



Docs Prescriptions

The Newsletter of the Government Documents Round Table of Ohio

Issue 70

Spring 2009

From the Chair

Back in October 2008 we in the Documents community were told to wait a little longer, perhaps January 2009, for the FDSys rollout. In the short interim period, the real world that the FDSys is meant to inform and instruct has “turned a whiter shade of pale.” Substitute “broke” for “pale” and it would be more accurate. Beta testing has little pull when competing with fiscal rescue plans and suspect dollars for bailouts. More citizens can name their governor than their Congressional representative in my experience.

So the question for us at the local level is how has the recession found your Depository library and what efforts have been executed to deal with the economic downturn? Higher education enrollments increase during recessions, but the budgets for these institutions get short changed by declining State tax revenues owing to layoffs which feed the new student numbers.

In public libraries, requests for resume and career building or changing materials rise with crowding for more free computer time. While helping patrons with their needs lately I have taken several questions about the “stimulus” bill, particularly regarding the content and cost. FDSys, that new machine, delivered up-to-date information about markups and markdowns as well as the sad game of hot potato between House and Senate.

Since the stimulus passage, the best organization of who gets what monies has appeared on our Representative’s website (<http://www.kaptur.house.gov>), including of course the “local” share. Most citizens may not be in line for these funds, but the fact that all information can be shown and examined online or in paper instead of behind a nondescript screen controlled by a wizard far away fulfills the promise of GPO: to deliver documents to the people.

Following this delivery theme, we in Ohio are very well situated both in the number of collections and the depth of holdings. Columbus Metropolitan Library celebrates 125 years as a depository in 2010 while Cleveland Public Library and Ohio University have major anniversaries in 2011. Our major population centers have the resources via GPO but the paramount Word here is delivery. Take away the experienced and inquisitive staffs tending these collections, and the depositories stand as empty mausoleums. Ohio GODORT has promoted dialogue with members and by extension those communities that we serve.

Don’t hide the depository light. Get out and celebrate!

*George Kline, Chair of Ohio GODORT
Toledo-Lucas County Public Library*

From the Editor's Desk

This editor's desk has piled high of late. Thanks to those of you who submitted such fruitful and thought-provoking articles: there's a great deal going on out there in the documents community that has evaded my notice until now. While we were not fortunate enough to receive any depository anniversary articles, I have hopes that over the summer those of you celebrating significant anniversaries in your depository collections will pull together a bit of history about your library to share with the rest of us.

Among the piles scattered across my desk of late have been a number of other, more specialized cataloging projects, drawing me into other areas of the library. My responsibilities have gradually shifted over time, but I've reached the point where more of my focus is going into a variety of cataloging projects, not strictly government documents, and I regret to say that I am unable to devote as much of my time and energies to the Ohio GODORT newsletter any longer.

There's very good news in this announcement, though. I have corresponded with Carol Singer at Bowling Green State University, and after many years of delighting us with her well-researched and inviting columns and feature articles (we get two to enjoy in this issue), she has agreed to step into the driver's seat and edit *Docs Prescriptions*. I feel confident that Carol will continue the tradition of newsy, informative issues, putting her own eclectic stamp on our organization's newsletter, and I am profoundly grateful to her for stepping into the editor's role during this particularly frenetic time in my career and life.

I'd like to thank all of you who have supported my work, provided articles and columns, or simply responded enthusiastically to the ten issues that appeared during my tenure here. Ohio GODORT has so many inspiring members and provides so many opportunities for professional growth that it has been difficult to pull together an issue of *Docs Prescriptions* without feeling that I've learned something valuable. Thanks to all of you for all the work you do, and please give Carol a warm welcome – and plenty more articles and news tidbits!

Minutes: Fall Meeting, November 14, 2008, Ohio University

In Attendance:

Tom Adamich, Kelly M. Broughton, Laura Burns, Schuyler M. Cook, Bill Cuthbertson, Audrey Hall, Albert Hallenberg, Doreen Hockenberry, Karen Kimber, George A. Kline, Cheryl Lubow, Shari Laster, Peggy Lewis, Nicole Merriman, Robert A. Murnan, Lorna Newman, Coleen Parmer, SaraJean Petite, Mary Prophet, Thomas Reitz, Dean Scott Seaman, Sandy Seeley, Carol Ann Singer, J. Peter Thayer, Karen Thornton, Charlene Willey

Welcome from the Chair:

George Kline welcomed the group. He thanked Laura Burns and Sandy Seeley for their work on the refreshments, including lunch, and he thanked the Ohio University Dean of Libraries, who paid for the lunch and beverages.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

SaraJean Petite explained that the Treasurer's Report contained a revision of the Spring 2008 report because at the time the Spring 2008 report was prepared, the secretary/treasurer had not received the bank statements necessary to include all the interest in the organization's account. Peter Thayer moved that the Spring 2008 minutes and treasurer's report be approved and Coleen Parmer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report from the State Library

Audrey Hall reported that there have been some position changes. Roger Verny, the Deputy State Librarian is retiring. There is no news on filling his position. Nicole Merriman has become a library consultant for state library resource sharing in the SLO's IT department. Her position as a cataloger is currently unfilled.

The State Library's pre-1900 Ohio documents have been moved to the outer area of the rare book room. Bob Kelly and Linda Savage will continue cataloging, beginning with the materials in the rare book room.

PACER has been suspended because there was a security breach in which several million dollars' worth of material was downloaded. The FBI is investigating. PACER will resume once this is over, which will be in the spring, at earliest.

The State Library is a Web Junction library. This means there will be more online classes available. The new IT person is moving pages to a new system. The website is still a work in progress.

Report from the Executive Board

Incorporation vs. Registration: The board decided it would be too much trouble and expense to incorporate. The organization's current registration with the Secretary of State is valid through 2013. The board discussed whether to file an amendment each time the secretary/treasurer changed. Coleen Parmer asked if this would require a change to the constitution. George Kline said it would not, but if we were to incorporate, we would need to modify the constitution.

