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A Newsletter of the Documents Interest Group of Oregon

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Message from the Chair

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*Do you think there will still be libraries in the future,
now that everything's on the Internet?*

How many times have you heard this, or something like it, from library patrons, students, faculty, or friends? To those of us who work with both libraries and the Internet every day, the assumption behind this question is clearly absurd. Everything is not on the Internet; and even the information that is available online is frequently difficult to find, evaluate, and use.

This all-to-common misconception about the Internet has been invoked by the U.S. Commerce Department to explain why one of our major sources of U.S. government information, the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), is no longer necessary. In August, the U.S. Commerce Department announced a proposal to close NTIS because it "is rapidly becoming less of the necessity it was as agencies and groups have begun to post their reports on the Internet for free." This assertion is startling for those of us who work with government information every day. Two-thirds of the reports requested from NTIS are 3 to 10 years old -- as we librarians are all too aware, government web sites do not provide reliable access information that is even 3 years old, let alone 10!

Perhaps most alarming is the implication that because information is "on the Internet for free," there is no further need for a government agency to collect information and make it accessible. Yes, there are many current reports and databases on the Internet. But how does the average citizen know where to look? A centralized place to begin the search, such as NTIS for scientific and technical information, is at least as important in the web environment as it has been during the past 50 years of NTIS's existence.

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), with the support of ALA and other major library associations, is viewing the

proposed closure of NTIS as "a timely 'window of opportunity' to vastly improve access to government information." With discussions about the fate of NTIS, we can hope that the attention of legislators and the public will be drawn to issues such as agency participation in a centralized clearinghouse of government information and permanent access to electronic resources -- issues that have concerned documents librarians for many years.

For the most up-to-date information on the proposed closure of NTIS, keep an eye on the "Current News and Updates" section of the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) web page, at <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/GODORT/>

NEXT DIGOR BUSINESS MEETING

April 6, 2000

5:00-6:00 p.m.

Oregon Library Association Conference

Portland Airport Sheraton

Jefferson Room

Portland, Oregon

For more conference information please go to
<http://www.olaweb.org/conference/>

Contact: Dena Hutto (dena.hutto@reed.edu or
503.777.7572) to submit agenda items.

State Agency Profile

Watersheds, Salmon and Libraries

Both water and information must flow if The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds is to be successful

By Bill Hastie

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Without question, water flowing cold and clean through Oregon's rivers and streams is a vision we value highly as Oregonians. An important path to that vision is The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, an unprecedented effort to restore Oregon's natural aquatic systems and their fish populations back to health. But cold, clean water isn't the only thing that must flow – information about what the Oregon Plan is, how it works, what it is trying to accomplish, how it is progressing, and how people can get involved must flow just as freely. Here's why: The Oregon Plan is about people and how their lifestyles and actions affect watersheds and salmonids – at work, at play, at home, or traveling between. It is about these people being involved in achieving the vision of healthy watersheds and salmonid populations throughout Oregon. It is about these people choosing to take action for the sake of Oregon's watersheds because it is the right thing to do – NOT because it is required by law or mandate.

This is where libraries and librarians play an important role. Libraries have been and remain valuable community centers for information and learning. We know that Oregonians are willing to be involved in watershed and salmon restoration if they know what to do and how to do it. The local library, no matter where it is, is a great place to access this knowledge.

The Oregon Plan is gaining momentum. Educational materials from several sources have been developed and new materials continue to be developed. These include:

