GPO/2001: A Review

Strategic Planning: GPO/2001: Vision for a New Millennium (SuDoc # GP 1.2:V 82) describes GPO's forecast of the evolution of Federal government information. Prepared by the chief administrators at the GPO, the document will serve a variety of purposes depending on the stakeholder's interest in government information. In the battle for appropriations, GPO will doubtless trumpet the future portrayed in GPO/2001 to serve as a justification for funding requests. The report promises the Congress "rapid, on-line, full-text search and retrieval capabilities for information that is vital to the legislative process" (p. ii). This is likely to be popular on Capitol Hill. Federal agencies are promised the "development of new information partnerships" (p.14) with GPO assisting in every stage of publishing. The public is promised "rapid, simplified, lower-cost access" (p. ii) to government information.

The report envisions the future of government information as one of increased electronic access with a decline in the number of traditional printed products. Statistical, bibliographic, scientific and technical information are likely candidates for electronic access. Increasingly, information will be made available first in an electronic format with a printed summary available at a later time. Print-on-demand technologies may be used for occasional or small quantity print orders. Both electronic and printed products will include more color, graphics, and images due to improved technology.

The report lays out a time frame for the implementation of electronic access to

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LLA/GODORT SPONSORS DEPOSITORY OPERATIONS SEMINAR

On Friday, April 24, 1992, twenty-eight librarians gathered in New Orleans at Tulane University's Howard-Tilton Library to hear Joe McClane, Chief of Depository Services at the U.S. Government Printing Office, discuss federal depository library operations. The program was sponsored by the Louisiana Library Association's Government Documents Round Table.

McClane emphasized the increased pressures on the federal depository program. Due to cuts to their budgets, many federal agencies have stopped giving away free documents. The depository library program is increasingly viewed as an information safety net. While the depository program is working better than ever, there are more complaints received from individuals who previously acquired documents directly from agencies or members of Congress. At the same time, the average number of items selected by depository libraries has declined. This trend began in 1962 when the regional depository provision was enacted (76 STAT 352) and continues to the present. As originally conceived, the regional library was to be a library of last resort with selective depositories continuing to choose a substantial number of items. Instead the selectives have reduced their item number selection and have relied heavily on interlibrary loan to answer the document needs of library users.

Collection development for the depository library is more than merely guessing which documents are likely to be used. It is rather a coordinated policy of assessment of the

(Continued on Page 2)
information needs of both users and potential users, collection evaluation, item selection, resource sharing, collection maintenance, and weeding. The depository library’s primary user group is the Congressional district or “relevant region,” which McClane said may be larger or smaller than the actual district. The depository library must make demonstrable efforts to discover and answer the government information needs of its users. Ideally these efforts should be made by all depositories in an area working in cooperation and could include surveys or the use of other measuring instruments. McClane suggested that community “gatekeepers” (librarians in a local non-depository library, the Chamber of Commerce, the League of Women Voters, and others) can be important sources in judging government information needs. These efforts should culminate in a written collection development policy which includes several important features. The policy should acknowledge the library’s responsibility to the Congressional district or region and should describe the demographic, economic, and educational features of the area. The policy should also describe how the documents collection relates to the library’s overall scope and mission.

Because the cost of running a depository are fixed, the library must maximize the benefits of depository status. The documents librarian should maintain close contact with the district office of the Member of Congress; this may result in increased referrals to the library from the district office. The depository library may choose to enter into selective housing agreements with local hospitals, schools, city hall, or courthouse. A sample selective housing agreement is given in the Federal Depository Library Manual, section 11 (“Selective Housing of Documents”), page 3-4.

McClane stressed that depository materials must be treated in a manner comparable with the rest of the library collection. This includes all areas of library management, such as reference service, binding and security stripping. Levels of service for electronic products (CD-ROM and floppy discs) are included under the concept of comparability. The library should decide on an appropriate level of service for each electronic product and should document the decision. Academic libraries might consider selective housing of specific electronic products in the campus statistics lab or other facility staffed and equipped to provide sophisticated statistical analysis. McClane stated that the librarian should select those electronic products which will have permanent reference value regardless of whether the library has the equipment to use the discs. This is especially true for Census Bureau materials which may go out of stock quickly and never be re-issued.

McClane concluded with two main points relative to the depository program. This first is the proprietary rights of the government to set and enforce standards for depository libraries. The inspection program is designed to assure that depository libraries observe these standards. The second is accessibility of the depository collection to the general public. The library cannot legally exclude a specific group of people from using the depository collection. For example, a law library cannot deny the general public access to depository material, nor can an academic library exclude pre-college age students from the depository collection.