Promotion of Anniversaries: Jennifer McMullen put an Anniversaries pages on the GODORT website. This page lists anniversaries from 2008 to 2013. For each library celebrating an anniversary, it tells which anniversary it is and provides a link to the library's Government Documents page. George Kline added that at the Depository Conference, libraries had been encouraged to celebrate individual anniversaries, as opposed to a group celebration.

Reports from Committees:

1. Membership Committee:

Coleen Parmer reported that SaraJean Petite had assisted with updating the database by sending her a list with people who had attended GODORT meetings in the past. This database was started by getting the names of Government

Documents people at depositories. Coleen requested that GODORT members send her updates.

2. Access to State Government Information and Publications Committee

Nicole Merriman reported that OCLC's digital archive has been merged with Content DM, and Content DM will be providing learning options. She encouraged the group to add catalog records for digital items. Content DM is a partnership between the State Library and the Ohio Historical Society, but OCLC is still storing the data. Nicole Merriman also reported that she is serving as a selector for ALA GODORT's Notable Government Documents until 2009. She encouraged the group to submit favorite government documents for inclusion, and she encouraged others to volunteer to work on this project.

3. Newsletter Committee

George Kline read the following statement from Jennifer McMullen: "The fall issue was posted on the web site early October. Deadline for the spring issue will be March 31. I welcome all submissions, but given next year's big round of anniversaries, I would especially appreciate letters from anniversary libraries about their depository history. (I will be contacting some of those folks directly.)"

4. Home Page Committee

George Kline read the following statement from Jennifer McMullen: "I have asked Mark Gooch to take over the running of the web site, so I am stepping down from the committee and suggest he be listed as chair instead. As far as I know, Doreen and Joe are still willing to serve on the committee, but you might want to check." Doreen said that she was still willing to serve on the committee.

5. Ohio GODORT-ALA GODORT Liaison

Joe Salem was not present and no report was sent.

6. Archives Liaison

Audrey Hall reported that the archives are up-to-date with everything she has received to date.

7. OhioLINK Liaison

Karen Kimber said that there was nothing going on. Coleen Parmer, Karen Kimber, and Carol Singer mentioned the "Big Sets" list. Peter Thayer mentioned the chat reference committee. It has joined forces with Cleveland Public Library's KnowItNow service to provide government documents subject expertise. Peter has received an increased number of inquiries through the KnowItNow service, and he had to request additional help from the chair of the committee. He said the contact person is Megan Mitchell at Oberlin. Charlene Willey said she was on chat reference, but not KnowItNow. She had heard there was trouble with connectivity. Peter Thayer said that the new software is Spark, which is better than previous software. There have been connectivity issues, but they have decreased. If one has problems with the software, KnowItNow is responsive and has a FAQ about software problems. Albert Hallenberg said his library offers KnowItNow, there are problems because the librarians don't have administrative rights over their computers, so co-browsing doesn't work well. Students don't seem to mind workarounds, but they like transcripts. (Their students are middle and high school students.) Co-browsing has been working well for Peter, but cut-and-paste links work more quickly.

Reports from the Depository Conference

Ohio Attendees at the Depository Conference included: Ellen Conrad, Schuyler Cook, Cynthia Cort, Beverly Gage, Mark Gooch, Audrey Hall, Albert Hallenberg, Doreen Hockenberry, Karen Kimber, George A. Kline, George Kobulnicky, Lorna Newman, Andrea Peakovic, Mary Prophet, and Karen Thornton.

Depository Anniversaries: George Kline reported that there was a very good program that helped attendees understand how GPO wanted them to celebrate their depositories' anniversaries and gave suggestions for doing so on a small budget.

FDLP Handbook: According to George Kline, revision of this manual was being done, and they're getting down to having a working how-to manual.

Future of the FDLP: According to George Kline and Audrey Hall, a lot of time was spent dissecting and picking apart the language. George said that there was no clear answer to the question "What does this mean for us and how can we provide service?"

Digitization: According to George Kline, the GPO is looking for partners. Coleen Parmer added that there hasn't been anything but a register of digital projects. She thinks the GPO needs to make plans, best practices, and prioritize (based on use, ease of digitization) digitization projects. Mary Prophet said that GPO initiated a government-wide standard for digitization across the agencies, which was just finished a year ago. This is a core piece. She thinks we're being a bit hard on GPO because they're working under a handicap. They're being realistic: They can't hold us to standards they can't. They want to make sure we don't lose the last few copies. Mary is willing to sacrifice some things to save the rest.

Assessment: George Kline said that the new FDLP Handbook's chapter on access said that Depository libraries will inspect themselves. Mary Prophet reported that her library went through this self-assessment program as pilot study: When they look at a library's program, they look at every piece of its website, biennial survey, and other materials. They call the numbers and listen to voice mail (on reference desk). Then, they call and ask questions for about an hour. If there's a problem with phone conversation, they will schedule a visit. Peter Thayer asked what the GPO is looking for in a government resources web page. Shari Laster said there's a draft of the public access assessment, and she used it to get a public access policy at her library. Peter said that content is an issue, in addition to policies and accessibility. Mary Prophet added that the GPO also looked at class web pages to see if students were being referred to Depository resources. Mary Prophet added that it is better if libraries that are aware of a problem don't fix it before the assessment because failure on a particular section of the evaluation may result in organizational change. Charlene Willey said that this is how she was able to get additional student help.

Dr. Google: Doreen Hockenberry reported that her favorite quote was: "Dr. Google doesn't find everything." There was a discussion about the plight of libraries in general, but that there was still a need for trained professionals. She mentioned how government websites block crawlers.

Agency Sessions: Doreen Hockenberry reported that agency sessions were interesting and well-done. She mentioned that the Smithsonian traced the history of baseball back

to the 1920s and one could view this on FDLP Desktop. She said that the Labor Department also had some interesting stuff. Mary Prophet mentioned that Connie Wright conducted a session on using government documents, including the Serials Set and the Agriculture Bulletins, in one's genealogy research. Schuyler Cook said that the five Ohio libraries who were consolidating their collections for a smaller, but complete, collection did a great program.

