

Docs Prescriptions



The Newsletter of the Government Documents Round Table of Ohio

Issue 64

Fall 2006

From the President

SaraJean Petite

Case Western Reserve University Law Library

I was surprised and honored to be nominated to serve as President of Ohio GODORT. I would like to thank Joe Salem, Audrey Hall, Jennifer McMullen, and George Kline for their help in planning last year's meetings. In addition, I'd like to thank Mark Gooch, Karen Kimber, Audrey Hall, Nicole Merriman, Lorna Newman, and Mary Prophet for the work they are currently doing to prepare for our upcoming anniversary celebration. I would also like to thank Lexis for its generous financial contribution to the celebration.

In this time of change, many library directors, including my own, are looking at Depository program and re-evaluating whether the benefits of remaining in the program outweigh the costs. While the FDLP no longer provides the volume of paper documents it once did, it still provides many benefits to its members. One major benefit is the training and support GPO provides without cost to the libraries. It would be costly and time-consuming for a non-depository librarian to locate the "free" online resources and find a place to receive training on how to use them. Other benefits include fee-based electronic resources such as STAT-USA that are available without cost to depository libraries, preferential technical assistance from agencies, and "regular updates on government information issues from the GPO, other government agencies, and other entities."¹ The GPO has

provided a website with more information for librarians who need to illustrate the value of the program to their directors.²

Since GODORT is celebrating its 25th Anniversary, I wanted to look back to see what librarians 25 years ago considered the benefits of being a Depository library. Mary Prophet, George Kline, and Jean Sears were kind enough to share some of their memories with me. I wish space allowed me to include more of the information they gave me. Back then, the main advantage of being a Depository library was the "free stuff." In the early 1980s, Mary did a study and the cost of the materials her library received was roughly equal to her paycheck. At that time, Jean's library was receiving 30,000 paper publications and 20,000 microfiche publications a year. Another advantage was that being a depository library was seen as a status symbol. According to George, library directors viewed being a Depository as a "feather in their cap," though they weren't always sure what a Depository did.

Please mark your calendars for Ohio GODORT's 25th Anniversary celebration at the State Library of Ohio on November 17th. The committee has planned an exciting program. Robin Haun-Mohamed, GPO's Director of Collection Management and Preservation, will be the speaker. Janet Scheitle from GPO's Planning and Development / Library Services division will also be coming. Lexis is underwriting this celebration, and the committee has arranged for some particularly nice food. I'm looking forward to seeing you on November 17th in Columbus!

¹http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/council/soar-suggestions.html and http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/council/fdlp-benefits.html

²

<http://www1.access.gpo.gov/gpoaccess/fdlp/staywiththeprogram.html>

Docs Prescriptions

The Newsletter of the Government
Documents Round Table of Ohio

Issue 64 • Fall 2006

SaraJean Petite, President
Case Western Reserve University Law
Library
11075 East Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44106
(216) 368-6356
sarajeau.petite@case.edu

Mark Gooch, Program Chair/President Elect
Libraries
College of Wooster
Wooster, OH 44691
(330) 263-2522
mgooch@wooster.edu

Joy Gao, Secretary/Treasurer
Public Services Librarian and Coordinator of
Government Publications
Beeghly Library
Ohio Wesleyan University
43 Rowland Ave.
Delaware, OH 43015
(740) 368-3238
yyhe@cc.owu.edu

Jennifer McMullen
Co-Editor, *Docs Prescriptions*
Libraries
College of Wooster
Wooster, OH 44691
(330) 263-2119
jmcmullen@wooster.edu

John Graham
Co-Editor, *Docs Prescriptions*
Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton
County
800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 369-6932
john.graham@cincinnati.library.org

From the Editors

In the past month or more, I've been cleaning out files in preparation for my move into a new office, and I've been amazed and delighted at some of the treasures found there: memos to the students about work and parties, old projects now completed, and even a celebratory notice about cataloging the 100,000th document in the library. This particular work interrupted a summertime shift of our collection, which brought me face-to-cover with some of those dusty old tomes from the 19th century. Being a long-time history buff, this is just the sort of thing that gets me excited about documents all over again.

