page under Government Information Services – Information for Depository Libraries. (<http://winslo.state.oh.us/govinfo/microfiche.html>)

Nicole Merriman and her husband Keith have a daughter, Dana Piper, born on September 29.

Correspondence about Lynchings in *Foreign Relations of the United States*

Carol A. Singer
Bowling Green State University

We rarely think of *Foreign Relations of the United States* as a place to find primary source material on lynchings in the United States. However, this series does include some documents that relate to lynchings of foreign nationals, primarily lynching of Italians. The documents about these crimes include letters, telegrams, memoranda, and reports written by law enforcement officials.

Although this list summarizes information only for lynchings, *Foreign Relations of the United States* also reproduces correspondence about other types of mob violence against foreign nationals and about the safety of foreign nationals in the United States.

Due to space considerations, citations will be to sections of the *Foreign Relations*, not to individual letters.

In 1881, two Mexicans were accused of stealing horses and mules in Arizona. They were pursued by owners of the animals and caught.

One was lynched and the other disappeared. The final communication from the U.S. government includes the information that these men were habitual thieves and would certainly have been convicted if they had been brought to trial. The men who committed the lynching had assured the sheriff that they only intended to hang the victim long enough to induce him to tell where he was hiding the horses and mules and did not plan to kill him. Furthermore, the Mexican government was assured that, even if the men who performed the lynching were brought to trial, it would not be possible to find anybody to testify against them.¹

In 1884, a Native American prisoner was taken from jail in British Columbia and hanged. The prisoner, whose name is given variously as Lem Tam, Louie Tam, or Jack, had been accused of murdering an American citizen in Washington Territory. A group of approximately 60 men removed him from custody and he was found hanged the following day. The letters reveal that the man who had originally charged Louie Tam with the murder was himself implicated in the murder. The Governor of Washington was unable to determine the perpetrators because the region was densely forested and difficult to access. He noted, “many of the people oftentimes make but little account of an Indian’s life.”²

An extensive exchange of letters between the Italian government and the United States government in 1891 relates to the lynching of Italians and Italian Americans in New Orleans. The police chief had been murdered and Italian citizens had been arrested. Early letters charge that the prisoners were maltreated while they were imprisoned. While the men were in prison, the mayor of New Orleans made a speech promising to eradicate the Mafia from the city. A mob, lead by a group referred to as the Committee of Fifty, hung eleven of the prisoners, three Italians and eight Italian Americans. Many of the letters relate to which of the prisoners were still Italian subjects and therefore a legitimate concern of the Italian government. There were also communications about the possible criminal records of some of the prisoners. The documents include a list of all “assassinations, murders, and affrays committed by Sicilians and Italians in the city of New Orleans, from 1866 to 1891.” The United States government paid an indemnity to the Italian government of 125,000 francs which was

to be distributed to the families of those who had been killed.³

In 1896, a mob in Hahnville, Louisiana took three Italian citizens from the jail and lynched them. At the time, there were five Italian men and one woman in the prison, all accused of murder or accessory to murder. The mob broke in and ordered the sole jailer, at gunpoint, to let them in and open the cell that held the five men. He did so and then ran to a house behind the jail, where he hid until morning and then sent word to the sheriff about the lynchings. The mob left two of the men in the cell, but called for three of the men by name and took them from the prison. The correspondence focuses not only on the events that took place, but on whether or not the men were still Italian citizens, as all three had voted in Louisiana. The persons who carried out the lynchings were never found or prosecuted. In fact, none of the people who lived near the courthouse where the lynchings took place reported hearing anything that night. Eventually, Congress appropriated \$6,000 to be given to the families of the murdered men.⁴