Upcoming Anniversaries

Mary Prophet gets credit for pulling together the list of upcoming anniversaries listed on the GODORT of Ohio home page. Lorna Newman asked about designation as USGS library. Mary said it was a separate system, but combined in late 70s or early 80s. Lorna's library has been USGS longer than federal depository.

(After the meeting, it was brought to the Secretary's attention that Mary Prophet was responsible for encouraging Ohio GODORT to celebrate anniversary, but Jennifer McMullen did the actual work of pulling together the list for the home page.)

New Business

Marcive Records: Charlene Willey said that Jim Noel from Marcive had sent an e-mail about separate records for each format of a publication. Mary Prophet said that this is because GPO has moved from the single-record approach to having a separate record for each format. Coleen Parmer said that this will help librarians search GPO's catalog because they will know what format they've found. Lorna Newman went to the session on this at the Depository conference and heard that GPO has stopped adding the PURL to the catalog record for the physical format. A GODORT member indicated strong disapproval of this change, and those at the business meeting agreed with her. Coleen Parmer says that there will be fewer records as more become electronic-only. Lorna said we'll be seeing a reduction in fiche, except for hearings. Mary Prophet said the cataloging decision was made two years ago, but implementation has started recently. Coleen Parmer said we can get a URL finder to locate PURL, but that creates additional work.

Minutes: Lorna Newman requested that attendees' names be listed on minutes. Doreen Hockenberry said she would forward a list of attendees to the secretary/treasurer after the meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be at the State Library of Ohio on May 15, 2009.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
SaraJean Petite
Secretary/Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance (11/14/2008)	\$3,889.36
Income: Dues	\$ 20.00
Income: Interest	\$ 3.54
Expense: Refreshments (Fall Meeting)	(\$ 43.20)
Ending Balance (3/25/2009)	\$3,869.70

News from the State Library

From Audrey Hall, State Library of Ohio

Ohio Depository Libraries

Many Ohio federal depository libraries are also Ohio state depository libraries. The federal format change from paper to digital is paralleled in Ohio. The monthly distribution of Ohio documents ceased with December 2008. The first quarterly shipment began with March 2009.

Comparing the numbers from the first quarters of 2004 and 2009 justifies the need for the change in distribution. In 2004, a total of 333 paper documents were received from state agencies, of those, 85 were distributed. In 2009, a total of 204 paper documents were received from state agencies, and of those, 21 were distributed. In 2004, 29 titles were added to the digital collection. In 2009, 268 titles were added to the digital collection.

This really points out the need to add Ohio digital documents to your catalog. Long series will remain unbroken and your patrons will have access to the most current publications and research from their state government. All items added to the digital collection have full bibliographic OCLC records.

The cumulated lists of additions to the digital collection are online at http://library.ohio.gov/LPD/fed_state_docs/StateGovDocs/OhioDocs. Monthly additions are posted to the stategovdocs list. At the request of depository libraries, the monthly list is divided by monograph and serial titles.

Instructions for joining the stategovdocs list (which generates little traffic) can be found online at http://library.ohio.gov/LPD/fed_state_docs/StateGovDocs. It is mainly announcements. At least one person at your library who works with Ohio documents is **required** to join the list.

Catalog of Art Museum Images

The State Library of Ohio is pleased to announce that CAMIO—Catalog of Art Museum Images Online is now available for State Library of Ohio card holders for research and educational purposes. CAMIO contains about 95,000 works of fine and decorative art from leading museums around the world. The scope of the collection ranges from 3000 BCE to the present, representing premiere examples of Asian, African, Latin American and Western art. Difficult-to-find contemporary art is one of its

strengths. The content includes high-resolution images of photographs, paintings, sculpture, decorative and utilitarian objects, prints, drawings and watercolors, jewelry and costumes, textiles, books, installations, and architecture—plus audio-video and mixed media. Benefits of the interface include downloading high-resolution images, the ability to e-mail images and metadata for further study, and fast, powerful, Web-based searching. All content is rights-cleared for research and educational use.

This easy-to-use resource is only accessible for registered library card holders through the State Library of Ohio website at the following link: <http://www.library.ohio.gov/PCS/digitalcontent> and selecting the CAMIO link. Sample Lesson Plans, Using Primary Sources in the Classroom, are available for educators at: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/primary.html>.

If you do not already have a State Library of Ohio card you can register for one at: <http://www.library.ohio.gov/PCS/GetACard>.

WebJunction

On the front page of the State Library's newly revised web site <http://library.ohio.gov/>, you will find a section entitled Statewide Resources & Services. On that list is WebJunction Ohio for Librarians. One of the features of WebJunction Ohio is the course catalog. It is a private catalog paid for by the State Library of Ohio. Only staff members working in a library in Ohio are eligible to enroll in this private catalog as Ohio affiliate members.

Opening an account is free. Indicate your Ohio affiliation when you open your account. The self-paced courses fall under the broad general categories of Customer Service & Interpersonal Skills, Library Management, Library Services, Operating & Automation Systems, Organizational Management, Personnel Management, Technology, and Web Design & Development.

Clicking on the WebJunction Library Services tab at the top of the page, then Information Services leads you to Government Information in the 21st Century. This is a continuing education program to train reference and public services librarians and library workers in the use of government information. Current funding for this program has ended but the modules are still available although not updated.

Ohio Memory-Next Generation

From Shannon Kupfer, State Library of Ohio

On March 2, 2009, the State Library of Ohio, in conjunction with the Ohio Historical Society, launched the Ohio Memory–Next Generation website. More than 75,000 primary documents are available on the site, with additional documents added regularly. These include photos, journals, annual reports, and a myriad of other document types, selected from the collections of the State Library, the Ohio Historical Society, and other cultural-heritage institutions across the state.

