

# Doc's Prescriptions

Ohio GODORT

---

---

Karen R. Kottsy  
Editor

Issue #14

TO THE MEMBERS

CAROL SINGER  
PRESIDENT

I'ts time for me to pass on the presidency to Graham Walden. During the past year, Graham has made being President very easy for me. He is planning interesting, informative meetings and all I have to do is listen to everybody's compliments.

As my last act as President, I'm going to be able to welcome you to Kenyon for our Spring Meeting. The day before the meeting, we will have an information discussion session during the afternoon, go out to dinner together (for those who wish), and then gather at my home in the evening for those who haven't talked themselves out.

I wish Graham as successful a year as President as he has had as Vice-President.

CONTENTS OF THE SPRING 1989 ISSUE OF DOC'S PRESCRIPTION

To the Membership.....1  
 Editorial and Editor's Bulletin Board.....3-6  
     Karen Kottsy, University of Cincinnati  
 OLIS Update.....6  
     Fred Marcotte, UC Clermont College  
 Disk Organization .....7  
     Marcy Knopf, University of Cincinnati  
 Map of our members.....8  
     Evron Collins, Bowling Green University  
 Docs Detective.....9  
     Carol Singer, Kenyon College  
 Impressions of the Depository Spring Council Meeting .....10  
     Jan Jorgensen and Karen Kimber, Wright State University  
 A.L.A. Midwinter, 1989 .....11-12  
     Julia Baldwin, University of Toledo  
 Crossword puzzles, the Asp and the COBRA.....12  
     Philip Yanarella, Northern Kentucky University  
 Test Disk 2 .....13-14  
     George Barnum, Case Western Reserve University  
 GPO Index on CD-ROM .....15-17  
     Jean Sears, Miami University  
 Informing the Nation.....18-19  
     Anne Gilliland, Archives and Rare Books,  
     University of Cincinnati  
 Program for the Spring Meeting.....20  
 Spring program.....21  
     Graham Walden, Ohio State University  
 Registration form for the Spring Meeting.....21

OHIO GODORT OFFICERS

DOC'S PRESCRIPTION

EDITOR:

Karen Kottsy  
 Library-Documents  
 University of Cincinnati  
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0033  
 (513) 556-1873

PRESIDENT:

Carol Singer  
 Kenyon College Libraries  
 Gambier, Ohio 43022  
 (614) 427-5658

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT:

Marcy Knopf  
 Student Assistant-Documents  
 University of Cincinnati

PROGRAM CHAIR/PRESIDENT ELECT:

Graham Walden  
 Ohio State University  
 126 Main Library  
 1858 Neil Ave.  
 Columbus, Ohio 43210  
 (614) 292-6175

SECRETARY/TREASURER:

Nani Ball  
 Gardner-Harvey Library  
 Miami Middletown Campus  
 4200 East University Blvd.  
 Middletown, Ohio 45042  
 (513) 424-4444 ext. 293

FROM THE EDITOR

KAREN R. KOTTSY

It is Spring in Cincinnati, green grass, tulips, red bud, lilac and all sorts of nice things. I also have a clear spot on my desk which has been noted and documented. It is amazing what was hidden under all of that paper.

This issue of Doc's Prescriptions is being sent to all federal and state depository libraries in Ohio. It is also being sent to other libraries in the state that may deal with government publications. I would like to invite you to the Spring Meeting at Kenyon College on the 19th of May. Or if you have any questions about Ohio GODORT or government documents to please contact myself or one of the officers.

Copies of the new GODORT Depository Libraries brochure have been included with this issue of the newsletter. It was prepared by the GODORT Outreach Committee to call attention to the depository libraries and to explain what they do. The Committee suggests that you may want to use the brochure when contacts are made with Congressional offices, local newspapers, other government agencies and other groups that might be interested in using a depository collection. I will have additional copies of the brochure at the Spring meeting and information on how to get copies if you would like to use it at your library. Copies of the Ohio GODORT flyer prepared by Colleen Parmer are also enclosed. Nani Ball, our Secretary-Treasurer will have additional copies.

While tracking down our copy of Informing the Nation for her, I learned that Anne Gilliland's interest in the report was the proposed changes to the Freedom of Information Act. I immediately asked her to do a short article for us on another aspect of this very important report. Anne is the University of Cincinnati's Records Manager. I think you will find her article to be very interesting.

Karen Kimber and Jan Jorgensen are new contributors to the newsletter. They attended their first Depository Council Meeting in March and have supplied us with their impressions of the meeting in Pittsburgh. Julia Baldwin has provided us with a report on ALA the Mid-winter meeting.

Jean Sears and George Barnum have written two very helpful reviews of new CD-ROM products. I hope that we can continue this practice and have other CDs reviewed as they appear. Marcy Knopf is a student assistant at UC in the Documents Unit and has been helping with the newsletter and entering our item number file into dBASE. We have had some very interesting adventures. We have learned that you can have "fatal errors" in dBASE and still survive, the interesting part is explaining what you did to the systems office. Especially when they say, "You can't do that."

I also want to thank our regular contributors. Evron Collins' map of our membership will help you visualize where we are located around the state. Please respond to Carol Singer's request for information on planning for an online catalog. Also Fred Marcotte's short article on OLIS is another reminder that documents sometimes get forgotten in the planning of new projects. Automation, new technologies and computers are no longer something that will appear in the future, they are making major changes in how we do things now. Any information we can share or introduce to a project at the beginning will make the transition easier and will save us all time and energy.