Five Italians were lynched by a mob in Tallulah, Louisiana in 1899. One of the victims owned a goat that had a bad habit of getting on the property of a neighboring doctor. After the doctor killed the goat, the owner and his brother quarreled with the doctor. The brother attempted to hit the doctor with a knife, who retaliated by hitting him over the head with a gun. The owner of the goat then shot the doctor. The sheriff arrested three armed men who were running toward the fight and took them to jail. The sheriff then found and arrested the owner of the goat and his brother, who had both gone into hiding. While he and his deputies were taking the men to jail, a mob overpowered the sheriff and hanged the two men. The mob then went to the jail and removed the three men who had been arrested for running toward the fight, but had not taken part in the quarrel, and hanged them also. The sheriff said the night was very dark and he was unable to identify any members of the mob. Much of the correspondence related to the citizenship of three of the men, and it was determined that all three were U.S. citizens. The matter ended with the President's assurance that Congress would take up legislation to try to prevent this type of event from occurring. Three grand juries investigated the crime, but failed to indict anybody.⁵

In 1901, three Italians were attacked by a mob in Erwin, Mississippi. Two were lynched and one was injured. The attack appears to have been the result of a dispute over a horse owned by one of the victims. The horse had strayed onto land owned by a man who was suspected of having instigated the lynching. As in the previous cases, nobody was ever tried or punished for this crime.⁶

Two Italian Americans were lynched in Tampa, Florida in 1910. The two men had been charged with complicity in a murder. They were being transferred from the West Tampa jail to that in Tampa. However, they were transported by taxi, with no protection but one deputy and a friend of the deputy. Moreover, they were taken by a circuitous route on the grounds that the direct route lay through areas with many Italian Americans and the prisoners were likely to be freed. During the journey, the men were taken from the deputy and lynched. It was determined that one of the men was an Italian citizen and, in 1913, the U.S. government paid an indemnity of \$6,000 to be given to his heirs.⁷

NOTES

1. *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1881*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1882, pp. 840-846. *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1882*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1883, pp. 407-408.

2. *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1884*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1885, pp. 241-243, 252-255.

3. *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1891*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1892. p. 658-728.

4. *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1896*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1897. p. 396-422. *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1897*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1898. p. 353-354.

5. *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1899*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1901. p. 440-466. *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1900*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1902. p. xxii-xxiii, 715-731.

6. *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1901*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1902. p. 283-299.

7. *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1913*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1920. p. 613-624.

What's New on the Documents Shelves

Jennifer McMullen
College of Wooster

The 9/11 Commission Report. Washington, DC: National Commission on Terrorists Attacks upon the United States, 2004.

After all the media hype over the hearings and then the publication of this document, *someone* had to read it! *The 9/11 Commission Report*, the official government edition, popped up in our depository shipment in late July (under the SuDocs number Y 3.2:T 27/2/FINAL), and it's really surprisingly readable and enthralling. The report summarizes in straightforward fashion the background of Usama Bin Ladin and al Qaeda, their activities over the years (including embassy and USS Cole bombings), the history of counterterrorism efforts within the U. S. government over the past ten to twenty years (including the problems of multiple intelligence agencies working on similar cases and not communicating effectively with one another), as well as the details of what happened on the morning of September 11, 2001 (what led up to it and what ensued).

The report, presented by a bipartisan commission, strives above all to be fair and not place undue blame on anyone. (Some might find it a little too bland in not holding more people accountable, while others may think too many criticisms are leveled... but you can't please everyone.) Some witnesses come across as more knowledgeable and more focused on the counterterrorism fight than others, but the whole report boils down to a lack of coordination in the government in both intelligence gathering and in following up on that intelligence with arrests and indictments before the terrorists even had a chance to act. Could 9/11 have been prevented? The Commission responds, "Probably not." Though some al Qaeda operatives could have been taken out of the picture earlier had arrests been made, the organization had already grown so large that other terrorists could have filled the openings and carried out the plan at some point. But in the hope of preventing future such catastrophic terrorist acts, the Commission has made many recommendations for changes to the government that, if implemented in the full spirit

as well as the letter of the suggestions, could improve the cooperation between government agencies, the methods and timeliness of intelligence gathering, and the subsequent pursuit of terrorist agents.

The report is also available online at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/911/index.html> along with an executive summary that covers the essential points and recommendations (leaving out, of course, some of the compelling details). The Commission's web site (<http://www.9-11commission.gov/>) also includes supplementary reports on terrorist financing and travel. If you have any interest in intelligence operations (any fans of spy novels out there?) or simply want to understand more about what happened on 9/11 and why, this report comes highly recommended.

