



DocumentOr

Web address: <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/govdocs/digor/documentor/>

ISSN 1062-175X

A Newsletter of the Documents Interest Group of Oregon

Vol. 21, No. 1 (March 2001)

Message from the Chair

Carrie Ottow
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As we move on into the 21st Century and toward an electronic depository program, I find it amusing that I keep getting pulled back into the old, wonderful world of paper documents. Recently I have had to grapple with a newfound collection of reports from the Atomic Energy Commission in our library's storage facility. It's an old familiar story for documents librarians: the materials were never cataloged; they were kept as a separate collection and accessible only through a bibliographic index (Nuclear Science Abstracts). At some point they were shuffled off to storage, presumably because they weren't used very much. Just like other depository collections that were never cataloged and became marginalized, these reports have been wasting away, almost completely forgotten, until one day someone took a look and said, "Why are we wasting space keeping these old things?"

As we all know, when libraries start cataloging their documents collections, use increases! While we are gearing up to cope with online-only publications, we are still burdened with the fact that historically, many documents were never cataloged. As more and more resources in libraries are re-directed to bibliographic control of online materials, the fate of historic documents is more uncertain. Perhaps it is a classic collection development catch-22: a low use-collection doesn't justify expense of cataloging, but its use will never increase unless it is cataloged.

Why am I prattling on about historic collections and recon, when many libraries don't have them and are more concerned with modern day problems? Perhaps so that we can learn some lessons from the past. I often hear from people (even some librarians) who say "if it's on the Internet, why should we catalog it? Anyone can just do a search and find it." I have also heard it argued that the MARC format is not appropriate for Internet

publications. Whether that is true or not, I believe some kind of bibliographic control is necessary. And in the long run bibliographic control is an integral part of preserving information. While we continue to play catch up and fight for old, neglected documents, we must also wrestle with the problem of how to find our way in a new electronic era. I am heartened though, by the great resources we have within the documents community. The work that DIGOR does to promote and preserve government documents, and educate other librarians, is invaluable.

I hope to see you all at OLA. Our program on "Archiving the Northwest" will be a great opportunity to continue to reflect on these two worlds of Documents. We can learn about historic government resources available to us at the National Archives and Records Administration in Seattle, and discuss the new challenges ahead in archiving electronic government documents.

NEXT DIGOR BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday, March 29, 2001
5:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

-DIGOR Program-
Archiving the Northwest: The National Archives' Pacific
Alaska Region
Friday, March 30, 2001, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Seaside Civic & Convention Center
Seaside, OR
(at the OLA Annual Conference)

Contact: Carrie Ottow (Carrie.Ottow@orst.edu) to
submit agenda items.

DIGOR NEWS

Items of Note from Around the State

Southern Oregon University Library was recently awarded a National Leadership Grant appropriation of \$461,000 through the National Institute of Museum and Library Services for "The Digital Frontier Project." The digitizing project team at Southern hopes to identify a variety of government publications relating to the Siskiyou/Klamath bioregion, some documents important to the Native American tribes in Oregon, and a selection of local government publications of interest to the 2nd Congressional District, to preserve and make available over the Internet. Southern Oregon Library will be hard at work on this project over the next 2-3 years. We are pleased to be able to showcase our collection of documents relating to our special ecoregion and look forward to the challenge of this new project. -----Deborah Hollens, SOU Government Publications Librarian

Orbis Government Documents Committee Meeting

By Ted Smith, University of Oregon

The Orbis Government Documents Committee (Orbis GDC) met for the first time as a standing committee on February 1, 2001 in Eugene, Oregon. The committee reviewed the recommendations of the old Government Documents Task Force, and set up working groups to work on three separate initiatives.