Ohio Memory–Next Generation is based in OCLC's CONTENTdm content-management product, which replaced OCLC's Digital Archive in 2008. With CONTENTdm, the State Library continues to harvest web-based materials and make them available online, as we have done since 2001. We have also increased the rate at

which we are digitizing materials from our print collection, selecting largely those materials that were printed prior to 1900 and that will be of interest to genealogists. Our partnership with the Ohio Historical Society provides for cost savings while allowing us to increase accessibility to unique and vulnerable materials in our collection.

The Ohio Memory-Next Generation website is located at <http://www.ohiomemory.org> and is free to all users. All materials contributed by the State Library are also being cataloged and the records are available in the State Library's online catalog at <http://statelibraryofohio.worldcat.org>. The bibliographic records, which include the URLs pointing to Ohio Memory, are available for copy-cataloging from OCLC. Cataloged born-digital material will continue to be included in the monthly listing of additions sent via the [stategovdocs](mailto:stategovdocs.listserv) listserv. To join this list, please visit http://library.ohio.gov/LPD/fed_state_docs/StateGovDocs. In addition, you can browse a cumulated list of born-digital material found online at the same site: http://library.ohio.gov/LPD/fed_state_docs/StateGovDocs/OhioDocs.

If you have any questions about Ohio Memory-Next Generation, please contact Shannon Kupfer at skupfer@sloma.state.oh.us.

We Want YOU For Ohio GODORT!

Membership dues for 2009-2010 (a reasonable \$20!) can be paid at the spring meeting.

OR!

Send your checks made to "GODORT of Ohio" to SaraJean Petite.

Around Ohio and the Nation

From The Library of Congress via GOVDOC-L, January 23, 2009:

"I'm pleased to announce the launch of a new annual, peer-reviewed, online journal from the Society for History in the Federal Government. *Federal History* will feature articles by scholars working for and in federal offices, as well as academic scholars, that explore the evolution of the U. S. government.

"You'll find the journal's web page, along with submission guidelines, at <http://www.shfg.org/SHFGv3JournalIssues.html>.

"If you have any questions or comments about the journal, or would like to submit an article manuscript, please reply to editor-shfg-journal@shfg.org. Feel free to forward this announcement to colleagues who may be interested."

Carol Singer spotted this at The Scout Report (October 31, 2008) :

"Recently, the Law Library of Congress and Google teamed up on a collaborative pilot project to digitize the Law Library's entire collection of 75,000 volumes of printed Congressional Hearings. For those who might not be familiar with these hearings, they typically contain testimony from members of Congress, interest groups, and policy

experts. The intent of this initial digitization project is to produce text-readable versions of these hearings and to make them available as quickly as possible. Currently, the site contains three thematic collections that cover hearings on the U.S. Census, freedom of information, and immigration. Visitors can browse through them at their leisure and even offer their own comments on the quality of the image and any general comments as well.” (<http://www.loc.gov/law/find/hearings.html>)

The Struggle For a Better Depository System in the Late Nineteenth Century

From Carol A. Singer, Bowling Green State University

We tend to take the federal depository system for granted. After all, it's been here all our lives. However, once upon a time there was only a distribution system, run out of the Interior Department, that included some of the Congressional documents and none of the Executive documents. That didn't mean that librarians didn't care about the problem. In fact, the very first issue of *Library Journal*, in 1876, included an article that began, "As a general rule, the public documents have been a despised class of books." The author called for better distribution of government publications and an index that would be complete and up-to-date.

At the second meeting of the American Library Association, held in 1877, attendees discussed the distribution problems of United States government publications and appointed a committee of Librarian of Congress A.R. Spofford, Dr. Homes, and Samuel Swett Green to investigate the problem and write a report that would include the text of a proposed bill to would solve the problem.

Finally, at the library conference in 1881, the committee made their report, which called the system of distribution "infelicitous" and identified the following problems:

- Libraries were dependent on Congressmen remembering them, so they couldn't rely on getting documents every year
- Not all large libraries received documents
- Documents were sent out only once each year
- Libraries had to pay for postage
- Libraries wanting to purchase a document had to notify the government before the document was published
- Too many copies of some documents were published, wasting money and creating trash
- Documents came from too many different places, so some libraries received duplicates while others received none
- Some Congressmen were giving documents to supporters as rewards, instead of distributing them to libraries
- Some Congressmen were selling the documents to second hand dealers to make money instead of distributing them to libraries

The committee recommended that all public libraries with at least 5,000 volumes should receive copies of all documents published by the U.S. government, postage-free and that ALA appoint a committee to write a bill proposing an improved method of distributing U.S. government publications. This report was adopted.

In 1882, Samuel Swett Green, chair of the committee "to Secure a Distribution of Public Documents Satisfactory to Libraries," reported that the bill written by the committee had been sent to the Senate Committee on Printing. Later that year, Green reported that a bill had been passed, ensuring that 423 copies of all documents ordered by Congress to be printed would be sent to the Interior Department to be distributed to libraries designated by members of Congress. He noted that this was not all ALA wanted, but it was a good start. He particularly praised Senator Hoar and the Rev. John G. Ames, Superintendent of Documents in the Interior Department, for their hard work in trying to improve the distribution of U.S. government publications.

At the 1883 ALA Conference in Buffalo, the committee, except for one member, presented a petition to be circulated among libraries for signatures. This petition asked Congress to improve the distribution of U.S. government publications and asked that the law be changed to include the provisions that each public, university, college, and school library should receive a copy of every U.S. government publication and that these libraries should be given the highest priority for receiving these documents.

At the same conference, the committee proposed a resolution that any state or territorial library, or other library designated by a member of Congress, should be able to pay \$25.00 to the public printer before the beginning of a session of Congress and then be guaranteed to receive all public documents ordered to be printed by that session of Congress. However, that resolution hadn't been presented to Congress by the 1885 library conference at Lake George.