- In May, **The Oregon Plan Toolbox**, a new CD-ROM will be available. Designed for watershed councils, conservation organizations, educators and communities "interested in saving salmon and watersheds," the easy-to-use CD contains current publications and manuals, guidelines and resources (call 503-378-3589 X834).
- The **Oregon Watershed InfoLine** (1-888-854-8377) is now available statewide for callers wishing to receive educational materials and find out more about their local watershed council. It is jointly sponsored by the Oregon Plan and the Willamette Restoration Initiative.
- A **salmon and watershed self-assessment guide** is being developed for all Oregonians that will enable them to assess how their lifestyles affect salmon and watersheds and what they can change to help restoration efforts (call 503-378-3589 X834).
- **Down to the Sea**, a new children's book by Jay Nicholas, author of the Oregon Plan, is now available (\$15+ \$3.50 postage) from Bookpartners, Inc. of Wilsonville, OR (503-682-9821). The book succeeds in making the efforts of the Oregon Plan understandable, even for little fish. Proceeds go to Oregon Youth Conservation Corps.
- **"A Snapshot of Salmon in Oregon"** has been out for about a year, and is an excellent overview of the salmon situation here. Published by Oregon State University Extension, it is available by calling the Oregon Watershed InfoLine (number above).
- **The Stream Scene: Watersheds, Wildlife and People**, has proven to be a national model watershed education curricula since it came out several years ago. It has just been revised (now 546 pages), and is available for sale (\$32) through Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Information and Education Division (503-872-5264 X5366).
- **The Watershed Uplands Scene** is a high school curriculum designed as a class project involving exploration of the school's watershed. Available through Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board at 503-378-3589 X827 (\$15).
- **The 1999 Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Annual Report** is like no annual report you've seen before – it is actually interesting reading! Copies may be ordered by calling the Oregon Watershed InfoLine (number above).
- **The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds 1999 Watershed Restoration Inventory** contains a great summary of how restoration is going and the types of activities that are happening on the ground around the state. Also included is a form for reporting watershed restoration projects. A copy can be ordered from the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board at 503-378-3589 X827.
- **Watershed Stewardship: A Learning Guide** is a guide for communities, landowners and volunteers about how to be good stewards of their watersheds. Focusing on Western Oregon, it includes working together to create successful groups, understanding and enhancing ecosystems, and connecting resource management to watershed ecosystems. Available from Oregon State University, Extension and Station Communications at 541-737-2513 (\$32).
- The **"Ten Things You Can Do To Help Salmon and Restore Watersheds"** series includes editions for homeowners, gardeners, boaters, recreationalists, farmers, ranchers, landscapers and other groups. Available through the Oregon Watershed InfoLine (number above).
- Other publications available from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board include **Oregon Watershed Assessment of Aquatic Resources Manual** (\$45), **Oregon Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Guide**, **Water Quality Monitoring Guidebook**, **Oregon Road/Stream Crossing Restoration Guide**, and others (Inquire at 503-378-3589 X827.).

The key to success for the Oregon Plan is in Oregon's citizens, not government. But unless citizens have access to information, they will not be empowered to be part of the solution. Libraries can play a huge role in making that happen.

Electronic Resources Review

USGovSearch and Google's Unclesam: A Comparative Look

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Last May a new search engine, USGovSearch (<http://usgovsearch.northernlight.com/publibaccess/>) specializing in US government information sources, was launched as a joint product of the search engine Northern Light and the US Commerce Department's National Technical Information Service (NTIS). In September 1999, the NTIS withdrew from this partnership, but Northern Light decided to continue to run the government search engine independently. Currently there are two versions of US GovSearch available: the free version, which claims to give you the ability to search millions of web pages from thousands of government web sites; and the subscription version, which allows you to also search more than 12 million articles from technical and professional journals (there are day, month, and annual paid passes available).

It was around the same time when Google designed its own US government search service (<http://www.google.com/unclesam>). Although smaller than USGovsearch (Northern Light claims to have the most comprehensive federal government research resources on the web), Google's Unclesam offers a quality of results that attracted from the very beginning very positive marks. Google is different from other search engines, using a scoring system called PageRank, which ranks results based on the number of web pages linked to each particular document. Reviewers so far have hailed Google as the search engine with uncanny power for relevancy.

Search capabilities

Northern Light's USGovSearch supports Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) and parenthetical expressions. Instead of Booleans you may also use the plus (+) or minus (-) signs to include or exclude words in your searches. It also allows for phrase searching with the use of quotation marks (example: "capital punishment") as well as for truncation (the asterisk, *, symbol can be used for multiple characters and the percent, %, symbol for only one character). You may also perform the following field searches:

URL: searches for a whole or partial url.

TITLE: searches for a whole or partial document title.

TEXT: searches within the text of a web page.

Besides "Simple Search," USGovSearch allows you to use its "Power Search" and "Agency Web Search" modes for more refined searches (you can make your selection from the top of the web page).

