

History of Government Documents Librarianship – Chat Log:

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

Periodically, I've been enjoying: McCamy, James L., and Public Library Inquiry. Government Publications for the Citizen : A Report of the Public Library Inquiry. New York: Columbia UP, 1949. It has some statements that still ring true.

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

Government Publications for the Citizen "The agencies are expected to report all their items to the Printing Office for listing in the Catalog, but they do not do so." page 56 "Because of the unorganized character of the wealth of knowledge contained in government publications, the librarian, as expert in its use, has an important function."

from Mary Clark to everyone:

1789

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

That's in the book I'm reading

from Valerie Glenn to everyone:

1813

from Angela Bonnell to everyone:

1813

from Anne Elias to everyone:

1800

from Carolyn Frenger to everyone:

1813

from Mary Clark to everyone:

yay Valerie!

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

Hard to hear Sarah

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

yes thanks

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

Can this timeline be uploaded to site? Or did I miss seeing it?

from David Isaak to everyone:

Nice visual design on the timeline!

from Carolyn Frenger to everyone:

I agree with David Issak. Will we be able to have access to it after the conference?

from Bert Chapman to everyone:

Why was UIUC not allowed to become a depository library in the late 1950's?

from Beth Harper to everyone:

John Peters of the Wisconsin Historical Society ran a pilot project of the selective/regional idea in Wisconsin, in 1960 or 1961.

from Bert Chapman to everyone:

Thank you for info on UIC's not getting FDLP status in the 50's.

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

Yay GODORT! We're still active - come see!

from Angela Bonnell to everyone:

John Peters! There

from Angela Bonnell to everyone:

John Peters! There is a great name from the past. :)

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

+1 Jenny

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

It's very interesting to read older reference books on Gov Docs. I mean pre-1970

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:

There's not enough works of history around GPO/FDLP, in my opinion, so I'm happy to see this addition.

from David Isaak to everyone:

Any idea when dedicated government information courses became part of MLS programs? I'm sad to see that they are starting to fade away bit by bit now.

from Carolyn Frenger to everyone:

Sarah, can we get a citation for your article? Or did I miss that already?

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

Yes, Sarah. I am looking forward to reading your article very much.

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:

They should be separate!!!!!!

from Kate Irwin-Smiler to everyone:

I'm a fan of integrating them into the collection but the current biennial survey asking for linear feet of docs is making me rethink the practicality of that!

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

Yea! GOVDOC-L!!!!

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:

And that's why they should be separate! Also, patrons finding by browsing has gone down in my population. All catalogs now.

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

It is a great read

from Gwen Sinclair to everyone:

In my own library I've tried to track the history of the gov docs separate collection and librarians with the title Documents Librarian. Seems to have started around World War II.

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

I am feeling a bit old

from Andie Craley to everyone:

Has worked better for us as a community college to have our FDLP collection integrated with all our LC collections. They sat still separated in their own SuDoc collection. More use now with integration

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

@Gwen Sinclair, that is a very cool project!

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:

RIP FDsys.

from Kathy Bayer to everyone:

I really miss the Handout Exchange, where folks posted copies of their library's depository collection development policies, access policies, etc. They were useful for review of depository operations docs in one place. So handy!

from Kate Irwin-Smiler to everyone:

Andie that's exactly my thought. Charlie, out patrons (and honestly my colleagues) see sudocs & stop.

from Andie Craley to everyone:

GPO should change the language in the Biennial Survey.