After exploring so many forward-looking topics and technologies in recent issues, therefore, it's been a treat for me to edit articles about the historical aspects of government documents and to connect that rich history with the technology of today. SaraJean Petite reminds us of the changes in the docs world with our 25th anniversary coming, and I hope you'll enjoy a nice long browse through the mini-archives of Ohio GODORT that our anniversary issue presents. Elsewhere in this issue, Carol Singer, ever the seeker of interesting American history highlights in government documents, offers her perspective on the *Foreign Relations* series and its online counterparts, while Audrey Hall shares news about a vibrant display on Alexander Hamilton and a possible grant to work with WWI-era Ohio documents.

With all of the online resources and services requested by patrons these days, you may find, like me, that sometimes it's nice to slip into the stacks and revisit some of those old friends with the loose spines and crumbling corners, just to remember our country's history and our grand tradition of providing free public access to that history. (And if you want to reminisce a little about those "good old days," don't forget to attend our fall meeting and 25th anniversary party at the State Library on November 17!)

Minutes

Spring Meeting • May 5, 2006 Toledo-Lucas County Public Library

Twenty-seven people attended the business meeting following a morning teleconference with GPO staff who provided updates on GPO projects.

Welcome from Chair

President Joe Salem called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM and thanked George Kline and the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library for their hospitality. He also thanked SaraJean Petite for organizing the morning teleconference, calling it the “best use of this technology I’ve ever seen.”

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report

Jennifer McMullen pointed out that minutes from the last meeting and the current treasurer’s report had been left at the door, and she asked for corrections or additions to the minutes. Charlene Willey pointed out a stylistic correction in the minutes (change “showed up” to “attended”). Mark Gooch moved to accept the minutes as corrected, George Kline seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote. The treasurer’s report was reviewed and accepted.

Report from State Library

Audrey Hall reiterated that FDLP-L is GPO’s main means for communicating with depository staff, and she noted that if you aren’t on the list, you should be. Regarding the Ohio listserv, she noted that needs and offers lists should be posted only during the first seven days of each month to avoid confusion. Audrey announced that the Greenville Public Library is in the process of becoming a new depository library, and one depository that had been planning to drop its status due to lack of space is considering becoming an all-electronic depository to remain in the program.

From the State Library itself, Audrey indicated that the Digital Archive has passed the 1000 mark of Ohio documents added, most of which are born digital. The State Library’s genealogy collection is almost completely set to be

transferred to Columbus Metropolitan Library over four years, and Audrey indicated that the set should get good use in its new location. SLO is considering purchasing the digital Serial Set and is having a side-by-side trial of both the Readex and the Lexis-Nexis products. The final choice will be accessible to SLO card holders, which includes anyone in the state of Ohio who holds a SLO library card (which can be obtained online).

Report from Executive Board

Joe noted that the recent Executive Board meeting focused on planning the 25th anniversary celebration in the fall (November 17 at SLO). The planning committee has corresponded through email and just met today over lunch, and they have sent a letter inviting Judy Russell to be the keynote speaker and plan to have a panel discussion of Ohio GODORT history. Other plans include getting sponsorship from vendors to help with the budget, having a catered lunch and a big cake, and possibly designing a special anniversary logo. Joe added that invitations will go out to former members of Ohio GODORT, chairs of other Ohio professional organizations, Tom Sanville of OhioLINK, and possibly library directors and state representatives. SaraJean asked if a Thursday night gathering had yet been planned, and Karen Kimber (chair of the committee) indicated that the committee has yet to work on those plans.

Report from Committees

1. *Membership*: Coleen Parmer had nothing to report on membership per se but spoke about the mentorship program based on her own experience. Though one MLS student has applied for a mentor and not been paired with anyone, Coleen indicated that she wasn’t sure if there was a real need for a mentorship program in the organization because there may not be enough new documents librarians who need mentors.

