Council Session: Catalog of Government Publications -
CGP - OPAC

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Background of Presentation:

The presentation outlined below, delivered by Linda Resler, Manager of Library Technical Services Support, and Laurie Hall, Director of Library Technical Information Services (LTIS), discussed the implementation, as well as the specific features and functionality, of GPO's new Catalog of Government Publications (CGP):

What Is the New CGP?

- It is the public face of GPO's new Integrated Library System (ILS)
  - Ex Libris' Aleph 500 product

Why Is It Called the CGP?

- CGP has been in existence on GPO Access since 1994.

- Based on the public's familiarity with that product, LTIS decided to call the ILS the new Catalog of Government Publications

How Is It Different from the Original CGP?

- It is on a new platform with increased power, features, and functionality

- It contains current and historical bibliographic records added to OCLC by GPO catalogers since July 1976

Special Features and Functions

- Basic Page

  - Default page, developed for use by general public

  - Features "Google-like" search box

- Basic Page Links
  - Includes preferences for display of results, GPO Access homepage, Help document, single-page summary of CGP and its features

- Advanced Search Page

  - Advanced functionality for FDLP libraries, experienced users, and information

experts

- Search bar with multiple options

• Catalogs to Search

- Provides cross-catalog searching

• My Options

- Bookshelf

  - Records may be added throughout search session

- Preferences

  - Same functionality as Basic Page

- Results List

  - Created when successful query is run

• Previous Searches

- Allows actions to be performed on results from previous searches

• Expanded Search Options

- Many are geared to librarians and depository libraries

- Some examples are Shipping List number, SuDocs number, OCLC number, and LC Class number

• Limit Functionality

- Provides options to set desired limits on a search before running it

- Limits can be set on year, format, language, or catalogs

 • Search Hints

- Assist the user in conducting a successful search

- On every page except Basic Page

Summary:

The new CGP Integrated Library System (ILS) will replace the existing Wide-Area Information Server (WAIS) based Catalog of U. S. Government Publications, which will

no longer be available to the public. The CGP is one component of the new ILS, which will provide:

- functionality for redesigned technical services workflows to replace legacy applications;
- a central location for GPO staff and the public to determine publications which GPO has identified, acquired, cataloged, and linked to;
- timely access; and
- federated searching capabilities across selected resources.

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Tuesday, April 4, 2006 10:30 – 12:00

Question 1:

When will you be opening the Z39.50 searching gateway?

Summarized Responses:

- Laurie Hall said that it would probably be open in May or June, because testing is all that remains to be done.

- One employee already has begun work on it.

Question 2:

Does Ex Libris Aleph conduct user conferences?

Summarized Responses:

- Hall said that the NAAUG Group (now called ELUNA), the user group for all of the Ex Libris products, held a conference at the University of Maryland last year, which she and her staff attended.

- GPO staff are scheduled to attend the conference this year in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Question 3:

It's a little bit difficult to send comments through the AskGPO system, because it is not really obvious how to do so while in the system. Is there anything that can be done to put in even a temporary time when in a beta testing situation to make it easier for people to find the method to send comments so that they will go into the system the way one wants them to rather than out on the Listserv and such?

Summarized Responses:

- One participant commented that it is necessary to have a link to AskGPO from within the CGP itself.

Question 4:

There are Federal agencies which are using ProCite for cataloging rather than OCLC. They may not even be using the FEDLINK system. Much cataloging is being done by volunteers. GPO needs to conduct cataloging classes for these agencies so that they know how to use the system, in order for libraries to get the benefit of their work into the national system.

Summarized Responses:

- One participant noted that this was an excellent observation.

Question 5:

How does CGP handle multiple format records? For the same title in multiple formats, will it provide separate records for various formats such as paper, online, microfiche, or CD?

Summarized Responses:

- GPO catalogers are currently doing separate records for the essential series titles. They have not changed over to a separate record approach, so right now they are doing single records for multiple formats, and plan to eventually move to a single record approach for each format.

- Another participant commented that this is enormously important and troublesome, and it is a problem now simply because there are different kinds of records in the GPO catalog as well as in her own library's catalog.

Question 6:

How far are you going with your serial set catalog and how soon will it contain all of the serial set records so we don't have to do it ourselves?

Summarized Responses:

- GPO now has three records which contain serial set numbers just for demonstration purposes.

- GPO is in the process of doing the *Congressional Serials Catalog* for the 105th Congress. This will probably be the last printed edition.

Question 7:

What are the plans for libraries obtaining records from the CGP?

Summarized Responses:

- GPO has a three-prong approach. First, there is the current limit of 20 e-mailed result records. Second, the Z39.50 gateway enables libraries to obtain records. Finally, requirements are being reviewed for pushing and pulling records for the community based on a wide variety of parameters. This option is in the development phase.

Question 8:

Do library holdings shown in the catalog have to be based on current item selections?

Summarized Responses:

- Hall confirmed that this is correct. If one picks up an old record and it has an obsolete, inactive item number, the default will automatically redirect to a page that lists only the regional libraries, because GPO does not maintain a record of retrospective library item selections.

Question 9:

Is there a plan for showing the locations of the pre-1976 records, or will that be defaulted to the regionals?

Summarized Responses:

- This is an issue for future planning, taking into consideration that some of the old item numbers may not be in GPO's system.

Question 10:

Has GPO explored the cataloging and holding maintenance options in the OPAC?

Summarized Responses:

- Ex Libris is scheduled to come to GPO in May to provide circulation training.

- Some of the modules may not apply to GPO, since it does not have a real library. GPO managers have some ideas about using the ILS circulation module.

- A participant commented that his organization is also at this issue in relation to the use of session cookies, persistent cookies, and other items of that nature in regards to allowing users to opt in and set up profiles while being cognizant of privacy matters.

Question 11:

Will the MetaLib searching be done though ISBN and ISSN numbers?

Summarized Responses:

- A participant who runs Aleph addressed how MetaLib works. It is a federated searching aggregator, and it is great in very general terms, but it does not allow for detailed searching.

Question 12:

Does the term "federated searching" mean the same as "cross searching"?

Summarized Responses:

- A participant replied that it does.

Question 13:

What went into selecting this particular ILS over all the others? Many libraries use Innovative; why wasn't one of these or any other system used? Some of the most basic functions of this system don't seem to be working very well and the system is not user-friendly.

Summarized Responses:

- GPO needed a system that was Oracle-based and had open flexibility to develop many different tools, especially in light of the fact that GPO does not perform many of the functions of a real library.