



# DocumentOr

Web address: <http://library.willamette.edu/digor/documentor/>

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## Message from the Chair

Arlene Weible  
DIGOR Chair  
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It is difficult for me to believe that my year as DIGOR Chair is coming to an end. As I began putting together the newsletter and realized that I needed to write my last the Message from the Chair column, my first impulse was to think, "Did I actually work on any of the projects I have mentioned in the column over the last year?" While every goal may not have been accomplished, I think we have made some substantial progress in some areas.

First, I think cooperative efforts among depository libraries in the state will be aided greatly with the recently completed report by the Orbis Government Documents Task Force. It is available at: <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/orbis/staffhome/GDTFreport99aug.htm>. The major accomplishment of this report is the documentation of the uncataloged collections of government information in academic libraries throughout the state. With the support of Orbis, and possibly outside funding from grants, it is hoped that progress can be made on getting these collections cataloged and accessible via the Orbis Union Catalog. I'm also quite hopeful that additional recommendations in the report, including further discussion of cooperative collection development and cataloging electronic resources will produce results that will benefit all Oregon libraries, and not just members of Orbis. Thanks definitely go to Tom Stave and Dena Hutto, who made substantial contributions to the report.

Second, I'm quite pleased with the continuing education activities sponsored by DIGOR in the last year. Our OLA Conference Program on documenting Oregon's Indian tribal history, and the GPO Access training at Lewis and Clark College were very well received. In the upcoming year, we have an opportunity to continue the tradition of popular OLA programs by working on a preconference for beginning users of the Census.

Finally, I want to mention the accomplishment of a personal goal of mine, updating the DIGOR web pages

that link to State and Federal information. This project definitely would not have been completed without the help of Ted Smith.

So, thanks to everyone who helped make this past year just whip by for me! I'm sure that the support for DIGOR activities continues under the able leadership of Dena Hutto, our incoming Chair. See you in La Grande!

## NEXT DIGOR MEETING

September 10, 1999

Walter M. Pierce Library, Rm. 114  
Eastern Oregon University  
La Grande, Oregon

For location, see Campus Map:  
<http://www.eou.edu/map.html>

### Agenda

11:00 am - Business Meeting

12:00 pm - Lunch

1:30 pm - Program: Information Sharing about the  
Census

DIGOR hopes to sponsor a pre-conference at the next OLA conference on Census basics for librarians. In order to begin the planning for this program, we would like to share information about how the census is used in our libraries, and what are important topics to cover when training other librarians to use Census material. Please bring along any handouts or instructional materials, as well as your own questions about using the Census!

### Contacts:

**Debra Spidal** ([spidald@eou.edu](mailto:spidald@eou.edu) or 541.962.3523) for information about travel to LaGrande, or see the Campus Visitor's Guide:

[http://www.eou.edu/visitors\\_center.html](http://www.eou.edu/visitors_center.html)

**Dena Hutto** ([dena.hutto@reed.edu](mailto:dena.hutto@reed.edu) or 503.777.7572) to submit agenda items for business meeting.

**Arlene Weible** ([aweible@willamette.edu](mailto:aweible@willamette.edu) or 503.375.5343) to RSVP for the meeting.

# LIBRARY PROFILE

## Eastern Oregon University

By  
Debra F. Spidal  
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Eastern Oregon University has been a Federal Depository since 1954. The Depository materials are maintained in a separate collection in SuDoc classification order. Unfortunately, in 1980 the collection was heavily weeded and few publications before 1975 were retained. However, selected materials, especially of historical significance, have always been cataloged in LC and shelved in the main collection. EOU has used the Marcive shipping list service since 1993 so all publications are now available on the online catalog. Materials received prior to 1994 remain uncataloged. A cooperative weeding project is scheduled to begin in October after which the remaining items will be reviewed for retro cataloging.