And I would like to thank everyone that has provided encouragement, advise and told me that they read and enjoy the newsletter. I enjoy putting the newsletter together but it is nice to know that Doc's Prescriptions is being read and used.

The Summer issue of the newsletter will be on old documents and using government documents in genealogical research. The deadline will be June 20th. If you would like to contribute an article or some information on these topics please contact me.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Spring meeting at Kenyon.

## AROUND THE STATE

Kelly Moore is our new part time temporary student helper in Documents at the University of Cincinnati. She is taking Esther's place until we can permanently fill the position, then in the Fall she will be attending Library School. And Esther O'Neal, recently retired from Documents is volunteering some time each week to help us get some very old projects completed.

Anne Peterson, formerly at the University of Akron is now Law Librarian at a major law firm in Cleveland. Congratulations!

Andi Martin will be retiring from the University of Akron Law Library this Spring. And Essie Bruce, University of Dayton is also retiring this year. I am certain that we all wish them a very enjoyable retirement.

Saragail Lynch and Mary Prophet gave a very interesting and useful presentation at ACRL. Mary also presented Carol Singer's paper as Carol was down with the flu. There were several Ohio GODORT members at the conference and it was nice chatting with them and seeing the exhibits.

Representatives from about half of the depository libraries in Southwestern Ohio and Northern Kentucky met for lunch and a tour of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County at the end of February. The Public Library is a large depository library that traditionally has kept all editions of a document. The collection is non-circulating, but they will make photocopies. They are also a patent depository and collect federal specifications. Recently they have added several large microfiche sets to their collections such as the CIS IIS and SRI collections. They also have all of the indexes to the FBIS microfiche.

## MEETINGS

The Detroit Public Library and the Wayne State University Library Science Program are sponsoring the 3 day Federal Library and Information Center Committee's (FLICC) 3 day workshop on "Accessing Federal Databases," on October 4,5,6 1989. Additional details will be in the summer newsletter.

## HAVE YOU SEEN?

Medicare/Medicaid Nursing Home Information, 1987-1988 (HE 22.35:Oh 3). There are 3 volumes for Ohio and they cost \$31/volume. The arrangement is alphabetical by city. It appears that they are including all nursing homes within an urban area under the city. As an example the nursing homes for the village of Maderia, Ohio are listed with Cincinnati.

Current Bibliographies in Medicine (HE 20.3615/2:) is published by the National Library of Medicine. The following are recent publications:

Wrongful Life: Birth as the Result of Negligence (1970-Sept. 1988) issue #88-18;  
Sport Psychology (1986-1988) issue #88-15 and  
Adolescent Suicide (1986-June 1988) issue #88-7.

The NIH DATABOOK (HE 20.3041:987 has statistics for AIDS cases and deaths. Statistics for AIDS will be published in Vital Statistics of the US beginning with the 1987 volume.

From Reference Services Review volume 16 #3, 1988:

"Doing Business in the Caribbean," by Tony Hawell, p. 45-47.

"Wildlife Legislation Before and After the Endangered Species Act of 1973,"  
by Dorothy A. Gray, p. 81-96.

#### OHIO DOCUMENTS

Clyde Hordusky, Documents Librarian at the State Library of Ohio asked that the following be published in Doc's Prescriptions.

Several document librarians have asked for the schedule for disposal of federal documents. If there are others that would like to follow the schedule, they may. It is their option.

#### DISPOSAL SCHEDULE FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

January - Y's

February - A's

March - C's

April - D's

May - E's thru G's

July - H's

August - I's, J's

September - L's thru N's

October - O's thru S's

December - T's thru X's

June and November are not on the schedule. They are catch up months or can be used to discard State of Ohio Documents.

The 1987 Annual Report of Vital Statistics should be ready in June 1989. The price will be \$6.00 prepaid. Checks should be made out to the Treasurer of Ohio and sent to Statistical Analysis Unit  
Ohio Department of Health  
246 N. High Street  
8th Floor  
Columbus OH 43215

The International Trade Division of the Ohio Department of Development has published a directory of "public and private organizations that offer extensive international trade services." The title is Ohio Export Services Directory and is available from International Trade Division  
Ohio Department of Development  
State Office Tower  
P.O. Box 1001  
Columbus OH 43266-0101

#### DOC TECH

The Census Bureau will begin distribution of the Economic Censuses on CDs in May. You will need Version II of the Microsoft Extension to run it on your CD drive. If you have purchased your equipment recently this should have been included.

In Library Hi Tech News, February 1989, p. 9-11, Larry Learn had an article, "'Annie'--is she betraying your confidence?" on automatic number identification (ANI or Annie) or party number identification. Basically it is a feature for telephones that allows the receiver of a phone call to see the telephone number of the person making the call before the phone is answered. The 911 emergency numbers use this technology, but Mr. Learn asks in his article, if we need this technology and if it might not be violating the rights of a caller to remain anonymous ~~when~~ asking a reference question. A very interesting article.

The article by Monica Ertel and Jane Oros in Online, "A Tour of the Stacks: Hypercard for Libraries," January 1989, p. 45-53 is a good explanation of hypercards and give some exciting uses for libraries.

"Computer Viruses: Checklist for Recovery," by Roger F. Aucoin, Computers in Libraries, February 1989, p. 4-7, has some good advise on what to do before your computer is attacked.

