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OLA
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Government Information

Past Past Past Past

Present Present

and

Future

Past Present and Future

Government
Information:
Past, Present,
and *Future*
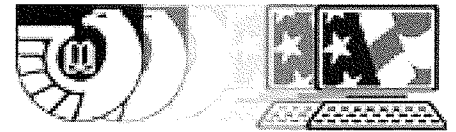
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OLA QUARTERLY

Government Information: Past, Present and Future

The Documents Interest Group of Oregon (DIGOR) began in 1981 as an independent organization of individuals having a professional interest in government documents. At that time, the alternative format of most concern was microfiche, which the Government Printing Office had begun to use for distributing an increasing portion of federal depository documents. Few libraries even had online catalogs, and the most technologically advanced device on most librarians' desks was an electronic typewriter.

Much has changed since then in the world at large and in libraries particularly. The technological revolution created by waves of innovation in computer and telecommunications technologies has forever changed our society, especially in the ways we create, access, and use information. Today, the new formats of most concern are the various electronic file formats accessed via the Internet. Most of us spend a good portion of our workday using a personal computer, and we communicate with our colleagues more via electronic mail than by postal mail or telephone. Yet many of the issues that were of concern in that earlier era of government information librarianship (even the terminology has changed somewhat) are important still: attempts to privatize government information, budget cuts, fugitive documents, resource sharing among libraries and librarians . . . the list goes on. Against the backdrop of ever-increasing technological change, the fundamental tenet of our specialty has remained: Citizen access to information by and about the government is of vital importance to a representative democracy.

As chair and vice-chair of DIGOR in this first year of its official affiliation with OLA, we are pleased to serve as editors of this special issue: *Government Information: Past, Present and Future*. We are especially honored to have our lead article contributed by the superintendent of documents, Francis J. Buckley, Jr. We hope that these articles will give you new and valuable perspectives on our rapidly changing field.

Ted D. Smith, University of Oregon
Arlene Weible, Willamette University
Guest Editors

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Into the Next Century: GPO Continues to Facilitate Public Access to Federal Government Information

by Francis J. Buckley, Jr.
Superintendent of Documents

When the public printer, Michael F. DiMario, asked me to serve as the superintendent of documents this past fall, I was pleased to have the opportunity to be a spokesperson for the Government Printing Office (GPO), the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), and public access to government information. In this position, I can pursue my longstanding professional interest to ensure effective, efficient, and equitable access to government information products by the citizens of this nation. I am, therefore, pleased to have this opportunity to write for this issue of *OLA Quarterly* as it focuses on government information: past, present and future.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS' ROLE

The superintendent of documents' role is one of the most visible and long-standing demonstrations of the U.S. Government's commitment to keeping the public informed of the operations of government and of the information collected, created, and compiled by the government. GPO's mission is to produce and procure information products for the federal government and to disseminate them to the public through several different channels. The three most important programs that I oversee are the FDLP, the electronic federal information services GPO Access (www.access.gpo.gov), and the documents sales program. My goal is to ensure that these three complementary programs are coordinated to provide effective public access to government information in tangible and electronic mediums, to provide for permanent public access to the information, and to offer government information products for sale to individuals, businesses, institutions, and organizations at low cost.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

As we envision the future of the FDLP, it is worth remembering that the dissemination of government information to libraries for the use of the public began in 1813. At that time, Congress authorized the distribution of one copy of House and Senate journals to certain university and state libraries and historical institutions. This program actually predated the establishment of GPO, which was inaugurated on the same day as President Abraham Lincoln, March 4, 1861.

We like to think of the FDLP as America's oldest "freedom of information" program. From its beginning, the FDLP has been built on several underlying principles:

- A well-informed citizenry, cognizant of the policies and activities of its representative government, is essential to the proper functioning of democracy.

- The public has a right to government information that has been prepared and published at public expense.

- The government has an obligation to ensure the availability of, and access to, public information at no cost to the user.

- The publications provided through the FDLP are a permanent and official source of government information.

- The public, participating libraries, and the government all benefit from the efficiencies afforded by a centralized distribution system, such as the FDLP, which ensures the wide availability of government information products at no charge to the user.

When Congress relocated the superintendent of documents function from the Interior Department to GPO more than 100 years ago, it linked the cataloging, indexing, and distribution of government information products with GPO's printing operations. This created an integrated, effective system for collecting the information products produced by the government and for providing public access to them. In the new burgeoning electronic environment, we are in the process of establishing the policies, procedures, and systems to accomplish the same goals.

THE FDLP TODAY

Federal depository libraries select and receive government information products in various mediums at no charge in return for making the information available to the public.

As of Jan. 31, 1998, there were 1,365 libraries in the depository program. Of that number, 50 percent were four-year academic institutions, 20 percent were public libraries and 11 percent were accredited law school libraries. The remaining depositories can be found in two-year community colleges, federal agencies, state libraries, state courts, special libraries, federal courts, and military service academies. These libraries serve all segments of the nation's population—students, researchers, consumers and those in the business sector—with everything from agriculture pamphlets and NASA scientific reports to demographic statistics or health information. In fiscal year 1997, 13.4 million copies of 44,820 information products were distributed to depository libraries. Over 30,000 government information products in print, microfiche, CD-ROM, or electronic databases were cataloged and entered in OCLC, as well as the monthly catalog of U.S. Government publications.

GPO ACCESS

GPO strongly supports the increased dissemination of government information in electronic formats in tandem with federal agency transition to use of CD-ROM or online database technology. Our Web site, *GPO Access*, today is one of the leading federal sites on the Internet. In January of this year, more than 10.5 million documents were downloaded from that site. It provides access without charge to more than 70 federal databases from all three branches of government, including the *Federal Register*, the *Congressional Record*, the *Commerce Business Daily*, Congressional bills and reports, and other government information products, as well as a growing number of agency Government Information Locator Service (GILS) records. In addition, GPO has created a suite of locator tools, known as Pathway Services, which enable users to identify and connect to online agency electronic resources. In whole, Pathway Services point to over 2,300 Federal agency resources. GPO's *Monthly Catalog* on the Web is unique in the way it locates both physical items in depository libraries and agency products on the Internet. It currently includes URLs for over 3,000 items, and the number is increasing daily.

In fact, the growth in electronic dissemination, reflecting the transition of agency publishing distribution practices from print to electronic mediums, allows more libraries and users than ever to have access, whether they are depositories or not.

While electronic dissemination makes geographic distances less of a barrier to obtaining information, it brings new challenges as well. Librarians are still necessary in order to provide the training and assistance to help users access the government information for which they are searching. In terms of hardware, a recent survey of depositories indicates that over 87 percent of all depositories now offer publicly accessible workstations for access to the Internet. Many of the remaining libraries offer mediated access to electronic information. Only 2 percent of the depositories cannot fully handle all electronic government information offerings. In order to help depository librarians and the public meet the challenges of electronic dissemination, GPO provides a user support team for GPO Access and offers training and continuing education opportunities.

PERMANENT PUBLIC ACCESS

In planning for an electronic future, GPO is guided by two basic assumptions:

1) GPO should not only disseminate government information products on a current basis, but must be concerned with its usability and permanent accessibility for citizens.

2) Partners, such as libraries, government agencies, nonprofits, and consortia will be needed to share the tasks of building, storing, disseminating, and preserving the collection of FDLP electronic resources.

Several partnerships have been forged in the last year that will help to ensure permanent online accessibility to electronic government information products.

GPO, in conjunction with the U.S. State Department and the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), will build on UIC's current agreement with the State Department to manage the Department of State Foreign Affairs Network (DOSFAN). DOSFAN is a collection of World Wide Web pages featuring current State Department news and information. As an FDLP partner, UIC will hold for permanent access electronic information products that migrate off DOSFAN. The ultimate responsibility for provision of permanent access to and bibliographic control of the electronic products will reside within GPO, however, as the administrator of the FDLP.

GPO and the University of North Texas (UNT) libraries have formed a partnership to provide permanent online access to electronic publications of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR), an independent agency that studied the relationships among local, state, and national levels of government. The commission was terminated in 1996. The GPO/UNT partnership will assure ongoing access to reports and documents of ACIR. GPO acted as agent for this agreement, matching the need for permanent access to the agency information with the willingness of UNT to enter into a partnership agreement.
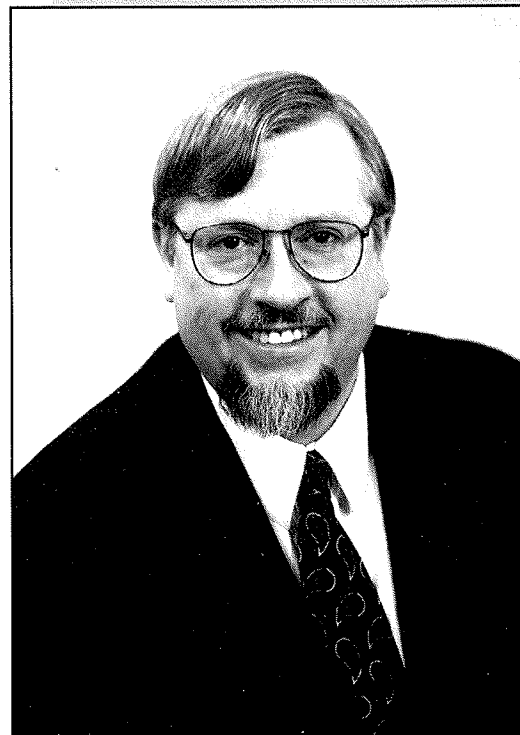
Francis J. Buckley, Jr., Superintendent of Documents

Significant progress has been made with other government information disseminators to expand the range of content available at no cost to depository libraries and the public. GPO has entered into agreements with the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), which will enable libraries to search and obtain U.S. Government scientific and technical information in electronic image format via the Internet on demand. The DOE project alone will provide electronic versions of some 15,000 reports each year, previously available to depository libraries only in microfiche. The NTIS project, although still in an early pilot test phase, has enormous potential to expand the public availability of government information at depository libraries using electronic technologies.