By 1886, Superintendent of Documents Ames had started a clearinghouse for duplicate copies of Congressional Record. Libraries with extra volumes could contribute them and libraries with no volumes could request them. The Library Journal reported on a bill, introduced by Congressman Singleton, designed to reform the distribution of U.S. government publications and containing much of what the American Library Association had requested. The Association also signed a petition, urging Congress to pass legislation to improve the distribution of public documents.

Despite repeated attempts by the American Library Association to convince Congress to pass a law making the distribution system more efficient, for several years there were no reports of any improvements, except for the exchange system devised and expanded by Superintendent Ames. In fact, the November 1889 Library Journal includes an communication by the editors, C.A. Cutter and R.R. Bowker, which describes the system of U.S. government publications: "in arrangement, paging, printing, indexing, and binding, everything is about as bad and as wasteful as it can be. The consequence is that there is a great deal of duplication and waste, involving many hundreds of thousands of dollars, and that the really valuable publications are lost amidst the mass."

Finally, at the 1891 library conference, the Committee on Public Documents offered a majority report in which they reported potentially hopeful news - enough Senators and Congressmen were convinced that something needed to be done to improve the system of distribution of U.S. public Documents that a joint committee had been appointed to review the matter. Superintendent of Documents Ames had been able to place before them the views of the American Library Association. A minority report, by J. P. Dunn, felt that this view was too optimistic. He said that, although some departments had improved the distribution of their documents, "There are several laboring under the

delusion that they exist by divine grace, and whether the public is served or not served, it is to their eternal glory.”

In January 1892, the Library Journal reported that the “Bill Providing for the Public Printing and Binding and the Distribution of Public Documents” was introduced by Senator Manderson, of Nebraska. The Library Journal reported on the bill’s progress as it was amended and then passed by the Senate and was sent to the House. The bill was also a matter of concern at the library conference that year. Despite some members advocating amendments to the bill, the Association passed a memorial recommending that Congress pass the legislation. In the forefront of the opposition was J. P. Dunn, who was mostly concerned that the bill did not provide for 100 percent of all government publications to be sent to depositories. He wrote, “I stand squarely on the proposition that anything that is worth printing by the government for general information is worth being put in the depositories...These documents are supposed to be accessible to the people, and yet there are hundreds of them not sent to the depositories.”

At the 1893 library conference, J. P. Dunn, who was the chair of the Public Documents Committee, confessed that he had not called a meeting of the committee as he was actively opposed to some measures of the printing bill, but he also felt that the committee couldn’t oppose the will of the Association. Therefore, he offered his resignation: “I therefore return my talent, wrapped in a napkin, and desist.” Members of the conference were disappointed that the bill had not been passed in the House. Superintendent of Documents Ames reported that much of the opposition to the House bill was from organizations that had a pecuniary interest in the continuance of the current system of distribution. Later that year, the Library Journal published a report of the passage of the amended bill in the House and its consideration by a special Senate committee.

At the 1894 library conference, the Committee on Public Documents reported that the bill had been delayed in the Senate because so much time had been spent on silver and tariff bills. Finally, the Senate passed the bill again, but with additional amendments and it was returned to the House for consideration. There were members of the House who objected to some of these amendments, saying that it could result in a system of political patronage for the Government Printing Office. For a second time, although both houses had passed a version of the bill, it still hadn’t been made into a law before adjournment. Superintendent Ames summarized some of the improvements this bill would make in the distribution system, such as the great increase in the kind of documents to be sent to depositories, which would now include a greater number of Congressional documents and, for the first time, documents of Executive departments.

At long last, in the January 1895 issue, the Library Journal was able to report that the bill had been passed by both houses of Congress and been signed by the President. At the 1895 library conference, R. R. Bowker, the chairman of the Committee on Public Documents, reported that, despite Dr. Ames’ experience and dedication, the Public Printer had made a political appointment, the new Superintendent of Documents was Mr. F. A. Crandall, who was otherwise a very able man. Mr. Crandall had appointed Miss Adelaide R. Hasse and Mr. J. H. Hickox to important positions.

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"Report of the Committee on Public Documents," *Library Journal*, v. 19 (1894): Conf. No. 126-128.

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[Report of the Second Annual Conference of American Librarians], *Library Journal*, v. 2 (1877): 14, 26-28, 34.

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“Report of the Public Documents Committee,” Library Journal, v. 18 (1893): Conf. No. 52

Let's Hear It For the Kids! Gov Doc Kids Group

From Tom Adamich, Muskingum College



Several years ago, a group of progressive government information librarians from the Kansas City metropolitan area brainstormed as to how they could further define their activities as government information librarians to meet the increasing demands of the K-12 education community for government information and instructional strategies. Mary Burtzloff (National Archives, Central Plains), Martha Childers (Johnson County (KS) Public Library), Arlene Wiler (Johnson County (KS) Public Library), and Tatiana Pashkova-Balkenhol (Emporia State University) joined forces to found what is known today as the Gov Doc Kids Group.

The Gov Doc Kids Group is a national group of government information librarians, co-sponsored by the Kansas Library Association Government Documents Roundtable (KLA-GODORT) and the GODORT Education Committee. The group's mission statement proclaims that

Our goal is to promote government information in order to engage K-12 students in learning about history, culture, science, and government through games and other interactive activities; to assist teachers and school librarians with locating teaching aids, lesson plans, and exciting tools to enhance students' learning, and to provide librarians with a collection of free government resources to advance their reference interview and collection development decisions.

In addition to serving as government information liaisons for K-12 education (relative to resources utilization and the connection of government information resources to curriculum areas and lessons), the Gov Doc Kids Group sponsors an annual Constitution Day Poster Contest to celebrate the significance of the U.S. Constitution as our country's guiding principles. The Oak Hill Publishing Company, home of ConstitutionFacts.com (<http://www.constitutionfacts.com>) serves as a major national sponsor for the competition. The initial goal of the project was conceived as a promotional tool for the value of government documents to K-12 students and teachers in addressing the requirement to integrate Constitution Day into public school curricula. Over the years, the project has expanded in both scope and content.

