



Porter Henderson Library

Library Newsletter



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Word from the Director Maurice Fortin, Library Director

The semester continues to speed along with Spring Break rapidly approaching to supply its needed downtime. Please see page 4 for information concerning the Library's schedule of operating hours over the Spring Break and Spring Holiday periods.

The Texas Legislature is back in session. For those of you who like to keep track of the Capitol happenings, progress (or perhaps lack of progress) of bills and their amendments, committee hearings, and other related information about the Texas Legislature, please see the "79th Texas Legislative Session" web page at <http://www.angelo.edu/services/library/govdocs/tx79th.htm> to find this and even more information on the workings of the Texas Legislature and government.

On February 16th, volunteer representatives of the Texas Library Association went to Austin to inform individual legislators about the need for secure funding of the State Library and Archives Commission, and especially TexShare. As is usual at this stage of the legislative term, there were not a lot of encouraging words. The overarching problem this term is school finance. Until this issue has a solution, the other vital areas, including Higher Education, will simply have to wait until it is their turn to fight over what remains.

Please remember to have all of your Library Materials Budget requests in to Acquisitions before the April 15th deadline. After that date, the Library transfers unspent/unencumbered allocations to the Excellence Fund for reallocation by the University Library Committee. Javad Maher, Acquisitions Librarian, includes some additional information below, and will be sending reminders as the deadline nears.

In this issue of the *Newsletter*, you can read more about scholarly communication, the Library's Access Services Unit, Voyager's annual "birthday" update, government "kids" web sites that teach about government and the legislative process, a resource that answers the question "How does Congress name laws?," and probable changes in the Federal Depository Library Program.

Order Request Deadline Approaching

The April 15th deadline is fast approaching for all order requests from the Library's Materials Budget. After April 15th, any remaining funds in academic departmental accounts will be placed in the Library's "Excellence Fund." Each academic department then may submit requests for library materials that normal allocations cannot cover. A subcommittee from the University Library Committee will approve expenditures from the Excellence Fund.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Javad Maher, Acquisitions Librarian (Javad.Maher@angelo.edu or 942-2312).

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Scholarly Communication Crisis, Part II

Dr. Maurice Fortin, Library Director

In last month's issue of the *Library Newsletter*, hopefully you read the column written by Dr. Gerald Saxon, Dean of Libraries at the University of Texas in Arlington, concerning the topic of the difficulties faced by the academic community in "the process by which research or new knowledge is created, refined, evaluated, disseminated, and preserved." In this issue, I would like to share some information from a symposium held last year concerning this issue.

On 30 November 2004, the Libraries and the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Texas in Austin sponsored a symposium entitled "Publishing and the Academy: Current Issues." Representatives from Oxford University Press, the University of Texas Press, and Texas A&M University Press each gave presentations related to the topic of the symposium. The common theme in all of their presentations was a shrinking market for university press books. Their costs continued to increase while the number of books sold decreased. Typical press runs shrank from over 1,000 to less than 500.

Following the university press representatives' presentations, Dennis Dillon, Associate Director for Research Services in the UT Libraries, and Dr. Patrick Ollivelle, Professor and Chair - Department of Asian Studies also at UT Austin, provided their insights and reflections on the topic and previous presentations. From a faculty member and academic departmental chair's point of view, it has become more difficult for tenure-track faculty to find a university press willing to publish his or her first monograph. If the subject area is narrowly defined, obscure, and/or not mass marketable, it may be impossible to find a press willing to publish in a time frame to meet tenure and promotion requirements. Dr. Ollivelle spoke to the need of rethinking tenure and promotion guidelines.

Mr. Dillon related his frustrations that are so similar to all academic libraries in dealing with the pressure to maintain serial (periodicals, continuations, and online resources) subscriptions and still have funds available for purchase of monographs and other information resources and formats. Even the UT-Austin Libraries were not immune to these pressures. Mr. Dillon reported that over the last several years, he came to work each day and had to cut on average three serial titles.

Dr. Fred Heath, Vice Provost-UT-Austin Libraries, joined Mr. Dillon and announced the UT-Austin Libraries would begin a moratorium on further serial cuts for the next two years. They planned to decrease the purchase of monographs in order to maintain the serial purchases. Simply put, UT-Austin will be buying fewer books over the next two years. This simply illustrated the dilemma faced by university presses as their markets continued to shrink.