In addition, the National Library of Education and OCLC in partnership with GPO will be making public domain reports from the Educational Resources Information Center available online through the FDLP. Reports from January 1997 forward will be converted to TIFF image format and stored at OCLC, with access available through OCLC's First Search. It is expected that up to 250 new reports will be added each month.

We look forward to getting these projects up and running. They will allow GPO and depository libraries to test different models for the identification, request, and delivery of electronic information.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT/ELECTRONIC INFORMATION PRODUCTS

As a librarian taking over the Superintendent of Documents Program, I was very pleased that the development of a collection management plan for online information was already underway within GPO. I would like to expand the scope of the concept to include collection development plans for depository library information in all mediums and the documents sales program. But our initial plan will enable us to manage the various electronic government information products we make available to depository libraries and the public as a library-like collection. We will be addressing four categories of information:

1) Core legislative and regulatory GPO Access products that will reside permanently on GPO servers.

2) Other remotely accessible products, either maintained by GPO or other institutions with which GPO has established formal agreements.

3) The tangible electronic government information products distributed to federal depository libraries.

4) Remotely accessible electronic government information products that GPO identifies, describes, and links to but which remain under the control of the originating agencies.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Part of GPO's challenge is to improve the comprehensiveness of the collection to be managed, since there is a significant problem with fugitive documents (those documents produced by federal agencies that do not, for various reasons, get into the FDLP). There have been numerous discussions during this current Congress that would revise Title 44, GPO's authorizing legislation.

In May 1997, GPO put forth a legislative proposal to achieve reform of Title 44. Our proposal to revise Chapter 19, relating to the operation of the FDLP, is based on suggestions for legislative changes as an outgrowth from the 1996 GPO Study to Identify Measures Necessary for a Successful Transition to a More Electronic Federal Depository Library Program, in which there was a broad range of participants: Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, librarians, federal agencies, and the information industry. Our proposal would do the following:

- Create new definitions of "government information" to specifically include electronic formats and prevent restrictions on public access to public domain information.

- Set up a system of electronic public access to government information coordinated by the superintendent of documents.

- Combat fugitive documents by (1) strengthening the procedure by which federal agencies notify the superintendent of documents when initiating, substantially modifying, or eliminating government information products and (2) eliminating the exemption on "cooperative" publications.

- Modernize language covering statutory designations of depositories, inspection requirements, and cataloging and locator services.

- Provide for permanent public access to electronic information.

These revisions to Chapter 19 will help GPO provide a more comprehensive and coordinated system for depository libraries and the public to identify and have access to a larger universe of government information products. Since submitting our legislative proposal, there have been discussions between GPO and the Inter-Association Working Group on Government Information Policy (IAWG) about concepts for Chapter 19 revision that they have developed. This working group was formed to develop a legislative proposal to amend the Depository Library Act and Title 44 and is made up of representatives from the major library associations. I had the opportunity to serve as chair of the group from its inception in February 1997 until my appointment as superintendent of documents. Many of the ideas put

The Growth and Development of the Federal Depository Library Program in Oregon

by Gwen Newborg
Documents Librarian,
Portland State University Library

The Federal Depository Library Program, which is now over 100 years old, is going through revolutionary changes as it prepares to enter the 21st century. As the Government Printing Office tries to shift from a paper past to an electronic future, it has encountered many bumps in the road. Oregon libraries and librarians have been active participants in the federal depository program since its very beginning. As a documents librarian in Oregon for 29 years and the regional depository librarian since 1972, I feel qualified to look at and comment on the growth and development of Oregon federal depositories and the librarians who have worked very hard to ensure access to government information. These librarians have in many cases been unheralded during their documents careers.

Oregon libraries have been a part of the Federal Depository Library Program since before the General Printing Act of 1895, which established the current depository program. The University of Oregon is the second oldest depository on the West Coast, having joined the program in July 1883. The Oregon State Library became a depository in the 1890s (exact date unknown), Multnomah County Library in 1884, Pacific University in 1897, and Oregon State University, Reed College, and Pacific University in the early 1900s. These were the only Oregon depositories until the 1950s, when Southern and Eastern Oregon State colleges became representative-designated depositories. In 1962 the Depository Library Program under Title 44, USC, was revised, and the current system of selective and regional depositories was developed. The number of depositories allocated to each state was also increased. In the 1960s a number of Oregon libraries took advantage of the broadened law and became depositories. These included the libraries at Lewis and Clark College, Linfield College, Western Oregon State College, Portland State College, Willamette University, and the Bonneville Power Administration.

An additional revision to Title 44 in 1972 added law libraries: the University of Oregon Law Library,

Willamette University Law Library, Northwestern School of Law Library, and the Oregon Supreme Court. In the 1980s came the newest depositories for Oregon, thanks to several senatorially designated depositories which generously changed their status from representative designations so that Blue Mountain Community College, Central Oregon Community College, and the Oregon Institute of Technology libraries could become depositories although there had been no representative vacancies in their districts. There is still one representative vacancy left in the 4th Congressional District.

For 10 years after the 1962 changes in Title 44 allowing for a regional depository, no library in Oregon would take on the responsibility. The logical choices, the large older depositories at the Oregon State Library, Multnomah County Library, and the University of Oregon wanted neither the requirement to keep everything forever nor the additional administrative responsibilities required of a regional. In 1972, Portland State University Library was designated the regional depository by Sen. Bob Packwood. Since that time Portland State has added thousands of documents to its collection, provided guidance to selectives, written discard policies, and assumed numerous other responsibilities as required by Title 44. It has done all this work with a staff of one librarian, one library technician and three or four students - no easy task, I assure you.

Until the mid-70s, Oregon depositories pretty much did things independently. They may have called each other periodically or met informally at OLA, but there is no indication of any formal cooperative efforts among the depositories. That began to change in the 1970s, partly because documents librarians became more professionally active and formed the Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) within ALA, and partly because Oregon finally had a regional depository that reached out to the selectives. In 1975, the Portland State University Library, funded by an LSCA grant, held its first workshop for documents librarians and others in Oregon. Wellington Lewis, superintendent of documents, was the featured speaker. His topic was "Improvements in the Depository System and Better Bibliographic Control of Government Documents." The same speech could be given today! Other speakers included Philip Lothyan, chief archivist at the National Archives branch in Seattle; James Weiss, director of the Center for Population Research at PSU; and Kay Grasing, director of readers' services at the Oregon State Library. In the afternoon, a panel discussion was held to discuss documents policies and procedures, discard policies, and communication. As I look back over the file I still have on this workshop, I note that Craig Smith and Marjorie Napper of the Oregon State Library are the only two people attending the meeting who are still working with documents in Oregon besides me! Since that time, many programs and committee meetings have been held, and many wonderful people have worked with documents here in Oregon.

As Oregon documents librarians began moving toward cooperative efforts in the late 1970s, several new documents librarians moved to Oregon who would become very active in documents librarianship and who were very instrumental in the formation of a documents interest group in 1980. Pam Horan, University of Portland, and Tom Stave, University of Oregon, helped me organize the first meeting of what would become the Documents Interest Group of Oregon (DIGOR). Pam Horan was elected the first president. I was the secretary. Phil Zorich and Tom Stave of the University of Oregon, Dick Myers of the Oregon State Library, and Bill Abrams of Portland State Library were the coordinators for federal, state, local and international documents, and Bill edited the newsletter, "The DocumentOr." Kappy Eaton, University of Oregon; Louise Gerity, Lewis and Clark College; and Alex Toth, Pacific University, drew up our constitution. Over the ensuing years, DIGOR has become the vehicle for Oregon documents librarians to work together promoting the use of documents, to provide a support group for each other, to improve documents procedures, and to serve as a lobbying group on the state and federal levels for improved access to government information. Other documents librarians involved in DIGOR from the beginning and still active in Oregon documents activities are Arlys Fones of Multnomah County Library and Deborah Hollens of Southern Oregon University.

In 1981-82 the Government Printing Office decided that it would be a good idea if all states' depositories developed state plans to help depositories deal with the rapid changes in the depository program. Through DIGOR, volunteers were recruited to work on various aspects of a state plan for federal depositories in Oregon. Arlys Fones, Candy Morgan of the Oregon State Library, Harbans Chona of OSU, Doreen Portal of Reed College, Tom Stave, and I worked on committees to draw up a plan. The plan was completed and agreed to by depository library directors in fall 1982. The state plan had five components:

1. Collection development, which included collection maintenance (who would keep what), discard procedures, and selective housing.

2. Service to the public, including interlibrary loan and reference service.

3. Administration of the plan.

4. Visits, training, and publicity.

5. Future plans.

A number of projects have been implemented under the state plan, including the drawing up of discard procedures, selective housing agreements, numerous workshops, encouragement for libraries to add documents serials holdings to ORULS, and the creation of several union lists of major retrospective reference tools.

Revisions to the state plan have been made several times since. The latest revision was made just this past fall, when it became possible for depositories to publish discard lists electronically over DIGOR's new listserv. Formal meetings of the advisory committee have become infrequent the last few years, due to the press of other responsibilities of nearly everyone involved, but the goals of the plan have been carried on through DIGOR.

DIGOR has had a longstanding tradition of holding workshops at OLA and other regional meetings, as well as sponsoring programs at regular DIGOR meetings held throughout the state on a quarterly basis. It has also co-sponsored workshops with the Washington state documents librarians. Here is a sampling of the workshops that DIGOR has put on over the last 18 years at OLA conferences:

1981—workshop on online databases emphasizing U. S. government documents.

1981—pre-conference workshop on census publications.

1982—joint workshop with WLA documents librarians on federal, state and international statistics.

1991—Pacific Rim Information.

1992—Owls, Power and Trees: Collecting Regional Information

1995—Sources of Local Area Data for Oregon

1996—Government Information in the Electronic Age, a panel discussion with a representative of the Government Printing Office

1997—Building a Virtual Depository Using Internet Sources of Government Information.

These workshops have always been well attended. The early workshops focused on paper publications, then the focus changed to commercial databases. Now the focus is on Internet sources of information. The most requested program topic is statistics, particularly census publications, for which there is a constant demand.

