

Supplement to LOUISIANA LIBRARIES, "Best of Conference Theme Issue, Part I,"

SUMMER 2009

Lagniappe: Short Remarks, Observations, and Highlights from Conference 2009:

GODORT Breakfast:

The keynote speaker for the Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) breakfast held on Saturday morning in the Heidelberg Room was Kerry St. Pé, Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. **Cynthia DuBois**, Government Documents Librarian at Nicholls State University, describes his presentation below for those who could not attend:

One highlight of the Conference was Kerry St. Pé's presentation at the GODORT Breakfast on Saturday morning. Mr. St. Pé is the Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), located on the campus of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux. Mr. St. Pé has made several appearances on television and in other media promoting the need for coastal restoration. We feel very fortunate that he was able to present at the Breakfast. His presentation focused on the unique qualities of the coastline of the State and how the sediment of the Mississippi River built the coastal wetlands and marshes. He also discussed the culture of the region and what makes it unlike any other in the country. He emphasized the severity of the impact of coastal erosion to both the land and the culture in both the region and throughout the entire state. Mr. St. Pé brought many BTNEP publications with him to donate to libraries, including the latest DVD "Harvest to Restore," which aired on Louisiana Public television. His presentation was a great success and hopefully assisted in spreading the word about this important topic.

Next, **Molly Fischer**, Government Documents Circulation Librarian at LSU Middleton, offers a testimonial to the timeliness of Mr. St. Pé's presentation:

Last week a patron entered the Government Documents Department at LSU looking for specific materials she had found in the online catalog. As I helped her find the documents she had requested, she explained that she was doing a paper on current practices of dumping dredged river sediment into oceans. "I just wish I could suggest something we could be doing with it instead of dumping it," she sighed.

Luckily, I had attended the LLA GODORT breakfast at which Kerry St. Pé, Director of the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), had spoken about the devastating loss occurring in Louisiana's coastal wetlands. These vital lands are disappearing at a rate of 24 square miles per year – that's equal to a land area the size of a football field dropping underwater every 38 minutes. The coastal wetlands are vital to migratory birds, to shrimp, blue crabs, and other shellfish, and to us – each lost mile of wetland is one mile less of protection against the storm surges and flooding of hurricanes.

Mr. St. Pé explained that the BTNEP's recommended strategy for wetland restoration and preservation included moderate water diversions, as well as the use of sediment pipelines. These pipelines move sediment that has been harvested from existing deposits in riverbeds to the marshes and barrier islands that are slipping into the sea. The technology is there, Mr. St. Pé

noted – in fact, the new, glamorous Palm Islands in Dubai were created by pipelines developed in Louisiana! What’s important now is spreading the word regarding wetlands loss, and encouraging change.

As soon as the student noted that she was looking for another way to use dredged sediment, the light went on in my head. “Have you ever heard of using river sediment to restore wetlands?” I asked. I took her to a computer and showed to the websites for the BTNEP, LaCoast (the official website for the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act), and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. She was thrilled to have a suggestion for a paper topic, as well as resources to use for research.

I was so glad I had attended the LLA GODORT breakfast. Conferences like LLA and the events that it offers bring us together, keep us up-to-date, and spread knowledge that we can use to best aid patrons – the ultimate goal of every librarian. If my attending LLA helped me to better serve even one patron, it was worth it.

Rescued Recycles:

Candace Chatham, Graphic Artist at the Ouachita Parish Public Library, provides details on the creative workshop she held at the Shaw Center on Friday. About her program, “Rescued Recycles: Crafting with a Cause!” Candace says:

This program was designed for those concerned about the ever growing problem of too much trash! Why leave the problem for our children? Start helping tomorrow, TODAY!

Traditionally recycling is placing items in a bin to be used again as new products. This form of recycling is not the only choice.

Rescued Recycles is a way to reuse without bins or a collection service. What can you save? Juice jugs, bottle caps and tabs, glass jars, cardboard boxes, aluminum cans, toilet paper and paper towel rolls, the list goes on and on. What do they have in common? Each rescued recycle on the list can be put to another use as a work of art or a functioning addition to home or office. Packing boxes become magazine holders or a glass jar transforms to a pencil holder. With a little fabric, glue, time and creativity, what would have been trash becomes treasure.