2. *State Government Information*: Nicole Merriman reported from the digitization committee. She gave an overview of the SLO Digital Archive and indicated that the tentative plan of the committee is to find a library to work with the committee and the State Library on scanning and storing state documents so that the

scanning expertise can be developed and procedures can be tested. The committee is still discussing standards and specifications (GPO, OhioLINK, what?), and Joe raised the question of storing just access copies or archival copies as well. Coleen suggested that a registry be set up to avoid duplication, and she offered that BGSU might be able to partner with SLO. It was stressed that this would not be a rush project as they will need adequate time to do the job right and to avoid creating a cataloging backlog for the State Library.

3. *GODORT of Ohio Homepage*: Jennifer reported that there was nothing new on the web site, but if anyone has ideas or suggestions, let her know.

4. *Newsletter*: Jennifer pointed out that the recent edition of the newsletter was full of good articles, and she hoped to gather more articles and ideas to fill in two issues come fall: one for the anniversary and one regular issue. She also added that there is an open slot on the committee that needs to be filled.

5. *State Plan Revision*: Mary Prophet told the members present that if they have suggestions for sections of the state plan that should be revised, send her an email and the committee will review the suggestions.

6. *ALA-GODORT Liaison*: Joe reported that the Midwinter meeting was quiet, with the GPO update being much like what we heard this morning. He mentioned that testing of systems will be tighter in the future due to problems with “leaked” passwords for previous tests.

7. *Archives Liaison*: Jennifer announced that another box of archival files was passed to the State Library staff today, bringing all files up to date except those being held out for digitization (minutes and other meeting materials). She asked that another Archives Liaison be designated, preferably one closer to Columbus, and if anyone is interested, please contact her.

Report from Federal Depository Conference

Doreen Hockenberry reported that the announcements from GPO at the conference paralleled what we heard this morning and added that the pilot digitization project should be done by the end of 2007. Several attendees at

the conference noted the need for consistent information coming from GPO since directors often get different information or views than depository staff. Schuyler Cook commented on the item selection discussion and some of the mixed messages sent/heard as part of that. Mary pointed out that three scenarios were floated about item selection methods and commented that the idea of “one item for all EL titles from agency” would be broken down to individual agencies, not departments. People expressed concern about how much time selection would take. Coleen noted the similarity to the Canadian model and warned “don’t go there” because it would be too time-consuming. Mary also explained that GPO is working on a partnership with FedEx/Kinko’s for print-on-demand, issuing to agencies FedEx/GPO cards to get really cheap prices for printing/publishing; everything then printed with the card would get sent to GPO for depository review.

Old Business

None.

New Business

After explaining the difficulties presented by the nominating committee not being able to present a slate of candidates within the constitutionally-mandated two weeks prior to the meeting, Joe asked for a suspension of the rule in order to continue with elections. Coleen moved to suspend the rule; Mary seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote. Joe turned to floor over to Mark as representative of the nominating committee. No candidate had been found for President-Elect/Program Chair, so Mark asked for nominations from the floor. Coleen asked if Mark would like to serve, and he admitted that he was willing to volunteer if no other candidates could be found. Mark also announced that Joy Gao had agreed to run for Secretary/Treasurer, and no additional nominations were raised. The slate of officer candidates was approved quickly by voice vote. Mark added his thanks to Joe and Jennifer, the departing officers, for their hard work over the past two years.

Adjourn

Joe handed the gavel to incoming President SaraJean Petite, who adjourned the meeting at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer McMullen
Secretary/Treasurer
(in the absence of Joy Gao)

Treasurer's Report

As of September 15, 2006

Balance as of May 1, 2006	\$2,271.82
Income: Dues	\$ 655.00
Interest	\$ 5.52
Expenses: New checks	\$ 23.75
Balance as of Sept. 15, 2006	\$2,908.59

News from the State Library

Audrey Hall
State Library of Ohio

The LexisNexis digital Serial Set is now available to State Library card holders. However, until an authentication server is in place, it is not totally accessible. The Serial Set is known as "the collective history of America." Online access with searching capability is a boon to historical researchers as well as genealogists throughout the state.