Google, on the other hand, has more limited search capabilities. For example, it does not support the "OR" operator or any form of truncation. Google searches only for the exact words you type. This search engine is not case sensitive; all letters are understood as lower case letters. Google however does allow for phrase searching with the use of quotation marks and the inclusion or exclusion of search terms with the plus (+) or minus (-) signs. A very interesting, special search feature is the query *link:<url>* which displays all links to a particular URL.

Search results

Both of the search engines are quite impressive in their relevancy of results. When looking for something specific, the two search engines are almost equals, with Northern Light's USGovSearch having a slight edge because of its bigger size (for instance, I was able to retrieve the site with the text of Roe vs Wade through USGovSearch but not through Unclesam). On the other hand, there is an important difference in broader spectrum searches. Northern Light allows for a much more organized search with results customized into categories that let you refine your search. Specifically, besides listing sites by relevancy ranking, USGovSearch organizes your results into particular "Custom Search Folders" by subject (for example, Drug trafficking, Drug policy, etc.), type (for example, Press releases), or source (for example, Food and Drug Administration).

I found Google's "I'm Feeling Lucky!" feature of limited usefulness since the only thing it does is to automatically take you directly to the first site it retrieves for your search. A much more useful feature is the GoogleScout link under each result, which brings you pages similar to that specific site.

Display of results

There is a difference in the way the two search engines display search results. USGovSearch has a cleaner look with results listed by document title followed by relevancy ranking, type of document, summary, date of last update and finally the source of the site including its URL.

Google's Unclesam, however, has its own advantages. Instead of a summary, Google displays excerpts from the actual text of a site with search terms highlighted. This can save time in searches where you are looking for something very specific. Another nifty display feature in Google is that multiple results from the same Web site are listed with the main page first followed below by other relevant pages from that same site. Again, this can be another time saver. The only feature that I found confusing in Google's Unclesam is that often in the list of results instead of a document title you may only get the URL of a document.

Conclusion

Overall, both USGovSearch and Google's Unclesam are two of the most useful, user friendly tools in searching millions of government Web sites. The relevancy of their results is quite impressive with USGovSearch producing a larger number of sites; though more does not always mean

better. USGovSearch also seems to have an edge over Google's index because it allows more search commands and provides a cleaner, more organized look in the way it displays its results. However, both of the search engines are quite effective when looking for specific government information.

Finally, I would like to mention a new search engine, which also targets government information. SearchGov.com (<http://www.searchgov.com/>) is put together by MaxBot.com, a developer of Internet search engine technology, founded in 1999 by Troy Beckstrom. SearchGov.com is one in a series of specialized search engines released by this company, including SearchEdu.com and SearchMil.com. While I have not fully reviewed this search engine, those interested in web search tools with a focus on government information might find it worth exploring.



Changes to the Administrative Rules

By
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The State Library has nearly completed its regular review of its Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR). The State Library Board will hold a public hearing on all the proposed changes at its meeting on April 5 at the Airport Sheraton in Portland. Anyone who would like a copy of the proposed rules changes before the meeting may contact Ferol Weyand, at OSL (503-378-4243, x221; ferol.weyand@state.or.us)

Division 70, Section 543-070-000 contains the depository OAR. (For the current rules, see http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARS_500/OAR_543/543_070.html).

The proposed changes reflect requested changes in depository libraries, and also some slight re-wording and clarification of library responsibilities.

The most obvious changes are the names of the parent institutions of three depository libraries: Eastern Oregon University, Southern Oregon University, and Western Oregon University. It seems like only yesterday that they were just colleges! Also, the OAR will use specific library names, such as the Pierce Library at Eastern.

A more substantive change is the actual change of depository library in some areas. In October, the OrDocs program sent an update form to each depository, asking if they wanted to continue their depository status. As a result: the Oregon Institute of Technology Library will replace Klamath County Library as the depository in the Klamath County area; Linn-Benton Community College Library will replace

Albany Public Library as a depository in the Linn County area. Coos Bay Public Library will become a core depository, replacing the Southwestern Oregon Community College Library, which was a full depository.