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:

That's an education/outreach issue, that most of us don't have enough resources to address... :(

from Andie Craley to everyone:

I also liked the Handout Exchange

from Scott Briggs to everyone:

+1 Charlie

from Kelly Smith to everyone:

+1 Kathy. Also want to give a shout-out to Grace York's old gov statistics web guide. It was my favorite website for years!

from Sarah Erekson to everyone:
<https://www.ala.org/rt/godort/oralhistories>

from Gwen Sinclair to everyone:
@Aimee Quinn, I love that!

from Jenny Groome to everyone:
Sometimes a separate collection is good - but not always. Should a patron (or librarian) need to know who published the source when beginning their research? (yes, at evaluation stage)

from ben amata to everyone:
early 90s with turn key integrated library systems plentiful & affordable allowed depository libraries to load GPO tapes from GPO or MARCIVE a reality. an early study revealed circulation of gov docs increased 500% as result. it also sowed the seeds for mainstreaming gov docs processing.

from Carolyn Frenger to everyone:
Thank you, Sarah!

from Jen Kirk to everyone:
Thank you, Sarah and Angela!

from Jenny Groome to everyone:
This was fun! Thank you!

from sam hidde tripp to everyone:
as a very new gov info librarian it's fascinating to see all the different takes on integration vs separation. thank you all for sharing!

from Kate Irwin-Smiler to everyone:
Charlie: you're not wrong, on either side.

from ben amata to everyone:
great presentation

from Bert Chapman to everyone:
Streaming audio and video will continue growing in influence, there's no telling what role artificial intelligence will play, and U.S. documents librarians need to enhance their awareness and expertise of government information resources from democratic foreign national governments.

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:
I don't think having to go to two locations to get sources isn't a bad thing. One might be LC, another SuDoc. @Kate, We know I rant about this endlessly!

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:
Yes, Aric's article is wonderful!

from Angela Kent to everyone:

GODORT Oral Histories: <https://www.ala.org/rt/godort/oralhistories>

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:

*Don't think it is a bad thing. Sheesh.

from Kate Irwin-Smiler to everyone:

@Charlie - LOL. It's all good :)

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:

That book is priceless.

from Jennifer Morgan to everyone:

@David Isaak - 1895, the Armour Institute in Chicago pioneered a separate LIS course in government publications. See Miller, SJ . : The Depository Library System: A History of the Distribution of Federal Government Publications to Libraries of the United States from the Early Years of the Nation to 1895. D.L.S. dissertation, Columbia University, 1980, p. 637-638.

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

And Marcive Records really helped. And over time, they have refined the process of retrospective record profiles. Jim Noel and Joan Chapa were responsive to CTW consortium's questions (Conn College, Wesleyan, Trinity College)/

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/GPO-KEEPINGAMERICAINFORMED>

from Angela Kent to everyone:

Another GODORT publication: "A History of GODORT"

https://www.ala.org/rt/sites/ala.org.rt/files/content/godortcrtd/GODORT_history_final.pdf

from Lisa Pritchard to everyone:

@Sam Some of our small collection is in the stacks by LC and some is in a special collection right by our busiest area in the library. We use the special collection area to promote gov info--in print and digital.

from Arlene Weible to everyone:

I agree that the the proliferation of ILS systems in the early 1990s had a big impact on the possibilities for bringing FDLP collections into the light!

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

And LoC was amazing in early days of Web

from Mary Clark to everyone:

I'd mention John Shuler(sp) and the establishment of collaborative reference, Government Information Online

from Angela Kent to everyone:

And if you're unfamiliar with GODORT: <https://www.ala.org/rt/godort>

from Kelly Smith to everyone:

+1 Mary

from Gwen Sinclair to everyone:

+1 Mary Clark

from Arlene Weible to everyone:

Congress.gov used to be called Thomas and was a go to for congressional info

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

+1 Mary, along with John's work with DOSFAN and other projects

from Angela Bonnell to everyone:

+1 Mary

from Arlene Weible to everyone:

GovDoc-L was essential for sharing information in those early days!

from Mary Clark to everyone:

+1 Aimee

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

Wait - I joined in the beginning of GovDoc-L? It was the 2nd listserv to which I subscribed

from Scott Matheson to everyone:

Picturing the Big Shop is a more photo-heavy history of GPO

https://catalog.gpo.gov/F/?func=direct&doc_number=001010847&local_base=GPO01PUB

from Bert Chapman to everyone:

There are GPO Authorized histories <https://www.gpo.gov/who-we-are/our-agency/history>

from Beth Downing to everyone:

There is also DOCTECH-L, which was created when reference librarians were complaining about there being too many technical processing questions on GOCDOC-L. Sometime in the late 1990's, not sure of the exact date.