- **Data for Local Communities Working Group:** Tom Stave, Carrie Ottow, Deb Hollens, and Judy Andrews.
This group will work on ways to expand and enhance the concept of the *Local Area Data for Oregon* web page at the U of O and fulfill the need for a browsable, categorized list of online sources of data for communities and areas within Oregon.
- **Regional Electronic Documents Working Group:** Deb Hollens, Ted Smith, Tom Stave, Dena Hutto, and Judy Andrews.
Will develop the concept of a central archival site for the documents produced by regional offices of federal agencies in the Northwest, such as national forests and BLM districts.
- **Electronic Finding Aids Working Group:** Dena Hutto, Susanna Flodin, and Debra Spidal.
Will conduct an inventory of what aids currently exist in Orbis libraries and develop a prioritized list of what finding aids are needed.



Core Oregon Documents List Revision

By
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The list of Core Oregon Documents has been revised. The Oregon Revised Statutes (357.004(1)) define Core documents as "... those public documents for which members of the public have the most significant and frequent need." Both Full and Core depository libraries receive Core documents from the Oregon Documents Depository Program.

We began revising the Core list last fall, when representatives from depositories reviewed the list at the OrDocs Conference. In January, we posted the recommended revised list on the OrDocs web page (<http://www.osl.state.or.us/techserv/ordocs.html>), and announced the recommended revisions on the digor and ordocs discussion lists. Two titles were added as a result of that discussion, and the State Librarian approved the list in mid-February.

Here are the changes:

Directory and statistics of Oregon libraries

Deleted: ceased paper publication with the 1992 edition.

Distribution of lottery profits for economic development

Deleted: ceased publication with 1985-1995 edition

Doing business in Oregon

Added

Election board manual

Deleted: ceased publication with 1998 edition

FPFO : Forestry program for Oregon

Added. The Department of Forestry recommended adding this title.

Oregon forest management plan

Added: The Department of Forestry recommended adding this title.

Oregon natural resource agencies permit and license directory

Deleted. 1993 was the only edition ever published

Package B
Added

Public assistance data charts, statewide data

Deleted: Depository libraries recommended it be removed from the Core list

The current list is posted on the OrDocs web page, and includes links to electronic versions of Core documents.

Minutes

**DIGOR Winter Meeting
December 8, 2000
Western Oregon University
Monmouth, Oregon**

**Submitted by Valery King
Digor Secretary**

Present:

Judy Andrews (PSU); Jean Caspers (Linfield); Arlys Fones (MCL); Laura Groves (WOU); Karen Hartz (OSL); Dena Hutto (Reed); Deanna Iltis (OSL); Barbara Kahl (MCL); Valery King (OSU); Gary Klein (Willamette); Carrie Ottow (OSU); Ted Smith (UO); Amy Spies (Corvallis-Benton County); Tom Stave (UO); Alex Toth (Pacific); Jey Wann (OSL); Susan Westin (OSL); Kaiping Zhang (UO)

Chair Carrie Ottow called the meeting to order shortly after 11:30 am. There were two additions to the agenda under New Business.

Welcome and Announcements

- Gary Jackson, Director of the Hamersly Library at Western Oregon University, welcomed us as the first professional group to meet at the newly completed library.
- Introductions for the benefit of the several new members were performed.
- Tom Stave announced that Larry Laliberte, the GIS/Map librarian at UO, had accepted a position in Winnipeg. A search for a new GIS librarian will be conducted soon.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved as published in the DocumentOR.

Reports

Membership and Budget (Carrie)

Figures from 10/31 show us having 32 members (20 individual, 3 institutional). Revenue in October was \$50 from dues, giving us a balance of \$402.93.

Depository Library Council/Depository Library Conference Report (Dena, Judy and Ted)

The Conference agenda was dominated by discussion of the memo from the Superintendent of Documents regarding GPO plans for converting to primarily electronic distribution as mandated by Congress. Many agencies reported on how they were planning to handle the transitions. GPO's mission to get information to the people is being squeezed between Congress, government agencies and libraries.