DIGOR members have lobbied at the federal and state levels for free access to government publications in all formats and have been quick to respond to requests from ALA and OLA to speak up to protect the public's right to know. Over the years, as many pressure groups have tried to change the depository program, Oregon documents librarians have risen to the occasion by deluging Congress and government agencies with letters either in support of or in protest against various proposals. Furthermore, in 1989-90, when a task force was formed by the

Government Documents Cataloging in Oregon: the State of the State

by Dena Holiman Hutto
Documents/Social Sciences Librarian
Reed College

Why is finding government documents so difficult? Is it that figuring out how the government works is so hard? That government agencies insist on publishing their documents in nearly incomprehensible series? Or that there are just too many colons and slashes in those superintendent of documents call numbers?

All of these are genuine problems for librarians as well as patrons who are looking for government information. But one of the most daunting problems of all is that for decades, government documents were not included in that critical tool for any information search: the library catalog. As a result, librarians may have overlooked these important primary resources, and generations of patrons probably never suspected the existence of a government documents collection in their own college or academic library.

This unfortunate state of affairs began to change in 1976, the year the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) began to use OCLC and MARC cataloging to create entries for its Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (MoCat). Before 1976, only a small amount of cataloging copy was available for U.S. Government documents, mostly created by the Library of Congress. The task of creating original cataloging for the steady flow of federal depository materials was more than most libraries could undertake. Instead, libraries usually opted to maintain separate shelflists for their documents collections.

When GPO cataloging became available in 1976, a new world of bibliographic access options opened for depository libraries. The task of cataloging became one of searching and editing OCLC copy, a faster job than original cataloging and one that could be delegated to cataloging support staff rather than professional catalogers. In the 1980s, at about the same time that many large libraries were switching from card catalogs to online library systems, GPO made its cataloging available on MARC bibliographic tapes. This made it possible for libraries to load government documents records for publications distributed since 1976 directly into their online catalogs.

Questions about the quality of GPO cataloging and the timeliness and usefulness of GPO MARC record tapes have been resolved only through the efforts of a generation of documents and cataloging librarians [1]. Thanks to their work, quality GPO copy is now available from all of the major bibliographic networks: OCLC, RLIN, and WLN. In addition, at least three library vendors offer products that enable libraries to buy GPO records for the U.S. documents that they collect and load them directly into their online library systems with minimal intervention by cataloging staff [2]. An added benefit of GPO cataloging is that many libraries, with their U.S. collections under some degree of bibliographic control, have been able to turn cataloging efforts toward other large uncataloged collections, such as documents of state governments and international organizations.

HOW CATALOGING HELPS

GPO cataloging has not been a magic bullet for the problem of bibliographic access for government documents. For example, the library catalog cannot help anyone to discover the text of a particular executive order or regulation. These types of documents are published in the Federal Register, a daily publication represented by a single serial record in library catalogs, with no access to its contents. However, it is possible to find any number of separately issued U.S. Government publications, such as transcripts of congressional hearings and most reports of executive agencies. Even in the case of the Federal Register and other serial government documents, cataloging makes it far easier for both librarians and patrons to find out whether their own library has a publication, and if so, where in the library it is located. The experience of depository libraries with cataloged documents collections has shown that public use of government publications increases dramatically when documents are cataloged.

Documents cataloging also plays an essential role in resource sharing between depository libraries, enabling nondepository libraries to take full advantage of documents collections in their area. When documents collections are cataloged, librarians can use online catalogs of individual libraries and online union catalogs to determine which libraries in a particular city or state have a title or a collection of interest.

In January 1998, the Documents Interest Group of Oregon (DIGOR) held a discussion session titled "The State of Documents Cataloging in Oregon." Librarians and paraprofessional staff of 14 of the 20 U.S. depository libraries in Oregon discussed how they catalog government publications, which cataloging resources they use, and in which resource-sharing library consortia they participate. The group also discussed common cataloging problems and shared solutions and future plans. This article, which

Table 1:
Cataloging
Systems of
U.S. Depository
Libraries
in Oregon

Library	Catalog System	Bibliographic Utility	Consortia
Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton	Dynix	OCLC	
Bonneville Power Administration, Portland	Horizon	OCLC	
Central Oregon Community College, Bend	Innovative Interfaces, Inc.	OCLC	
Eastern Oregon University, La Grande	Innovative Interfaces, Inc.	OCLC	Orbis
Lewis and Clark College & Northwestern School of Law, Portland	Innovative Interfaces, Inc.	OCLC	Orbis PORTALS
Linfield College, McMinnville	Innovative Interfaces, Inc.	OCLC	Orbis PORTALS
Multnomah County Library, Portland	Dynix	OCLC	PORTALS
Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls	Innovative Interfaces, Inc.	OCLC	Orbis
Oregon State Library, Salem	Data Research Associates	OCLC	
Oregon State University, Corvallis	GEAC	OCLC	
Oregon Supreme Court, Salem	None	OCLC	
Pacific University, Forest Grove	Dynix	OCLC	
Portland State University, Portland (Regional Depository)	SIRSI	OCLC WLN	PORTALS
University of Oregon & University of Oregon Law Library, Eugene	Innovative Interfaces, Inc.	OCLC	Orbis
Reed College, Portland	Innovative Interfaces, Inc.	OCLC	Orbis PORTALS
Western Oregon University, Monmouth	Innovative Interfaces, Inc.	OCLC	Orbis
Willamette University & Willamette College of Law, Salem	Innovative Interfaces, Inc.	OCLC	Orbis

is based on that meeting and on subsequent telephone conversations, examines how cataloging of government documents has improved public access to documents collections and resource sharing between libraries in our state.

OREGON'S CATALOGING INFRASTRUCTURE
The federal depository libraries in Oregon enjoy a high level of library automation, which provides the building blocks for a sound system of bibliographic control and sharing of government information resources in the state. Only one U.S. depository library in Oregon lacks an online library catalog (See Table 1). The resources of the other depository collections may be readily accessed onsite or from remote locations, as long as libraries provide documents cataloging. All depository libraries use OCLC as their bibliographic utility for cataloging and/or interlibrary loan. If all libraries chose to catalog their collections using the OCLC union catalog or to set their libraries holdings, that database could serve as a single source for documents resource sharing in Oregon.

The last column in Table 1 shows less consensus among depository libraries in their choice of consortia. There is no single access point to the cataloged resources of depository libraries in the state, although several depositories participate in one or both of the state's two innovative cooperative initiatives: PORTALS and Orbis. Since membership in PORTALS is limited to the Portland metropolitan area and membership in Orbis is limited to four-year and graduate-level institutions, neither of these consortia seem suited to providing a single gateway to the catalogs of Oregon depository libraries. However, they do provide two important ways of searching for documents in the state and perhaps are examples of how such a gateway might be constructed for a future initiative.

All depositories in the Portland area participate in PORTALS, a citywide library consortium that enables patrons of each library to borrow from any other member library with a single ID. Shared databases include the FirstSearch version of MoCat and access

to each member library's catalog from the organization's Web site. This initiative promotes both bibliographic and physical access to all depository collections in the metropolitan area.

Orbis, a consortium of ten colleges and universities in Oregon and two in Washington, provides its members with an online union catalog. Patrons may search the catalogs of all member institutions simultaneously. In the spring of 1997, Orbis introduced its automated borrowing service, which enables patrons at any Orbis site to place online requests for monographs and nonperiodical serial volumes at other sites. The consortium and its members use the Innovative Interfaces, Inc., (III) online library system. All

Orbis libraries have at least some of their documents collections represented in the database, making those publications that have been cataloged available for automated borrowing. Unfortunately, participation in the Orbis union catalog is currently limited to libraries using III for their local library systems. Two of the state's major depository libraries, Portland State University and Oregon State University, use other library systems [3].

WHO CATALOGS WHAT—AND HOW?
Table 1 reveals a glowing portrait of the potential for bibliographic control of government documents in Oregon. How close are we to reaching that potential? That depends on the extent to which each

Library	Current U.S. Documents	U.S. Documents Retro. Conversion	Vendor/Utility
Blue Mountain Community College	Selectively catalog one-third of titles since 1996	No plans	OCLC
Bonneville Power Administration	Since early 1990s; selective titles prior to early 1990s	Selective conversion performed	OCLC
Central Oregon Community College	Since 1980s	Collection cataloged	OCLC
Eastern Oregon University	Since 1994	Selective conversion performed	Marcive
Lewis and Clark College	Since 1996. Some serials cataloged prior to 1996	No plans	Marcive
Linfield College	Since 1996	80% completed	OCLC
Multnomah County Library	Since 1994	No plans	Marcive & OCLC
Oregon Institute of Technology	Selected titles cataloged since 1982	No plans	OCLC
Oregon State Library	Since 1993	No plans	Bernan/Marcive
Oregon State University	From 1976- present. Serials, maps, some LC-classed titles not yet cataloged	Marcive retro. clean-up still in progress. Serials, maps, some LC-classed titles not converted	Marcive
Pacific University	Selected titles cataloged	Considering Marcive	Considering Marcive
Portland State University	Since 1997	Retro. project for 1976-1996 in progress	Marcive
Reed College	Since 1998	Marcive retro. project for 1976-1997 planned for 1999	Marcive
Southern Oregon Univesity	Selected titles since 1980s	No plans	OCLC
University of Oregon	Since 1996; serials cataloged since early 1990s	Planning Marcive project	Marcive
Western Oregon University	Selected titles cataloged	No plans	Marcive
Willamette University	Since 1996	Selective conversion performed	OCLC

Table 2: Current Cataloging Activity by U.S. Depository Libraries in Oregon

library has actually cataloged its documents collections. Table 2 shows current cataloging activity by 17 U.S. depository libraries.

Some early leaders in the cataloging of U.S. documents in Oregon were Southern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Central Oregon Community College, and Oregon State Library. All of these libraries began cataloging some or all U.S. documents in the 1980s. Many of Oregon's smaller depository libraries now catalog some or all of their U.S. documents using OCLC. An added resource sharing benefit of this approach is that those libraries' document holdings are included in the OCLC online union catalog and are more readily accessible to libraries depending on OCLC for reference and interlibrary loan.

