CIS/GODORT Breakfast Features Maida Owens on Folklife and Folklore

by CHARLENE CAIN, LSU Law Center Library

Maida Owens, Director of the Louisiana Folklife Program, was the main speaker at March's GODORT/Oral History Group breakfast meeting sponsored by the Congressional Information Service during the Louisiana Library Association's annual conference in Kenner. Ms. Owens was editor of Eait a la Main, winner of the ALA GODORT Notable Documents Award.

In her presentation Ms. Owens discussed the difference between folklore (an informal, primarily verbal, art form through which a community passes down and shares its aesthetic values) and folk life (which encompasses the same type of art forms while including traditional occupations and architecture). These art forms stem from popular rather than elite cultures.

Ms. Owens noted that she is often asked why there is a cultural folklorist in state government, when members of her profession are more often found in the academic community. The reason is that her mission is to identify Louisiana cultures not adequately documented--such as the Czech community near Alexandria--and bring them to the attention of the public. The office also exists as a means of giving a voice to constituencies normally without representation in state government.

Ms. Owens enumerated several important projects of the Folklife Program, including the recently completed Florida Parishes Folklife Project and the soon to be launched Imperial Calcasieu Project. She also spoke in some detail of the Folklife Apprenticeship Program, wherein her office helps masters of endangered cultural skills (such as Cajun fiddling) to preserve those skills by taking on apprentices. About thirty apprentices now participate in the program. Owens also discussed the Louisiana Folklife Festival, which is growing phenomenally, and which will soon require a permanent site. In addition, her office recently received a National Endowment for the Arts grant to pull together tapes and information related to the Louisiana Open House Storytelling Program. The manuscript, consisting of transcriptions of tapes from 104 storytellers in fifty-five communities, is now 800 pages long. She hopes to get a commercial publisher for the project.

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New Officers Announced at March Meeting

At the March 14, 1991 meeting of LLA/GODORT, GODORT Chair Stephen Henson announced that the following individuals had been elected as officers of GODORT during the recent LLA elections:

Vice Chair/Chair Elect--Sandra Himel, USL
Second Vice Chair--Jim Noël, LSU-Middleton Library
Secretary--Jeannie Vince, Shreve Memorial Library.

He also announced that Brantley Cagle, Documents Librarian at McNeese, will serve as a delegate to the Second White House Conference for Library and Information Services this summer.

Congratulations, all!
GPO Bulletin Board Expands Services

As most of you probably know, the Government Printing Office began running an electronic bulletin board system late last year. Initially the system, known as Project Hermes, provided only the text of Supreme Court decisions to those who dialed up to the system. In the past few weeks, however, the scope of the bulletin board has expanded. Hermes is still part of the package, but the system now includes several message areas in addition to the Supreme Court opinions area. Users may read messages in any of these areas, known as SIGs (special interest groups), although as yet there is not much opportunity for users to post messages to the board.

To get access to the bulletin board, one must have a computer with a modem and any common telecommunications software. The system operates at speeds of 1200, 2400, or 9600 baud and modem settings are 8 bits, no parity, and 1 stop bit. The phone number is (202) 275-7923.

The bulletin board is designed to address the growing demands for electronic access to the Government Printing Office. Such systems can provide rapid distribution of information, data files, and software relatively inexpensively. For those with some experience using bulletin boards, getting acquainted with this one will not be very difficult, although it is far less elegantly done than the BBS run by the Census Bureau. For the bulletin board novice it may prove rather confusing the first few times out. Help is available from GPO, however, at (202) 275-2471. In a pinch, feel free to call me, Jim Noel, at (504) 388-6938. Whether you find the system wonderful, useful but flawed, or too much to deal with, be sure and let GPO know what you think of the system. It's new for them, too.

Bills of the Louisiana Legislature available at state documents depositories

Seventeen state documents depositories receive daily distribution of bills and journals from the Legislature's special and regular sessions in a program run by the Louisiana State Library. The libraries receiving the legislative records are:

**In Baton Rouge--Louisiana State Library, LSU's Hill Memorial Library, LSU Law Center Library, and Southern University Law Library.
**In New Orleans--Tulane University Library, Tulane Law Library, Loyola University Law Library, University of New Orleans Library, Supreme Court Law Library of Louisiana, and the New Orleans Public Library.
**In Ruston--Louisiana Tech University Library.
**In Lake Charles--McNeese State University Library.
**In Monroe--Northeast Louisiana University.
**In Lafayette--University of Southwestern Louisiana Library.
**In Natchitoches--Northwestern State University Library.
In response to a question from the audience, Ms. Owens noted that the video-tapes her office gathers serve as documentation of folklore for archival purposes and would be too raw for use in libraries. She said that the audiorecorded storytelling gathered in the Open House project might be useful to libraries, however. In general, her office does not have the means to organize information arising from various program activities for anything but archival use.