Pending formal approval by the State Library Board at their September meeting, wireless Internet connectivity will be available within the State Library's Columbus building.

The State Library hosted "Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America" August 31 through October 12, 2006. The traveling exhibition is based on the New-York Historical Society's exhibition commemorating the 200th anniversary of Hamilton's death. Ohioans had the opportunity to learn about Hamilton who, though he is credited with being one of the most

important of the United States' founding fathers, is largely an unknown presence to many modern Americans. Programs during the exhibit, geared toward teachers but open to the public, included presentations on how to locate Hamilton's major reports to Congress in the American State Papers.

The transfer of the Genealogy collection to Columbus Metropolitan Library is progressing. All federal and Ohio documents housed in genealogy are being pulled and added to the documents collections. The projected completion date for the transfer is June 30, 2007.

The Kent State University School of Library and Information Science will be moving its Columbus location to the State Library of Ohio; however, the project date is still unknown. The reading area of the State Library is being reconfigured into meeting rooms. The circulation desk will be incorporated into a combined desk with reference services.

The State Library of Ohio in collaboration with Bowling Green State University, Central State University, Kent State University, Geauga Branch in partnership with the Geauga County Historical Society; OhioLINK, Sinclair State University, Wilberforce University and Wilmington College has applied for a NHPRC (National Historical Publications and Record Commission) grant. The topic will be Ohio in a time of war and peace: 1914-1919: a pilot project on increasing accessibility to holdings of national significance in small archives. The official roster of Ohio soldiers, sailors and marines in the World War, 1917-18 from the Ohio Adjutant General will be the major contribution from the State Library's Ohio collection.

The process part of the grant will compare the difference between digitizing items in-house versus use of a mobile scanner (coordinated by the State Library) which can be moved and shared among various institutions.

Competition will be stiff for the three grants that will be awarded; however, the grant committee feels that our chances are very strong. If the application is not successful, other sources of funding will be pursued.

Audrey offers an important reminder:

Space and processing staff are concerns for most depository libraries. If these are causing you to reevaluate your status as a federal depository, please consider becoming an electronic depository rather than dropping out of the program. There is no minimum amount you must collect in any format. Simply collect what you need in order to adequately serve your patron population. Contact Audrey Hall if you need more information.

News from the Listservs

Audrey sent a message to the Ohio listserv on 9/5/06 regarding changes to STAT-USA:

“August brought a bevy of activity to STAT-USA/Internet, as new data were added and more educational tools were introduced:

“* State of the Nation's "Current Versions of America's Top 50" files now offer pop-up boxes that describes the corresponding report. The descriptions vary in length, but all provide an overview of the report, how it's compiled, its release schedule (weekly, monthly, et cetera) and the source agency.

“* Country Studies Country Profile Reports have been added to the International Trade Library in GLOBUS & NTDB. They provide brief, summarized information on a country's historical background, geography, society, economy, transportation, telecommunications, government and politics, and national security.

“* The International Trade Update Newsletter has been added to the International Trade Library.

“* Older Country Background Notes have been removed so it is now much easier to find the country information you're interested in.

“To read the complete article, please click on <http://home.stat-usa.gov/statnews>”

Sherry Engle Moeller shared a memo from the OSU Libraries about their current move:

“The Ohio State University's William Oxley Thompson Memorial (Main) Library, 1858 Neil

Avenue, will close on Sunday, September 17 for a three-year renovation project. The OSU Libraries is moving materials to other libraries which will house the items during the renovation. A new temporary library, the Ackerman Library, at 600 Ackerman Road, is scheduled to open on Friday, September 15. Government documents, along with microforms, maps, and international studies materials, will be at Ackerman. The Ackerman Library will also offer computer access and study space, along with the expertise of many of the Thompson Library's librarians. Hours at the Ackerman Library will be Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Saturday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

“The Sullivant Library, at 15th Avenue and High Street, is the new home for current periodicals and newspapers, videos and DVDs, reference books and non-circulating bound journals in the humanities and social sciences.