OF INTEREST

The National Register of Historic Places is now being published by the American Association of State and Local History. The 1988 volume will be published this summer and the prepublication price is \$69.95.. (AASLH, 172 Second Street North, Nashville TN 37201).

According to the 1989 NTIS Products and Services Catalog, the army technical manuals, field manuals and regulations are now being sold by NTIS. They are also selling a quarterly subscription to the Index to 63,000 Manuals and Regulations on microfiche for \$25. It is possible to get a single copy of the fiche for \$10 the order number is PB 89-910801/cau.

The "Annual Update of Poverty Income Guidelines," is in the February 16, 1989 Federal Register on pages 7097 and 7098. (provided by Phillip Yannarella)

The 1988 County and City Data Book has added charts for rankings of the top and bottom counties on 60 different variables. There is also an appendix that lists county seats and their populations.



**OLIS UPDATE**

**FRED MARCOTTE**

OLIS (Ohio Library Information System), formerly OLAS ("access") as sponsored by the Ohio Board of Regents is progressing. The first draft of the proposed specifications for the four components of the system have been reviewed by the libraries which will be participating in the system in phase 1 (all state universities and their branch campuses). The time table published by Greg Byerly, Director of Library Systems for OLIS, included another draft to libraries in April and a final draft RFP to IULC library directors by the end of May with the RFP sent to vendors by late June. I received the first draft of the OLIS document as the head of a branch campus, but reviewed it not only as a branch head but as a depository librarian. Having implemented online check-in of government documents at Clermont College, using the DataTrek serials system, I am aware of the peculiarities of checking in documents on a system designed for serials and periodicals. Documents librarians should be aware of OLIS so that the specifications of the system include proper management of government publications. For instance, the first draft of the section on acquisitions did not include search access points for item numbers or other document access points, it included access points such as ISSN, LCN, OCL numbers, and LC call numbers. The OPAC specifications were general enough to include documents peculiarities as were the other sections.

**DISK ORGANIZATION**

**MARCY KNOPF**

Recently at the University of Cincinnati, our government documents office became bombarded with an unmanageable number of floppy disks. Disks containing "Doc's Prescription" articles, dBASE item number files, Karen's memos, and mailing label programs were there in our floppy disk case, the only problem was which item could be found on which disk. In some cases, we were not even sure if a disk was blank or formatted or contained documents on it. I decided that something needed to be done to organize each and every floppy disk in the documents unit. I devised a plan especially for the disks.

On my first try I discovered that I could use the shift and the print screen keys to make a copy of each disk directory for each floppy; or through the utilities screen in Mass 11, I could use the function, 'print document directory' which is a more systematic way of printing a hard copy of the directory. Next I numbered each disk and color coded each one according to Karen's memos, the "Doc's Prescriptions," or miscellaneous articles. This worked for the first few weeks after developing the system, until updating and just keeping up with the organization of the files grew out of hand.

Finally I decided to combine the copies of the printed disk directories with DBase III+ to organize the disks. After printing hard copies of the updated lists, I created a DBase record for each document on each disk. The file consists of the document name, the most recent edit date, the disk number (from the first organized list), the number of lines in the article, the creator of the article and any miscellaneous notes, such as cross references for the same article and back-up copies of the same article on a different disk. Once the file was started, all I had to do was index it by document name and create a report. Within the report, I have a choice of just printing out an alphabetized indexed list of the document name; or I can sub-group the list by disk number and dbase will group each disk separately, indexed within each grouping by document name. Now to update I just append additional documents into the file and create a new report and in just minutes I've got an organized list of all articles and documents on every disk.

This may not be an overburdening problem in your document office currently, but as each documents office begins to make use of their newly acquired computer systems everyone will see how much easier--and sometimes even fun--organizing files on dBASE can be.