Twelve libraries, or 80 percent of U.S. depositories in Oregon, catalog all currently received U.S. depository documents. Some of the first in this group were Oregon State University and Eastern Oregon University (using the Marcive GPO record service), and Oregon State Library (which began using a combination of the Bernan shelflist record service and Marcive's GPO record service in 1993). Several more libraries have subscribed to the Marcive GPO record

**Table 3:
Non-U.S.
Documents
Collections
in Oregon**

and shipping list services, including Oregon's regional depository, Portland State University, in 1997.

Retrospective conversion of U.S. documents collections can be a daunting task, particularly for the large depository libraries. GPO cataloging records from 1976 to date are available from vendors such as Marcive and Autographics, but a library using these services must still interpret paper shelflist and item profile records for a library's preautomation years and perform database cleanup after the record load. Oregon State University is in the database cleanup stage of its Marcive retrospective conversion project, with serials and maps still to be converted. Portland State University, with the help of a Department of Education Title II-C grant to PORTALS, is working on a Marcive retrospective conversion project at this writing. Several other depository libraries report that they are selectively converting records to their online catalogs using OCLC.

Table 3 shows some of the non-U.S. documents collections in Oregon and their current state of bibliographic control. Our state hero in the area of non-U.S. documents is the Oregon State Library, which began cataloging Oregon state documents on OCLC in 1979. At the January 1998 DIGOR discussion, representatives of many libraries stated that the Oregon State Library's efforts made it possible for them to provide full cataloging of Oregon documents in their own collections. Multnomah County Library, Linfield College, Southern Oregon University, and Western Oregon University all reported that their Oregon state documents are fully cataloged. Several other libraries' Oregon documents collections have been cataloged since the mid- to late 1990s.

Only the University of Oregon and Portland State University reported substantial collections of international documents. At the University of Oregon, routine cataloging of these collections began in 1996-1997, and selective retrospective conversion is in the planning stages.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS COLLECTIONS IN OREGON
The January 1998 DIGOR meeting concluded with a discussion of how else depository libraries in Oregon can further improve access to their collections. Three ideas emerged from the discussion and merit further consideration.

The first is to ensure that libraries' government documents holdings are represented in the OCLC union catalog. Libraries using OCLC to catalog their documents collections are already represented in the database, but libraries electing to use Marcive or other vendors of GPO records need to make an extra effort to "set" their documents holdings in OCLC.

A practical and fairly economical way of providing government documents holdings information to

Library	Documents Collections	Collections Cataloged
Eastern Oregon University	Oregon documents	Current and some retro.
Linfield College	Oregon documents	Entire collection cataloged
Multnomah County Library	Oregon documents	Entire collection cataloged
Oregon Institute of Technology	Oregon documents	Since 1994
Oregon State Library	Oregon documents	Since 1979
Oregon State University	Oregon documents	Since 1994; retro. project planned
Portland State University	Minimal collections of Oregon documents, United Nations; significant local documents	Not cataloged
Reed College	Some Oregon documents; United Nations to 1991	Not cataloged; Oregon retro. planned
Southern Oregon University	Oregon and local documents	Cataloged
Western Oregon University	Oregon documents	Entire collection cataloged
University of Oregon	Oregon documents, European Union and Canadian depository; United Nations and local	Oregon documents since 1996; EU and Canadian since 1997; retro.planned

Oregon Document Programs at the State Library

A History of the Oregon Documents Depository Program
by Deanna Iltis, Cataloging Coordinator, and
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Oregon State Library

The Oregon Documents Depository Program (OrDocs), as a concept at least, is nearly as old as the century. In 1905 the secretary of the Oregon Library Commission said in her report, "It will certainly be well worth while to make some provision for making a list and to arrange for preservation of documents through public libraries, among which should be designated depositories. People in different sections of the state should know that all the state documents may be found in certain libraries." (Note that at that time, the State Library was under the umbrella of the Supreme Court, and the Library Commission was a separate entity.)

In 1907, the 24th Legislature passed a law requiring the state printer to give the state librarian 100 bound copies of "reports of each officer, board or institution." They were distributed to the Library of Con-

gress, the territorial or state library of each state, the University of Oregon, Oregon Agricultural College, and the Library Commission "and to each public or normal school library as may be designated as public depositories by the Library Commission." The first depositories so designated were the public libraries of Portland, Eugene, Dallas, Baker City, and Forest Grove.
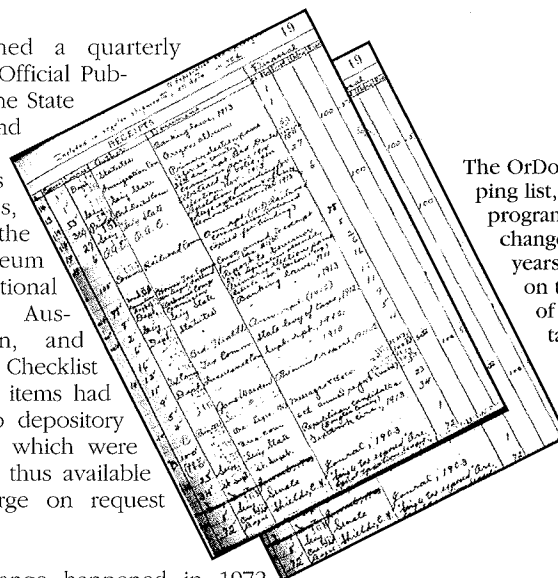
In 1913, what was then the State Library became the Supreme Court Library, and the title of State Library went to the Library Commission. All federal and state documents went to the new Oregon State Library (OSL), along with the OrDocs depository program. This caused some difficulty for the program, since the state printer technically was not required to give the new OSL state publications. Additionally, in 1915, the state librarian reported a "probable difficulty in state document exchange, now that departments pay for all their own printing, and there is no centralized authority required to attend to deposit of documents with the State Library" (Moberg, 1965). These problems were eventually resolved to some extent in the 1950s and 1960s, although the required number of documents has changed over the years.

For many years, depository libraries were arranged in a hierarchy, with Library of Congress at the beginning, to ensure that large research libraries would receive publications when the number was limited. The number of depository libraries was usually less than 40; OSL added three copies of each document to its collection, and the Library of Congress received two. However, in the 1960s, OSL frequently received 75 copies of agency publications and 125 of legislative publications. The extras went to a special "Stock" area in the stacks. The stock furnished copies to nondepository libraries that requested them and replaced OSL's copies if they were lost or damaged.

OSL published a quarterly Checklist of Official Publications of the State of Oregon and mailed it to 450 agencies and libraries, including the British Museum and the national libraries of Australia, Japan, and Sweden. The Checklist noted which items had been sent to depository libraries and which were in stock and thus available free of charge on request from OSL.

A major change happened in 1972, when depositories were given the opportunity to designate themselves selective rather than full

The OrDocs shipping list, like the program itself, has changed over the years. The page on the left is of recent vintage; the one on the right is from 1914.

OrDocs depositories. This was done because Stanley Ruckman, who was then the documents librarian, realized that not all depositories added all OrDocs they received; in fact, some evidently returned unwanted items to OSL. Selectives received a document called "Oregon State Documents Selection List" rather than a shipment and had three weeks to return the list, indicating which (if any) items they would like to receive. Twenty-two libraries chose to become selectives.

Many changes occurred in the late 1970s. There was a push for centralized cataloging of all OrDocs, eventually leading to the establishment of the OrDocs classification system and the OrDocs authority file.

In the 1979 legislative session, SB 246 authorized the state printer to withhold 45 copies of appropriate publications and send them to OSL for the depository program. Previously, ORS 182.070 had required agencies to send 25 copies of technical reports and 75 copies of all others but had not authorized the printer to send them directly. Backed by OSL, the Oregon State System of Higher Education (OSSHE), and OLA, the bill passed. In August 1979, all depositories switched to full status again following a meeting at the OSL. The shipping list in more or less its current format, which gives depositories the OrDocs classification number, made its debut at the same time.

As far as we can tell from the records we have from the period, there were never enough depository libraries to use all 45 copies. Extra copies of the most important publications went to the stock area, but as the library's collection grew and the amount of space available for stock shrunk, many extra copies were simply recycled.

By the early 1990s, there were 32 OrDocs depository libraries, including the Library of Congress, which received two copies of each publication, and the California State Library. Two selective depositories received only the OAR and occasional legal titles and two received only the shipping list. The libraries were arranged in a hierarchy, with Library of Congress at the beginning, to ensure distribution to major research libraries and libraries in different parts of the state.

In 1995, a task force of OSL staff and DIGOR members drafted legislation to change the statutes for the depository program. HB 2077 made the following changes:

- Reduced the number of depository libraries to 29.

- Established a two-tiered system of Full OrDoc Depositories, which receive all publications, and Core Depositories, which receive only core publications,

- Defined core public documents as "… those public documents for which members of the public have the most significant and frequent need" (ORS 357.004 (1)).

- Required each agency to have a publications liaison to OSL, who must provide OSL with an annual list of the agency's public documents.

After HB 2077 passed, the same group met to recommend Full and Core Depository Libraries and to draft a core documents list. State Librarian Jim Scheppke approved both the list of depository libraries and the core document list. The core list, list of depository libraries, and current OrDocs shipping list are on the depository program Web page at http://www.osl.state.or.us/techserv/ordocs.html.

In earlier years, there were few written guidelines for the depository program. In the new program, depository libraries and their obligations are listed in the Oregon Administrative Rules (chapter 543, division 70). Full depositories must keep all depository OrDocs for five years or until superseded; core depositories must keep them for three years or until superseded. All depositories must make the depository materials available to the public without charge and catalog them in their online catalogs.

The current program has allowed state agencies to cut costs by reducing the number of publications they must supply OSL and also made it easier to track down "fugitive" publications. Earlier OrDoc staff sometimes had to navigate a confusing maze of agency divisions and sections to get information about publications or to request publications that agencies had not supplied. Now that each agency has an official publications liaison to OSL, we can often deal with just one person who understands the OrDocs program and knows his or her agency's publications.

The publications liaisons are also required to provide an annual list of their agency's publications. This has been a little more problematic. A few liaisons send their lists automatically each year; most don't send it until reminded; some never supply a list at all. And, unfortunately, some agencies subsequently do not supply depository copies of publications that we do not have and about which we find out from their lists. Still, it's an improvement, and contacts with agency publications liaisons can result in some fun. One of the first publication lists we received turned out to be an OrDoc itself, but one we had never received before. When we contacted the agency for more copies, they quickly replied and also sent us a supply of agency pencils and a couple of garbage bags (which we elected not to distribute on the depository program).