As Dr. Saxon noted in his article from last month's issue, there are some alternatives available to help with this issue. Dr. Saxon wrote:

"In the meantime you might be asking yourself, especially if you are a faculty member, what can I do to make a difference in the crisis? SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) suggests the following:

- Where possible publish in open access journals;
- Include electronic publications in promotion and funding discussions;
- Encourage your professional society to explore alternatives to contracting or selling its publications to a commercial publisher;
- Encourage your society to maintain reasonable prices and user-friendly access terms;
- Modify, if appropriate, any contract you sign with a publisher ensuring your right to use your work, including posting it on an institutional repository;
- Carefully examine the pricing, copyright, and subscription licensing agreements of any journal you contribute to as an author, reviewer, or editor;
- Assist in establishing an institutional repository and deposit some of your intellectual products (pre-prints and post-prints for example) in it;
- Educate yourself on the issue and invite library participation in faculty meetings and graduate seminars to discuss scholarly communication issues."

Other promising solutions to the problem include consortial arrangements between libraries to maintain electronic collections of research on particular subject areas. Each member of the consortium has free and open access to all of the materials maintained by all the members of the consortium. In turn, there would be additional consortiums for other subject-related collections. Agreements between the various consortia would allow for all

members to access all of the materials maintained by each consortium. This would distribute the labor and cost of maintaining these various electronic collections. Library users would simply be able to access all of the resources without having to worry about what was just available in their local collections.

Staff members from the ASU Library are constantly exploring ways to stretch the Library's Materials Budget as far as possible to provide the ASU community with the broadest access to materials locally owned, available through traditional ILL services, retrievable electronically, and for joining consortial groups for reduced costs but increased access to new sources of information. The University Library Committee also helps in this process. The Committee provides a means for input from students and faculty to help reach decisions on these difficult choices.

Please continue to watch future issues of the *Newsletter* for information on this topic.

Did You Know About ... the Library's Access Services Unit?

Angela Skaggs, Head of Access Services

"What is Access Services?" you ask ... well, you probably know us as "Circulation" ... or "Course Reserves" ... or "Media." Taken altogether, we become Access Services, and our focus is to help provide you access to the Library's various materials. Most people who use the Porter Henderson Library know that personnel at the Circulation Desk and in the Media Collection check out materials and collect fines, but that is just the tip of the iceberg. The Access Services unit, headed by Angela Skaggs, is composed of Circulation, Course Reserves, and Media, and comprised of a total of two librarians, four library assistants, and six student assistants.

Last month the Reference Unit gave you lots of statistics regarding their accomplishments. Much of what we do in Access Services is about service, however, and does not readily lend itself to statistical representation. Did you realize that every single hour the library is open, a minimum of two Access Services staff members are present? And, effective September 2005, we began opening the Library at 7:30 a.m., rather than 7:45 a.m. At the same time, we also began operating the Media Collection at 7:30 a.m., rather than 8:00 a.m. Furthermore, we keep the Library open until 2:00 a.m. for four evenings during Final Exam week in both the spring and fall semesters.

Did you know that Hongxia Yang, the Media Librarian, has not only her Master's in Library Science, but also her Master's in Instructional Technology? In cooperation with the Reference Department, she has developed three **online tutorials**, for English 1302, for Nursing, and for Biology.

Have you ever needed **reference assistance** when there was no reference librarian on duty? Or perhaps when s/he was busy helping others? While the majority of staff members at the Circulation Desk are support staff, rather than trained librarians, we all do our best to help when no professional assistance is available.

Ever tried to find a book and it was not on the shelf? Fill out a "**search**" form for us at the Circulation Desk; we will look for the book and call you when we find it. Want to check out a new book that has not yet been processed, or which may be on order but has not yet been received? Fill out a "**rush**" form for us at the Circulation Desk; we'll see that the book gets processed as quickly as possible and will contact you when it's ready. Want something that is in "Storage"? Fill out a "**retrieval**" form for us at the Circ. Desk and we will go get the item from remote storage and bring it to the Circulation Desk for you to use. Need a book that is already checked out to someone else? Have us place a "**hold**" on the book, and you can have it as soon as it is returned. Or if the patron has already had it for 21 days, let us know and we will "**recall**" the item for your use.

Got trouble with the staplers, hole punches, copiers, microform reader/printers, etc.? We're the folks who fill the machines with paper and toner, unjam the staplers, empty the pencil sharpeners, etc., and call for service on the copiers, printers, and coin changers when necessary. We also provide the same type of support for the new Quick Lab, set up by Information Technology in an area near the Reference Desk.

