1992 LLA Conference MARCIVE/GODORT Breakfast Program

Thanks to the efforts of Sandy Himel, LLA GODORT Program Chair, and Eric Wedig, SELA GODORT Program Chair, an exciting program is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 1992, at the joint SELA/LLA conference in New Orleans. The topic of a panel discussion will concern "Preservation of Our Nation’s Wetlands: A Panel Discussion of Information Sources." On the panel will be representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Wetlands Research Center, and the Coalition for the Restoration of Wetland Resources. The program will be jointly sponsored by LLA GODORT, SELA GODORT, AND SELA Special Libraries Section. MARCIVE is the new commercial sponsor for the GODORT breakfast.

POST-Conference Workshop with Joe McClane

Mark your calendar and plan to attend a post-conference workshop on Friday, April 24, 1992, at Tulane University in New Orleans. At the day-long workshop, Joe McClane, Chief of Depository Services of the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., will speak on "Depository Collection Development." The workshop will be designed to help government document librarians to formulate collection development policies. Topics scheduled for discussion include collection development policies and options for Federal depository libraries, managing depository electronic products, and departmental policy and procedure manuals.

The Louisiana Federal Depository Library Council will meet briefly prior to the workshop. Further information on the workshop and the Council meeting will be forthcoming from Stephen Henson, who chairs both the Council and the Workshop Committee.

GODORT Membership Update

Membership statistics distributed via the LLA Office reflect that response to a previous appeal for librarians to join GODORT has been positive. According to the report, membership in the GODORT section is up from seventy-two (72) members in 1990 to ninety (90) members in 1991, a 25 percent increase. It should be noted, however, that total LLA individual membership for 1991 is 1,344 members. Please continue to encourage your friends and colleagues to join GODORT. This section of LLA has much to offer all Louisiana librarians.

New Federal Depositories

Congratulations and welcome to Louisiana’s two newest Federal Depositories! The Vernon Parish Library in Leesville has recently been designated a Senatorial Selective Depository. Director Howard Coy says documents started arriving in November and are being incorporated into the general collection using Dewey classification. Some of the areas being selected include legal material, forestry, and statistical publications.

Also joining the ranks is Xavier University in New Orleans. Overseen by Linda Hill, the documents will eventually be housed in their own area in a new building now under construction. Documents began arriving in January and records for the VTLS public catalog are being loaded from MARCIVE tapes. Some of the areas being selected include civil rights, environmental issues, and education.

State Documents Council Established

The Louisiana Advisory Council for the State Documents Depository Program held its first meeting at the State Library on December 13, 1991. Members were appointed by State Librarian Tom Jacques to provide advice on the distribution and bibliographic control of state publications and to recommend policies and procedures for the efficient and
effective operation of the program. The members include: Virginia Smith, State Library of Louisiana; Faye Phillips, Louisiana State University; Collin Hamer, New Orleans Public Library; Ben Brady, Ouachita Parish Library; Steve Henson, Louisiana Tech University; Lori Smith, Southeastern Louisiana University; Judy Kelly, Loyola University Law Library; Suzanne Hughes, Louisiana House of Representatives; Nancy Midkiff, Louisiana State Register; Nick Achee, Department of Environmental Quality; Margaret Lane, Lane, Fertita, Lane and Tulloss; Brantley Cagle, McNeese State University; and Grace Moore, Recorder of Documents. Officers are: Faye Phillips, chair and Margaret Lane, secretary.

The Council recommended that efforts be directed to publicizing the program to state agencies to increase the number of documents distributed to the depositories. A workshop on the preparation of state documents for publication will be co-sponsored with LaGIN later this year.

Forestry Display Featured at Northwestern State University

The U.S. National Forest system was the subject of an exhibition on display in the foyer of the Northwestern State University Watson Library during May and June of 1991.

Featured in the display were various legislative acts and codes pertinent to national forest lands such as the Creative Act of 1891 which states "That the President of the United States may, from time to time, set apart and reserve, in any State or Territory having public land bearing forests, in any part of the public lands wholly or in part covered with timber or undergrowth, whether of commercial value or not, as public reservations, and the President shall, by public proclamation, declare the establishment of such reservations and the limits thereof."

Included in the exhibition was an aerial display of colorful posters depicting plants and animals that live in the forests. In addition, hundreds of National Forest maps and charts were either on display or were available to the public in the U.S. Document Special Collection.

Citizens, who were invited via area newspapers and radio broadcasts to view the U.S. National Forests exhibition before finalizing vacation plans, learned that there are more than 150 National Forests in the United States, covering more than 180 million acres, almost one tenth of the nation's land area. Kisatchie National Forest, Louisiana's only National Forest, held a special corner in the display.

Also featured in the exhibit area were works by noted nineteenth century naturalist John Muir, whose writings persuaded a large number of Americans to regard scenic wilderness areas as irreplaceable natural resources which must be protected and preserved.