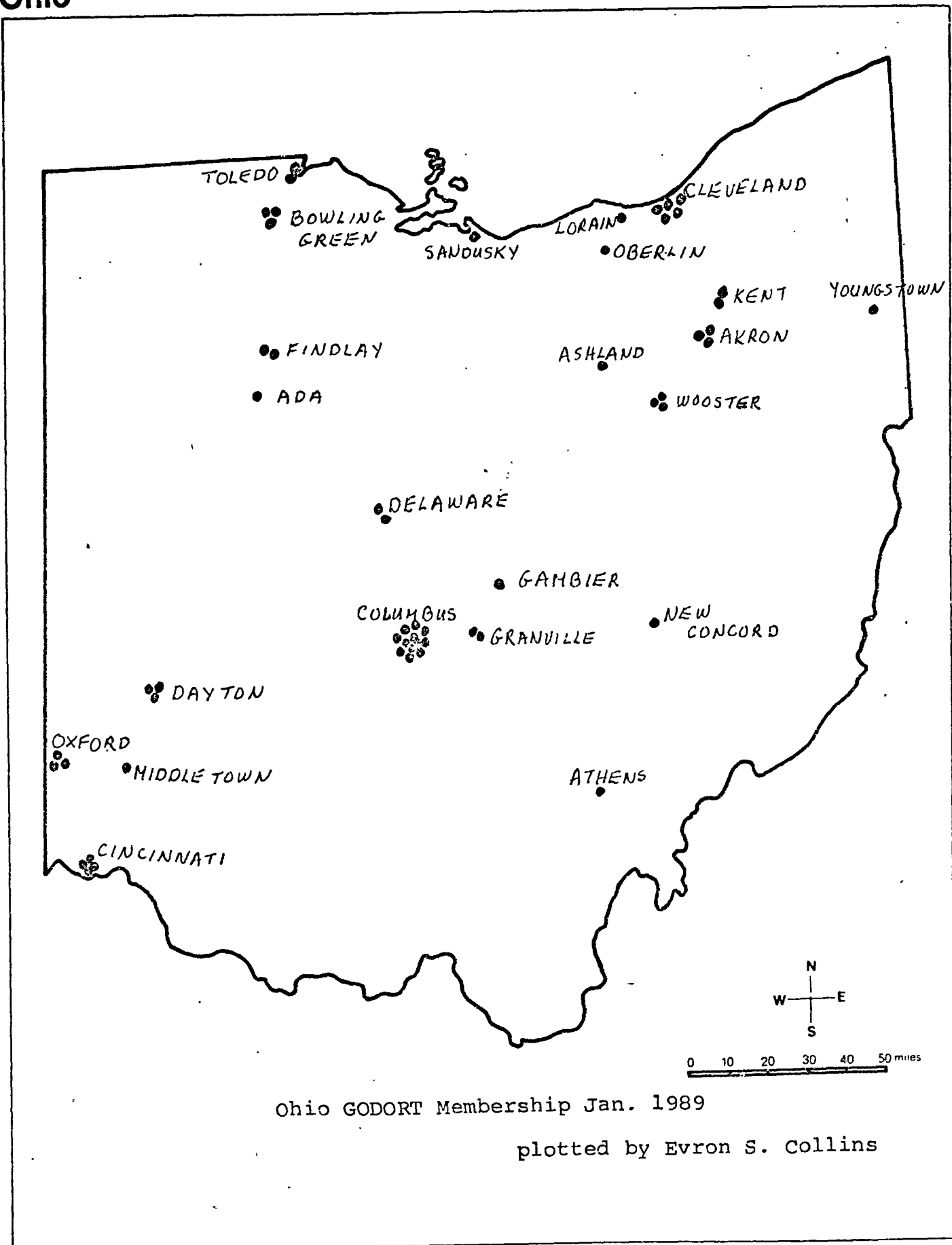
CURSOR <-- -->	INSERT	DELETE	Up a field:
Char:              Char: Ins	Char: Del	Down a field:	
Word: Home End    Field: ^N	Word: ^Y	Exit/Save:     ^End	
Par:               Help: F1	Field: ^U	Abort:           Esc	

	Field Name	Type	Width	Dec		Field Name	Type	Width	Dec
1	DOCNAME	Character	30						
2	EDITDATE	Date	8						
3	DISKNO	Character	2						
4	AMTLINES	Numeric	4	0					
5	CREATOR	Character	3						
6	NOTES	Character	18						

MODIFY STRUCTURE||<A:>||DISKDIRE                   ||Field: 1/6                   ||Ins    ||    Caps

Field names begin with a letter and may contain letters, digits and underscores

# Ohio



Ohio GODORT Membership Jan. 1989

plotted by Evron S. Collins



In this issue, instead of playing detective, I'm going to ask for help from all of you. We're getting ready for an online system and government documents will be a part of it.

I talked to an OCLC representative who informed me that the new documents service will probably be available in the fall. OCLC is purchasing the item number selection tapes from GPO. They will run off a list of the item numbers we select and we can then use that as the basis for making a profile of our item selections, deleting any item numbers we don't want included in this service. OCLC will use this profile to add our holdings code to cataloging records. This isn't a retrospective service, it is for new records only. Prices aren't yet firm, but they anticipate \$200 for profiling and \$0.12 for each holdings symbol. After that, we can purchase card sets or archival computer tapes, as usual. OCLC will be releasing more information on this service later this year. I'll be looking forward to examining this as a possible way for adding documents records to our system.

However, there are a number of policy decisions that have to be made. I know that some of you have already been through this and that some of you who haven't may have thought up some good ways to get around some of the problems encountered in putting documents in an online system. Can you help me with:

1. How do you handle Serial Set volumes? Do you handle each physical volume as one record, irregardless of how many titles are in each volume? Do you catalog each title separately, even though this would cause problems at circulation? Have you decided not to put Serial Set volumes in your system?
2. Do you put ephemeral materials in your system? What do you do about brochures announcing conferences or grant announcements?
3. What do you do about things that will become parts of larger volumes, such as slip laws or slip decisions?
4. Are you maintaining a paper shelflist or have you gone to a completely online shelflist? Also, do you have a terminal near your desk for easy access? If documents reference isn't handled near your desk, is there also a terminal at that point? In either case, is there a public access terminal near the documents collection?
5. If all of your documents aren't in the online system, how do you handle materials that are currently arriving, but aren't being put in the system and how did you decide which items to put in the system and which wouldn't be in the system? How are you handling the older materials that haven't been retrospectively added to the collection? What kinds of problems has this caused for you?

I have dozens of questions like this, but I think this will do for a start. I know that there are more librarians out there who would like answers to these questions (or to other questions you think that I should have asked) to me and I will summarize them and print them in my next column in the next issue. My address is: Kenyon College Libraries; Gambier, Ohio 43022.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE DEPOSITORY LIBRARY  
SPRING MEETING MARCH 8-11, 1989

JAN JORGENSEN and KAREN KIMBER

--THE SURPRISES--

The audience was comprised of approximately 100 librarians, a much smaller turn out than was expected. (Frequent DLC meeting attendees claimed the usual audience to be 300+).