--Stephen Henson

GODORT Section Officers, 1992-93

[Editor’s Note: Jim Noel’s departure from LSU’s Middleton Library left a vacancy in the slate of GODORT section officers. With a little shuffling the vacancy was filled as follows.]

Sandra Himel .................. Chair
USL

Lori Smith ......... Vice-chair/Chair-elect
Southeastern

Lillian Purdy .......... Second Vice-chair
LA College

Pamela Barrows ............ Secretary
NOPL
People...

Several local documents groups have met this year: The Baton Rouge area group met on February 5 at LSU’s Middleton Library and toured the BA/Docs department there and the LSU Law Library Documents Department. Those attending were: Jim Noel, LSU; Charlene Cain, LSU/Law, Grace Moore, State Library of Louisiana; Connie Helmke, Southern University Law, and Lori Smith, Southeastern. (Editor’s note: A second meeting of this group is scheduled for September 1 at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.) ... Debbie Poole (Loyola University) reports that the New Orleans area group is currently working on a union list of item numbers. ... Brantley Cagle announced that the Southwest group—which now includes the Vernon Parish Public Library, Louisiana College, USL, McNeese, and LSU-E—is working on by-laws!

Louisiana federal documents librarians attending the Federal Depository Conference in Washington, D.C. in April were: Jeannette Hunter, Tulane; Frances Skiffington, UNO; Edith Taylor, Nicholls; Steve Henson, Louisiana Tech; Grace Moore, State Library; Jim Noel, LSU; Lori Smith, Southeastern.

FROM THE DEPOSITORIES...

Calcasieu Parish Public Library. The Library’s Central Division and Louisiana Government Documents Collection is scheduled for relocation to a temporary location, 327 Broad Street in Lake Charles, in December while the library building is renovated.

LSU-Baton Rouge. Middleton Library bids a fond farewell to Assistant Documents Librarian and former LA DOCS editor Jim Noel and welcomes back Smittle Bolner after nearly a year’s sabbatical in France.

LSU Law Library. The Congressional Information Service’s Congressional Masterfile, versions I (1789-1969) and II (1970 to date) is up and running in the Documents Department. ... Through a cooperative effort with the LSU/Middleton Library, the Law Library has begun adding federal documents to its NOTIS database.

LSU-Shreveport. Sue Brown reports that Noel Library has purchased a CD-ROM drive for its MARCIVE GPO CAT/PAC and Census Bureau discs.


Places...

Loyola University. Deborah Poole, Government Documents Librarian, says that the library has acquired the MARCIVE GPO CAT/PAC and is currently adding selected documents to LUCI, its online public catalog. ... Ms. Poole conducted a workshop in October 1991 for New Orleans depository librarians on
use of the National Trade Data Bank. ... The depository’s new finding aids include “How to Use the NTDB”, “Selected List of Business Sources for Doing Business in Latin America Using Government Documents,” and the bimonthly “New Government Documents: A Selected List”.

Rapides Parish Library. Wesley M. Saunders is the reference coordinator for the state documents collection. Donna LeBlanc is assistant reference coordinator. ... The Louisiana documents collection has been moved from an office area to shelving alongside, but separate from, the general collection.

Southeastern Louisiana University. The depository staff recently increased with the arrival of Hannah Meyer, a half-time Library Paraprofessional I. ... The library has filled in a gap in the early part of its ERIC microfiche collection and purchased the microfilm of the 1920 Census for Louisiana, including the Soundex. ... Southeastern’s MARCIVE GPO CAT/PAC is now available throughout the library on a LAN (local area network). Most of the depository CDs are now loaded on two public access PCs (with color monitors!). These same PCs are hooked to the LAN and may also be used to search MARCIVE, ERIC, etc.

Shreve Memorial Library. John Funke reports that the library has added government document records to its online public catalog.

Southern University at New Orleans. Staff includes Jeanne B. Green, Documents Librarian, and Germaine Carey, Assistant Documents/Serials Librarian. ... The staff recently compiled a Manual for Users of Government Documents. ... The department now has a microfiche reader/printer available for free copies of documents, an IBM workstation with a CD-ROM drive, and a documents database via INFOTRAC. ... The Census Bureau is collaborating with the National Urban League to sponsor a Census Data Access Project at SUNO. Ms. Green is involved in the project, which will be operated by SUNO’s Social Work Department. ... The depository passed the federal inspection with flying colors!!!!!