Louisiana Documents Pre-Conference Workshop
by STEPHEN HENSON
Louisiana Tech, Prescott Library

On Tuesday, March 12, 1991, over 45 librarians gathered in Kenner for a pre-conference workshop on Louisiana official documents. Co-sponsored by the Louisiana Recorder of Documents and LLA/GODORT, the conference was entitled "Documents For the People: Louisiana State Agency Publications."

The morning session was planned for the librarian who administers a depository collection of Louisiana documents. Grace Moore, Louisiana Recorder of Documents, introduced the draft version of a new edition of the Louisiana State Documents Depository Manual, the policies and procedures guide for the system. Moore reviewed the information presented in the manual, then took questions and discussion from the audience. The problem of insufficient copies of state documents generated a lively discussion. When the Recorder's office is unable to acquire sufficient copies for distribution to all selecting libraries, copies are distributed using a ranking system developed several years ago by a committee of librarians. Some in the audience were of the opinion that the library rankings should be reviewed and possibly revised. The retention and weeding policies for state documents were also discussed.

The afternoon session, highlighting Louisiana agency publications as a reference source, was designed for the general reference librarian or archivist who uses Louisiana documents in reference work. Margaret Lane, former recorder of documents, narrated the history of the state depository program. Grace Moore briefly reviewed the checklists and indexes published by the Recorder's office.

Next, Collin B. Hamer, Jr,(Head, Louisiana Division and City Archives, New Orleans Public Library) spoke of his experience using Louisiana documents in reference work. Along with favorite and unusual sources, he mentioned some problems that have recently arisen due to the demise of many statistical publications including departmental annual reports and statistical publications. Some statistical information, particularly health statistics, which was formerly published is now available by calling the agency.

Nancy Midkiff (Director, Office of the State Register) described the promulgation of state regulations. The monthly Louisiana Register publishes executive orders, rules, (emergency rules, proposed rules, and final rules), and other notices including announcements of meetings, hearings, and exams.

The Louisiana Administrative Code is an attempt to codify state regulations in force. Begun in 1984, the Code has now published nearly twenty volumes with several update supplements.

The program concluded with a presentation by Suzy Hughes (Administrator, David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library). Hughes described the purpose and use of various Louisiana legislative publications. Examples include the rosters and rules of the House and Senate calendars, journals, and the Legislative Résumé, published after each session. The Poynter Library also offers a legislative information telephone service called the PULS Line. This service can help callers identify a legislative bill by subject, learn the status of any bill, or leave a yes/no message on a bill.
for their legislators. The PULS Line number is (504)342-2456 for the Baton Rouge metro area or out of state callers, and (800) 256-3793 toll free statewide. The service operates only while the legislature is in session.

Monthly Checklist of State Publications
by MARGARET LANE,
Lane, Fertitta, Lane & Tullos

The Monthly Checklist of State Publications (MCL) is well known to documents librarians and is the first state documents tool a state documents library should acquire after its own checklist.

You often read that the MCL is not complete, and this is true because the Library of Congress (LC) must receive a copy of a publication before it can be listed. Nevertheless, collecting the state checklists from all the states is a difficult task and is not attempted by many libraries. The MCL is the best tool for identifying documents of states other than the home state (and in a few instances, when the state checklist is poor, in the home state as well).

The MCL is a federal document and available through the federal depository program as Item # 816. If your library is not a depository library, the price is reasonable, $39 for a year’s subscription of twelve issues and the annual index. The stock number is 730-010-00000-1. Since January 1987, a subject index is included in each monthly issue.

The January 1991 issue has been used as the basis for this note. Most of the comments are about the list as a whole. However, the Louisiana entries were particularly examined to determine the time lag in listing and to explore the extent to which Louisiana documents are cataloged in OCLC.

The January 1991 MCL lists 1338 titles for documents from the fifty states and territories, seventeen from associations of state officials and regional organizations (a separate section of the list) and six in the section on "State library surveys, studies, manuals, and statistical reports." The titles do not include periodicals. Periodicals are listed semi-annually in the June and December issues. "Periodical" means a title issued more frequently than annually, thus annual reports are listed monthly as received, together with monographs and monographic serials.

The basic arrangement is by state and issuing agency. For some states (Alaska, Colorado, Minnesota and Nevada, for example) a statement on availability is given at the beginning of the state entry. Alaska lists the libraries in which depository collections are deposited for out-of-state library service. Nevada makes the statement that distribution is by the issuing agency, not the State Printing Office. Both Colorado and Minnesota give purchasing information for documents on file.

In addition to the blanket statements on availability, addresses for ordering and prices are given for individual titles whenever they are available at the time the listing is prepared at LC.

The listing of items received is limited only by exclusions mentioned in the introduction: "college and university catalogs, loose-leaf additions, slip laws, and certain ephemeral material such as blank forms and publishers' announcements."