The 2008 Constitution Day Poster Contest drew 1140 entries from 28 states, and entries were judged by: Mary Burtzloff (Archivist, National Archives-Central Plains Region, Kansas City, Missouri), Brian Oertel (Graphic Designer, Johnson County Library, Overland Park, Kansas), and Jan Schall (Sanders Sosland Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri). The

contest culminated on Saturday, December 6, 2008, with a presentation to three local Kansas City-area winners at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, with Kansas City, Missouri, Councilwoman Jan Marcason speaking. The winners received two posters, a certificate, and a press release to their local paper. Publicity ranged from the Zanesville (Ohio) Times Reporter, Pratt Tribute (Kansas), the Kansas City Star to the Stars & Stripes. The first 100 entrants received one copy each of the U.S. Constitution from Oak Hill Publishing Company.

The Gov Doc Kids Group is a national organization of government information librarians interested in the role of government information in the K-12 portion of the lifelong learning process. We would welcome the participation of Ohio GODORT members who wish to join and contribute individual expertise to this collective effort.

Since several of our members are located in Ohio (Cherie Bronkar and Tom Adamich, Muskingum College), we hope that Ohio GODORT will adopt a resolution to join both the KLA-GODORT and GODORT Education Committee in sponsoring the Gov Doc Kids Group. We are not seeking funding; we are looking for support and human input - even if it's limited to promoting and utilizing Gov Doc Kids Group resources. Like you, we all are busy with our daily tasks, etc., so whatever you feel you can contribute, we welcome that contribution.

If you're interested in joining the following list of current members, please send an e-mail to Martha Childers (ChildersM@jocolibrary.org).

Tom Adamich - Muskingum College / Visiting Librarian Service

tadamich@muskingum.edu ; vls@tusco.net

Cherie Bronkar - Muskingum College cbronkar@muskingum.edu

Mary Burtzloff - National Archives - Great Plains Region

mary.burtzloff@nara.gov

Martha Childers - Johnson County Library ChildersM@jocolibrary.org

Nan Myers - Wichita State University Nan.Myers@wichita.edu

Antoinette Satterfield - Kansas State University satterfi@ksu.edu

Carmen Orth-Alfie - University of Kansas corthalf@ku.edu

The Gov Docs Kids project will also be featured in a program at ALA's Annual Conference on July 13, 2009. For additional information about this program, visit the site at http://wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/Programs#Annual_2009. Links for bookmarks and other materials you can print and use can be found at the bottom of the Government Documents Resources page on the Ohio GODORT web site:

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

Starting From Scratch: The Midvale Public Library

From Tom Adamich, Muskingum College

Jim Ford, citizen of Midvale, Ohio, had a dream. He wanted his hometown to have its own public library. And now he's making that dream come true, with the generous support of neighbors and, not surprisingly, other libraries.

Members of the Ohio GODORT community, including the University of Toledo, Columbus Metropolitan Library, the State Library of Ohio, and Marietta College have

been donating selected Needs and Offers items that are appropriate to act as excellent materials for the developing library's reference collection. "We are happy to support Jim Ford and his government information needs for the public library," said Lynda Lee Meyer, Carlson Library, University of Toledo, Government Documents Division. The Muskingum College Library also donated a sizable number of reference books for the new library's collection (nearly 89 volumes total).

Ford is storing most of the volumes received in the Garver Electric & Plumbing Building in Tuscarawas. Nearly 40,000 volumes are now available for placement in the new building when completed. He has also received a donation of old shelving from Marietta College.

Ford continues to receive donations from interested residents and businesses. Any Ohio GODORT libraries willing to recommend Needs and Offers materials to Jim Ford (following the expiration of the FDLP-member time period) or who have any excess equipment or furniture to donate, please feel free to e-mail fordtbd@juno.com, call 330-447-9086, or mail to Box 302, Midvale, OH 44653.

Read more about the Midvale Public Library Project using the following links:
<http://www.timesreporter.com/homepage/x1043672134>
<http://www.timesreporter.com/homepage/x16582194/Library-receives-donations-from-2-libraries>
<http://www.mariettatimes.com/page/content.detail/id/509748.html?nav=5002>
http://admission.marietta.edu/cgi-bin/MySQLdb?VIEW=/news/view_one.txt&newsid=1135

History Digitized

From Carol A. Singer, Bowling Green State University

Many libraries and other institutions are digitizing historical government documents or government information and providing free access on the Web. Beginning with this issue of *Docs Prescriptions*, I'll be writing a column that includes a selection of the sites I've found. If you've found an interesting historical government information site, please send the URL and any pertinent information to singerc@bgsu.edu and I'll be happy to include it in a future column. Here are some of my recent finds:

Papers of the War Department 1784 to 1800

<http://wardepartmentpapers.org/>

In 1800, the offices of the War Department burned. For a long time, historians thought all of their papers were missing forever. However, a decade-long project has uncovered 55,000 of these documents and made most of them available online. The team that produced this site, now sponsored by George Mason University, visited more than 3,000 collections in the U.S., Canada, England, France, and Scotland. Each document in the searchable database includes extensive metadata about the document. Most include image(s) of the document, although not all are legible enough to read. This is a gold mine of information about military history, diplomacy, Native Americans, and veterans.

Selected Reports and Documents from the United States Serial Set

<http://collections.stanford.edu/serialset/bin/page?forward=home>

This site, from Stanford University, currently includes only two titles: the *Immigration Commission Report*, commonly called the Dillingham Report, and the

Report on Woman and Child Wage Earners, although the intent is to add additional Serial Set volumes in the future. The collection can be searched or individual volumes can be read in their entirety.

The 19 volume *Report of Woman and Child Wage Earners* was released during the 61st Congress. It includes such volumes as *Conditions Under Which Children Leave School To Go To Work* and *Relation of Occupation and Criminality of Women*. The 52 volume *Immigration Commission Report* was also released during the 61st Congress. This extensive set of reports, includes many volumes on immigrants in various industries, but also such titles as *Importation and Harboring of Women for Immoral Purposes*, *Children of Immigrants in Schools*, and (my favorite) *Changes in Bodily Form of Descendants of Immigrants*.