Ever called some Library employee who was not at his/her desk? Odds are that someone working at the Circulation Desk took your call and tried to assist you, either by taking a message or by trying to track down the employee with whom you needed to speak.

Ever been reminded that you have an overdue book? Or an unpaid fine? Or (for faculty) that you have books due in two weeks, at semester's end? Those **notices** all come from the Circulation Desk. We perform the same service for all of our affiliate groups as well. We are responsible for safeguarding the collection so that it is available for use by all of our patrons.

The Circulation Desk staff reviews all **new books** for accuracy in processing before they are made available for use. And in Media, the staff reviews all **new videos** to be certain that they function correctly before they are made available for checkout. Media Collection staff members also maintain and service equipment and materials.

And, yes, we **reshelve** the materials as they are returned, and pick up items left on tables and carrels and reshelve them. We also have had to shift every book on the second floor at least twice in the past year and a half, due to growth in certain areas and an overall lack of shelf space. When our student assistants are not shelving or **shifting** or helping us at one of the service desks, they are often **shelf-reading**, trying to find materials that are out of place and restore order so that you can find the items you need. We also do our best to **repair** damaged materials and prolong their serviceability.

Course Reserves are another function of both the Circulation and Media Desks. We process materials for use within a restricted time period so that a large number of students can have quick access to a particular item. And did you realize that you can check the availability of course reserve materials in RamCat? Call us if you need to know how.

Ordering **Interlibrary Loan** materials? Some items can be sent to your email box, or, for faculty, delivered to your office. But if the item you have requested is a book or media item, the Circulation Desk is your pickup point.

Need a **TexShare** card? Want to know more about the TexShare card program, which allows a card holder to borrow materials from other participating libraries? Talk to the folks at the Circulation Desk. We can answer your questions and issue cards to those who are eligible. (For more information about TexShare see <http://www.texshare.edu/generalinfo/about/index.html>.)

Did you know that you can now check your **patron record** online? That you can see what books you have checked out, when they are due, whether you owe any fines, and the status of any holds or recalls you have placed? That you can actually renew eligible items online at least once? The Circulation Desk staff will answer any questions you have, and, if you experience problems, will talk you through the process. We can also reset your patron **PIN number**, if you forget it or have reason to think its security has been compromised.

Ever wonder about **campus visitors** who come to campus during the hours when the University offices are closed? We see quite a few of these visitors, and so, along with giving directions and answering basic questions, we also offer recruiting and application materials for distribution.

Do you need **IRS forms**? The Circulation Desk provides copies of the most basic forms for patron use, and also maintains a collection of reproducible forms and some of the most popular publications.

*As you can see, we are all about **service** ... we try to do whatever we can to help our patrons while also safeguarding the integrity of the collection.*

Spring Break / Spring Holiday Hours

March 12-13	CLOSED
March 14-18	8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Spring Break)
March 19	CLOSED
March 20-23	Regular Spring Schedule
March 24	7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
March 25-27	CLOSED (Spring Holiday)
March 28	Resume Regular Spring Schedule

Voyager's "4th Birthday" Update

The Library's online system, Voyager, came up live for use almost four years ago, on March 18, 2001. And like most four-year-olds, on the verge of being five, it has spent the past year maturing and learning how to communicate even more efficiently.

Two years ago Voyager began to communicate with users, if they used the "Login" button in RamCat first. After logging in users could find out what they had checked out and when those items were due, or what Interlibrary Loan materials (*i.e.*, books) they had received and when they, too, were due back to the library. Users could also input Interlibrary Loan requests via the "Requests" button in RamCat. This year RamCat "matured"

some more and now users can save their own searches and preferences. They can also save retrieval results to their own "bookbag" to review later. Finally, users can now renew selected types of items online, as well.

Another sign of Voyager's increasing maturity is the continued growth in the number of records (see Table 1), as well as the number of bibliographic records with URLs to electronic publications (see Table 2). The Library continues to add records for NetLibrary e-books and for online government publications. The method of accessing NetLibrary e-books has changed over the past few months to accommodate the university's "distance

education" students. After consultations between NetLibrary and Information Technology personnel on how best to assist our users who do not live in town to use these resources, the links now go through the ASU mail server (mailserv.angelo.edu). This change is reflected in the table below: "mailserv.angelo.edu" has replaced "www.netLibrary.com." There has also been an increasing number of links to biographical information on authors and to tables of contents from the Library of Congress web site (www.loc.gov) or from publishers' web sites.