For every agency that is reluctant or uncooperative in complying with the depository program, there is at least one that is enthusiastic. Agency personnel are glad to have a quick, inexpensive way to get their publications to libraries. Some even provide extra copies to send to nondepository libraries that request them.

The OrDocs program as it exists today deals with all kinds of media—print, graphic, audio, video, magnetic, and optical. These are all physical objects that we can pack in boxes and ship to other libraries. An increasing world of state government information exists, however, that you can't hold in your hand: electronic information. As state agencies become more electronically savvy, some are opting to either publish in both paper and electronic form or to switch to electronic format only. Also, many things that appear on agency web pages have never appeared in any other format but can certainly be considered public documents.

An OSL/DIGOR group called AESOP (Archiving Electronic State of Oregon Publications) met in November 1997 to discuss the problem of losing electronic state government information. Defining "publication" in the electronic environment is difficult and the prospect of coming up with a means for archiving the electronic publications daunting. An informal poll of state agency Web masters revealed that most have no standards for when items are removed from their Web page. Most who responded said that items were removed when "no longer current"; in some cases they kept a backup copy to which the public does not have easy access. At this writing, OSL is considering a pilot Government Information Locator Service for Oregon, which could be combined with a project to identify and archive the most important electronic publications.

Much has changed since 1905 when the idea for the OrDocs Depository Program first appeared. But much remains the same. Whether we're sending copies of the *Oregon Blue Book* to libraries, or pointing libraries and citizens to the *Oregon Blue Book* on the World Wide Web, the OrDocs program will continue to provide citizens with access to Oregon public documents.

Bibliographic Access

While depository libraries have a three to five year requirement for retention of Oregon documents, the OSL and its predecessor, the Oregon Library Commission, have had the mission to preserve all Oregon documents permanently since the late 19th century. The original guidelines have remained unchanged: Copy one is preserved as an archival copy, while one or two additional copies are available for circulation.

Bibliographic access to the extensive Oregon document collections at the OSL has advanced in step with library technology. During the era of manually typed card sets, bibliographic access was limited to author, title, and subject. Due to the labor-intensive demands of cataloging, at least one unfortunate shortcut was taken: whenever possible, monographic publications were gathered together under a series title. While the author and title of each publication within the series was recorded on the main entry card, no additional cards were prepared to provide author, title, or subject access to the individ-

ual monographs. For example, Robert Stebbins' monograph, *Training and Pruning Apple and Pear Trees*, was accessible in the card catalog only under the author entry: Oregon - State University, and series title entry: PNW Bulletin, no. 156. To remedy this situation, a current retrospective project is underway to provide brief bibliographic records in the State Library's OPAC for all individual publications within series.

Introduction of machine-readable (MARC) records in the late 1960s revolutionized bibliographic access by providing a wide range of access points. The OSL began creating online bibliographic records for Oregon documents in January 1980, providing MARC records for other libraries to use in conjunction with Oregon document depository shipments. When added to local library OPACs, these records are searchable by personal author, state agency (corporate) name, title, series title, subjects, note field information, and OrDocs call number. The current OSL performance standard is to provide OCLC bibliographic access for new Oregon documents by the time shipments are received by the depository libraries.

Union Listing

Union lists of serials provide volume and date holdings information for serial publications held by a group of individual libraries. Oregon document serials have been included in statewide union lists of serials since the 1971 hardcover publication of the OSSHE-OSL Pilot Project Union List of Serials (OSSHE 1971), and the first microfiche edition of the Oregon Regional Union List of Serials (ORULS) in 1976. ORULS Project coordination was provided by Portland State University through 1978 when the OSL assumed responsibility with the aid of an LSCA grant.

Union listing has provided resource sharing access to Oregon document serials through the interlibrary loan process. ILL staff used paper ALA forms for borrowing and lending of Oregon documents until January 1984, the date when online union listing began. Since that time libraries around the state have been contributing serials holdings data for Oregon documents electronically, and borrowing/lending them through OCLC. Equally important, libraries have been including union listing of older Oregon documents as a part of retrospective serials projects. Through these efforts, resource sharing access to the historic collections of Oregon documents improves daily.

OrDocs Classification

During the 1970s Oregon was one of a number of states that developed state document classification schemes. Many of these schemes were based on the federal Superintendent of Documents (SuDocs) model: arranged first by agency and then by type of publication. In 1979 the OSL issued ORDOCS: History Authority List and Classification Scheme for Oregon State Agencies, compiled by Kay Tappan (Tappan, 1979). Based on meticulous research of agency histories (Isseks, 1939) and Oregon law, this publication provided the basic OrDocs classification

scheme from "A," for the State Department of Agriculture, through "WC," for the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Within each agency grouping, documents are subarranged by content type using the following decimal-like table:

1. Annual, biennial, financial reports

2. Monographs

3. General serial publications not included in another number

4. Series

5. Ephemeral publications; e.g., brochures, posters

6. Legal publications; e.g., laws, administrative rules

7. Statistical reports

8. Guides, manuals, catalogs, directories, maps

9. Conference proceedings, minutes, testimony

If needed, final subarrangement can include:

- Date of an edition or issue of a serial; e.g., :997 for the 1997 edition, :1/1 for v. 1, no. 1

- Version; e.g., :draft, :final, :prelim, :append, :ex.summ

The OrDocs classification scheme is both simple and elegant. Despite constant and numerous changes in state agency organization and naming, the OrDocs scheme remains quite usable 20 years after its carefully researched beginnings.

NAME AUTHORITY PROGRAM

The State Library's Name Authority Program grew out of authority work dating back to 1990 that invited libraries to view state agency name authority records in the State Library's OPAC for use in their OPACs (Iltis, 1993). However, for many years staff had the additional goal of providing electronic name authority records that Oregon libraries could download for use in their regular cataloging processes. The purpose was to increase bibliographic access to Oregon documents through nationally authenticated agency name forms and cross-references to related names. In 1995 this goal became a reality (Iltis, 1996).

The University of Oregon had become a participant in the Library of Congress Name Authority Cooperative Project (NACO) in April 1995. The following month, U of O authorities section head, Daniel CannCasciato, became a certified NACO trainer, and the OSL's "funnel project" was launched. After several intensive days of training in Eugene, OSL staff began to produce the first NACO name authority

records bearing the State Library's "Or" symbol in the OCLC authority file.

Under CannCasciato's continuing mentorship, the OSL has created or enhanced over 400 Oregon state agency name authority records in the past two and a half years, including:

- All new agency names for documents distributed through the Oregon Document Depository Program, e.g., "Oregon. State Office for Services to Children and Families."

- Revision of existing Library of Congress authority records, usually to add references to newer forms of name, e.g., the authority record for "Oregon. Children's Services Division" now includes a see also reference to the later form of name, "Oregon. State Office for Services to Children and Families."

The current OSL performance standard is to provide authenticated name authority records in OCLC within a month of affected Oregon document depository shipments.

There is a one final note on government agency name authorities. Working through the ALA MARBI Committee proposal process, the State Library succeeded in having the Library of Congress create a new government agency classification number field in the USMARC authority format (USMARC Format for Authority Data, 1995 update). Although bureaucracy moves slowly, the Library of Congress is due to activate the new 087 field in late spring 1998. After that time, it will be possible for the OSL to include OrDocs classification numbers in the state agency name authority records it creates and enhances. ◖

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OSU's Government Information Sharing Project: Future Directions

by Carolyn Ottow
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In 1995 the OSU Library began providing census data over the Internet on its Government Information Sharing Project (GISP) Web site (http://govinfo.library.orst.edu). At the time, the library was receiving hundreds of CDs from the 1990 census and, as a land grant institution and a depository library, wanted to be able to share the data with remote users in Oregon. With funds from the U.S. Dept. of Education, staff on the project created an easy-to-use Web site to provide access to many of these CDs. The GISP Web site proved to be a resounding success. Not only has it made data available to users throughout Oregon but throughout the world. It currently receives over 90,000 hits per week from over 10,000 unique hosts. Over 3,000 Web pages link to it. It started small, with only data from the Northwest states, but has since grown to include demographic, economic and educational statistics for all of the U.S. Today there are 12 databases online:

- 1990 Census of Population and Housing

- USA Counties, 1996

- Population Estimates, 1990-1994

- Equal Employment Opportunity File, 1990

- Regional Economic Information System, 1969-1995

- 1992 Economic Census

- Census of Agriculture, 1982, 1987, 1992

- U.S. Imports/Exports History, 1992-1996

- Consolidated Federal Funds Reports, 1987-1996

- Earnings by Occupation and Education, 1990

- School District Data Book Profiles, 1989-1990

- Oregon Population Survey, 1990-1996

When the project began, people were thrilled to find such a wealth of information among the chaos on the Internet. A few other sites provided census data, but they were intended for researchers and academic users, and their interfaces were less than intuitive. The GISP was often complimented for the straightforward, easy-to-use interface. Users who have submitted comments to the site have called it "tremendously easy to use" and "one of the best designed Web pages I have seen." But as the Internet grows, users are becoming more sophisticated and demanding more features. Initial glowing comments changed to questions about how to get just the right information out of the database. Many people complained that the data was too old and asked when it would be updated. One user wrote, "What a dog ... I have tried to use your data base ... but I am able to pick only one county at a time." It's no longer enough to put information online; people want more flexibility and more choices for displaying and saving the information.


New funding from an LSTA grant through the State Library will help the GISP to respond to the growing needs and expectations of the public. Several enhancements are planned for the site. Already implemented is the long-asked-for ability to download data. Most reports are now available in semicolon delimited files, which makes them easy to import and use in spreadsheets. Future plans also include providing more display options, a mapping function and more data at greater levels of detail.

