

Rx Docs Prescriptions



The Newsletter of the Government Documents
Round Table of Ohio

Issue 40

Winter, 1996

To the Members:

Nani Ball, President
Miami Univeristy, Middletown

I am pulling myself back to the realm of government documents librarianship and reference librarianship from the realm of renovation supervisor and custodial worker. The new carpet has been installed; we have moved the Reference and Periodicals Collections; the government documents computers will be in a new location; equipment that needs supervision is in a more central location. My desk is back in place; my computer is connected; and the office has walls again. When all the dust has settled I think we will be very pleased with the new look of the library. The library will open on January 24th. It has been closed since December 22nd!

Notice I said government documents computers? We were having trouble connecting to GPO Access and running the CD-ROMs on the same 486DX machine. The computer experts who did what they could to keep the machine from locking up decided we were just asking too much of one machine. That information was passed on both to my director and the director of our campus, and now we have a Pentium for the CD-ROMs and the 486DX for GPO Access and other Internet access. For a small library we are doing all right. I hope there are other good news stories among you.

The shift of access to government information is to electronic resources on the Internet. This is the wave we are riding as we go into a new year. We are requested with special urgency to attend the Depository Library Conference in Washington in April. I hope many of you can be there. When we meet in May at Hiram College, we can share what we have learned.

Now, somewhere on my desk is The Transition Plan, or is it?

From the Editor:

George Barnum
Case Western Reserve University

I am writing this column in the wonderful glow following the fall GODORT/Ohio meeting at Denison University. The day was blustery and damp, but this organization made it ineffably bright for me by honoring me with the Clyde award. Seeing my name on the rim of that beautiful silver bowl, and hearing the kind words of the nomination filled me with a deep sense of gratitude and affection.

GODORT/Ohio is remarkable as an organization in many ways. As a professional forum, it provides a sophisticated venue for the exchange of ideas and gives many Ohio documents librarians the opportunity to broaden their experiences and their sense of contribution to the profession. As a pulpit of sorts, it lends an organizing and coalescing force to the influence we attempt to exert on those making laws and forming policies. As a workshop and training ground, it extends opportunities for exchanging ideas and information, teaching us to be both teachers and students in an atmosphere of support and encouragement.

I feel extraordinarily fortunate to be a part of this group. Your great gifts of expertise, counsel, and friendship have formed me and lifted me. I will feel a debt of gratitude always, and I say, with heartfelt affection, thank you.

Around the State

News from Our Members

Ellen Conrad, longtime assistant in the Government Publications Dept. at the College of Wooster left Ohio in January to take a new position with Young Life ministries in Buena Vista, CO, managing six camp properties in the western U.S. Ellen has been active in GODORT/Ohio nearly from the beginning, and we certainly wish her well in her exciting new venture.

University of Toledo, University of Cincinnati, and CWRU are all at work on OhioLINK retrospective loads, others are too or will be shortly...

We spoke with two old friends at GPO recently, Virginia Saunders of Congressional Printing, and Joe McClane, now of Bibliographic Systems in GPO Sales. Both send their good wishes to Ohio friends.

OhioLINK Update

Kathleen Webb
University of Dayton

As many of you may remember, last spring OhioLINK's government documents librarians were asked by the Collection and Information Resources Management Committee (CIRM) of OhioLINK to submit a list of government-related electronic resources that we felt should be offered by OhioLINK. During May and June there were several suggestions that

were offered and some discussion as to what our priorities should be. In July, I attended the CIRM meeting and submitted the following list:

Priority 1 (requested by several libraries):

OhioLINK becomes a GPO Access Gateway
HANNAH Online
FBIS (tapeload)
Monthly Catalog (tapeload)
NCJRS (gateway through Dialog)

Priority 2 (suggested by one or two libraries):

Congressional Masterfile
Statistical Masterfile
United Nations Index

Other Suggestions But Not Available Due to Format Issues :

Foreign Affairs on CD-ROM
Davis-Bacon Wage Determinations
EEOC Decisions
DOQ CD-ROMS

The reaction to becoming a Gateway was favorable but as we can see there has been no action on this one. HANNAH Online, for Ohio legislative and administrative information is up and running, although not the complete service. Reaction to FBIS was favorable and I was under the impression that this one would be on CIRM's list to Library Advisory Committee but it did not appear. I am not sure why. The monthly catalog was voted down due to the State Library's collection being available. The reaction to NCJRS was also favorable but I do not know why it was not on the final list.