“Check the Libraries' web site, library.osu.edu, for complete information on library services throughout the renovation.”

(Press release courtesy of Larry Allen, Communications Coordinator, OSU Libraries)

Sherry adds: “Movers are currently shifting library collections. Documents and part of the microforms collection are scheduled to be moved next week. The schedule is fluid, please call the Main Library Reference Desk 614-292-6175 or Sullivant Library Reference Desk 614-292-2818 to verify location and accessibility of materials before referring patrons.

“Staff offices are also being shifted, but not necessarily at the same time as their collections. During September, email is the best means of reaching specific people.”

SAVE THIS DATE!

*November 17, 2006
State Library of Ohio
Ohio GODORT's 25th Anniversary
and Fall Meeting*

Around the State

Mae Schreiber (University of Akron) reports that “the University of Akron Libraries counted 3682 PURL Referrals for FY2006 (October 2005 to June 2006). The PURL Referrals are the number of times our users have accessed these electronic documents. We compare favorably with other Ohio Depository Libraries. We rank 19th in PURL referrals of approximately 550 Federal Depository Libraries listed and 2nd of the Ohio libraries listed (behind the University of Cincinnati). Certainly, those PURL referral numbers are a lot higher than our circulation statistics.”

Mae also recently published a review of USA Trade Online in v.23, no.2 of *Government Information Quarterly* (pp 333-337). Nice work, Mae!

Do you know your Congressional representative?



**Contact your representative's office...
Introduce yourself...
Make him/her aware of the services
your depository can provide
to his/her constituents!**

Foreign Relations of the United States on the Web

Carol A. Singer
Bowling Green State University

The compilation titled *Foreign Relations of the United States* began with Abraham Lincoln's administration in 1861. It continues to be published by the U.S. State Department, although not without some controversy.

The *FRUS* has always provided an enormously useful resource for scholars and students

interested in the international relations of the United States because it includes a wide variety of official documents that illuminate major foreign relations decisions and diplomatic relations with countries and organizations worldwide. However, it can sometimes be a difficult set to use because of its lack of indexing. The official published indexes cover 1861-1899 and 1900-1918.¹ Two Web sites offer full text online volumes from this series, with the ability to search the volumes by keywords.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, in collaboration with the University of Chicago Libraries, has made available more than 250 volumes of this set, dated 1861 to 1958/1960, on a free Web site.² Although these libraries have done the bulk of the digitization, other libraries have contributed to the collection.

This collection is both browsable and searchable. If you know which volume you want, you can click on the link to the browsable collection. Volumes are listed chronologically and include a citation, a linked table of contents, and a box to search within the volume.

Full text searching is not available for every volume. When it isn't available, you can search by author, title, and section title. The main search page offers a Simple Search, a Boolean Search, and a Proximity Search. The Simple Search retrieves only the first 100 matches. The Boolean and Proximity Searches retrieve all matches.

Several years ago I wrote an article on *FRUS* correspondence about lynchings of foreign nationals in the United States. At the time I had to use the paper indexes. Although this collection is not yet complete, it includes much of the correspondence I had found with the paper indexes, plus additional references to lynchings. This is also an easy way to find such exciting reports as that of the staff at our embassy in China after communists had forced their way into the ambassador's bedroom at Nanking in the middle of the night.³

As the libraries add more volumes to this collection, it will become ever more valuable as a scholarly source. The University of Wisconsin-Madison Digital Collections Center hopes to find additional libraries that will

digitize some of the remaining volumes and contribute them to this collection.

For more recent volumes, the University of Illinois at Chicago maintains a site for the U.S. State Department.⁴ The earliest volume available at this site is *1945-1950 Emergence of the Intelligence Establishment* from the Truman administration. The volumes are listed chronologically, by administration, with the greatest number of volumes available beginning in 1961, with the Kennedy administration. The most recent volumes are from the Ford and Nixon administrations.