Military Legal Sources

http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/

The materials on this site, from the Library of Congress, have been digitized by the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School Library. It includes digitized periodicals and other materials about military law. For the historian, it also includes such resources as the transcript of the court martial of one of the participants in the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876; transcripts of trials of various war criminal trials from World War II; Congressional hearings and reports of the Army's investigation of the massacre of American prisoners of war by German troops at Malmedy in World War II; Congressional hearings on Korean War atrocities; hearings and reports about My Lai in the Vietnam War; and hearings about American prisoners of war in Vietnam.

United States House of Representatives Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia

http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/pow/senate_house/investigation_H.html

The Library of Congress has placed PDF files of hearings and the final report from this House committee. The hearings took place in 1975-1976.

United States Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs

http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/pow/senate_house/investigation_S.html

The Library of Congress has also placed PDF files of hearings from this Senate committee about the search for missing servicemen from the Vietnam War. These hearings took place between 1991 and 1993.

A to Z Digitization Project

<http://digital.library.unt.edu/search/?q=ATOZ&t=collection>

This project, of the University of North Texas, involves digitizing a wide range of U.S. government documents, mostly published before 1960. This project begins with the call number "A," so this is definitely a long-term project. As of March 2009, it includes 772 documents, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. An RSS feed is available for those who want to know what new documents are added to this collection.

This is the University responsible for hosting the famous CyberCemetery of documents of defunct U.S. government agencies at <http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/>. Other projects include:

-the Federal Communications Commission Record

<http://digital.library.unt.edu/browse/department/govdocs/fccrecord/>

-U.S. Government Newspapers from World War II

- <http://digital.library.unt.edu/browse/department/govdocs/newsmaps/>
- Congressional Research Service Reports Archives
<http://digital.library.unt.edu/govdocs/crs/>
- publications of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations
<http://digital.library.unt.edu/browse/department/govdocs/acir/>
- U.S. Agricultural Experiment Station Publications
<http://digital.library.unt.edu/browse/department/govdocs/acir/>
- U.S. World War I and II posters
<http://digital.library.unt.edu/browse/department/rarebooks/wwpc/>

Historical Government Documents from World War II

<http://digitalcollections.smu.edu/all/cul/hgp/>

Southern Methodist University makes this collection of 343 reports, documents, pamphlets, and other U.S. government publications available. Topics of the publications are quite varied, such as dairy barns, air raid training, lend-lease programs, recipes for dried beans, and women's employment in war industries. You have to go to this site, if only to read *Pvt. Droop Has Missed the War*, urging people to be more careful crossing the street, driving, etc.

Internet Archive: U.S. Government Documents

<http://www.archive.org/details/USGovernmentDocuments>

The Internet Archive has a page that provides access to the more than 8,700 government documents included in this massive collection. Although the title of the page says the materials are United States documents, the page links to Government documents from many jurisdictions. You can browse by author and title, search the collection, look at the most often viewed documents, or at those just added.

Annual Reports of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs

<http://library.louisville.edu/government/federal/agencies/interior/indianaffairsreport.html>

The University of Louisville has digitized some of these annual reports between 1863 and 1938 and placed them in the Internet Archive, with links from the University of Louisville's web site. [Thanks to Coleen Parmer for finding these documents!]

Canada Yearbook Historical Collection

http://www65.statcan.gc.ca/acyb_r000-eng.htm

This collection covers yearbooks for 1867 to 1967. It is easily browsed and searched. This can be a great starting point for information and statistics about Canadian history.

Yearbook of the United Nations 1946-2005

<http://unyearbook.un.org/>

This United Nations site includes pdf files of all of the UN Yearbooks from 1946-2005. Browse the collection, or search a single year, multiple years, or the entire collection.

Statistical Yearbook of the League of Nations

<http://www.library.northwestern.edu/govinfo/collections/league/stat.html>

Northwestern University has placed this collection online, covering the statistical yearbooks for 1926 through 1944. They are browsable and searchable. This is part of a larger collection of League of Nations Statistical and Disarmament Documents available at <http://www.library.northwestern.edu/govinfo/collections/league/>

Just For the Health of It

From Jennifer McMullen, The College of Wooster

Even while the debate over national health insurance rages on, other health issues regularly make headlines in newspaper and Internet site and on television: flu, MRSA, and the all-too-frequent food product recalls (the latest, as of this writing, being the pest-ridden peanut butter panic involving our old “friends” Sam and Ella). Where can you find information on health topics, from symptoms to treatments and from preventive care to recall information? No, I’m not talking about Wikipedia or Google, I’m talking about the various agencies under the Department of Health and Human Services.

<http://www.healthfinder.gov/>

A good general starting point is Healthfinder.gov, which provides a searchable encyclopedia of topics, lists of resources, health news, and a variety of “personal health tools” such as online checkups, menu planning, health calculators.

<http://health.nih.gov/>

The National Institutes of Health have several useful pages, beginning with the simply named Health Information page that includes news, research, a way to browse categories on body systems, procedures, and symptoms. An example from the latest news resources is a list of recalled products containing peanuts and detailed information about *Salmonella*. The NIH also has a handy list of Toll-Free Information Lines available: <http://www.nih.gov/health/infoline.htm>

<http://nccam.nih.gov/>

The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, under the framework of the NIH, offers “research-based information on treatment and conditions” on their web site as well as news and ways to be an informed consumer. Especially useful for those unfamiliar with CAM are their useful “Herbs at a glance” fact sheets at <http://nccam.nih.gov/health/herbsataglance.htm> as well as a timely list of “Alerts and advisories” (<http://nccam.nih.gov/news/alerts/>).

http://www.niams.nih.gov/Health_Info/how_to_find.asp

Sure, you can find plenty of health information online, but how do you know what’s true and useful? The How to Find Health Information page through the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases lists resources for finding and evaluating health information. First on their list? Libraries!