This growth in the number of titles accessible via Internet through Voyager (RamCat) shows no sign of slowing down, and may even see a larger increase in the coming year.

Record Types	Count 2004	Count 2005
Bibliographic	307,832	324,539
Holding	321,034	339,588
Item	346,455	360,304

Table 1

Selected URL Hosts	Number of Links in Bibliographic Records		
	February 28, 2003	February 29, 2004	February 28, 2005
mailserv.angelo.edu	0	0	26,835
purl.access.gpo.gov	5,475	10,180	13,207
www.loc.gov	294	1,049	2,690
commdocs.house.gov	117	212	231
frwebgate.access.gpo.gov	95	162	168
www.window.state.tx.us	90	135	152
firstsearch.oclc.org	54	154	144
www.ncjrs.org	107	120	123
www.capitol.state.tx.us	5	36	83
www.house.gov	26	74	74
www.senate.state.tx.us	36	38	74
www.h-net.org	0	20	60
lcweb.loc.gov	53	57	59
www.house.state.tx.us	26	26	59
Total Number of URL Hosts	390	547	593
Total Number of Links	25,000	64,365	84,936

Table 2

Ben, Kids, and Project V.O.T.E.: Government Web Sites that Teach About Government

With both the United States Congress and the Texas Legislature now in session some readers may be interested in what various branches and offices of government have made available on their respective web sites that help kids learn about the workings of government. Most of the sites include educational resources and/or lesson plans for teachers to use in conjunction with the respective site.



"Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids" <<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/index.html>> serves as the educational component of GPO Access, the Government Printing Office's service to provide the official online version of legislative and regulatory information. "These resources will teach how our government works, the use of the primary source materials of GPO Access, and how one can use GPO Access to carry out their civic responsibilities."

In the U.S. House of Representatives, the Office of the Clerk has developed "Kids in the House" <<http://clerkkids.house.gov>> where users can "explore the role the Office of the Clerk plays in the U.S. House of Representatives and learn about the legislative process and its effect on you." The main U.S. House of Representatives web site includes a section entitled "Educational Links" <<http://www.house.gov/house/Educate.shtml>> which is a good site to use for government homework projects since it contains a lot of documents related to the legislative process.

Visitors to the Texas House of Representatives web site will find "Kids' House" <<http://kids.house.state.tx.us/>>. This site is organized into three main sections: "tenderfoots" (grade 1-3), "cowpokes" (grades 4-6), and "rangers" (grades 7-8). There is also a "teacher's corral" with useful links, project ideas, field trip information, and links to TEKS.

The Texas Senate web site brings users "Texas Senate Kids" <<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/kids/>>. This site is also organized into three sections: "For Kids" (for those who are more advanced in their reading and problem solving skills, generally grades 4 and up), "Senate, Jr." (for grades 3 and below, or those who are not yet proficient in reading), and "Teachers/Parents" (with technical Q&A, lesson plans, and links to additional resources). The site is also available in a Spanish language version.

The Texas Secretary of State provides "Project V.O.T.E." (Voters of Tomorrow through Education) <<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/projectvote/index.htm>>. The site includes a "For Kids Only" section and a "Teachers Corner" section. The Project is "an innovative, private-public partnership designed to help students become knowledgeable, responsible voters at an early age and to stimulate a life-long commitment to the election process. This non-partisan, cooperative statewide voter education program promotes voter participation by introducing students to the mechanics of the electoral and legislative processes through hands-on experience." (from "What is Project V.O.T.E.?.")

How Does Congress Name Laws?

In the latest issue of *Law Library Journal*, Mary Whisner (Assistant Librarian for Reference Services, Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library, University of Washington School of Law, Seattle) provides an informative and entertaining essay on how Congress goes about naming laws. "Thoughts about the CAN-SPAM Act over the breakfast table lead Ms. Whisner to explore various practices associated with naming statutes, with a side trip to locate the origins of a standard research tool, the popular name table." (Abstract, p. 169) Her essay includes a table (p.181-182) listing "Federal statutes whose titles spell out cute acronyms," such as CAN-SPAM (Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act) and the CHIMP Act (Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance, and Protection Act).