The number of titles recorded for each state is tabulated on the last page of each issue. An earlier study (Library Trends, 51:133, 1966) indicated that states which did not publish a checklist sent fewer publications to LC than those which did. Preparation of a checklist and a depository program undoubtedly contribute to state participation in documents activities at the national level, one such activity being sending publications to LC for listing in the MCL.

For Louisiana there are ten entries in the January MCL. Six of these were distributed to the Louisiana depository libraries in May and June 1990. Three were distributed in December 1989, September 1990 and November 1990 respectively. (The November 1990 title was the "Acts of the Legislature," which was added to the LC collections as indicated by the LC card number.) One title, "Begin you(!) success story at LSU's College of Business," was not distributed by the Louisiana Recorder of Documents.

Three of the Louisiana titles are in OCLC and two more are "in process" at LSU. OCLC shows twenty-four holdings
New Round of Census Products
Beginning to Appear
by JIM NOEL,
LSU—Middleton Library

The 1990 Census is behind us, but
the results of that effort are only just
beginning to trickle out now.

With summary data now available
and the prospect of more detailed tables
soon to come, I thought now would be a
good time to take a quick look at some of
the current crop of Census products and the
expected release dates for the various re-
ports and products.

I. Standard print products

In spite of the increasing emphasis
on electronic products and distribution
methods, most of the Census Bureau’s familiar
paper products will continue to be pro-
duced. One significant difference in the
1990 reports from the 1980 reports will be
the absence of the "Detailed Population
Characteristics" volume, or chapter D, for
each state. Consisting of much of the same
information as chapter C ("General Social
and Economic Characteristics"), but for
each state’s metro areas, the Bureau found
relatively little demand for this part of the
report, while its preparation required a
considerable amount of time and effort.

Among the reports we can begin to
expect in 1992 and 1993 are General Popula-
tion Characteristics, Social and Economic
Characteristics, General and Detailed Housing
Characteristics, Summary Population and
Housing Characteristics, Population and
Housing Characteristics for Census Tracts
and Block Numbering Areas, Population and
Housing Characteristics for Congressional
Districts of the 103rd Congress, and Summa-
ry Social, Economic, and Housing Charac-
teristics. Most of these reports will be produced
one per state with a U.S. summary.

Of course, the Current Population Re-
ports continue to be produced, and 1991
should see the issuance of a new edition of
the State and Metropolitan Area Handbook.
Also worth looking at for broad summary
statistics and news of expected release dates
for various Census products is Census and
You (C 3.285(?)), a monthly newsletter
aimed at the general public using Census
products.

II. Electronic distribution

All the flash these days in a number
of government agencies is with their
electronic products, particularly CD-ROM. The
Census Bureau probably leads the pack at
this point for the sheer number of titles in
CD-ROM, but they have long been in the
electronic distribution business.

A. Tapes

Most heavy users of Census products
still find magnetic tape most useful, it
being an established medium allowing rela-
tively rapid access to and analysis of the
detailed population and housing statistics.
Among the tapes being produced this time
around are Summary Tape Files 1-4, Public
Law 94-171 Counts, Public Use Microdata
Samples, and a Census/Equal Employment
Opportunity Special File. The PL 94-171
data has already been released, and is the
basis for the decennial redistricting. STFs
1 and 3 provide general population and
housing information to various geographic
levels of detail, while STFs 2 and 4 provide
the more detailed social and economic char-
acteristics. The Summary Tape Files pro-
vide the basis for most of the printed re-
ports, and we can expect to begin seeing them
available in early 1992, perhaps late
1991. The PUMS files provide a sampling
of actual individual long-forms, with iden-
tifying information removed. These permit
detailed analysis of any of the questions
found on the Census form. Finally, the
Census/EEO file provides detailed occupa-
tion and educational attainment data by
age, sex, Hispanic origin, and race.

B. CD-ROMs

Those of us not heavily involved
with large-scale computer operations have
been seeing more and more of the sort of
information described above being made
available for personal computer users in
CD-ROM format. These discs provide a
vast amount of storage capacity, but are
quite slow to use for any intensive analytical work. The Census Bureau has provided two software options for making use of their discs. One, a simple-to-use profile generator, allows quick retrieval of data for particular places in a pre-set format. This suits most people just fine, but for those who want to pick and choose data elements there is a program provided on the discs called EXTRACT. The data files are in dBase III+ format, meaning users familiar with dBase or any other software that can use such files can readily manipulate the data. Others may learn to use EXTRACT, which is not quite as powerful, but is still useful for producing individualized sets of data. Most of the STF products and all of the PL 94-171 data will be or are available on CD-ROM.