EOU is also a State of Oregon Depository. This collection is cataloged and maintained in OrDoc classification. While EOU is not a full State Depository, the State Library recently agreed to send an enhanced selection due to our regional mission and isolation from other depository resources. The collection is scheduled to for review after the Federal collection has been weeded.

Non-depository microfiche/film collections include:

- ERIC documents 1975 to present
- Census 1790-1910
- Census of Agriculture 1880-1950
- Census of Housing 1890-1970
- Census of Population 1860-1970
- U.S Bureau of Indian Affairs (dates vary by location)

Due to the library's current space constraints, the collection is housed throughout the library. Maps are located on the ground floor, OrDocs and microfilm/fiche are located on the 1st floor, and SuDocs are on the 2nd floor. Reference services are available at the general reference desk or by Debra Spidal, Electronic Resources/Documents Librarian, upon request.

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## Electronic Resources Review

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### Employment Law Library on CD

By  
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**Employment Law Library on CD. 1999. Bureau of National Affairs (BNA). \$2031, annual subscription, for single user, stand-alone workstation. Monthly updates.**

Good print resources are distinguished by their ability to impose order, through tables of contents and indexing, on voluminous or complex subject matter. Good online resources add the power of full-text and field searching to a researcher's arsenal. Good CD-ROM databases are distinguished by their ability to offer the advantages of both print and online resources, together in a single user-friendly package. BNA's Employment Law Library on CD is a very good CD-ROM database.

The product contains the fair employment practices and individual employment rights material, as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act cases, from BNA's Labor & Employment Law Library on CD - the CD ROM version of the 19-binder Labor Relations Reporter (LRR). The material itself is drawn primarily from federal and state cases and administrative decisions, statutory law, and agency rules and regulations. Combined with the text of law are various editorial explanations and interpretations. Most content is on 2 discs. A third disc contains indexing and headnotes for the entire Labor & Employment Library, but is of limited utility for subscriptions - such as reviewed here - that encompass only part of that much larger library. In addition to the monthly updated replacement discs, subscribers receive print copies of the biweekly Fair Employment Practices Summary of Latest Developments, and Individual Employment Rights newsletters.

Consistent with other computer products in the legal field, this product runs on PC or compatible platforms only. Installation software is contained on disc B, and is easy to load. Re-installation, as each monthly set of discs is received, is not necessary.

A particular strength of this product is the visual lay-out of material. Related documents are grouped together in "infobases", represented on the screen as link buttons. Double-clicking on an infobase, e.g. "Fair Employment Practices", may either unlock a tree of additional infobases, or lead directly to a

searching/browsing menu for a particular publication or tool, e.g. "Fair Employment Practices Manual".

The Employment Law Library on CD utilizes Folio-based software that allows for use of most all standard online search features, including boolean, phrase, proximity, and truncation. Phrase searching, however, is slow - typical for CD-ROM. Help menus abound, and are clear, although basic research functions are easily identified via screen lay-out or toolbelt selections.

Searching, as with infobase selection, is aided by good visuals. For instance, a results tree, displayed on query templates, tracks occurrences of search terms in the database as they are being typed in and/or combined with others, thus allowing preliminary assessment of a query's promise. Following a search, results are displayed as an hierarchical list of those parts of the publication's table of contents which contain search hits. Users can then scan contents to find the more relevant search hits, toggling between contents headings and text. Highlighted query terms in the text add further ease to viewing results. Results themselves can be printed or downloaded, either as whole documents or by "tagged" selections.

A browsing option allows the user to page through text, contents or index pages of a given publication, in lieu of performing a search. This feature adds a book-like functionality to searching that is rarely found in traditional online databases.

The search and browse features make this product equally useful for both broad searches and those searches where many details are already known. Indeed, searches using the Employment Law Library on CD make online versions seem confusing, and print versions untenable. For those still partial to BNA's print product, note that query templates also support searches utilizing the LRR's "Outline of Classifications".