The regional meeting discussed what the position of libraries might be if information is primarily electronic, and many questions were considered: should we ask GPO to provide electronic documents for us to ftp? Electronic shipping lists? What about databases and interactive sites? Should GPO make source records available, and how many libraries have the staff and resources to handle this? And how can we assure patrons that information in electronic form is authentic and reliable—and official? No firm decisions were reached.

The Council meeting discussed many of the same issues. A reactionary contingent exists in Council (represented primarily by the California Digital Library) that advocates the idea of source files being housed at a few selected sites, and that Council should make a stand for the continuation of paper documents.

Most agreed that our best hope is in influencing Congress, since GPO doesn't have power to change or influence their decisions. If we wish to preserve any materials in tangible format, we must lobby Congress to fund and support it. GPO is rethinking the entire depository program, reconsidering its structure, what is permanent public access and who provides it. They've been wrestling with this for the last three years at least. One big block is that GPO is production-oriented and unsure of how to deal with electronic. There has been some attempt to capture and keep some files, but GPO doesn't have enough people with the right skills to do this. A vacuum is being created—should the Regionals fill it?

Council is working on a letter to the Public Printer covering how they believe things should look, but there is no hard and fast agreement on this.

Regional librarian's report (Judy)

There are several important staff changes taking place at GPO. Sheila McGarr is leaving to work for the National Library of Education, and Robin Haun-Mohammed is taking her place as the head of the Inspection Team. Tad Downing, who is currently Head of Cataloging, will become head of Cataloging and Distribution, and Gil Baldwin will pick up the directorship of LPS.

Old Business*Bibliography on notable state and local documents (Jey)*

The decision has been made not to pursue this idea at this time. A discussion did take place on how Oregon could make nominations of the best state documents, which are due December 31 for the Library Journal issue. Susan Westin informed us of North Dakota's process, where the state library publicizes the best state documents at the state conference and attendees are invited to nominate their favorites. The top 3 are then sent to Library Journal. No decision was reached on this.

OLA program update

Our program has been accepted for OLA. The head archivist of the Seattle office of the National Archives will speak about Federal archives relating to the Northwest, especially those housed in the Seattle branch.

DIGOR web page update (Ted)

This has been moved from Willamette's to UO's server for now, and discussion was invited on whether we should leave this at UO or move it to a permanent home on the OLA web server. This has some drawback, as OLA will not give us ftp access to the server—all changes must go through their web master (currently Rachel Mendez). This can cause significant delays. Members decided to leave the web page on the UO server.

Nominating Committee

A reminder to people to submit suggestions to DIGOR officers, who will make nominations for new officers at the next meeting at OLA in April.

New Business*Program for OLA/WLA 2002*

Deadline for program submission for the joint OLA/WLA meeting in 2002 is April. NGIN, the Washington state documents group, is not part of WLA but may be interested in cosponsoring a program anyway. For this meeting, OLA is adopting the WLA model of paying for programs by agreeing to pay speakers from general funds, not requiring the sponsoring group(s) to fund them

People who have ideas or suggestions for programs should send them to the committee formed to develop this (Dena, Ted and Judy)

Transition to an electronic depository system, what DIGOR can do

Lively discussion ensued, with a general consensus being that DIGOR should find ways to both lobby Congress to fund continuation of tangible documents and start making plans for what Oregon libraries can do to handle a transition to an electronic system.

Judy's suggestion of a survey of documents users in Oregon (including libraries, state agencies and others to be determined) was greeted favorably. Possible scenarios should be proposed and room provided so that comments/ideas from documents users can be communicated to us. Purposes of this survey would be to 1) make users aware of what is happening/might happen in the future, and 2) get a sense of how government information users in Oregon see the future. From this we may be able to determine what directions we should take. Audience for the survey results is DIGOR, GPO and Congress.

Judy, Susan, Carrie and Gary agreed to form a committee to develop this survey, to have ready for the Spring conference in April. People with ideas to contribute should contact one of the committee members.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

The afternoon program consisted of Jey Wann and Susan Westin demonstrating FindOR, and a tour of the new library.

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