Electronic Imaging Lab and Computer Network Funded at LSU

Imagine being able to take a document and save an electronic picture of its pages. Then, in addition to being able to call up on your computer screen the pictures of the pages, imagine being able to convert the text in the document to a file in the word-processing format of your choice. Think of how easy it would be to distribute and manipulate the electronic images and texts. Work on just such a project is underway at Louisiana State University.

In the summer of 1991, Faye Phillips, of LSU's Hill Memorial Library, Richard Condrey, of LSU's Dept. of Wetland Resources, and Susan Hooker, of LSU's Middleton Library, were awarded an LEQSF grant of $285,000 to develop an electronic imaging lab and personal computer network at LSU. The idea is to be able to take rare but important documents and by digitizing them and making them available through a network or other electronic means increase their accessibility.

The project has three major components. The first is the imaging lab. It consists of a pair of personal computers with image scanners and optical character recognition software. Using these scanners, pages of documents are scanned into the computer. The image pages can be saved, if desired, and the text converted to ASCII or word-processor-formatted files. The text can be indexed for greater ease of use, and this digitized text or images of the pages can be distributed on demand, either on CD-ROMs, floppy diskettes, over a network, or in print.

The second element of the project is a local area network. The computers in the imaging lab will be connected to other PCs in the libraries at LSU. The files from the scanning project would then be made available to users throughout the network, along with many of the CD-ROM products the libraries already subscribe to. In addition, plans are to make the network accessible via phone lines and the main campus network. This will allow users outside of the library to have as easy access as those within.

A third element of the project is development of a special workstation for use by patrons with
physical handicaps. Through use of large-type screens, special keyboards, and even synthesized speech software, this workstation will enable those patrons who have difficulty using ordinary terminals and computers to gain access to LOLA, LSU’s online catalog, and the CD-ROM products that will eventually be on the network.

The first stage is already well under way. Using a copy of B.F. French’s Historical Collections of Louisiana as a good example of the kind of material that would benefit from electronic access and preservation, scanning and editing has begun. One of the main purposes of this project is to see how much difficulty and work is involved in scanning such documents. So far results are promising. After preparing the system by "training" it on the first few pages to allow it to build up a database of peculiarities in the text being used, work goes fairly quickly and accurately on the rest of the document.

For more information about the scanning project, contact Faye Phillips at Hill Memorial Library, LSU, (504)388-6569, or Jim Noel, Middleton Library, LSU, (504)388-6938.

Notable Louisiana Documents

Two of Louisiana’s state publications recently received national recognition for their outstanding quality. Folklore in the Florida Parishes and Louisiana Conservationist were both selected for the 1990 Notable Documents List. The designation as a Notable Document is made by the Notable Documents Committee of the Government Documents Round Table of the American Library Association from nominations made by librarians of federal, international, and state documents.

Folklore in the Florida Parishes is a publication of the Louisiana Folklife Program of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. It is a study of the culture of the eight parishes which make up the Republic of West Florida: East Feliciana, West Feliciana, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Tangipahoa, St. Tammany, St. Helena, and Washington.

Louisiana Conservationist is a bi-monthly publication published by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Beautiful color photographs and sketches illustrate articles about the conservation of the natural resources of the state. Hunting and fishing season calendars, and recipes using Louisiana seafood and agricultural products are among topics covered.

Check with your nearest state documents depository to read these notable Louisiana documents.

People

Lillian Purdy of Louisiana College is the new GODORT secretary. Jeanne Vince, who formerly held the position, moved to Florida last summer.

Connie Helmkey recently joined the staff at Southern University’s Law Library. With several months’ worth of document processing and a move to deal with, Connie had her work cut out for her. In the interests of furthering local depository cooperation, Jim Noel of LSU’s Middleton Library and Charlene Cain of LSU Law School’s library braved intense rain in early February to visit Connie and Alvin Rochée at Southern and to offer advice. This visit was followed by a larger visit to LSU, where Jim and Charlene gave tours of their respective facilities to and discussed questions of documents processing with Connie, Grace Moore of the Louisiana State Library, and Lori Smith of Southeastern Louisiana University.

Smittle Bolmer has been on sabbatical leave in France since the end of October. While there she is practicing French, sampling the sights and foods of France, and studying American studies collections in French libraries. She expects to be back by July. Jim Noel is filling in for her while she is away.

Marilyn Harkel, business reference librarian, and Frances Skeffington, government documents reference librarian, both of the University of New Orleans’ Earl K. Long Library, have written an article for The Reference Librarian entitled "Accessibility and Reference Use of the Depository Collection in College and University Libraries."

Jim Noel is preparing to present a talk at the upcoming Depository Library Conference in Washington, D.C. Jim will be discussing the effects on a regional depository of adding documents records to the online catalog.

LA DOCS is the semiannual newsletter of the Government Documents Round Table (GORDO) of the Louisiana Library Association. Published roughly twice a year, LA DOCS encourages contributions from librarians throughout the state – articles, news items, reviews, etc. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not represent the official views of LLA/GODORT.

Contributions and comments should be sent to: Jim Noel, LA DOCS Editor, Louisiana State University, Troy H. Middleton Library, Business Reference/Government Documents Department, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 or call (504) 388-2570.

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