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

@Jenny, GOVDOC-L was one of the first library listservs.

from Beth Harper to everyone:

I learned about Google through its government-centric search engine "Google Uncle Sam"

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

Last year was GODORT's 50th anniversary. Leading up to ALA annual, GODORT highlighted history and milestones

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

DocTech-L grew out from GovDoc-L in the mid-1990s.

from Beth Harper to everyone:
+1 Aimee

from Jenny Groome to everyone:
I miss Google Uncle Sam.

from Kelly Smith to everyone:
+1 Beth

from Daniel OMahony to everyone:
Early history of DLC captured in First Report to Public Printer
<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015011715755&seq=1> and subsequent reports

from Jenny Groome to everyone:
what's interesting - 1949 and 1950 reference books on gov docs discuss many of the same issues we discuss today

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:
Citation for Diane Kovacs article on the Origins of GovDoc-I: Government Publications Review (1990) 17:5, 411-420 [https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9390\(90\)90050-N](https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9390(90)90050-N)

from Jenny Groome to everyone:
can we easily save chat within WebEx or do I need to cut and paste this?

from John Olson to everyone:
I learned a lot from Gace when I was a library school student at UofM.

from Kelly Seifert to everyone:
The chat logs will be available in the archive.

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:
Lawrence Schmeckebier's 1936 book on U.S. Public Documents also brings up similar issues as today. It was required reading when I was in grad school along with several other of the texts (showing my age here)

from Jim Laczkowski to everyone:
For state documents, there is a process of barcoding and utilizing a classification system that the librarian created to determine its call number. The two Sarahs that worked at Harold Washington Library Center did a lot of great work to make it a little easier for future librarians to adapt to.

from Jenny Groome to everyone:
Grace was a virtual mentor for me - she was not an official mentor but I learned so much from her. I still say Gov Info library community is one of the most generous when it comes to helping new folks

from Jenny Groome to everyone:
@Aimee - that was the other book I was looking for. I read it during pandemic lock down

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

Council has had some remarkable librarians serve including Grace York. See <https://www.fdlp.gov/about/depository-library-council> for a list of previous members

from Cindy Etkin to everyone:

+1 Daniel -- that report also shows a great relationship with ALA GODORT

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

Shuler was the best!

from ben amata to everyone:

his sudden death, a big loss.

from Angela Bonnell to everyone:

Yes, very sad.

from Leslie Cunningham to everyone:

+1 Ben

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

You all helped me when conspiracy folks came to my library and went on how it meaning changed with capitalization of terms - you all helped me cite article about two different printers on early Cong Rec and how one capitalized terms and one didn't. Not before they went on Youtube and quoted me incorrectly, but still...

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:

I really like Government Documents Librarianship: A Guide for the Neo-Depository Era by Lisa A. Ennis. Great snapshot of early-00s.

from Arlene Weible to everyone:

John's opinions about the democratization of government information weren't always well received in the community ... He tried to shake up the paradigm and did a pretty good job!

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

@Charlie, Lisa's book is very good and shook up some people in the field at the time

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:

@Aimee, oh I bet it did!

from Jennifer Morgan to everyone:

@Aimee -- Schmeckebier; Boyd & Rips; Morehead -- essential historical reads.

from Bert Chapman to everyone:

Dept of State Foreign Affairs Network (DOSFAN)

from Cindy Etkin to everyone:

Dept of State Foreign Affairs Network (DOSFAN) it was a UIC/State Dept/GPO partnership

from Carolyn Frenger to everyone:

I remember an FDL Conference a few years back that showed a documentary at the GPO HQ here in DC on the history of the Linotype. It was excellent!