(Whisner, Mary. (2005). *What's in a statute name?* *Law Library Journal* v.97, no.1, pp. 169-183. (Available at: http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_llj_v97n01/2005-09.pdf (Accessed February 27, 2005, from the American Association of Law Libraries web site.)

The Federal Depository Library Program Is Changing (Maybe)*

Janetta Paschal, Government Documents/Reference Librarian

A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or, perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.

Letter from James Madison to W. T. Barry, August 4, 1822

The traditional mission of libraries in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) has been to select, acquire, organize, preserve, and provide access to and services for government information in conjunction with information from other sources. There is a strong consensus in the many studies of the FDLP that a democracy requires open, free, easy access to information produced by the government. Many in the depository community believe that a robust FDLP, consisting of multiple collections of government information in multiple locations, selected and organized for specific constituencies, is a key component of ensuring this access.

Depository libraries have been in existence since 1813, when an Act during that year (3 Stat. 140) authorized distribution of one copy of House and Senate Journals to select university and state libraries and historical institutions. The Secretary of State was responsible for distribution. In 1814, the American Antiquarian Society became the earliest known depository. The Printing Act of 1860 (12 Stat. 117) established the Government Printing Office (GPO) in the legislative branch to consolidate Congressional printing. Since 1860, GPO has had primary responsibility for the printing, distribution, and sale of these government publications. Currently, Title 44, Chapter 19, of the *U.S. Code* gives the Superintendent of Documents (SuDocs) – transferred to GPO from the Interior Department in 1895 – responsibility for acquiring, classifying, cataloging, distributing to libraries, and ensuring the preservation of federal government information products.

A century later, technological changes in the printing industry and the rise of the World Wide Web as a means for distributing publications and information is making GPO's mission increasingly irrelevant and putting pressure on GPO and its relationship with Federal depository libraries. Government agencies are able to produce their own publications digitally and to make this information available to the public via the Internet, bypassing GPO and the depository requirements of Title 44 (in 44USC1903) altogether.

In the early 1990's, the library community asked Congress to make government information in electronic form available to depository libraries. As the amount of information available electronically expanded, Congress began to limit the choice of format available to depository libraries. In large part, this shift was driven by the adoption of information technologies by agencies and Congress' interest in containing costs of making these resources available to the public. At the same time, Congress recognized this change and established *GPO Access* in 1993, a central access point within GPO for official government databases from all three branches of government. *GPO Access* became operational in 1994.

In 1996, a congressionally mandated study focused on measures to achieve a successful transition to an electronic FDLP.¹ Many libraries support the shift to electronic delivery as it better meets service requirements and will, over time, provide some relief to growing space pressures. Since 1996, GPO has tried to ease the transition to an electronic program by permitting libraries some flexibility in choice of format.

Current budget realities no longer permit such flexibility. The budget allocation for the FDLP and related activities is flat while at the same time, GPO is investing in new strategic initiatives that define its and the FDLP's future. For example, GPO is supporting the development of authentication services, preservation planning and implementation, improvements to *GPO Access*, web harvesting, reallocation of resources to manage the electronic collection, and more.

Current Situation

At the American Library Association's midwinter meeting in Boston in January, current Superintendent of Documents Judy Russell announced a plan that effective October 1, 2005, all government documents, with the exception of the "Essential Titles for Public Use in Paper Format" (Essential Titles List),² will be disseminated in digital format *only* – whether or not depository libraries are equipped to handle this format adequately at this time and whether or not this is the most usable format for their publics.

Reactions to this move by GPO have been, to put it mildly, mixed; there is not unanimity within the depository community. Many would agree, however, that GPO's plan, which has not been approved by Congress and may

require revision to GPO's enabling legislation, represents a major disruption to the FDLP's role of ensuring no-fee, permanent access to government information for the American public.

Authors of a soon-to-be-published article – and highly recommended reading – on the “once and future” FDLP³ describe the depository program using the following five criteria:

1. Information is available and fully functional to all without charge.
2. Information is easy to find and use.
3. Information is verifiably authentic.
4. Information is preserved for future access and use in a distributed system of digital depository libraries.
5. Privacy of information-users is ensured so that citizens can freely use government information without concern that what they read will be subject to disclosure or examination.⁴

While the depository community has been very supportive of GPO's move to digital formats, the issues of version control, authenticity, and permanent no-fee public access to digital government information have not yet been addressed satisfactorily. Depository librarians share examples every month or so of publications that have been pulled from agency web sites, sometimes for what might be termed “political reasons,”⁵ at other times because agency staff is more focused on technology issues than on public access to the information.⁶

Other concerns revolve around the authenticity of digital documents. What guarantee does a user have that a digital document accessed one month has not been changed a few months, or even years, later?⁷ As stated above, GPO is developing authentication services, but they are not yet ready and available.