& Things ...

Southern University Law Library. Connie Helmke recently took the reins of the Documents Collection, which has been moved to the Law School building while the Law Library undergoes renovation. The rest of the law collection has been temporarily relocated to Southern’s main library.

State Library of Louisiana. The State Library issued in March the Louisiana State Documents Depository Manual, compiled and edited by Grace Moore. Sent to each state documents depository as a guide for administering its collection, it has a looseleaf format for easy updating.

Vernon Parish Public Library. Director Howard Coy reports that a bibliography of legal documents available in the library has been compiled and sent to the local bar association.

Xavier University Library. Patricia Coston, for thirteen years associated with AMOCO Production Company’s library, assumed the newly created position of Reference and Government Documents Associate in February. ... Linda Marshall Hill will chair the Local Arrangements Subcommittee for the GODORT members reception at ALA in New Orleans next summer.
The federal documents community in Louisiana drafted the Louisiana Federal Depository Library Plan in 1982 and revised it in 1989 to coordinate activities and improve communication between federal depository libraries in the state. To implement the goals of the plan, the Louisiana Federal Depository Library Council held its first meeting in 1983 and has met semiannually since that time.

Council Action

The Louisiana Federal Depository Library held its fall meeting on Friday, September 13, 1991, at the State Library of Louisiana. The council reviewed the progress in filling depository vacancies in the state. Other discussion included a review of depository inspection results and a report from R. Brantley Cagle, a delegate to the 1991 White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

The spring meeting of the council was held Friday, April 24, 1992 at the Howard-Tilton Library, Tulane University. Discussion included nominations for three of the four vacancies on the council, reports from area meetings on cooperative efforts, and reports on professional meetings and the Federal Depository Conference held in Washington in April 1992. As part of the state plan's goal to ensure high quality service to library users, the council encouraged depository librarians to attend the LLA/GODORT Depository Operations Seminar featuring Joe McClane, Chief of Depository Services, United States Government Print Office. The seminar was held immediately following the council meeting.

State of Federal Depository Libraries in Louisiana

During the year 1991-92, one library received designation as a new depository. The Vernon Parish Library of Leesville was named by Senator J. Bennett Johnston to fill the last remaining vacant Senatorial designation. This designation was especially welcomed as it increases to three the number of Louisiana public libraries holding depository status.

As reported last year, three libraries in New Orleans (Our Lady of Holy Cross, Southern University-New Orleans, and the 5th Circuit Court) were placed on probation after they were visited by GPO inspectors. Joe McClane visited these libraries during April 1992 to review progress toward correcting deficiencies. All three libraries showed significant progress and were removed from probation. The library administration and staff of each of these institutions, and the librarians who assisted as outside consultants, should be commended for their hard work.

The council continues to emphasize communication and cooperation among and between "neighboring" depository libraries. Three groups of proximate libraries met during the year; these include the New Orleans group, the Baton Rouge/ Hammond group, and the Southwestern group. Area groups also report that they are undertaking projects such as a union list of item selections.
(GPO/2001 (Continued from Page 1))

government information. In this time frame, the Congressional Record should be available online by 1993. Further, time-sensitive materials and a core collection of federal information should follow by 1996; a list of these core products and services can be found on page 13 of GPO/2001. Finally, by 1991, the GPO projects that it will have in place an electronic network linking agencies, libraries, and users. The GPO/WINDO concept currently under discussion in the Congress could provide the basis for a national government network.

After reading through GPO/2001, I have some thoughts that I would like to add. The impact on depository libraries and librarians of a federal electronic dissemination network will be significant. First, there is a possibility that some federal agencies will charge fees for access to their databases. Further, if an agency charges the library for access, the depository library may be prohibited from passing on these fees to the user. Funds budgeted for library services may require adjustment. Some current depository libraries may decide to drop their depository status rather than face the question of access fees. (Editor’s note: As noted on p.2 of the recently revised Instructions to Depository Libraries, loss of depository status, either by request or for cause, requires the relinquishing party to return depository materials to the Federal Depository Library Program.)

Secondly, depository libraries will have to budget funds for the purchase of telecommunications equipment, possibly including satellite communications equipment and bulk electronic storage capability. Obviously, the cost of such equipment will be considerable, and it may require an extensive lobbying effort to convince a library’s parent organization and funding sources that the access is worth the considerable financial outlay. Cooperative efforts among depository libraries may prove useful. Here in Louisiana, the LaLINC system may provide a way for academic libraries to provide access to federal electronic information. The public libraries that are depositories may also be able to work with this or other statewide systems.