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

@Sarah, DOSFAN was the Department of State Foreign Affairs Network. It was John's baby. We had several grants to work with the State Department, UIC, GPO partnership. It ran from 1997-2006. I worked on the project with John from 2000-2006.

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

I had to tell Robert Balay that his book was my 2nd favorite reference book because Moorehead was all Gov Docs. Bob was my mom's boss at Yale and I went to high school with his daughter. I was several years out of library school before I realized he wrote Balay's!

from Kate Irwin-Smiler to everyone:

I took Joe Morehead's docs classes (and legal research class) at SUNY Albany.

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

+Kate - jealous!

from Gwyneth Crowley to everyone:

I had Moorehead as a professor at drunk Albany!

from Benjamin Aldred to everyone:

UIC transferred DOSFAN to GPO in 2018, it's still available here <https://purl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo109353>

from Kate Irwin-Smiler to everyone:

Gwyneth - never heard it called that LOLLOL

from Gwyneth Crowley to everyone:

Lol SUNY Albany

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

Andriot, Chris Brown

from Gwyneth Crowley to everyone:

I graduated in 95, Kate. How about you?

from Kate Irwin-Smiler to everyone:

2000. so close and yet so far!

from Gwen Sinclair to everyone:

It's also important to remember vendors who specialized in gov info like Congressional Information Service, Readex, etc.

from Cindy Etkin to everyone:

Clara M. Edmunds was appointed librarian by FDR, Library of the

from Kathy Hale to everyone:

Also, before GPO there were also U.S.. documents given to all the State Libraries circa 1858.

from Anna Kirby to everyone:

I'm a current MLIS student and i was able to take a government information course. Not fed docs specific, but our class was mostly about federal resources (census, science.gov, etc.)

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

@Cindy, thanks for bringing up Clara M. Edmunds. A fascinating and almost forgotten person in our field.

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

I started as support staff in 1986. Dec 1999 I left Conn College to be a school teacher and did a little dance "I will never do state docs or fed docs again!". A year later I was in Grad school and got MLIS in 2001 (technically 2002). Peter Hernon was on sabbatical when I was at Simmons.

from Rob Mead to everyone:

Dan Barkley at the UNM taught a docs class for interdisciplinary students. One of the best classes I've ever had.

from Cindy Etkin to everyone:

The work that Edmunds did evoked into the Government Manual.

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:

I went to LSU and was the last person to get their certification in govdocs

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:

I swore in law school I'd never do another legislative history in my life... Then I became a law librarian. Oops.

from Andie Craley to everyone:

I just found this by accident - Oral Histories at American Library Association Institutional Repository - <https://alair.ala.org/handle/11213/17178>

from Beth Downing to everyone:

I planned to be a Children's librarian. Ended up working at an academic library and was thrown into govdocs when a staff member went on maternity leave and the library needed someone to take over short-term. I had nightmares for a few weeks that I was going to do something wrong.

from Jenny Groome to everyone:

This was SO great!!!

from Carla Pritchett to everyone:

I took Gov Docs from Peter Hernan at Simmons.

from Carla Pritchett to everyone:

Hernon

from Lisa Pritchard to everyone:
Thank you. That was so fun.

from Angela Bonnell to everyone:
Thank you!!!

from Charlie she-her Amiot to everyone:
Thank you! Can't wait to parse this chat.

from Aimee Quinn to everyone:
Thanks so much!

from Marina Bacchetti to everyone:
thank you

from Channa Cajero to everyone:
Thank you!

from Kate Irwin-Smiler to everyone:
Thanks y'all, this was fun! (Gwyneth - nice to meet you :))

from Carolyn Frenger to everyone:
Thanks Angela & Sarah! Excellent program & discussion!

from Jennifer Morgan to everyone:
Hartnett/Sevetson/Forte - Fundamentals....

from Jenny Groome to everyone:
What a great way to end my day. Off to pack drips and drabs from my apartment