GAO Renamed GAO: New Name – Same Game

Doreen Hockenberry
Ohio University

"The General Accounting Office is hereby redesignated the Government Accountability Office" per Public Law 108-271, referred to as the GAO Human Capital Reform Act of 2004. The name change occurs in Section 8. Most of the law has to do with personnel issues at the GAO. The legislation was sponsored by Jo Ann Davis of the 1st Congressional District in Virginia on July 16, 2003 and signed July 7, 2004.

While helping a student explore the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), I have learned a lot about FACA, FOIA, and the GAO. FACA's purpose "was to ensure that advice rendered to the executive branch by the various advisory committees, task forces, boards, and commissions formed over the years by Congress and the president, be both objective and accessible to the public." The FOIA "generally provides that any person has a right to request access to federal agency records, except to the extent the records are protected from disclosure by any of nine exemptions contained in the law or by one of three special law enforcement record exclusions."

To the student's amazement, the GAO, as an independent agency and a government watchdog for Congress, possesses a lot of power that is part of the tightly controlled checks and balances of the United States Federal Government. Since July 1921, at the request of Congress, the GAO investigates and evaluates federal programs, audits federal expenditures, issues legal opinions, and recommends actions. This work leads to laws and acts that improve government operations and save billions of American taxpayer dollars. The work of the GAO is completed by full time government employees. The current Comptroller General David M. Walker was appointed for a 15-year appointment in 1998 that will expire in 2013. This extended term arrangement promotes non-partisan decision making for long-term results. The GAO creates more than 1000 reports in a year and provides hundreds of testimonies by GAO officials.

The GAO started in 1921 with a staff of 1,708 employees. By 1945, 63% of the employees were women, and in 1946, 14,904 were employed, due to the backlog of 35 million vouchers that were unaudited after WWII. This number decreased to 7,000 in 1951 with the reorganization and movement of employees back to the private sector. Currently headquartered at 441 G St. NW, Washington, D.C., with offices in 11 cities across the United States, the GAO in 2003 had 3,200 employees and a budget of \$460 million, provided 189 Congressional testimonies, and created \$35.4 billion measurable financial benefits to the U. S. taxpayers. Out of 2,175 recommendations in the last four years, four out of five have been implemented.

I promote or peddle the GAO Reports as a good resource, but I never realized the complex issues in the creation of the GAO and the job that they do. It will be hard to explain to a bored second-year journalism student why they should trust this agent of open government. But I will pull that soap box out and highlight the Walker vs. Cheney case, which was filed in February 2002 in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia to open the minutes of the meeting that created the new energy policy. As Comptroller General Walker tried to unwrap the energy policy creation, as asked for by several

Congressional members, to find out who did influence this governmental policy, the executive branch pulled out the executive prerogative of not even telling who attended the meetings of the National Energy Policy Development Group (NEPDG). This is a prime example of how government works and why term limits were built in with the check and balance mechanism carefully applied to the three branches of government.

This method of government would be highly espoused by James Madison, as one the original designers of the U. S. Constitution and intellectual forefather of having an open government with open communication to the people to provide the knowledge that allows a democracy to survive. This is where the GAO and the FDLP can work together. This open government information provides a means of control of the human issues of secrecy and greed. I enjoy my job working with government information; there is always something to learn that not only assists me in being a better librarian but also a better citizen.

Government Accountability Office. *What is GAO?* <http://www.gao.gov/about/what.html>

Task, Roger R. *GAO History 1921 – 1991*. Washington: United States General Accounting Office, 1991. GA 1.13:OP-3-HP

United States Department of State. *About FOIA & Other Information Access Programs*. <http://foia.state.gov/AboutFOIA.asp>

U.S. General Services Administration. *GSA - Management of Fed Advisory Committees*. http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/gsa/ep/contentView.do?contentType=GSA_OVERVIEW&contentId=9673&noc=T

“If men were angels, no government would be necessary.”

“The essence of Government is power; and power, lodged as it must be in human hands, will ever be liable to abuse.”

“Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.”

James Madison (1751-1836)