Another part of the GPO plan announced in Boston in January is the implementation of a Print on Demand (POD) Allowance Program of \$500 for selective depository libraries and \$1500 for the 53 regional depository libraries to purchase titles that are not on the Essential Titles List. There will also be a small amount of money to distribute a handful of important titles that occur unexpectedly in any given year, such as the *9/11 Commission Report* in 2004.

Uncertain Effects on the Porter Henderson Library

This probable change is complex and still evolving,* and too involved to go into detail in this *Newsletter* issue. Here at the Porter Henderson Library we have been preparing a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) and this topic has been added to the list, as both an “Opportunity” and a “Threat.” The change could have far-reaching effects on the Library's budget, staffing needs, and equipment requirements, although not all will be negative. It will also impact users of government information publications and resources. Some concrete examples of types of titles the Library will no longer receive in a tangible format under the plan include new or revised volumes to the US Army in World War II series (in fact, nothing at all from the Army's Center of Military History), no USGS publications, and no Congressional hearings, documents, or reports.

GPO's plan to halt distribution of tangible items to depository libraries is to be discussed at the Depository Library Council's (DLC) spring meeting in Albuquerque, NM, in April, although many depository librarians feel this will be too late to affect the budget process already underway in Congress. The Library's Government Documents/Reference Librarian will be attending the meeting. She hopes to return with a more complete picture of what to expect next October, if and when this plan is put into action.

Conclusion

In conclusion, why is it important for citizens to have access to information produced by their government? Or, to phrase it another way, why do depository librarians care so much about this issue? The closing paragraph of a recent article on open government by Texas Republican Senator, John Cornyn, may state it best:

... Open government is one of the most basic requirements of any healthy democracy. It allows taxpayers to see where their money is going. It permits the honest exchange of information that ensures government accountability. It upholds the ideal that government never rules without the consent of the governed. President Lincoln once said that “no man is good enough to govern another without that person's consent.” But of course, consent is meaningless unless it is informed consent. For that very reason, the cause of open government is as American as our commitment to our constitutional democracy itself.⁸

* Just as the editor finished this *Newsletter* and was "going to press," GPO issued "GPO Position on FDLP Distribution," dated March 1, 2005 (time: 15:15:36). It states:

"Through the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), and in partnership with more than 1,250 libraries nationwide, the U.S. Government Printing Office has an abiding commitment to providing public access to the most comprehensive body of official Federal Government information possible.

"Since 1996, GPO has been transitioning the FDLP to a predominately electronic basis in full cooperation and consultation with the library community. This initiative has resulted in an exponential expansion of effective public access to Government information without substantial increases in funding, and today more than 1 million documents a day are retrieved from *GPO Access*. At the same time, GPO has continued to provide public access to information in tangible formats in accordance with policy established by GPO's Superintendent of Documents.

"GPO will continue to expand electronic information offerings through the FDLP and will continue to provide for dissemination of tangible products to depository libraries in accordance with existing policy, in full consultation with the library community. GPO will ensure that the necessary resources are applied to these tasks for FY 2005 and 2006 without requiring additional resources beyond those that have been approved and requested. All ongoing work on improvements to GPO's electronic information dissemination systems – including those projects associated with the authentication, preservation, and establishment of standards for electronic information products – will continue. GPO's Superintendent of Documents will actively seek the guidance and input of the library community in planning for and implementing changes in the dissemination of Government information products in either electronic or tangible formats.

"To begin this consultation, the Superintendent will convene multiple sessions on the future of tangible information products in the FDLP at the Spring 2005 meeting of the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer, in Albuquerque, NM (April 17-20). The Superintendent will also conduct a survey of Federal depository libraries nationwide on the same subject. No changes in existing policy or program practice regarding the dissemination of tangible products will be implemented until the results of these efforts have been fully reviewed in consultation with the library community and GPO's oversight committees in Congress." (Judith C. Russell (jrusell@gpo.gov); Managing Director, Information Dissemination (Superintendent of Documents); U.S. Government Printing Office)

If you have any comments or concerns you would like to share with Janetta Paschal, Government Documents/Reference Librarian, on the issue of tangible documents before the DLC meeting in Albuquerque, please contact her at 942-2300, ext. 230, or Janetta.Paschal@angelo.edu.