The list CIRM forwarded to LAC included a recommendation for CIS Government Periodical Index, PAIS, UN Index and FBIS. The last two were with reservations about the cost. The two CIS indexes were not included due to some question about the completeness of the tape versions. I believe the CIS index and PAIS were approved for purchase. I am not sure about the UN Index and FBIS.

In August LAC approved purchasing the CQ Washington Alert Service. Something happened which made them reconsider their recommendation. I was asked to evaluate Legi-Slate and CQ and make a recommendation. I did that in early September but the service I favored (Legi-Slate) was the more expensive of the two. Since then there has been considerable discussion by CIRM and LAC about which service should be purchased. A small committee was formed to look at the two services and make a recommendation. We will all be meeting at OhioLINK to see presentations from both CQ and LS. Hopefully we will be able to reach a consensus and make a recommendation.

Docs Prescriptions Deadlines

Next issue: Spring, 1996 (#41)

Published in April

Deadline, March 10, 1996

Summer, 1996 (#42)

Published in July

Deadline, June 10, 1996

The Five Colleges Of Ohio--A New Consortium

Margaret S. Powell
College of Wooster

Five of north central Ohio's private undergraduate liberal arts colleges, Denison, Kenyon, Oberlin, Ohio Wesleyan, and Wooster, formed a consortium last June to promote effective intercollege cooperation and resource sharing and to achieve cost savings for the individual institutions as a result of this cooperation. The idea for an Ohio consortium, modelled loosely on that of the Five Colleges of Western Massachusetts, originated with Philip Jordan, immediate past president of Kenyon College. A two-year study and planning grant, awarded to Kenyon in the spring of 1994 by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, culminated the following spring in a successful proposal to the foundation for \$840,000 to cover start up-costs associated with formation of the consortium. Much of the initial discussion and planning reflected in the proposal was centered on what cost savings and cooperation the five college libraries could accomplish in a consortial environment.

During the study and planning period, five library committees were formed to explore possibilities. The Acquisitions, Technical Services, Reference, Circulation/ILL, and Government Publications Committees consisted of at least one staff member from each institution. Each of the

committees met monthly or oftener during the year, as did the library directors, to develop specific recommendations for the final proposal. After the start-up grant was funded, most of the committees continued their work and a new committee on Preservation was created. The Circulation committee was reactivated to examine software issues and to prepare for compliance with OhioLINK policies. Reference regrouped to focus specifically on electronic services, the development of a joint file server for shared reference databases, and has almost completed an RFP to fund the purchase of these sources.

A significant portion of the start-up grant has been allocated to the formation of a single library system created by merging four of the five online catalogs. Frank Wojcik, formerly of Innovative Interfaces, Inc., was named systems manager for the consortium and began work in November at Denison on issues connected with the merger, the new DEC Alpha hardware, and the installation of various Innovative software modules. Kenyon is preparing to migrate from DRA to the III system and will soon merge its catalog with Denison's. The Technical Services Committee has completed profiling for both the consortium and OhioLINK and are debating the difficulties of merging records with those of merging holdings. Once a merged catalog system in place, the consortium will join OhioLINK, the statewide library network which now links

the library catalogs of all public universities and community colleges in Ohio. Oberlin has already joined OhioLINK and does not plan to merge its catalog with those of the other four at present. Both the merged online catalog, located at Denison, and the reference databases, located at Oberlin, will be accessible to all five colleges over dedicated telecommunication lines.

The Government Publications Committee with Jane Horn, Megan Mitchell, Andrea Peakovic, Mary Prophet, and Margie Powell, chair, produced a comprehensive report which included a detailed statistical portrait and current status of the five depositories and several recommendations for cooperation, including collection evaluation, resource sharing, cataloging, and selective housing of materials. The group has already coordinated selection and housing of a complete set of the 900 Digital Raster Graphic CD-ROM disks, standardized statistical reporting forms and categories, and has begun a zero-based analysis of depository item selections at each institution.

Although the largest savings for the consortium will undoubtedly be achieved by eliminating individual library systems, duplicate reference databases, and multiple book purchases, college officials at other levels, including presidents, vice presidents, and provosts; chief financial officers and business managers; computer center directors; and faculty, continue to

meet and discuss the implementation of specific cooperative projects and possible cost saving strategies for the five colleges.

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