Recently, BNA made the Employment Law Library available online, via the Internet. While this prevailing trend no doubt offers advantages in areas of maintenance and hardware cost, Internet-based databases have generally been slow to equal the speed, organization, and data manipulation capabilities of a good CD-ROM database. Libraries in particular should also note that the CD-ROM subscription provides an archival disc, issued at the end of the subscription year, thus creating flexibility and stability in collection development.

In sum, this product is representative of the best that CD-ROM databases have to offer: maximum access points and searching flexibility for a smaller (relative to many online databases), more specialized universe of information, all in a tangible package that the library can buy and actually keep. No wonder CD-ROM is still around!

## DIGOR Welcomes

**Judy Andrews**  
as the new  
**Regional Depository Librarian**  
**Portland State University**

**Judy's most recent position was Expert Consultant for the Government Printing Office, but most DIGOR members will remember her from the previous positions she has held at Reed, University of Oregon, and Southern Oregon University. Judy will start her duties at PSU on September 7<sup>th</sup>.**

## **GBIS: The UO Library's New Government & Business Information Service**

By  
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This summer the University of Oregon Library completed the merger of its Government Documents and Business Reference collections. The newly constituted department, "Government and Business Information Service" now offers reference service and bibliographic instruction for the combined collection.

The initial planning for the merger began in 1996 with the realization by library administration that such a move would accomplish two goals:

1. Increase the amount of professional staffing available at the increasingly busy documents reference desk.
2. Improve the library's business reference service by giving it a strong focal point, increasing its prominence, and locating it alongside the government statistical sources often used by business researchers.

When the business reference position came open the next year, the library took the opportunity to shift the position to the Documents & Microforms Department. However, the business reference collection remained with the main reference collection. After careful planning and coordination with the Reference Department staff, the actual merger of the business

reference materials with the Documents Reference collection took place this summer.

Merging business reference with government documents is not a novel idea - several research libraries have done so with very positive results. This isn't very surprising, since government documents and business resources are highly complimentary. Business information seekers constantly use data produced by government agencies. Similarly, students of government policy use business sources to analyze the more tangible aspects of policy making. Combining the two collections facilitated a research process that was already going on. Equally as important, government documents and business librarians both pursue active outreach programs, in many cases to the same national and local clientele. In recent tours, GBIS has made an effort to promote both aspects of the collection.

While the transition has gone smoothly up to this point, incorporating business reference has been something of a challenge. In the near future we are planning departmental training sessions for some of the business materials and are designing exercises to teach student workers how to use the business collection. Long term goals involve merging the collection more fully in terms of departmental goals, but also in terms of the way in which we use/teach the information.



**State Library News**  
by  
**Jey Wann**  
**Oregon State Library**  
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Information Specialist Susan Westin joined the State Library staff on July 12. She will be specializing in government information, and working with the GILS, OrDocs, and SuDocs programs. Susan comes to OSL from the North Dakota State Library, where she was Head of Reference for 13 years; in that capacity, she was in charge of the Federal Documents Collection. Susan says, "I look forward to working with state agencies on the GILS project, and with other librarians on various documents projects." You'll have a chance to meet Susan at the DIGOR meeting in La Grande in September.

Susan and her husband own two tabby Bengal cats, so she fits in with the cat-owner-intensive documents folks at OSL. Tabitha and Samantha join Virtual Documents Collection Cats Chamomile, Cornelius, Avery, Earl Grey, and Boojum Snark.

OSL's technical services successfully moved to its new quarters in June. OrDoc depositories undoubtedly noticed that shipments ceased for several weeks. We're all settled in our new cubicles and beginning to get caught up with shipments. In addition to the usual serials and new titles, OrDoc depository libraries may expect and to be gently inundated with pamphlets and brochures from the Department of Environmental Quality and the State Office for Services to Children and Families in the next few months.