Endnotes:

1. Report to the Congress: study to identify measures necessary for a successful transition to a more electronic Federal Depository Library Program: as required by Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1996, Public Law 104-53. Washington, D.C.: U.S. G.P.O., 1996. (Available from FDLP Desktop: http://www.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/study/studyhtm.html.) (Accessed February 25, 2005.)
2. The Essential Titles List <http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/estitles.html>, last revised in 2000, includes titles such as *Agricultural statistics*, *Code of federal regulations*, *Federal register*, *Condition of education*, *Congressional record*, *Economic indicators*, *Occupational outlook handbook*, and *Foreign relations of the United States*. The List does not include other important materials such as maps, geological information, administrative decisions and other legal materials, as well as Senate and House reports, documents, and hearings that inform citizens of the workings of Congress.
3. Jacobs, James A.; Jacobs, James R.; & Yeo Shinjoung. (2005). "Government information in the digital age: the once and future Federal Depository Library Program". [Preprint accessed February 24, 2005, at <http://ssdc.ucsd.edu/j/fdlp/>. Article to appear in *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, May 2005,

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jacalib>]. Abstract: Rapid technological change has caused some to question the need for the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). We argue that the traditional roles of FDLP libraries in selecting, acquiring, organizing, preserving, and providing access to and services for government information are more important than ever in the digital age.

This article provides a well-reasoned discussion of the issues involved in the partnership between GPO and federal depository libraries and how this relationship can be built upon to benefit all citizens. The authors provide an honest critique of GPO's "Strategic Vision for the 21st Century" <<http://www.gpo.gov/congressional/pdfs/04strategicplan.pdf>>, of which this proposed change in distribution policy is a part, looking at its faults as well as its strengths.

4. Ibid, p. 15 of PDF copy (http://ssdc.ucsd.edu/jj/fdlp/jal_fdlp.pdf).

5. One recent example cited on GOVDOC-L is the removal of twenty (20) publications from the United States Commission on Civil Rights web site. A note on the site states: "On January 7th, 2005, the Commission adopted a new policy on the public release and posting of reports and Commission documents. To comply with that new policy, the website has been updated and several draft reports that failed to receive a majority of Commissioners' votes have been removed. Those reports <<http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/notvoted.htm>> are available upon request." This removal has been termed "political" by some because a draft report critical of the current administration appears to some observers to be the reason for the policy change, or at least it may have led to the reconsideration of what to make available online. (The Commissioners split 4-4 on whether or not to approve the report, *Redefining rights in America: the civil rights record of the George W. Bush administration, 2001-2004*). Nineteen of the twenty reports are available from The Memory Hole <<http://www.thememoryhole.org/usccr/purged.htm>> and some are available on the "Historical Publications of the United States Commission on Civil Rights" web site at the University of Maryland, School of Law, Thurgood Marshall Law Library <<http://www.law.umaryland.edu/marshall/usccr/index.asp>>.

6. "Anecdotal stories" related on GOVDOC-L would indicate that technology staff members seem genuinely surprised when contacted about a "missing" publication. They say they had no idea people would want to see the item anymore. In most instances they have restored the file to their server, or GPO has been able to obtain an electronic copy for their permanent access web site.

7. For example, the Minutes of the January 20-21, 2004, meeting of the Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation reported, "certain *FRUS* [*Foreign relations of the United States*] volumes – 15 for the Nixon administration – will only be published on the Internet. Sixteen print and eight electronic volumes were planned for the Carter administration. E-volumes offered two benefits: they could cover more material and could be revised as more documents became available." (Available from the Dept. of State's web site at: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/adcom/mtgnts/c13733.htm>.) (Accessed February 25, 2005) One reader of these minutes said, even though he understood that the word "revised" meant in case other documents became available they could be added to an e-volume easier than a print one, he could not help but "get nervous." (e-mail of February 11, 2005, available on request)

8. Cornyn, John. (2005). "Ensuring the consent of the governed: America's commitment to freedom of information and openness in government." *LBJ Journal of Public Affairs*. (Available from Senator Cornyn's web site at: <http://www.cornyn.senate.gov/record.cfm?id=231103>.) (Accessed February 14, 2005.)