C. Online (Census BB, Cendata)

A third option for computer users is going online. The Census Bureau makes selected data and news releases available online through their own bulletin board system and through CENDATA, available through DIALOG and Compuserve. Both provide up-to-the-minute information. The bulletin board involves a long distance call, but is otherwise free, and may be accessed via computer at (301)763-1568. Familiarity with other bulletin board systems, such as LEAP, is a help, but access is relatively easy.

III. Special products

Users of Census information who get involved in small area analysis quickly become acquainted with census tracts and block numbering areas (BNAs). These are made up of blocks, the smallest geographic areas dealt with by the Census Bureau. Census tracts are small, locally delineated statistical areas within selected counties, generally having stable boundaries and, when first established by local committees, designed to have relatively homogeneous demographic characteristics. Block numbering areas are areas delineated by state officials or the Census Bureau for the purpose of grouping and numbering blocks in counties without census tracts. Without maps identifying the locations and boundaries of blocks, tracts, and BNAs, little can be done with data at this level.

A. Maps

The Census Bureau has in the past provided tract maps for metropolitan areas and block maps for metropolitan areas and other urbanized areas of the states. In 1990 tract maps will continue to be distributed to depositaries, but block maps, which now are available for every county and parish, not just urbanized areas, will have to be purchased from the Bureau or used on microfiche.

B. TIGER

All of the Census Bureau’s maps are now being produced with a database of geographic features called TIGER, the Topographically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing files. This database should help the Census Bureau in its efforts to be accurate in its counts by providing a means of easily updating their maps. The files themselves are available to the public, but no software for production of maps will be provided. A number of vendors of geographic information systems are offering software to allow production of maps from TIGER files, however.

C. UDAP

UDAP is the User-Defined Area Program, and provides social, economic, and housing characteristics from the 1990 census for geographic areas defined by data users. Users must delineate their areas of interest in terms of whole census blocks on Census Bureau maps, define areas with no overlapping boundaries, and ensure their user-defined areas meet a certain minimum population size criterion. The Census Bureau will then prepare maps and statistical tables for these areas for a fee based on the size of the area covered and the degree of data preparation required. This service is expected to receive heavy use from local planners, market and consumer analysts, developers, bankers, etc. For more information on UDAP, call Adrienne Quasney at 301-763-4282.
Monthly Checklist...
(continued from page 6)

Not all the publications in the MCL are added to the LC collections. Those which are added have an LC card number. In addition, there are some titles which are added to the collections after the MCL has gone to press, so the card number is not a guide to a final figure. Of the 1338 titles in the January list only 415 (31%) have card numbers. This breaks down into 235 (17.5%) pre-1990 card numbers and 180 (13.5%) 1990 card numbers; in other words, about 13% of the titles in the January issue were new titles added to the permanent collections of LC in 1990 and 17% were continuations for older titles already in the collections (that is, annual reports or monographic series).

Subject headings are used as index entries and are included as tracings for each title. The subject headings are based on the LC headings but not all the cataloging conventions are followed. For example: Education--Statistics--Virginia, not Educational statistics--Virginia. Edward Malone, editor of the MCL, tries to create a topical index with the geographical entity as the last subfield. The annual index in the past had corporate entries as well as subject entries; but for the 1989 index the corporate entries were eliminated for lack of manpower. Mr. Malone has indicated that he would be glad to have feedback on this. (Edward Malone, Editor MCL, Exchange and Gift Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540).

It is amazing how much the subject headings help if you are reading titles in the MCL. Some librarians do read all the entries, although the practice may have changed since the monthly index started. For instance, the Cooperative Extension publication, "Leading a double life," could be anything: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, or, librarian by day, strippler by night. From the subject entry it is clear that this title is about households. Another obscure title, "CHIP rules," is about energy assistance for the poor according to the subject heading; it is from the Division of Community Services.

An obscure Louisiana title is Confidentially Speaking, an old publication from the former State Board of Health, which was mostly about nutrition. However, because this is a periodical, it would not have headings as tracings.

Some publications are purely local (Mt. Airy, McGuire Nuclear Station, Charleston Harbor) and some national in scope. Some subjects with United States as a geographical subheading are aquaculture, emigration and immigration, patronage, and Spanish language.

An entry under State publications includes a listing for a North Carolina Department of Justice title, "Publications procedures manual for public documents," which should be of special interest to state documents librarians.

A comprehensive study of the MCL necessarily requires examination of more than one issue. In 1973 Terry Weech makes a study using examples chosen at ten year intervals (Government Publications Review 1:29, 1973). The present note is merely a reminder of the importance of the MCL and is published here to call attention to the change in the annual index. If you feel strongly about the omission of corporate entries, write the editor. And remember to use the Monthly Checklist of State Publications.

State and Local Documents Guides Available


The membership brochure of the Task Force, "An Invitation to Participate in the State and Local documents task Force," published in 1990, is also available from Stephen Patrick.