Vernon Parish Library, Proud Member of the Federal Depository Library Program:

Howard Coy, Director of the Vernon Parish Public Library in Leesville and member of a three-person panel on the technical processing of government documents (the two other panel members were Doris Hutson, LSU Baton Rouge, and Miriam Childs, Law Library of Louisiana New Orleans), shares information on his library’s methodologies. Howard also has the distinction of being the first public librarian in Louisiana to circulate fishing rods and reels, a factoid that brings a smile to many a Leesville’s citizen’s face. Howard speaks of his library’s system for processing government documents:

The Vernon Parish Library has been a federal depository since November 1991. The selection rate is 16.55%. The Library is a medium-sized public library, located in the western part of the state. The Library has a small staff. The Director selects the documents, checks-in and catalogs. Two other circulation staff members help in shelving. One is responsible for shelving maps, fiche and other paper documents, and another staff member is responsible for shelving the periodicals. The technical processing staff member does additional processing as needed.

Documents are checked in the day they arrive. As each item is checked-in, the SuDoc number is written on the item, it is stamped with ownership, and the shipping list is checked

against item received. Shipping lists are then scanned and saved to files, i.e. Fiche, Paper, Electronic and Separates.

Serials are checked-in on check-in cards. Some items, such as yearly publications, are added to the marc record, and that serves as the check-in record.

All documents are treated like any other item that the library purchases, and all items are interfiled/shelved. Most of our patrons do not care if the information they want is a document or other type of publication. We noticed an increase in circulation of Louisiana materials and Biographies after inter-shelving these with the regular collection. Biographies were re-cataloged and given a Dewey number with the subject.

All documents are cataloged by Dewey. The SuDoc number is entered in the 740 title field: just the stem for serials, the entire number for monographs. Subject headings are added for additional access points. For example, memorial addresses are cataloged with the added names of the deceased; and the Historic Sites brochures are filed in the vertical file, with added entries for geographic location, historic references and name entries. A brochure on the home of Abraham Lincoln will have entries for location and his name, etc. All of these brochures are filed in one folder in the vertical file.

Every item is cataloged. Some vertical file items have brief records. Cataloging records are obtained from GPO, automation cataloging database, LC and original cataloging. While most items are available for checkout, some are shelved in the Reference section.

Web pages are cataloged with the call number of INTERNET. Currently, over 100 pages are cataloged. Web sites are also added to our Reference section of our Web Page. Each month, the Electronic Documents List and Administrative Notes are checked for possible additions to our catalog. These are not on our selection list but added to the catalog because of possible interest to our patrons. After cataloging AV and monographs, the documents are sent to processing for further processing. All documents are on the shelves within five days of arrival.

The final entry in “Lagniappe” is from **Faye Phillips**, Associate Dean of Libraries, LSU. At the Conference, as a presenter for Subject Specialists, she read from her recent article “‘To Build upon the Foundation’: Charles Gayarré’s Vision for the Louisiana State Library.” (published in *Libraries and the Cultural Record* 43 (winter 2008): 56-76). This scholarly, yet lively, article provides a fascinating history of the Louisiana State Library, with its many changes in collection, location, and purpose dating from its beginnings in 1838. The following includes two brief excerpts from Phillips’ text—for readers wishing to access the full article, see the citation above:

The Louisiana State Library, 1838-1911, is often confused with the library of Louisiana State University. While the current Louisiana State Archives’ predecessor was once connected with Louisiana State University, the Louisiana State Library was not. It is also confused with the current State Library of Louisiana that is its successor. After 1911 the Louisiana State Library was allowed to become dormant while the State Law Library connected to the Louisiana Supreme Court took on many of its former responsibilities and still exists. Eventually in 1946 the Louisiana Library Commission (established in 1920) was successful in establishing a new state library known today as the State Library of Louisiana with headquarters in Baton Rouge. . . . Leading the movement to establish a significant state library before the Civil War was distinguished Louisiana historian Charles Gayarré(1805-1895) who served as Louisiana Secretary of State from 1846-1853. One of his duties was to oversee

the Louisiana State Library. Gayarré sought to develop a library that would create pride in the leaders and citizens of the state. He was also the first state official to make the effort to collect, preserve and organize Louisiana's colonial, territorial and early statehood records. (Citation to: A. Otis Herbert, Jr., "Keeping Louisiana's Records," *The McNeese Review* 18 (1967): 29.)

Summary:

These short-takes are just a few of the highlights of the 2009 Conference—they illustrate the diversity and utility of the programs and events available to attendees. We anticipate that next year's conference will offer an equally wide array of programs and events.