Paragraph (3) (a) Current reads: "All libraries must agree to make all materials received under the program accessible to the public without charge and accessible to other libraries by electronic means". The intention of the last part of this rule was to insure that depository libraries catalog their OrDocs instead of putting them in a vertical file or other uncataloged collection; however, it could be interpreted to mean that they must mount full-text electronic versions. The proposed revision changes it to " .. enter their holdings in the library's online catalog".

Finally, we propose this additional sentence for paragraph (3) (c): "As the official archives for Oregon public documents, the State Library will retain all titles permanently". OSL has actually done so since the depository program began, but that commitment and obligation was not in the OAR.

DIGOR played a crucial role in developing the current depository OAR. In 1994, Barbara O'Neill chaired a committee that proposed statutory changes to the OrDocs program; in 1995, she also chair the committee that drafted the OAR. Prior to that, there had been no OAR, and few guidelines, for depository libraries. Other DIGOR members involved include Tom Stave, Polly Westover, Gwen Newborg and Deb Hollens. I'm sure I'm forgetting others that were involved. I was new to the OrDocs program at the time, and greatly appreciated (and continue to appreciate) DIGOR members' knowledge and expertise. In the immortal words of Red Green, "I'm pullin' for you. We're all in this together".

1999-2000 DIGOR Officers

Chair: Dena Hutto, Reed College
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Minutes of the last DIGOR Meeting

**January 28, 2000
Oregon State Library
Salem, Oregon**

**Submitted by:
Valery King
DIGOR Secretary**

Present

Judy Andrews, Roy Bennett, Arlys Fones, Deanne Gingerich, Karen Hartz, Dena Hutto, Dee Iltis, Barbara Kahl, Valery King, Larry Laliberte', Kate McGann, Oren Ogle, Barbara O'Neill, Craig Smith, Tom Stave, Alex Toth, Arlene Weible, Jey Wann, Susan Westin

Welcome and introductions

Meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by DIGOR chair Dena Hutto.

Roy Bennett of Western Oregon University announced that on March 1, Laura Groves will be taking his place as documents librarian at WOU.

Minutes of the Fall Meeting (9/10/99) were approved.

Reports

Membership and Budget

As of Sept. 30, 1999, Dena reports that DIGOR has \$558.57. Arlene Weible reports membership as of Jan. 3, 2000 at 35.

U.S. Regional Librarian (Judy Andrews)

New Regional Librarian Judy Andrews wanted us all to know she's happy to be back in Oregon after an absence of several years. She hopes to visit all the depositories within the coming year. She was also able to answer a few questions, one regarding substitution of electronic resources for paper or fiche: the Publications link for the FDLP Administration page has a list of titles which depository libraries may substitute electronic format for hard copy (http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/subguide.html), and it includes Congressional Daily Record (the specific title that was asked about). Also, the disposal procedure remains unchanged from before, with the exception that Judy encourages us to post our lists to the DIGOR list ourselves rather than having her do this.

Fall Depository Library Council Meeting (Dena Hutto & Valery King)

One of the hot topics at the Kansas City meeting in October was Commerce's plan to eliminate NTIS, and how the various functions and information will be saved. There are several different scenarios being considered. Public Printer Michael diMario was very certain that NTIS will "disappear" but that the information will be saved in some way. Sessions on electronic information sources and GPO Access were held, and GPO's new site for children, "Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids," was demonstrated (<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/>).

A complete report on the meeting can be found in the January 25, 2000 Administrative Notes (http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/adnotes.html).

GODORT at ALA Midwinter (Arlene Weible, Dena Hutto)

NTIS also dominated discussion at GODORT. While ALA resolved that functions of NTIS must be maintained but did not take a strong position as to where they should be placed, many in GODORT want to see GPO take this on.

Fred Reenstjerna's review of "Ben's Guide" in the DocumentOr was mentioned at the meeting by Francis Buckley, who quoted directly from the review and said that GPO will actually be incorporating some of the suggested changes. Way to go, Fred and DocumentOr!

In other ALA news: GPO has appointed an electronic collection specialist, George Barnum, who has laid out a process of development of electronic collection and preservation work. Bernan/UniPub says they will no longer be publishing UN documents, which came as a surprise to everyone. The State and Local Documents Task Force has begun an initiative to develop a conference to discuss state government documents. They will be divided into two regionals, and the East coast regional is scheduled for this spring; one for the West coast will be scheduled within the next couple of years.