When the site first went online, basic summary statistical tables were available through an easy graphical interface. Users first selected the geographic entity (a particular state, county or city) and then chose from a list of topical reports available. While simple, this gave users access to thousands of reports for the entire U.S. If, however, someone wanted to compare the population of all the counties in a state, they would have to display and print out a separate report for each county. New developments will allow users to compare variables across geographic areas in "area comparison reports." Instead of choosing a state, county, or city and then displaying a statistical report, users will be able to display a list of variables available for a given database and then generate a report on that variable for all cities or counties in a state or all states in the U.S. The results can be displayed alphabetically or sorted by rank. This feature is already available for the USA Counties database and will be applied to more databases in the future. Next up will be the 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

The ability to create area comparison reports has enabled project staff to develop another new feature: online mapping. One of the site's most popular databases is USA Counties, a compendium of statis-

tical tables on dozens of topics at the county level. The CD version contains mapping software that allows users to create maps of the statistical data contained on the CD. GISP research assistant Ron Stillinger and graduate research assistant Matt Gregory have developed a way to allow users to access this feature from the Web. With ArcInfo running on the Web server, the area comparison reports from USA Counties can be displayed as thematic maps. An example is the report listing the population for all the counties in Oregon, shown below.

One of the problems with creating maps over the Internet is speed. Whereas text data reports can be generated within a few seconds, maps often take minutes to display. The main time lag GISP programmers discovered was that the ArcInfo program created the map in Postscript format, which then had to be converted into GIF format to be displayed on the Web. By testing several different programs for converting the images, they were able to select the quickest one and pare down the time it takes to generate a map. The current prototype takes 25 seconds

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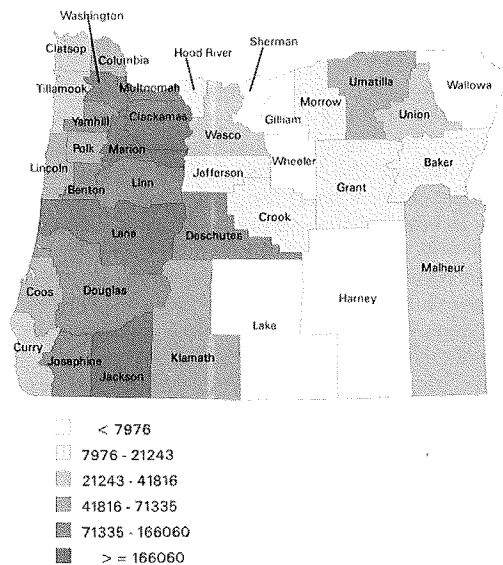
Map showing the population of Oregon counties, as derived from USA Counties.

to generate a map on the site. Times may vary for remote users, however, due to Internet traffic and local connection speeds. The mapping function for USA Counties should be available this summer.

Another area of development is in the expansion of data available in the 1990 census database. The GISP currently contains reports only for states, counties and places. The data on the CDs, however, go down to the tract, block numbering area (BNA), and block group level. Tracts and BNAs are small statistical subdivisions within counties. Tracts are used for metropolitan counties and usually contain from 2,500 to 8,000 people; BNAs are used in less densely populated counties that have not yet established

tract boundaries. Block groups are even smaller subdivisions within tracts and BNAs. Information at this level of detail is invaluable for providing a picture of small areas, which is not usually reported in the standard statistical compendia. Users can compare such variables as income, race, or age across neighborhoods within a city or areas within a county. Qing Yang, the former graduate research assistant at the GISP, has written the programs necessary to provide reports at the tract, BNA, and block group level for the 1990 census. Only more hardware is needed to be able to mount all the CDs necessary to provide the information on the Web site. But because tracts and blocks lack any locally recognizable names (they are designated only by numbers), they are usually meaningless to most people unless they have a way of locating them. Another enhancement being considered for the future is to provide image maps which show the location of tracts and block groups. Users could then simply click on the tract or block group and display the data for it.

The GISP began with one goal in mind: to demonstrate that providing a user-friendly interface for remote users of the library's statistical information on CD-ROM was possible. It has become increasingly clear that maintaining such a service is a continual challenge. Many of the CDs are updated each year and often file formatting changes require extensive reprogramming. This, in addition to the desire to enhance the features and interface design, means that providing Internet access to data is not a simple affair.

The state of Web publishing is still very much in its infancy. Certainly, however, the Web provides a great opportunity for increasing access and usability of government statistics. In the past, census data in machine readable format was only available on computer tapes and was used only by researchers at universities or large organizations that could afford to acquire them and provide the computers to analyze them. Now the Internet and the prevalence of personal computers make the data available to a much wider audience. Not only is the data more accessible, it is easier to use. Searching for the data on a Web site is often much quicker and more convenient than trying to sort though the hundreds of printed reports published by the Census Bureau.

More and more, Internet access is taken for granted. The Census Bureau itself has begun publishing its data directly on the Web and is planning to use the Web as its main avenue for disseminating information from the 2000 census, drastically reducing the number of printed reports produced. But Web applications, while an improvement over many of the traditional sources for census data, still have a ways to go. The experience of the GISP bears this out. The 11 databases and millions of reports now available on the site are just a subset of the data contained on the CD-ROMs. Making Web applications for statistical information more complete, flexible, robust, and innovative will certainly continue to be a challenge for the future. ☉

From "Govdocs" to Cyberspace: the Transformation of Government Information

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From the beginning of the computer era, many observers have recognized that computerization has the potential to profoundly impact the ways in which libraries carry out their mission. Early scholars investigating potential uses of computers posited new types of information retrieval systems with direct and profound implications for libraries (Bush, 1945). Such speculation was not limited to the academic world, however. The 1957 movie *The Desk Set*, starring Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy, gave a lighthearted look at a corporate executive's efforts to replace librarians with a computer. Such early predictions presaged the eventual movement of computer technology into libraries, which affected everything from how we acquire and process materials to how our patrons access data. Recent years have seen a marked quickening of the pace of innovation. What began as a gradual and manageable incorporation of new technologies has become a revolution in our methods and activities, fundamentally altering what it means to be a library.

The recent development of the Internet as a widely used research tool has been a major contributing factor to this revolution. Government agencies have participated fully in this technology-driven revolution, moving swiftly to take advantage of new methods to disseminate information. The field of government information has become one of the most rapidly changing specialties in librarianship over the past decade.

As the widespread availability of personal computer technology worked its changes on society in the 1980s and 1990s, budgetary constraints caused government publishers to be among the first to adopt new electronic methods of distribution. For congressional budget makers grappling with soaring budget deficits, agency publishing programs and the Government Printing Office's operations have been tempting targets for potential cost savings. This has led data collection agencies in particular to look for ways to disseminate their products in the most cost-effective manner. The Internet provides an ideal vehicle from an information producer's point of view. It avoids the materials costs and transportation costs associated with traditional print publication, allows for rapid dissemination of data, and provides information to users in useable form.

Users are most affected by the drawbacks to Internet dissemination. The need to purchase expensive equipment, the need for a telecommunications link, the need to provide paper for hard copies when needed, and the need to develop new skills in using electronic formats are all barriers encountered by users. In such a situation, it is no wonder that government agencies as publishers have moved swiftly to embrace the technology, while libraries and end-users face a more ambivalent situation with both benefits and drawbacks.

This transition to electronic dissemination of government information has been both swift and widespread, covering all types of government information products and all levels of government. Getting an intellectual grasp of such a broad and profound transition can be difficult, but perhaps the easiest way to track and understand it is to look at selected key information programs and examine how the transition has occurred.

CENSUS DATA

The decennial census of population and housing is perhaps the best known and most widely used statistical activity of the U.S. federal government. Required by Article 1, Section 2, of the Constitution for legislative apportionment, the first population census was conducted in 1790, with subsequent censuses every 10 years since. Statistical tabulations of data from the census have been published in print format from the beginning. These tabulations were published as volumes in the Congressional Serial Set in the 19th century and more recently in increasingly voluminous series of print reports from the Bureau of the Census.

Prior to the 1990 census, print was the only format in which data was distributed through the Federal Depository Library Program. While data in electronic formats was available for censuses dating back to 1960 (and some data from even earlier censuses was converted retrospectively), such data was not widely distributed and was available only in large research institutions with adequate computing power. The 1990 census was the first for which electronic formats were part of the regular mix of data products for inclusion in the depository library program and for sale to the general public. The Census Bureau produced a full range of print reports tabulating results of the census for all geographic levels, while at the same time producing several series of CD-ROM products. These CDs were produced for Summary Tape File 1 (short form data), Summary Tape File 3 (long form data), Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS), TIGER files (including spatial data for inclusion in GIS systems), and a variety of special-

use and subject-specific tabulations. All of these products were made available through the Federal Depository Library Program, the State Census Data Center program, and the Government Printing Office sales program. As the Internet gained wide popularity in the middle part of the decade, the data was also made available online, both through the Census Bureau's own Web site and through other sites such as Oregon State University's Government Information Sharing Project. Thus, data from the 1990 census was the first to be widely available in electronic formats.

As of this writing, the year 2000 census is two years away. The Census Bureau has announced plans for the distribution of data from this census, and they look quite different from what occurred with the 1990 data. The primary mode of access for data from the year 2000 census will be the Data Access and Dissemination System (DADS), an Internet-based data retrieval system (United States. Bureau of the Census, 1997). CD-ROMs will still be produced, but will have relatively less importance than the online DADS system. While some print reports will still be published, these will be greatly reduced in size and scope, serving as summaries of the data rather than as detailed tabulations. It is clear that 1990 was truly a transitional year for the population census. Prior to 1990, most people obtained data from the census via printed reports. Subsequently, most data will be accessed via electronic means. The 1990 Census is destined to be the only one in which print and electronic formats play a roughly equal role in disseminating data to the general public.