Don Fossedal, the first speaker, gave a praise-filled and glowing report on the controversial USERS STUDY done in the fall. The study, according to Mr. Fossedal, proved that government documents are very heavily used: there are "167,000 [document] users per week minimum in public and academic libraries!" Copies of the summary and final reports will be sent to all depository libraries.

--THE FACTS--

Staff members representing various departments described GPO operations. Sheila McGarr (remembered by many of us from her days as a depository inspector) gave a presentation following the path of a document from requisition to final delivery. The reasons for some of the delays and mistakes became apparent when the depository program was viewed in its entirety.

--THE PROBLEMS--

DLC has asked to see statistical summaries from the Biennial Survey of Depository Libraries to determine whether or not claims have increased in some regions, and if suspicions are confirmed, will attempt to determine why this is occurring.

A recommendation was made to assign a single item number for all Presidential commissions, thereby ensuring that reports of new commissions won't be assigned unpredictably.

Although staffing problems have slowed down responses to the classification hotline at GPO, they would still like us to use it for questions on current publications.

In a Bibliographic Control Interest Group meeting, various librarians who have been working with different vendors of GPO tapes talked about their experiences. There seemed to be a consensus that Marcive is doing a better job than Brodart at producing cleaned up tapes.

--THE FUTURE--

The publication of documents in the electronic format was a big topic throughout the meeting. Depository libraries will receive census test disk 2 any day now, and some data from the economic censuses will probably be available only on CD-ROM. The Congressional Record on CD-ROM should be completed in the near future.

OCLC is developing a new service which will set a subscribing library's holdings automatically as documents are received, with optional MARC tape and/or catalog card availability.

GPO is developing a PC based system for their internal use for processing depository shipments, which they may be willing to make available to the depository community, possibly through another vendor, following the model of CENDATA.

A.L.A. MIDWINTER 1989  
WASHINGTON D.C. JANUARY 7-12

JULIA BALDWIN

Midwinter seems to be getting bigger and bigger. I know I say that it is good to come to Midwinter because the meetings are more accessible, but honestly it does seem to me that Midwinter is getting indistinguishable from the Annual. There is a lot to be said for documents librarians who meet in my favorite of all cities, Washington D.C., especially since it makes it so much easier for our colleagues at GPO to join us together at the meetings.

We had the opportunity to meet Joseph Jenifer, Acting Public Printer. He seems like a reasonable man, and he endeared himself to the librarians present by indicating his commitment to electronic dissemination of information by forming a Taskforce on Electronic Information Dissemination. This Taskforce will report directly to him, and is said to be made up of "heavy hitters." Don Fossedal, Superintendent of Documents and Mark Scully from the library programs service gave their usual update on happenings at GPO at the FDTF Information Update.

All GPO representatives spoke glowingly about the Hernon/McClure User Study. I can't wait to see if the advance press pans out. The report is scheduled to be out in February. The GPO Reps say that they are "excited by the preliminary numbers."

GPO should have awarded the contracts for the agency fiche (JPRS, NASA, FBIS, Open File Reports, Patent Office and Climatological Data) by now. They are working on new material as well as the backlog in microfiche distribution. The pilot had very mixed reviews. Maybe that's putting it too mildly. The University of Maryland Document's Librarian said, "It really bombed!"

There was a lot of discussion regarding the Area Wage Survey reclassification. GPO would like an endorsement by Council. GPO also would like a list from Council of criteria for titles for paper verses fiche. Council has also been asked to develop criteria for qualifications needed for the Public Printer.

The Biennial Survey is coming up soon! Watch for it.

The EPA Toxic Network Work Group is a work group set up of 25 Beta sites to work with TOXNET--a huge data base that will be made available to the information community in April 1989. TOXNET will contain the EPA Toxic Chemical Release Inventory containing information on the annual estimated releases of toxic chemicals to the environment. Help is needed in evaluating projects. For further details you may call the TRI Representative at the National Library of Medicine (301) 496-6531. The application package to become a registered TOXNET user is available now.

A resolution was written on Depository Distribution of Publications Exempted from Title 44 Requirements by GODORT Legislative Committee. I understand that several executive agencies have been exempted from Title 44 with regard to the printing of their publications by GPO. The resolution reads in part, that these exemptions are not to be granted unless specific instructions are included to require that sufficient copies are made available for distribution through the Depository library program. I didn't know that this could happen and found it particularly unsettling.

There was a lively debate on "games" being played by the Bureau of the Census to change the name of the Statistical Abstract of the United States. I guess the rationale is the Census is looking for a "catchy" title to increase marketing opportunities. (All I could think of was The Wonderful World of Statistics!!) One brave soul dared to suggest that maybe the world isn't as familiar with Stat Abstract as Documents Librarians think it is! Attacking the name of Statistical Abstract of the U.S. was akin to an attack on home and mother! A resolution was submitted by the Federal Document Task Force objecting to a title change. Stay tuned!