ORBIS Government Documents Task Force

Three meetings are scheduled during the next several months: one on Feb. 8, a spring break meeting at Reed College, and one in Eugene in mid May, if needed. Anyone wishing to see the report should e-mail Dena who will give you the URL. The report covers a summary of depository and other documents collections member libraries own, and things that the Task Force wishes to accomplish in the coming year.

Update on Ted Smith

Tom Stave reported that Ted Smith has come through heavy chemotherapy very well, and things are looking pretty good. He hopes to be back at work in early March. (Any friends wishing to receive updates on Ted's progress, Tom has created a "Ted List"; contact him to join.)

Old Business

OLA Preconference Planning (Census workshop) (Arlene)

Nationally-known writer on the Census Michael Lavin and the Bureau's Regional representative Cam McIntosh have been confirmed as speakers at the Census 101 OLA preconference DIGOR is co-sponsoring with ACRL-Oregon. Lavin will provide an introduction to the Census, census geography, concepts and structure. We would like to follow this with one of our librarians (Carrie Ottow as librarian on the Government Information Sharing Project will be asked) demonstrating from actual questions how to go about locating census information. George Hough from the State Data Center has been asked to do an overview of the Center's services and resources. Last spot of the day will be devoted to a presentation on Census 2000, with an emphasis on American Factfinder.

Volunteers were solicited to provide handouts to include in an info packet. Arlene volunteered to coordinate the packet. Tom Stave agreed to do a handout on Information Contacts. Dena (with some help) will create a guide for different kinds of users. Valery volunteered to do one on census mapping products (emphasizing low- and no-cost options). Craig or Arlene will deal with historical census bibliography. We hope to get a general bibliography from Michael Lavin. Kate McGann will provide something on Economic census resources. Tom is willing to contribute to a list of "census data pitfalls" that could probably be incorporated into Carrie's presentation. An appeal was made for contributions of any handouts we've created at our own libraries that may be of use. Drafts of these handouts should be sent to Arlene **no later than** March 1st. Anyone with questions about or ideas for the preconference can contact Arlene.

Please promote this preconference at your libraries. We'll need a good turnout to cover expenses.

Possible project: Bibliography on notable state and local documents (Dena)

As a possible money-making project, a suggestion was made that DIGOR develop a bibliography of notable state and local documents. Many of these are very difficult to find so there may be a market for such a volume. Many questions and concerns were voiced, and

a Task Force consisting of Arlene, Craig, Jey and Tom was formed to investigate the feasibility of taking on such a project. The Task Force will report at the September meeting, where we will decide whether to go ahead with this. Interim plans and questions can/will be posted to the DIGOR mailing list. Craig and Arlene will co-chair.

New Business

Reference service for Oregon documents collections (Jey Wann)

Jey has received a questionnaire from Lori Smith, who is writing a book Tapping State Government Resources. She has requested the names of two libraries in Oregon who have the most complete collections of state publications and who provide reference to the general public.

Announcements

Tom Stave and Diane Sotack are planning an article about publication output from the Oregon regional Fish & Wildlife office. They would like to include other regional offices of Federal agencies, so if other people are interested in collaborating on this article, please contact Tom.

Barbara O'Neill has asked for volunteers willing to be speakers or trainers on GPO Access and ORS, names she can provide when OSL is asked. Dena and Judy volunteered to be resources for GPO Access; anyone else wishing to volunteer should contact Barbara.

Cam McIntosh is scheduled to present a program on Census 2000 at the Multnomah County Library. Numbers are limited; contact Barbara Kahl.

A program on the 1997 Economic Census and NAICS will be presented in Eugene at the end of May (no exact date yet). This will be a video conference with 4-5 other sites participating.

GILS update: Washington State will soon host the Oregon GILS site (for monetary reasons). Because Access Oregon needs a search engine, they will partner with Administrative Services in the future, since Admin is willing to pay for the search engine.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned shortly after 1 pm.

Afternoon Program

Several members from the Oregon State Library led us on a tour of the Library, which is currently in the midst of a remodeling project. New Reference room, the closed

stacks, the Talking Books area and Special Collections were among the highlights.