Finally, depository librarians will need new skills. Many in the profession went to library school long before the days of automation and may be unwilling or unable to clear yet another technological hurdle. Library education and continuing education will need to be adjusted to provide librarians with these new skills.

Proponents see a bright shining future of electronic access to government information in libraries across the land; others say that the increased equipment cost will drive libraries out of the depository program. The future probably lies somewhere in between these two extremes.

--Stephen Henson
Prescott Memorial Library
Louisiana Tech University

LA DOCS is the semiannual newsletter of the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) of the Louisiana Library Association. Published in March and September, 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: Charlene Cain, LA Docs Editor, LSU Law Library, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 or call 504-388-4957.

The deadline for the next issue is February 1.

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Editor...........Charlene Cain
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Contributors........Stephen Henson, Grace Moore, Lillian Purdy
LOUISIANA FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY COUNCIL NEWS

The Council met on Friday, April 24, 1992, at the Aron Room of the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library at Tulane University. Steve Henson, Council Chair, summarized the annual report (reprinted on page ) he had prepared for State Librarian Tom Jaques. An official welcome was given to Vernon Parish Library as a newly designated federal depository. Howard Coy, the Library’s director, reported that GPO shipments have begun arriving. It was noted that the director of the Washington Parish Library, Francis McFarlane, is seeking designation for his institution, as well.

At that time Henson presented nominations for Louisiana Federal Depository Library Council members. The nominations, subsequently forwarded to and approved by State Librarian Tom Jaques, are Frances Skiffington, (UNO, who will represent academic libraries, and Cindi Hayes (LSU-Eunice, who will represent LLA/GDORT). Two individuals were re-appointed to the council: Emma Perry, Dillard, representing non-depository libraries, and Dolores Owen, a library consultant from Lafayette, representing consumer interests. Their terms of office are July 1992 through June 1994.

The appointed members join Pamela Barrows (NOPL), Smittie Bolner (LSU, ex officio), Stephen Henson (Louisiana Tech, ex officio), Judy Kelly (Loyola Law), and Grace Moore (State Library, ex officio) on the council.

The second of the council’s two yearly meetings is scheduled for 10 AM, Friday, September 11, 1992 at the State Library of Louisiana.

NEWS FROM THE LA ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE STATE DOCUMENTS DEPOSITORY PROGRAM

The Louisiana Advisory Council for the State Documents Depository Program met on Friday, June 5, 1992, at the State Library of Louisiana.

The council heard a report from Grace Moore, Recorder of Documents, on the activities of the Recorder’s office. Council members then discussed a committee report which identified problems in the depository program. These problems include insufficient copies of documents, the need for another complete historical collection, weeding of collections, cataloging of documents, and the inconsistent distribution of regulations. Council members also agreed to conduct a new survey of all depository libraries to compare data with the prior survey which was in 1980. Committees were named to address the problems and conduct the survey.

Council members are Nick Achee, Ben Brady, R. Brantley Cagle, Jr., Collin B. Hamer, Jr., Stephen Henson, Suzanne Hughes, Margaret Lane, Grace Moore, Faye Phillips, Lori Smith, and Virginia Smith. Officers are Faye Phillips, Chair; Virginia Smith, Chair-elect; and Lori Smith and Stephen Henson, secretaries.

The council plans to meet on August 28 and October 2, both Fridays. Meeting sites and agenda will be distributed before each meeting.

--Grace Moore

RECRUIT FOR GODORT!

Help us expand our membership. Give us your directors, assistant directors, reference librarians, and catalogers! All library staff members are welcome in our ranks. We'll also take mothers, fathers, in-laws, and second cousins. Our membership now stands at 82. This is an all-time high, but we need 100 members for reasons of funding and viability. Call a colleague today!
NEW DIRECTORY COMPLETED

LLA/GODORT has published a revised edition of the Directory of Government Documents Collections in Louisiana Libraries. The Directory is no. 6 (revised) of the Very Occasional Papers series of the Section. The Directory is based on a questionnaire sent to every library in the state with a significant documents collection, including state and federal depositories as well as non-depository libraries. It is a comprehensive directory of documents librarians, documents collections, and documents organizations in Louisiana.

The Directory was sent to every member of GODORT, and additional copies are available through the LLA Office for $10.00 each. For further information contact:

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