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/healthbeat/2009/index.html>

Maybe you like learning bits and pieces about all aspects of health. If that’s the case, check out the HHS HealthBeat podcasts. You can find quick and useful tidbits on various subjects: quitting smoking, coping with cold weather, even that pesky peanut recall. The archive list includes links to related, more detailed articles.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer/cc.htm>

If your concerns lean toward becoming a more savvy health care consumer (and isn’t that a sad phrase?), the Navigating the Health Care System Advice column by Dr. Carolyn Clancy covers topics such as improving your recovery after a hospital stay, long term care choices, and helpful steps to take after a diagnosis. The column is also available as email updates or through RSS feed.

<http://www.nia.nih.gov/>

I know you've heard it said, but you're not getting any younger. (At least I know I'm not!) So at some point, you'll want to know more about the National Institute on Aging and what information it can provide about senior health issues. The NIA's news site (found at <http://www.nia.nih.gov/NewsAndEvents/>) covers topics from staying healthy in weather extremes to the latest on Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and even menopause. (See? It's useful even if you're not considered "old.")

<http://publications.nigms.nih.gov/biobeat/>

The place to keep up with research in health matters is Biomedical Beat, the "monthly digest of research news" from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Recent news bites connect to articles at research institutions on the role of yeast in reshuffling metabolic systems when iron levels are low; the use of DNA to slow the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria; and how baking soda activates anthrax. The site also includes a "Cool Image Gallery" with colorful photographs from images generated by microscope (<http://publications.nigms.nih.gov/biobeat/gallery/index.html>). Again, you can subscribe through RSS feed.

<http://www.fda.gov/consumer/rssConsumer.xml>

The perpetually-underfunded and overtasked Food and Drug Administration posts their Consumer Health Information Updates (available through RSS feed, too) online to keep citizens in the know about recalls or new products. And if you do run across problems with food or health products, the FDA has a site called "How to Report Problems with Products Regulated by the FDA" that indicates what products are under their control and who to contact: <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/backgrounders/problem.html>.

<http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/>

Much medical research is dependent on the willingness of people to participate in clinical trials. This site allows you to search for research trials as well as information on how to participate.

All of these sites provide useful, easy to find, easy to understand information for consumers. But various health agencies are taking their public outreach efforts into the social networking sphere and the Internet culture at large:

<http://twitter.com/FDArecalls>

<http://twitter.com/CDCemergency>

Both the FDA and the CDC have Twitter pages that give you quick headlines with links back to their web sites for more details. If you've got a Twitter account, you can become a "follower" to these sites and get the updates sent to your mobile phone, your instant messaging software, or your web site.

<http://www2a.cdc.gov/eCards/index.asp>

And if you're the sort of person who thinks every day is an occasion for sending a card to let someone know you're thinking of them, try CDC Health eCards to send snippets of health information as electronic greeting cards. One wintry scene lit with soft blue light asks, "Are you prepared for winter weather?" The advice inside includes, "Stock emergency supplies for your home and car."

What's Cookin' in Government Documents? (Update)

From Jennifer McMullen, The College of Wooster

Following last issue's column on recipe booklets found in government documents collections, Carol Singer spotted this catchy little video on YouTube, highlighting several of the titles mentioned: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47p4lzeC1a4>

And if you just can't get enough of those all-American recipes, USA.gov has a handful of links you can explore, including Mamie Eisenhower's Million Dollar Fudge and Mrs. Truman's Mac and Cheese. (I'm hungry already!)

<http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Health/Recipes.shtml>

Do you know your Congressional representative?
Contact your representative's office and introduce yourself.
Make him/her aware of the services your depository
can provide to constituents!

Docs Prescriptions

The Newsletter of the Government Documents Roundtable of Ohio

Officers for 2008-2009:

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Ohio GODORT Spring Meeting, May 15, 2009 State Library of Ohio, Columbus, OH

Preliminary Agenda	
9:30 - 10:00	Registration and Refreshments
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome
10:15 - 12:00	<p>Program: Census extravaganza - or as Voltaire might have phrased it, "I count, therefore I am."</p> <p>Latest released Census 1930--"Back When Real Americans Filled out a Long Form" Julie Callahan of the Genealogy, History & Travel Dept., Columbus Metropolitan Library</p> <p>Latest Contemplated Census 2010--"No More Long Form? Say It Isn't So..." April Raffay & Friends of the Ohio Dept. of Development</p>
12:00 - 1:00	Box lunches available (see order form) Ohio GODORT will pay for the cost of the lunches. RSVP to Audrey Hall by May 2
1:00 - 3:00	Business Meeting

For meeting information contact Schuyler Cook at schuyler.cook@law.csuohio.edu or (216) 523-7388. 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

At this time, no gathering is being planned for Thursday night.

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.

Ohio GODORT Spring Meeting
May 15 2009

Box Lunch Order Form

Order must be received by Friday, May 8, 2009

Email or fax form to Audrey Hall, ahall@sloma.state.oh.us or 614-466-3584

**The cost is \$5 and should be paid to the treasurer at the meeting.
Checks made out to Ohio GODORT.**

SANDWICH

Turkey _____

Chicken Salad _____

Tuna Salad _____

Roast Beef _____

Ham _____

Veggie _____

CHEESE CHOICES

Provolone _____

Swiss _____

American _____

BREAD CHOICES

Croissant _____

Big Lenders Bagel _____

Multi-grain Kaiser Roll _____

Club Roll _____

FRUIT

Apple (red or yellow) _____

Pear _____

Grapes _____

Banana _____

Orange _____

COOKIES

Chocolate Chip _____

Brownie _____

Sugar _____

Oatmeal _____

Peanut Butter _____

DRINK

Coke _____

Pepsi _____

Sierra Mist _____

Water _____

Diet Coke _____

Diet Pepsi _____

Diet Sierra Mist _____

Caffeine Free Diet Pepsi _____

NAME _____

Food is made and prepared by the Vocational Food Service at the Ohio School for the Deaf.