Not only Tech Services, but also Information Services and Automated Systems moved to new quarters in June. As a consequence, work on the Government Information Locator Service (GILS) slowed down considerably. We are now back on track, and looking at a number of software options. Members of the DIGOR GILS focus group have been asked for their input on the different products. Watch the DocumentOr, and the DIGOR discussion list, for more news.

## We're Still Waiting on Public Access to CRS Research

By  
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The Congressional Research Service, in its role as the research unit of the Library of Congress, produces valuable reports on public policy topics of current interest. These are primarily published as *CRS Reports* or *Issue Briefs*, copies of which may be requested by members of Congress, either for their own use or for constituents. Unfortunately, these reports have never been made available to depository libraries through the Federal Depository Library Program. Nor are the reports being made available to the public online. This is due to the fact that CRS views its mission to be serving the Congress and its members, not the public at large. While CRS already has a web site on a congressional Intranet that provides members of Congress and their staffs with access to the reports, its public web site provides only information on employment opportunities at the agency.

In recent years, there has been growing pressure on CRS to make its research more readily available to the public. Watchdog groups such as the Taxpayer Asset Project have demanded open access to CRS reports, and there has been legislation introduced in both the 105<sup>th</sup> and 106<sup>th</sup> Congresses to provide for public access. In the current Congress, bills mandating that CRS post their research products on the publicly-accessible Internet were introduced in the both the House (H.R. 654) and

Senate (S. 393) on February 9, 1999. Unfortunately, as of this writing both bills are languishing in committee with no indication they are likely to move anytime soon.

With comprehensive access to this valuable resource being stonewalled by CRS, a number of web sites have stepped into the breach to provide access to the full texts of selected CRS reports. These include some official congressional sites as well as private sites. Following is a summary of the most significant of these sites:

- **The Senate Democratic Leadership Committee.** This partisan group provides access to a number of reports on various topics. This is the most comprehensive collection of CRS reports on the Internet in terms of scope. Unfortunately, as of this writing the listing of available reports has not been updated since July, 1998.
- **The House of Representatives Rules Committee.** This site is limited to reports relating to the legislative process.
- **The Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.** The committee has posted the texts of selected reports and *Issue Briefs* on government & law, science, and general interest topics.
- **Committee for the National Institute for the Environment (CNIE).** CNIE is a non-profit public interest group. Their web site has the texts of reports concerned with environmental issues, broadly defined.
- **The Federation of American Scientists.** This non-profit organization provides a library of reports on intelligence issues, national security or defense issues, science issues, and weapons issues.
- **The House of Representatives Judiciary Committee.** The committee's web site provides the texts of reports on topics of interest to the committee. These are mostly related to impeachment.

The University of Oregon Library provides a page with links to all of these sites, as well as a link to search the library catalog for reports in the library's collection, at <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/govdocs/leg-crs.html>. The limited and selective access that is available now is highly unsatisfactory when compared to the comprehensive access the public *should* have to this resource. CRS and the Congress should embrace the principles of public information stated in the "findings" section of S. 393 (106<sup>th</sup> Congress), the "Congressional Openness Act":

- the public should have easy and timely access, including electronic access, to public records of the Congress;

- the Congress should use new technologies to enhance public access to public records of the Congress;
- an informed electorate is the most precious asset of any democracy.

If they do, they will recognize that it is time to do the right thing and make this taxpayer-funded research easily available to the citizenry.

**Minutes of the last DIGOR Meeting  
April 1, 1999  
Oregon Library Association  
Annual Conference  
Seaside, OR**

**Submitted by:  
Lisa Rowlison  
DIGOR Secretary**

*Note: DIGOR must say goodbye to Lisa Rowlison, who has accepted a position as Coordinator of Bibliographic Services at California State University, Monterey Bay.*

*Her new email address is:  
Lisa\_Rowlison@monterey.edu  
**We'll miss you!***

**Present**

Meg Buchanan, Arlys Fones, Deb Hollens, Dena Hutto, Valery King, Cam McIntosh, Gwen Newborg, Carrie Ottow, Lisa Rowlison, Debra Spidal, Tom Stave, Janet Webster, Arlene Weible

**Preliminaries**

The meeting began at 5:07 with a welcome by Chair Arlene Weible and introductions within the group at large.

