

# I Get By With A Little Help From My Friends

---

## Create a Local Government Documents Networking Group

Kirsten Leonard , INDIGO Chair  
Indiana University Kokomo

Sally Holterhoff  
Valparaiso University School of Law

Judith Violette  
Indiana University Purdue University Fort  
Wayne



FDLP Conference, October 15, 2007

# In this presentation, we will ...

---

- Provide an example of a networking association - INDIGO
- Describe the needs and issues that led to the founding of INDIGO
- Outline the benefits of a local networking association for documents managers

# And we will ...

---

- Give examples of the potential impact of the documents community on access to government information
- Provide guidance on how to create and initiate an association in your area

# What is INDIGO ?

---

- Indiana Networking for Documents and Information of Government Organizations (INDIGO)
- Formed in 1992
- Who we are – librarians, staff, public, private, government, special
- 45-50 active members who meet twice per year



# INDIGO's Purpose

---

- To provide a forum for discussion of problems and concerns, and for the exchange of ideas by librarians working with government information;
- To provide a force for initiating and supporting programs to increase availability, use and bibliographic control of government information;



# INDIGO's Purpose (cont'd)

---

- To increase communication between government information librarians and other librarians;
- To contribute to the extension and improvement of education and training of government information librarians;
- And to speak for Federal and State depositories concerning government information issues.



# The Founding of INDIGO

---

- 1982 – DLC resolution on state plans
- 1982-1983 – Development of Indiana plan
- 1985 – State Library established Subcommittee on Government Documents to develop and implement new plan

# The Founding of INDIGO (cont'd)

---

- 1991 – Discussion
- Nov. 1991 – 1<sup>st</sup> draft of bylaws for “InDeps”
- Mar. 1992 – Ad Hoc Organizing Committee for new group



# The Founding of INDIGO (cont'd)

---

- 1992 – Ad Hoc Organizing Committee meets
  - New name
  - Bylaws, membership application, ballot
  - 26 charter members
  - First officers were Andrea Singer, Tim Sutherland, Marianne Mason



# INDIGO - a Grass Roots Group

---

- Discontinuation of Indiana State Library Advisory Subcommittee on Gov. Docs
- Too small to be a Division of Indiana Library Association (now ILF)
- Opportunity to chart our own course
- Lower dues & fewer rules mean more people can participate



# INDIGO - a Grass Roots Group

---

- Multiple responsibilities / Add-on job
- User group features desired
- Bylaws adapted from GODORT by Sally Holterhoff, Judith Violette, and Steve Hayes

# With a little help from my friends ... the Benefits of an Association

---

Personal benefits ...

Together we can achieve more ...



# Personal Benefits

---

- First full-time professional position – INDIGO's small size and relaxed environment made it easier to ask for advice on librarianship and libraries
- Learn the ropes of depository management
- Opportunity to ask questions that may be too embarrassed to ask on national forums
- Help with state and local resource reference questions

# Personal Benefits (cont'd)

---

- FDLP Conference guides
- Venting/Support/Understanding – i.e. “No, you aren’t nuts. This really has changed.”
- Leadership mentoring
  - Range of service opportunities from introductory to more experienced, small to large
  - Lead to opportunities on other committees and organizations

# Personal Benefits

## – Another Perspective

---

- Cooperation & Communication
- Public Relations—raise awareness of government information
- Continuing education
- Advocacy

# Personal Benefits

## – Another Perspective

---

- Special role of documents librarians
- Support - a network of experts to help you
- Collaboration
- Professional development (sources, techniques, formats, operations)
- Perspective
- Opportunity to enlighten others



# Personal Benefits to those ...

---

New to government documents

Experienced in government documents



# Educational Programs

---

- Member demonstrations and training
- Outside speakers on local, state, and national level
- Tours of facilities

# Member demonstrations and training sessions

---

- Indiana state government information in electronic format
- GPO Access
- Digital Copyright
- RSS Feeds
- Blogs

# Member demonstrations and training sessions (cont'd)

---

- Indiana Open Records and Meetings Act
- Congressional Research Service Reports
- The Future of the FDLP
- GIS
- Allen County Indicators

# Member demonstrations and training sessions (cont'd)

---

- Retrospective barcoding
- Census 2000
- Collection development and weeding
- Disposal lists
- EDIN, Dsire, IdeaNet, CD-ROM census products, Landview demos (1994)
- Internet 101

# Member demonstrations and training sessions (cont'd)

---

- Reports from INDIGO members who served on Depository Library Council – Steve Hayes and Robert Hinton
- Presentations by INDIGO members who are authors of monographs on government information
  - Bert Chapman
  - Andrea Morrison
  - Marian Shaaban