#### CROSSWORD PUZZLES, THE ASP AND THE COBRA

PHILLIP YANARELLA

This is a new tragic fairy tale entitled "The Asp and the Cobra." How about a new edition of an old tale? Every follower of crossword puzzles or of Egyptian history, knows it was the Asp who put the bite on Cleopatra. The results were quick, clear, and fatal. It is now the Cobra which is after Cleopatra. (Our twentieth century) Cleopatra Jones has a small business in Egypt, Massachusetts. Cobra (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, PL 99-272) was let loose by Ronald Reagan and is now putting the bite on Cleopatra. Cleopatra has been bitten by Cobra's Title X: "Private Health Insurance Coverage." Cobra has also taken the form of Proposed Rule: "Income Tax; Continuation coverage Requirements of Group Health Plans" (52FR22716-22732) in the June 15, 1987 issue of the Federal Register. Cobra has been assisted by Section 1151 of The Tax Reform Act of 1986. Section 1151 of this tax reform law has created the infamous "Section 89" of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which can be found in Title 26 of the United States Code, 1982 Edition, Supplement IV, January 15, 1983 through January 5, 1987 which was published in 1987 (Y1.2/5:82/Supp.4/v.4). Section 89, "Benefits Provided Under Certain Employee Benefit Plans," provides the "coup de grace" which may prove to be the mortal blow to our poor Cleopatra. Section 89 may easily help Cobra qualify Cleopatra for a Section 8 vacation if nothing else. The results and effects of Cobra and Section 89 are not quite clear yet and may be long lasting. The real "coup de grace" appears in Sections 3011 and 3021 of the Technical and Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1988 (PL 100-647) which provide the sanctions for Cleopatra and other individuals who try to avoid the biting sting of Cobra and Section 89. Next time you see a crossword puzzle which asks for the five-letter word for the creature which killed Cleopatra, you can fill in the word Cobra.

Reprinted from "Documents Newsletter W. Frank Steely Library," NKU  
No. 109 March 1989

In the late summer of 1988, GPO distributed to a select group of test site depositories, Test Disk 2, Census' second end-user test of data in CD-ROM format. In Ohio, the State Library, University of Cincinnati, University of Akron, Toledo-Lucas County Public, Kenyon College, and Case Western Reserve University are the test sites.

It's a little difficult to know what to say about Test Disk 2, in that it represents such an important step forward in the provision of government information. The technology as an idea, manifested in this test, takes us giant steps beyond previous "advances" like microform, and stands to open new worlds to us. Yet, Test Disk 2 in practical terms is limited in a number of ways. Those limitations surely are part of the stage of development, and there should be no illusions that this is anything but a test. Even so, they make the disk, despite all its possibilities very frustrating.

The disk contains data from the 1982 Census of Agriculture and the 1982 Census of Retail Trade. In the "packaged" presentation, that is using the search software provided by the Census Bureau, the agriculture data is presented by county, and retail trade by ZIP code. In each case a series of menu selections guides the user through the available choices of terms. Thus, with agriculture, one first specifies the type of data desired (which correlates to finding the correct table in the paper edition) and then specifies state and county for that data.

Similarly, in the retail trade file one chooses from a list of types of establishments, then from a list of states, and then enters up to eight ZIP codes. Screens are presented for each of the ZIP codes selected, and are tallied in a final screen. Thus, if one chooses to see data on "Retail Nurseries, Lawn and Garden Supply Stores" for ZIP codes 44113, 44106, and 44120, four screens are presented: one for each ZIP code and a total of the three.

The first and most obvious limitation is the restriction to access by ZIP code. There needs to be (and the latest update from Census says that there indeed will be in forthcoming Census products) access from more than one point, and the ability to combine types of searches. At this point, to get any kind of data above the ZIP level, one needs to be able to correlate ZIP codes with geographic area, which entails a good deal of research in prior to sitting down with the census disk.

As a "stand-alone," that is, employing the Census Bureau-developed driver software to search the disk, the test disk looks friendly. A user seeking a very limited type of information for one particular locality can, with very little difficulty, follow the prompts on the screen and obtain the data. Because the only access is by county for agriculture and ZIP code for retail, any sort of wider area search becomes burdensome, since bits of information must be pieced together entirely separate from the data online.

At present, the user has the option of downloading files of data into DBase III, to be manipulated into specific types of presentations and reports. This option provides the same flexibility to expert users that the long-available census magnetic tape products have. The raw data is supplied and the user must plug the data into his or her own formats, such as tables or spreadsheets. Individual librarians can judge the usefulness of this capability for their specific situations, depending on the overall sophistication of their users or the level of computer proficiency they have attained themselves.

In seeking some comments from some of the test sites in Ohio for the purposes of this review, I found that our experience at CWRU of having the disk work perfectly the first time we booted it up was a little extraordinary. The University of Toledo shared our experience, but other sites reported trouble getting all the files loaded and a tick in the Retail Trade files that sent the user "into limbo." Likewise two of the test sites reported that the Agriculture files were completely inaccessible. We waited a long time for our copy of Microsoft Extension to arrive, but upon installing it along with the Test Disk 2 software on our IBM PS2 system 30, we were up and running.

Patron reaction to the disk has been perhaps the most difficult item to measure. Because of the age of the data and the limitations on accessing it, and in part because most of us probably felt that we needed to find our own way with the disk first before setting patrons loose on it, actual end-user response has been minimal. Everybody likes the idea. Unfortunately, the form that this test took has left many of us feeling more expectation than satisfaction still.

At Case Western Reserve we were fortunate to be able to include the startup commands into our CD-ROM user interface "Eureka!" which allows users to choose the use of the disk from among a list of all our CD-ROM services, rather than having to use the startup routine in DOS (the commands "AG82" or "RETAIL"). The few patrons who have used the disk (mostly regular users of the census data cornered by the documents staff to take a look, rather than users with "real" queries) have been favorably impressed, although the ZIP code access, which was expected to be the revolutionary offering, has caused far less stir than might have been anticipated.