This site is both browsable and searchable. The record for each volume varies in content, but frequently contains a list of the sections of the volume with a linked list by groups of document numbers.

The home page of this site includes a link to a search engine, which uses the Google search syntax. When a search is performed, a list of documents is retrieved. Each document is first displayed as a plain text document, with a link to the pdf version at the top of the document.

Useful adjuncts are a list of all volumes of the *Foreign Relations of the United States*, listed chronologically by presidential administration, and a periodical update to the status of the series. Both are linked from the home page.

As with any database, there are always changes that would make the database even more useful. However, these are very good for sites that are freely available on the Internet. The major flaw I found was with the search engines. Both search by keywords. A controlled vocabulary would be extremely useful. Providing only searching by keyword instead of controlled vocabulary is a common failing in databases that contain digital historical documents. The documents, of course, use the language that was current at the time the documents were written. It can be difficult for students, in particular, to determine the appropriate keywords to use. In the case of these databases, the problem can be compounded as some documents use the more formal language of diplomacy, which is also unfamiliar to many students. Even identifying the appropriate place names can be a barrier to successful research as some of these have changed over the years.

Both sites are examples of how collaborative efforts between institutions can enhance the full text online historical government information available to scholars and students worldwide. They provide an invaluable service to those who wish to research historical U.S. foreign relations.

1. U.S. Department of State. *General Index to the Published Volumes of the Diplomatic Correspondence and Foreign Relations of the United States 1861-1899*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1902.; U.S. Department of State. *Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States: General Index, 1900-1918 (Including the Regular Annual Volumes and the Appendices for 1901 and 1902)*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1941.
2. Foreign Relations of the United States. Accessed September 9, 2006.
<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/FRUS/>
3. "The Embassy in China After Occupation of Nanking by Chinese Communists," *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1949. The Far East: China*. Volume VIII (1949), p. 723-859.
4. Foreign Relations of the United States. Accessed September 9, 2006.
<http://state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/>

**Ohio GODORT
Online**

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

What's New on the Web

Jennifer McMullen

College of Wooster

As some of you may know, I love to cook and especially love getting fresh produce from the local farmers' market. I also love to read about food, and over the past couple of years, I've read a number of books on agriculture, food policy, organic farming, and genetically modified foods as well as a wide range of cookbooks. And since I'm writing this at the peak of the farm season, I thought it might be worthwhile to take a look at the resources available online from the government and elsewhere regarding agricultural biotechnology and nutrition.

If you've paid any attention to the news at all over the past few years, you've probably become aware of the debate about genetically modified organisms, including such food products as soybeans able to resist herbicides and corn crossed with Bt to provide innate protection against insects, and it's no surprise that the corporations leading the push for developing and selling such GM crops are selling them as the answer to the world's hunger problem. Finding a balanced view of both sides of the debate online can be difficult, though. Most government sites listed here reveal a strong support for GM technology.

The Department of Agriculture, naturally, provides much information about biotechnology, and the Economic Research Service hosts a couple of sites with related publications: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Biotechnology/> and <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Browse/ResearchProductivity/Biotechnology.htm>. Because some genetic modifications to food crops might fall under the category of additives, or because of food safety issues, the Food and Drug Administration also offers a basic introduction to biotechnology at <http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~lrd/biotechm.html>, and an article from a 2003 issue of *FDA Consumer* ("Genetic Engineering: The Future of Food?") explores more of the possibilities in GM foods at http://www.fda.gov/fdac/features/2003/603_food.html.

Because GM crops are seen as a way to help developing countries solve the problem of hunger, other agencies are involved in touting biotechnology. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative has a site at http://www.ustr.gov/Trade_Sectors/Agriculture/Biotechnology/Section_Index.html that counters arguments against the use of GM crops (a serious bone of contention with the European Union in particular). The U.S. influence can also be found in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the information on their biotechnology web site at <http://www.fao.org/biotech/index.asp?lang=en>.