The minutes from the December 4, 1998 meeting at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon were approved as published in the DocumentOr, vol. 19, no.1 (March 1999).

**Reports**

1. A. Gwen Newborg, Regional Librarian, gave the Regional Library report. She said her last day at PSU and as Regional Librarian would be June 25, 1999. The job announcement for the position is already published. She encouraged applications (closing date 4/28/99) and said there would be good challenges for the incumbent.
  - B. Gwen passed the infamous printout of "who has which Serial Set volumes" along to DIGOR via Arlene Weible. While this information was collected

in the 1970s, it will nevertheless prove to be an integral part of any further collections of such data. C. Regarding inspections, it was noted that many inspected libraries nationwide never receive a word on the experience, no report, etc. from the GPO after the Self-Study. Gwen will work with the GPO to re-write the Study questionnaire and to address the issue of GPO's failure to respond to the Studies (in some cases).

2. Dena Hutto reported on the Orbis Government Documents Task Force. A survey was issued by the sub-group headed by Tom Stave which asked Orbis libraries to, among other details, identify collections of documents (local, state, federal, international, etc.) which currently have limited or no access and which would benefit from additional treatment. Dena said the group would meet again in early May and present it's final report to the Orbis Council in early July.

#### Old Business

1. Tom Stave gave an OLA wrap up. The program featuring George Wasson was well received. Arlene will put the session's handout on the DIGOR web page.
2. Arlene gave an update on the DIGOR web page. She and Ted Smith revamped the Oregon state government page as well as the Federal government links page.
3. On behalf of Jey Wann who could not be here, Arlene informed the group that the GILS project continues to develop. They've been coping with software glitches. Some information will be available for testing by early summer. One of the ideas for the fall DIGOR meeting is to meet there and review the system and give feedback.
4. On the matter of cooperative collection development, Arlene suggested that the union list could be updated in its entirety or with respect to uncataloged collections or in terms of reference works and collections. It's possible that starting with reference works and finding aids for uncataloged collections would be useful. It was mentioned that using our Self-Studies may provide us with a place to start compiling certain sections, and that asking CIS for a report would also be helpful.

#### New Business

1. Election of officers by proclamation was as follows: Carrie Ottow as vice-chair and Lisa Rowilson as secretary. Dena Hutto as current vice-chair will assume office with all new officers September 1<sup>st</sup> (or with the fall meeting).

2. The idea of a summer meeting was considered. Those present voiced a desire to have a summer meeting possibly in June or July with the Oregon GILS project or American Factfinder or Landview III as the subject matter. Given these several interests Cam McIntosh suggested a "summer series" would be of interest not only to DIGOR members but to other librarians in the region.
3. Ideas for the fall meeting place were considered: La Grande, Klamath Falls. Members should talk to Arlene about ideas for the subject. A possible winter program place is OHSU.

#### Announcements

1. The group was reminded that an all-day GPO Access workshop will be happening at Lewis & Clark College. The desire is to have two sessions since there seems to be much interest Lisa Rowilson will inform the group of exact details when they are determined.
2. Janet Webster suggested that a pre-conference on the Census 2000 for next year's OLA program is a possibility to consider.
3. A reminder was given that after the meeting a dinner in Gwen's honor would be shared at the Breaker's restaurant.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

#### 1999-2000 DIGOR Officers

**Chair:** Dena Hutto, Reed College  
email: dena.hutto@reed.edu

**Past Chair:** Arlene Weible, Willamette University  
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**Vice Chair/Chair Elect:** Carrie Ottow, OSU  
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**Secretary:** TBA

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