

Annual Report 2006

Documents Association of New Jersey

The purpose of the Documents Association is to promote the use of government information in libraries throughout New Jersey. The Association primarily focuses on:

- Promoting the use of government documents
- Providing a forum for discussion of problems and concerns
- Conducting training and other continuing education events
- Facilitating communication among documents librarians and administrators

The State Document Interest Group (SDIG)

The Interest Group, headed by Deborah Mercer, has reviewed and advised the State Library on the writing of legislation governing the depository system and the collection and preservation of electronic documents.

There are two awards presented by the SDIG this year. The “State Document of the Year Award” for the best printed document goes to the Department of Education for the title: Comparative Spending Guide. The “Best Internet Site of the Year” goes to the Department of Agriculture.

The Federal Documents Interest Group (FDIG)

The Interest Group, under the leadership of Laura Saur, spent the year discussing the future of the depository program. The Government Printing Office has proposed some changes in its draft of the new “Depository Library Handbook” and the Group discussed ways to adopt the changes. The Group also is continuing to look into the possibility of harvesting electronic federal documents for archival purposes.

International Documents Interest Group (IDIG)

Sue Lyons, the chair of the Group, presented a program at the NJLA Annual Conference this year. Her program titled “European Union Research” focused on a brief history and organization of the European Union and means of retrieving EU documents from the web.

The Web Page

Sue Lyons took over the responsibility of maintaining the DANJ web page from Catherine Pontoriero. She has been updating information as needed.

The Newsletter

Dorothy Warner, the editor of the newsletter, published two issues this year, in fall and spring. The newsletter continues to provide members with news of events and articles on documents related topics. Highlights of the activities of each of the interest groups are included and information on the annual conference is profiled in the spring issue.

Continuing Education Committee

This year DANJ experienced a big loss when Ann Grice, our former chair of this committee, announced that the East Brunswick Public Library had pulled out of the Federal Documents

program and that she would not be able to participate in the planning process. Although no one officially took over the entire responsibility several people stepped in to make this a success. Linda Oppenheim, Princeton University Library, played a major role in the organization of this conference with help from many others, including, Deborah Mercer, Sue Lyons, and Dorothy Warner.

Based on our past success story the Association decided to focus once again on business topics. This year's title is: Powerful and Free Business Tools, Tapping into Government Sources. The association has put together a very impressive list of speakers followed by tours of the Firestone Library of the Princeton University and the Princeton Public Library.

Membership

Elizabeth Patterson, the chair of this committee, reported that there are currently 28 members who have renewed/joined in 2007. However, the membership renewal cycle has changed and is now from November to October. We hope to see the total membership number go up by the end of the conference.

The Government Documents Award/SCILS

Susan Kadezabek, worked closely with SCILS, School of Communications, Information and Library Studies of Rutgers University, as a liaison for DANJ. She attended two meetings of the Rutgers Program Associates to discuss current issues and challenges facing Rutgers SCILS program in light of budget cuts.

Each year DANJ gives an award for the best government documents research paper. This year that award went to John Beekman for his paper titled: "GovDocs: File 404...Permanence and Access Issues in Government Information."

Conclusion

As documented above, this has been a productive year, thanks to all who made it possible. Without the dedication of the committee members and their time and effort this would not have been possible. I think we are facing more challenges now than ever due to the technological changes in the publishing field, the changing guidelines from GPO, the reduction in numbers of depository libraries, and the ongoing issues of preservation. I hope that we as a group will continue to address these issues and while doing so develop our own expertise in this field so that we can keep abreast of the changes as well as provide assistance to others.

Geetali Basu
President
DANJ
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