# Outside Speakers

---

- Heather Neal, the Indiana Public Access Counselor, will be speaking at the Fall INDIGO meeting
- Judith Russell, former Superintendent of Documents
- Tim Collins, Managing Director Purdue Homeland Security Institute
- Andy Zircle, Indiana Homeland Security Dept



# Outside Speakers (cont'd)

---

- Morton Marcus, Newspaper Columnist
- Century-Professor Dawn Johnsen, IU School of Law, former advisor for President Clinton
- Author, Bruce Maxwell
- Sean Moulton and Patrice McDermott spoke on library access after 9/11



# Outside Speakers (cont'd)

---

- Greg Preston, Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service
- Tom Phister, Indiana Historical Landmarks Foundation
- John Krull, Executive Director, Indiana Civil Liberties Union
- Carol Rogers, StatsIndiana
- Ed Cohen, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

# Tours of Facilities

---

- Indiana State Library
- Purdue - Hesse Library and the new Digital Learning Collaboratory
- Bloomington Wells, Law, and Geography and Map Libraries
- Indiana Historical Society

# Together We Can Achieve More...

---

Members have found connections with other members that have enabled projects with an impact beyond a single library



# Together We Can Achieve More...

---

- INDIGO members created a fact sheet on the value of depositories to the state and “spec sheets” on Indiana depositories to lobby for funding support for the depository program
- Met with Congressman Peter Visclosky regarding H.R. 3400 at the Library Legislative Day (April 1993)



# Together We Can Achieve More...

---

- ALI Indiana Light Archive for Federal Documents
- Shelf-listing rules discussion
- Indiana Libraries special issue on government documents
- INDIGO Docs Tour Program

# INDIGO's Impact on Access

---

- Presentations by INDIGO members at FDLP
- Lobbied GPO and Congress
- INDIGO Newsletter, Web site, listserv
- “Keeping Indiana Informed” brochure
- Selected titles for GODORT’s Notable documents panel
- INDIGO HotTopics



# INDIGO's Organizational Structure

---

- Chair
- Assistant Chair/Chair Elect
- Immediate Past Chair
- Secretary/Treasurer

# Organizational Structure (cont'd)

---

- Federal Depository Representatives Committee Chair
- State Depository Representatives Committee Chair
- Communications Committee Chair
- Programs Committee Chair



# How to start your own networking association ...

---

# How To Start

---

- Work with your Regional
- If you already have one contact build from there
- Start with a small core group and create draft bylaws which include the structure and purpose

# How To Start (cont'd)

---

- Pick a workable geographic area
  - Area unserved by other documents associations
  - Concentration of depositories
  - Able to meet in a more centralized location
  - Large enough to include a variety of library types and perspectives

# How To Start (cont'd)

---

- Vary the meeting location, so more may attend at least occasionally
- Consider affiliation or partnership with another organization
  - As long as rules are not burdensome for a small group
  - As long as costs are not burdensome

# How To Start (cont'd)

---

- Open membership to non-librarians and those who are not the primary documents person
- Open membership to non-depository libraries as all libraries now have access to government information electronically

# Challenges

---

- Changes in the organization of libraries means that more than ever librarians are responsible for areas other than government information
- Librarians are more busy than ever keeping up
- Public and academic libraries are reducing funding for travel and education

# Rise to the Challenge!

---



# Rise to the Challenge

---

- Outline the benefits of networking with other people who are trying to make sense of the same changes and demands
- Allow time at meetings for personal networking
- Mentor new members and introduce them to other members with similar job responsibilities



# Rise to the Challenge (cont'd)

---

- Be flexible to the needs and values of your membership
  - Include a mechanism of change in your bylaws or constitution that is fast and easy
  - Or better yet, create bylaws that allow for greater flexibility

# Rise to the Challenge (cont'd)

---

- Create programming that helps depository librarians understand changes in the programs and methods to simplify duties
- Include government information programming that has value to non-depository librarians
- Offer a travel grant to support those without travel funding

# Rise to the Challenge (cont'd)

---

- Reduce the burden on your officers and membership
  - Very low cost dues
  - Casual atmosphere and little to no bureaucracy
  - Allow ebb and flow of association activity
  - An appropriate number of officers to the number of members



Thank  
you!

<http://www.lib.purdue.edu/govdocs/indigo.htm>

1

# I Get By With A Little Help From My Friends

---

## Create a Local Government Documents Networking Group

Kirsten Leonard , INDIGO Chair  
Indiana University Kokomo

Sally Holterhoff  
Valparaiso University School of Law

Judith Violette  
Indiana University Purdue University Fort  
Wayne



FDLP Conference, October 15, 2007