GPO ACCESS
One of the most significant Internet sites for government information is GPO Access, the Government Printing Office's collection of online databases. GPO Access provides access to the full text of congressional bills and resolutions, the Congressional Record, and other significant legislative and regulatory documents. This site was developed as the result of the Government Printing Office Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993 (107 Stat. 112). This landmark legislation, signed into law June 8, 1993, required GPO to establish and maintain an online directory of federal publications stored in electronic format and to provide online computer access to the *Congressional Record* and the *Federal Register*, along with other federal publications deemed appropriate by the superintendent
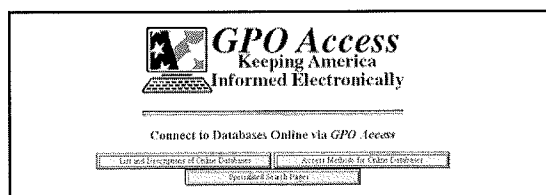
GPO Access (www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/
aaces002.html) has many searchable databases, which
provide access to the full texts of significant government
publications.

of documents. This legislation gave GPO a mandate to move forcefully in the direction of providing online access to publications it had traditionally produced as paper documents. GPO had eagerly sought this mandate (United States. Congress, 1992, p. 10-12) as a means to preserve its traditional role as the government's publisher in the new era of electronic dissemination.

As initially implemented in the summer of 1994, GPO Access was a subscription-based WAIS server. Depository libraries were provided a free subscription for a single workstation; all other access was by paid subscription only. GPO implemented this subscription model on the basis of the cost-recovery concept included in the enabling legislation. Within a few months, pressure from the depository library community led GPO to provide additional access to depositories, giving each library up to 10 subscriptions to the service. Under pressure from public advocacy groups such as the Taxpayer Advocacy Project, GPO also instituted a "library gateway" program in which selected depository libraries would serve as gateways for larger numbers of public users to access the databases.

GPO was soon to come under additional market pressures, however, as the congressional elections of 1994 led to the Republican Party taking control of Congress for the first time in a generation. Acting under the directive of the new Republican leadership of the 104th Congress, the Library of Congress brought the "Thomas" World Wide Web system online in January 1995. "Thomas," named after Thomas Jefferson, provided much the same information as GPO Access, but at no charge and using standard Web browsers as the access tools. This was great news for Internet users but had the effect of making GPO look bad. While Congress had required GPO to charge for its services, it had encouraged the development of a competing product that used GPO's source data but was provided free. GPO responded by expanding and re-emphasizing the free access available through the depository library gateway program and eventually dropped subscription fees altogether.

WORLD NEWS CONNECTION
A third major data product that highlights some important points about the transition toward Internet distribution is the World News Connection (WNC). WNC is an online news service that provides translations of news and information from local media throughout the world. It is the electronic continuation of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS), a translation service of the Central Intelligence Agency. Although geared toward providing U.S. government officials with access to foreign news media, FBIS has long been popular among researchers as a good means of tracking news reports from around the world. The National Technical Information Service (NTIS) provides access to WNC on the World Wide Web through its FedWorld server. Access to the database is by subscription

only, with depository libraries required to pay for access along with everyone else.

WNC has been the target of criticism from a variety of sources. NTIS has long had a somewhat antagonistic relationship with the depository library community due to its cost-recovery model for disseminating government information and its narrow definition of what material is subject to depository distribution. It was no surprise, then, that government documents librarians expressed unhappiness about the previously depository FBIS material now being made accessible only as an electronic database controlled by NTIS, with no provision for depository access. NTIS has also been strongly criticized by the Information Industry Association and NewsBank, Inc., because they perceive the WNC as a government subsidized for-profit venture that unfairly competes with private sector publishers (United States. Congress, 1997).

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

These three quite different government projects illustrate some key issues surrounding the conversion of print publications to online distribution, many of which are far from a satisfactory resolution. Although all three examples are drawn from the federal government, these issues are equally relevant for all government entities, from the smallest local jurisdiction to international organizations, as they cope with the task of establishing policies for handling the transition.

The question of how long to continue providing the data in both the old format and the new online version can be a difficult one. Online distribution provides savings of money and resources only if the print equivalent can be discontinued or distribution drastically curtailed. Yet, with the availability of personal computers far from universal and with widely varying levels of technical skills for accessing online information still very evident within the general population, premature discontinuation of printed reports represents a real decrease in accessibility of vital government information and a further exacerbation of the gap between the information-rich and the information-poor. Dual formats are an ideal solution from the standpoint of making the content widely available, but cannot realistically be continued for long except for the most important publications. The Census Bureau has decided that in the future printed reports will be limited to small digest-like summaries, the 1990 census serving nicely as a bridge between the earlier print era and the new digital age. GPO, while having committed to transitioning to a more electronic depository library program, has a less clearcut timeline for phasing out print equivalent publications.

Archival issues are another major concern. In the past, an agency could consider its responsibilities met once the process of printing and distributing a publication had run its course. The fact that a report had gone "out of print" and could no longer be obtained from the publishing agency usually did not have a disastrous effect on its availability, thanks to the copies that had been obtained by libraries and archives. If the publication is only distributed online, an altogether different situation exists. Libraries will then provide access by linking to the online source and providing assistance to patrons trying to find and use the data. No copy exists in the library, so a conscious decision must be made at some point to permanently store the information in an accessible format. For data of obvious enduring significance, such as census data and congressional documentation, that should not be a problem, as the responsible agency will take pains to store the data indefinitely. In other cases it may not be so clear. If an agency keeps a Web server with only its most recent reports online, what happens to the report once it is taken off the server? One would hope that, at the least, the agency would provide a copy to the official archive. Such a copy would be only minimally accessible to most citizens, however. Even seemingly insignificant ephemeral publications potentially have value to future scholars and historians. Unless publishing agencies have a definite plan for archiving, however, much of our total output of electronic information is in danger of being lost because no one is assuming responsibility for storing it. Government agencies are not accustomed to taking such responsibilities themselves. Neither is a given library likely to unilaterally take the responsibility for particular sets of electronic documents,

1997 World Factbook
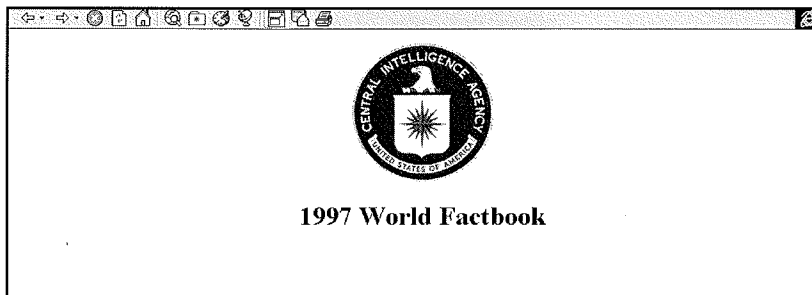
given that so much data exists on the network. Such issues lie behind the plans being discussed by documents librarians, both on the national level and within the state of Oregon, to develop partnership arrangements between specific libraries and government agencies for providing long-term access to a particular agency's output.

The CIA World Factbook, while still being published in a print edition, is now available on the web.

Online dissemination of information provides real benefits, both in terms of cost savings and better access. Publishing agencies will reap the full effects of both these benefits only if they carefully plan their online distribution strategy. Access is improved both in timeliness and in wider availability. In terms of government information, this is particularly a boon to those libraries that have not participated in depository library programs in the past. These libraries now can provide their patrons access to a wide

The amount of government information available on the Internet continues to grow at an astounding rate. As a result, many of the standard publications documenting the work of government are now freely available to all libraries, not just to those participating in the Federal Depository Library Program or the Oregon Documents Depository Program.

Below is a list of just a few of the many government Web sites providing information previously only available in paper format. These sites provide not only the same information found in the traditional paper publications, but in most cases also offer much more. Usually, the information is presented in a more timely and flexible manner. However, the degree of user friendliness for these and most government Web sites is dependent on using the appropriate technology. Many sites require the use of computers and printers that can handle large files in PDF format. For more information about the level of technology recommended, see the Government Printing Office's "Recommended Specifications for Public Access Work Stations in Federal Depository Libraries," available at www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/mintech.html.

Government Information on the Internet: the Tip of the Iceberg

by Arlene Weible
Periodicals and Government Documents Librarian
Willamette University

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

1990 Census Lookup
venus.census.gov/cdrom/lookup

In order to access detailed census data for all regions of the United States, libraries have previously had to maintain large sets of reports such as the General Population Characteristics and Social and Economic Characteristics series, or a large collection of Census of Population and Housing Summary Tape File CD-ROMs. These reports and CD-ROM's provide standardized data tables. The CD-ROMs generally do not provide much flexibility for retrieving the data unless additional extraction software is used. The interactive Web site now provided by the Census Bureau allows users to extract data files more easily. Users follow a series of forms to designate the geographic level and data elements desired and then are offered options to retrieve the data in HTML, tab-delimited (spreadsheet), and CODATA formats. Census data can now be easily accessed in a format that allows flexibility and customization to the particular needs of users.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Selective Data Access
stats.bls.gov/sahome.html

The various statistical bulletins from this government agency provide the basic data used to evaluate the state of the U.S. economy. Among the more popular are the *CPI Detailed Report, PPI Detailed Report, Employment and Earnings,* and *Compensation and Working Conditions.* The BLS Web site provides the same data, but also offers an interactive service that allows users to build their own statistical tables. The major categories of data available include Employment and Unemployment, Price and Living Conditions, Compensation and Working Conditions, and Productivity and Technology.

Central Intelligence Agency's Electronic Document Release Center
www.foia.ucia.gov

While the information provided at this Web site was not previously available in paper format, this site provides an excellent example of how government information is now more widely available as a result of dissemination via the Internet. Previously, individuals or groups could request declassified documents from agencies based on guidelines provided by the Freedom of Information Act. Unless the individual requesters published the documents privately, this information was generally not distributed to Federal Depository Libraries. Now, as the CIA releases documents for requests, they are made available through this Web site. Documents released to the public since November 1996 are available. Documents can be located with a search engine that provides searching by full text, title, abstract, date created, date released, document number, and keyword. A "Popular Documents Collection" includes collections of documents on issues of large public interest, including UFO's, the U-2 spy program, and the Bay of Pigs.

GPO Access
www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dbsearch.html

Federal Depository Library Gateways
www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aaces004.html

GPO's Web site provides access to approximately 70 different files containing the information from core publications such as the *Federal Register, Congressional Record,* and *Commerce Business Daily.* One of the many useful files is Congressional Bills. It contains information that had been previously difficult for libraries to collect: the full text of each version of a bill as it makes its way through the legislative process. The GPO Access files are also available from multiple "gateway" sites, which provide alternative search forms and additional helpful hints for navigating the files.