The disk's features, if combined with other more conventional approaches to the data, could in the long run produce a product that is a significant improvement over the paper editions of economic census material. What needs to be avoided as Census develops the products further is the exclusion of conventional access points and approaches (eg: geographic area, MSA, etc.) for the sake of the newer approach made possible by technology. We can hope that Census is striving to make these truly revolutionary new products as inclusive as possible, not only because it will be more attractive to those of us in the library community, but because of the increased demand that would develop in the marketplace for really superior products.

The report at the March Depository Library Council meeting from GPO's technology expert, Jan Erickson, was that the 1987 Economic Census data (Retail, Wholesale, and Services) will be coming to Depositories on CD. Some mention was made of format changes for the presentation data, including a change in the programming language, and full details of these changes will undoubtedly be forthcoming in AdNotes. This initial Test Disk 2, warts and all, will be coming to all depositories in April, and those in Ohio are invited to contact the test site libraries for whatever help we can offer.

With the knowledge that more, and we hope better, census CD-ROM products are indeed on the way, we probably need to see Test Disk 2 as an aperitif, to whet our appetites for more and greater things to come in the near future. We can hope that the Census Bureau will actively solicit the comments of librarians on these products and apply these observations in the development of forthcoming products. As we look toward 1990, and beyond, the possibilities seem almost unlimited, and we can hope that tests like Test Disk 2 will help to chart the course.

There are several CD-ROM versions of the Monthly Catalog available now. Companies offering CD indexes include Auto-Graphics, Brodart, Information Access, Marcive, OCLC, Silver Platter and Wilsonline. Miami University recently acquired the Auto-Graphics CD-ROM index after examining this version and the Brodart version on a trial basis last year. Both products have been improved since then, so any comparative observations from last year may no longer be valid. This article will discuss Auto-Graphics only.

The Auto-Graphics CD-ROM contains Monthly Catalog records since July 1976. Auto-Graphics offers several subscription options. The hardware may be leased or purchased outright from the company or the library may supply its own hardware. Both a monthly and a bimonthly subscription to the software is offered. Hardware requirements are, an IBM PC compatible with 512K and a Hitachi, Phillips, or Sony CD-ROM drive. A printer may be added if desired. Software consists of the compact disk and one 5 1/4" diskette. If you supply your own hardware, the company needs to know what you have to configure the diskette properly. Price depends on which options you choose and the price schedule is subject to change. The price has been lowered considerably since the product first came out. Our subscription cost was \$1750 for a monthly software subscription. We supplied our own hardware.

GDCS is very easy to use. A function key diagram is always displayed on the left side of the screen showing all options available to the user at each step of the process. The user presses the desired function key to make selections. The introductory screen offers the following types of searches: find by author, find by title, find by subject, find all (author, title and subject combined), number search and keyword search. There is also a help function key. If a "find" search is selected, an entry window is displayed and the user is invited to type in the desired author, title or subject. Only the first couple of words needs to be typed. The results of the search are displayed as an alphabetical list of subject headings, authors, or titles showing entries above and below your choice with the cursor next to the closest match. This method allows browsing among nearby entries. The number of occurrences in the database for each entry is also displayed. The cursor is used to select an entry. If there is more than one record under that entry, an abbreviated listing of titles with authors and SuDocs numbers is shown. Titles that are depository are indicated with the note, "DEP ITEM." Five records can be displayed on the screen at one time and a function key is used to advance or retreat from screen to screen. The cursor may again be used to request the full bibliographic record for any of the displayed titles.

Full records contain the following elements, as appropriate: SuDocs number, report number, entry number (Monthly Catalog), author, title, edition, publisher, date, description, series title(s), subject(s), co-author(s), item number, format, and note(s). Notes include, among other things, the statement that a publication was distributed to depositories in microfiche.

If "Find by Subject" is selected, the user is asked to type in the subject and is then shown a list of Library of Congress subject headings beginning with the word typed. Auto-Graphics does name and subject authority processing and so cross-references are included in the list. Subject headings that are not used are marked with an "X" in place of the number of hits in the database. If such a subject heading is selected, the correct related subject headings are displayed with the number of hits. The cursor is used to select desired headings and the titles under that heading are then displayed. Author and title searches are similar.







Informing the Nation was written and distributed by the Office of Technology Assessment with the stated purposes of helping "both Congress and the Nation to better understand Federal information dissemination in an electronic age," and assisting "Congress in implementing improvements in Federal information dissemination activities." Within these parameters, it acknowledges that an informed public is essential to the health and continued well being of a democracy and that since "debate over the use of electronic formats, privatization, and the like is obscuring the commitment of Congress to public access.... A renewed commitment to public access in an electronic age may be needed." Informing the Nation is, nevertheless, very much concerned with the ideals. By implication, it also draws attention to inadequacies and inefficiencies in the development of information technology by Federal Government agencies and the lack of inter-agency cooperation.

Electronic information systems may actually function at present albeit unintentionally, as barriers rather than facilitators to the dissemination of information by the Federal Government. Three central aspects must be considered before making a commitment to guarantee public access to data contained in Federal electronic information systems: 1) legal issues specifically or implicitly raised by the current body of legislated and case law; 2) technical problems inherent in emerging information technology; and 3) questions relating to the levels of technical and information literacy of legislators and the public.