Not everyone is convinced that GM crops are safe or useful, however. As noted, the European Union takes a different stance toward GM crops, outlining strict measures for labeling and use. More information on their regulations can be found at http://europa.eu/pol/food/index_en.htm. Other organizations take an even stronger stance against GM crops here in the United States,

pointing out that very few safety tests or standards have been applied before crops are introduced. Several of these organizations have informative web sites:

- Food First
(<http://www.foodfirst.org/issues/gefood>)
- Institute for Agricultural and Trade Policy
(<http://www.iatp.org/>)
- National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture
(<http://sustainableagriculture.net/>)
- Organic Consumers Association
(<http://www.organicconsumers.org/gelink.html>)

So are GM crops the answer to the world's food problems or a catastrophe in the making? I'll leave it to you to look at the information provided on these sites and make your own decisions.

Hunger isn't the only problem associated with our food supply, though. News reports appear every week about the increase in obesity in the United States and offer possible reasons for this new "epidemic": the prevalence of fast food and highly processed groceries laden with sugars and fats, a lack of exercise, and so on. A recent USDA report explores a potential link between "Food Stamps and Obesity" (found at http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/February_06/Features/feature4.htm), although it doesn't find a direct correlation between the two. (The cynic in me would point out that the government failed to explore the possibility that people on food stamps, presumably living in poorer neighborhoods, might not have access to grocery stores with a better selection of fresh and healthy unprocessed food.) The nongovernmental organization Institute for Agricultural and Trade Policy considers another source for the problem in "Food Without Thought: How U.S. Farm Policy Contributes to Obesity" (found at <http://www.iatp.org/iatp/publications.cfm?accountID=421&refID=80627>). The U.S. government does, of course, issue nutrition advice, both in its "Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005" (<http://www.healthierus.gov/dietaryguidelines/>) as well as on the Nutrition.gov website (<http://www.nutrition.gov/>).

Hungry yet?

Ohio GODORT Fall Meeting, November 17, 2006

State Library of Ohio, Columbus, OH

Agenda

Come join us at the State Library to celebrate 25 years of Ohio GODORT! Our hard-working ad hoc committee (Karen Kimber, Audrey Hall, Nicole Merriman, Lorna Newman, and Mary Prophet) have arranged a special day for us. After the morning's business meeting, we will enjoy a catered lunch provided by LexisNexis, a keynote speech by Robin Haun-Mohamed of the GPO, and a panel discussion by Ohio GODORT members on the highlights of our organization's history. Enjoy a little nostalgia, visits with former members of Ohio GODORT, and the chance to revel in all the tremendous work our organization and members have done over the last quarter of a century!

Preliminary Agenda	
9:30 - 10:00	Registration and Refreshments
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome
10:15 - 11:30	Business Meeting
11:30 - 1:00	Lunch (Provided by LexisNexis) RSVP to Audrey Hall by November 1
1:00 - 3:00	Anniversary Celebration Keynote Speech by Robin Haun-Mohamed, GPO Panel Discussion by Ohio GODORT Members

For Conference information, contact Mark Gooch at mgooch@wooster.edu or (330) 263-2522. For RSVPs, directions, accommodations, parking, contact Audrey Hall at ahall@sloma.state.oh.us or (614) 995-0033.

Directions

The State Library of Ohio is located at 274 East First Avenue in Columbus. [Driving directions](#) and a map are available on the State Library website. The building is in the Jeffrey Mining Corporate Center along the north side of East First Avenue. The parking lot and entrance are on the west side of the building. Parking is free.

Thursday Night Gathering

Please RSVP to Audrey Hall at ahall@sloma.state.oh.us or (614) 995-0033 if you are planning to attend. The gathering will be at the [Mongolian BBQ](#) at [295 Marconi Blvd.](#)

Accommodations

Many options exist. Extensive listings are provided at [Experience Columbus](#). Select "search lodging", select the desired area. The State Library is located about mid-way between the University and Downtown areas.