IRS Forms and Publications
www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/forms_pubs/index.html

LSU Tax Forms
www.lib.lsu.edu/govdocs/taxes.html

Each year as the April 15 deadline approaches, libraries are bombarded with requests for tax forms. Previously, libraries have relied on publications like *Reproducible Federal Tax Forms for Use in Libraries* to fill the demand. Providing access to out-of-state forms and information has been difficult, if not impossible, for most libraries. The IRS web site now provides access to federal forms and instructions by number as well as by keyword. The forms are available in multiple formats, including PDF, PCL, Postscript, and SGML. The LSU Tax Forms site is one of several sites providing links to the many states that now have forms and tax information on the Web. One word of warning, though. These sites get extremely busy as the deadline approaches, which may prevent ready access to the information required. Libraries with large demand for tax forms will most likely need to continue to also rely on paper sources for forms and publications.

U.S. Department of State Official Web Site
www.state.gov/

The State Department has traditionally provided a number of very useful publications documenting the foreign relations activities of the federal government. From the *U.S. Department of State Dispatch*, a monthly record of major speeches and congressional testimony of State Department officials, to *Background Notes*, which provides current information about the countries of the world, State Department publications are standards in most library collections. The Web site provides these publications, plus additional information traditionally more difficult to track down. As is the case with many federal executive agencies, the State Department provides current speeches, press briefings, and position papers through its Web site in a more timely fashion than the published paper versions. Another useful resource on this site is the "Travel Warnings and Consular Information Sheets." It provides the most current information for travelers to the countries throughout world.

OREGON GOVERNMENT

Oregon. Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative. The Oregon Plan.
www.oregon-plan.org/

Because of its large size, only a few libraries were able to receive the print version of this important series of reports on the state's plans to restore salmon and trout resources. However, it is freely available to all libraries through this Web site. The final plan, draft steelhead supplement, peer review comments on the draft plan, and a children's version of the report are available.

Oregon Health Division. Center for Health Statistics (and Vital Records)
www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/cdpe/chs/welcome.htm

Statistics relating to the birth and death of Oregonians are frequently requested in libraries. The Oregon Vital Statistics Annual Report has traditionally provided this information, but it is always published several years late. Through its Web site, the Center for Health Statistics is able to release preliminary data for current years more quickly. In addition, a fun resource on this site is the list of Oregon's baby names for the last several years, including rankings of the names most frequently used in Oregon.

Oregon Secretary of State. Elections Division
www.sos.state.or.us/elections/elechp.htm

While election results continue to be found in paper publications like the Official Abstract of Votes, timely access to official results has been greatly improved by the posting of this information on the Secretary of State's Web site. The site provides results from elections by county back to 1996, as well as voter's pamphlet information, voter participation statistics, candidate lists, and ballot measure information.

Oregon State Legislature
www.leg.state.or.us/

The Legislature's Web site provides access to the core legislative publications such as the *Final Legislative Calendar, Oregon Legislative Guide, Summary of Major Legislation*, and the *Oregon Revised Statutes*. While these publications are part of most Oregon libraries' core collection, the full text of legislative measures was previously difficult for libraries to collect. On the Web site, users have the ability to search, either by keyword or bill number, for legislative measures from the 1995 and 1997 legislative sessions. The text of a bill at each stage of the legislative process is made available. Also of interest are the staff-prepared summaries, known as Staff Measure Summaries, prepared for bills reported out of committee. Summaries outline the effects of a measure, the issues discussed at committee meetings and hearings and the effect of any amendments adopted by a committee. Up-to-date schedules and directory information are additional features that help to make this site an essential resource for libraries in the state of Oregon. ▢

Into the Next Century

forth by GPO are similar to those of the IAWG, but there are also some significant differences.

Regardless of the prospects for Title 44 reform, it is noteworthy that critical reform affecting public access to government information has already been made with the passage of the GPO Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act (P.L. 103-40), which gave GPO statutory direction to disseminate and build electronic locator services for electronic government information products. GPO's current activities and future planning are based on the success of GPO Access.

CONCLUSION

The public, depository libraries, and the government all benefit from the efficiencies afforded by a centralized indexing and distribution system, such as the FDLP, which ensure the wide availability of government information products in all formats and media at no charge to the user. This will continue to be true in the future, as the amount of electronic information products produced by government agencies grows. GPO will be working to develop and evolve its systems so that citizens are assured of having permanent access to federal government information even after the calendar flips to that magical year of 2000. **◖**

Government Documents

libraries in Oregon would be a shared subscription to a Web-based database of GPO records. Both Autographics and Marcive offer such databases, which include records for U.S. depository documents from 1976 to date. A library holdings feature enables users to find out which depository libraries in the state select a particular document title. The holdings information in these databases is based on current item selection profiles rather than bibliographic records, so only the information for new and recent documents could be considered completely reliable.

Longtime DIGOR members recalled that the organization had surveyed Oregon depository libraries some years ago on their collection strengths and interests. An update to this survey could be used to construct a state conspectus for documents collections. Such a document would aid cooperative collection efforts and help both depository and nondepository staff make more effective government information referrals.

Several participants expressed concern about whether existing standards for cataloging electronic versions of publications are meeting the needs of government information users. When does a "version" warrant creation of a new bibliographic record? How should "holdings" for electronic publications be expressed in the catalog record? How do catalogers decide which URL (Universal Resource Locator) to include in the MARC 856 field for Internet linking? In this age of shared cataloging and shared union catalogs, it is important for us to reach consensus on these issues here in Oregon, as well as on national and international levels. **◖**

"Govdocs" to Cyberspace

range of information that was previously very difficult for them to acquire. Depository libraries likewise stand to benefit from easier access without having to process and catalog incoming print documents. They will have vital roles to play in serving as a resource for those less familiar with government information, in training others how to locate and interpret the data, in developing finding aids and other tools to enhance access to the online data, and in advocating for responsible approaches to ensure continuing access to the information. The realization of these benefits will occur only if we take care to resolve the remaining difficult issues in managing this important transition. **◖**

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United States. Congress, 1997. The Government Printing Office and Executive Branch Information Dissemination: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. U.S. GPO, Washington.

NOTES
1. For more information on GPO cataloging and the use of GPO tapes by depository libraries, see Myrtle Smith Bolner and Barbara Kile, "Documents to the People: Access Through the Automated Catalog," *Government Publications Review* 18, No. 1 (1991): 51-64.

2. GPO cataloging record services are offered by Marcive, Inc., San Antonio, TX; Autographics, Inc., Seattle, WA, in conjunction with Bernan, Inc., Lanham, MD; and by OCLC Govdoc, Dublin, OH.

3. In 1997, Oregon State University stated its intention to join Orbis. However, at this writing, it is not yet a participant in the Orbis union catalog.

Growth and Development

Director at PSU to study whether or not it should remain the regional depository, documents librarians rallied and provided strong reasons for PSU to continue as the regional. I appreciated that support very much. In order to increase the base of support for these activities and to educate more people about the importance and usefulness of government publications, DIGOR last year voted to become a roundtable of the OLA. Members hope that this new formal affiliation will broaden DIGOR's membership base and be another step in spreading the word about the importance of government information.

Documents librarians have had to fight for years to keep the depository system afloat. There have been constant attempts from various groups inside and outside the government to break up the GPO, privatize it, move it to one or more other agencies, or to move or change the depository system. During these battles, various agencies have either refused to distribute publications or attempted to charge for publications in microform or electronic format. Both the GPO and federal depositories have had to work hard to maintain and increase the numbers of publications in the depository system.

During the 1990s the Internet revolution struck government agencies just like it struck everyone else. Congress thought that the Government Printing Office could be virtually eliminated by having agencies publish everything electronically. Little practical thought was given as to how much money it would cost to convert everything to electronic format and how such a move would be received on the public's end. Documents librarians have led the way in educating over-eager government officials to the fiscal and technical realities of relying solely on electronic access to government information. This battle has also been waged on the local level here in Oregon. The issue of electronic access is the most important issue facing documents librarians today. Ways must be found to ensure that government information is available promptly, easily, and permanently. Given the record of involvement Oregon depository librarians have shown in the past concerning access to government information, I have no doubt that they will continue to be involved in this issue in the future.

It has been a privilege to work with some fantastic librarians over the past 29 years in Oregon and the Northwest. I feel that documents librarians are among the most underrecognized librarians of all. There are many unsung heroes in the documents world, and Oregon has had a number of them. I don't want to slight anyone, but among the people I have had the pleasure of working with over the years are Candy Morgan, Craig Smith, and Dick Myers of the Oregon State Library; Patrick Grace and Judy Cross of Oregon State University; Deb Hollens, Southern Oregon University; Roy Bennett, Western Oregon University; Arlys Fones, Multnomah County Library; Louise Gerity, Lewis and Clark College; Alex Toth, Pacific University; Karen Hadman, Bonneville Power Administration; Tom Stave, University of Oregon; and Oren Ogle, Portland State University. In addition, I have worked closely with librarians in Washington and Idaho, particularly Ann Bregent, the Washington State Library; Eleanor Chase, the University of Washington; and Lili Wai, the University of Idaho.

As access to government information is increasingly only available electronically, it becomes even more apparent that no one library can have everything available that patrons might need. It is especially obvious that the regional library cannot be all things to all people. A strong movement has begun to develop partnerships with government agencies to help spread the load among depositories, agencies, and the GPO. Because Oregon documents librarians have always worked cooperatively in this state and the Northwest, I have no doubt that they will soon be involved in some of the partnerships now being developed.

A new group of bright young documents librarians have now moved into the state who will, I am sure, carry on the tradition of those I have mentioned. Among these are Ted Smith, University of Oregon; Carrie Ottow, Oregon State University; Arlene Weible, Willamette University; and Dena Hutto, Reed College. I will match the work our documents librarians have done and are doing with that of any state in the country. Our librarians have the dedication and knowledge to ensure that Oregonians continue to have free and equal access to government information in whatever new formats are developed. The people of Oregon should be proud of what all these dedicated librarians have accomplished and are accomplishing. The depository library program in Oregon will be in good hands for some time to come. [U]

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