Unlike the Public Printing and Documents Act, the 1966 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) specifically refers only to access to paper records and not to the information content of record keeping systems. Since it makes no mention of computer or other potential information formats, the spirit of the Act has been interpreted variously by case law and individual agencies. FOIA also guarantees access only to records already created and accessible through "reasonable effort." There is no definition for how much searching would be considered to be "reasonable" nor what would constitute the creation of a new record on an electronic system, especially if reprogramming were required or a Fourth Generation Query Language were used.

Developments in information technology mean that while computers potentially offer capabilities to enhance access and to profile data for requesters, costs or lack of expertise and system design may prove prohibitive. Requests or responses in electronic formats may be incompatible with the way that the system is designed. They may also only be useable if appropriate software, codes, and tables of data elements are distributed with the response to the request. Paper output can never reflect the relational capacity and multiple dimensions of a computer database and documenting electronic and voice mail even more problematic. The report observes that "electronic information technologies are obscuring the boundary between record and non record material," and that the "parallels to paper records are becoming more remote."

It is not enough for the public to know about the availability of information and that they are guaranteed access. They must also know enough about an electronic system's capabilities to know which questions to ask, and to request the most useful form of output. If delivery of such information is going to be in a format which the requester cannot readily read or use, or if the costs are going to be prohibitive, then electronic systems are, effectively impeding the public's access to information.

The development of electronic information systems is dynamic and the expertise of legislators to make appropriate, comprehensive and timely legislation must keep pace with the rapid evolution of such systems. Arguably, some of the problems outlined above may cease to be issues as the technology advances, but legislation must also anticipate problems with new generations of technology yet to be invented.

This report, with its interest in technology assessment, somewhat detracts from the central aspects by raising a multitude of thought provoking secondary questions. These relate to the facilitation of the same, or enhanced levels of access to information maintained or disseminated by electronic systems, as have been available in paper format since the enactment of FOIA. Although it is hard to determine how to tackle the practicalities of these issues without coming to terms with the central concerns, they must include definition of acceptable costs for hiring and training agency personnel with information resources management and programming skills; determination of which costs are reasonable to pass on to the requester; how sensitive information, codes, and data elements should be made secure; whether or not access to information in databases maintained by Federal Government contractors should be available to the public; and under what circumstances the private sector should be allowed to vend government information.

Informing the Nation lists several policy issues which need action including long term commitment to freedom of information; revision of Federal information policy on a government wide, agency by agency, or program by program basis for enhanced public access, minimizing unnecessary overlap and duplication in Federal information activities, reducing unnecessary or wasteful Federal information activities, optimizing the use of electronic rather than paper formats, and optimizing the role of the private sector; clarification of institutional roles and responsibilities; and improvements in information dissemination management. The report also calls for technical standards to be devised to deal with electronic publishing and dissemination, and a government wide index to be developed to major Federal information products regardless of format. A final need is for improved mechanisms to exchange learning experience about technical innovations, some suggestions being information dissemination innovation centers in each branch of government; information resources management, career development, budget, and management actions; and an expansion of electronic press release activities.



#### DOCUMENTS ON ALASKA

ECONOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE AMACO CADIZ OIL SPILL, 1982.  
C 55.2:Am 6

MAP OF GULF OF ALASKA. A 13.28:A1 1

A PROPOSAL FOR THE PROTECTION OF ELEVEN ALASKAN RIVERS, 1988.  
I 1.98:A1 1s/9

ALASKA COSTAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES. I 1.98:A1 1/2

ALASKAN MARITINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REUGE. FINAL. 1988.  
I 1.98:A1 1S/11

OHIO GODORT SPRING MEETING

Kenyon College, Chalmers Memorial Library

Friday, May 19, 1989

THE FUTURE PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

SCHEDULE

8:30 - 9:30	Informal Discussion Period (Coffee and Doughnuts)
9:30 - 10:30	Business Meeting - Carol Singer, President
10:30 - 11:45	Speaker Introduction - Graham Walden, Program Chair Speaker : Forrest B. Williams, Ph.D. Chief, Systems & Programming Division Data User Services Division Bureau of the Census Washington, D.C.
11:45 - 12:00	Discussion on Bureau of the Census Topics
12:00 - 1:30	Catered Lunch (reservations required \$6.00)
1:30 - 2:00	Speaker Introduction - Graham Walden, Program Chair Speaker: James A. Nelson State Librarian of Kentucky and Commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Frankfort, Kentucky
2:00 - 2:45	Discussion on "Information Futures"
2:45 -	Open Discussion Period

NOTE: There will be an informal discussion of document problems and solutions Thursday May 18 at the Kenyon College Library, Special Collections Room from 2-4 P.M. Dinner reservations for the evening will be made by Carol Singer for Thursday evening for those who are interested. After dinner there will be an informal discussion about government documents at Carol's house (408 E. Woodside Drive, Gambier). Please complete the reservation form on the last page of the newsletter.

Hotel/Motel Reservations may be made by contacting:

Kenyon Inn (Gambier) 614-427-2202  
2 double beds in each room  
\$52.50 for 1 person (each additional person \$4.00)

Curtis Motor Hotel (12 Public Sq., Mt. Vernon) 614-397-4334  
single \$36 (1 double bed)  
double \$57 (2 double beds)

Bed and Breakfasts

Mt. Vernon House (304 Martinsburg Rd., Mt. Vernon) 614-397-1914  
\$60 per night -- included breakfast

Russell Cooper House (115 E. Gambier St., Mt. Vernon) 614-397-8638  
\$45 for single  
\$60 for double  
includes breakfast in morning and cordials at night  
(NOTE: This is an historic house that has been renovated)