

## **Annual Report 2007**

### **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, continues to report on the status of the New Jersey depository law. As of the last report, Bill No. A2715 has advanced through the state assembly and has been introduced in the state senate. It is waiting to be taken up by the senate committee on State Government. The earliest this could happen is probably after the November election.

A New Jersey Government Documents Blog has been developed to provide information to the New Jersey Depository Libraries (<http://newjerseygovernmentdocuments.blogspot.com>).

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 New Jersey Department of Agriculture for its publication, *Giant Hogweed (Heracleum Mantegazzianum): An Attractive, but Dangerous Noxious Weed – Have You Seen This Plant?* The “World Wide Web Site of the Year” goes to the State of New Jersey’s Department of Community Affairs (<http://www.state.nj.us/dca/>).

The SDIG and FDIG combined their meetings in the fall to discuss an upcoming “Survey of Training Needs for Librarians using Government Information and Resources”.

#### **The Federal Documents Interest Group (FDIG)**

The Interest Group, under the leadership of Laura Saur, continues to identify concerns regarding the preservation of and access to government documents. GPO pilot projects, including LOCKSS & NTIS have been discussed in addition to other electronic document trends. Laura is monitoring DocuTicker and documents she discovers that require cataloging by GPO.

## **International Documents Interest Group (IDIG)**

Sue Lyons, the chair of the Group, is planning a meeting for this Interest Group in the upcoming calendar year.

## **The Web Page**

Sue Lyons updates the DANJ web page and has provided regular updates regarding the DANJ Award winner, Fall Conference announcements, and general maintenance of the website.

## **The Newsletter**

Dorothy Warner, the editor of the newsletter, published one issue this year in Fall 2007. The fall issue of the newsletter provides a detailed announcement of the annual Fall Conference.

## **Continuing Education Committee**

The position of Chair of this committee remains vacant. Organization of continuing education activities, particularly the Fall Conference, has been provided by the DANJ Executive Committee. Once again, Linda Oppenheim, Princeton University Library, has played a major role in the organization of this conference with help from each member of the Executive Committee.

In response to one of our prior conference attendee's requests, we are focusing this year's fall conference on the preservation of and access to digital documents with the program entitled, "Staying Digital: The Future of Government Information". The program will include speakers, George Barnum (GPO), John Balow (New York Public Library, Google Partner), and panelists Rob Richards (Drexel University), John Joergensen (Rutgers University), and Bobray Bordelon (Princeton University). Tours of several Princeton University libraries are once again offered in response to the popularity of last year's tours.

## **Membership**

The membership renewal cycle is from November (to coincide with the Fall Conference) to October. Elizabeth Patterson, the chair of this committee, reported that there are currently 37 members who have renewed/joined in 2007.

## **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 several meetings of the Rutgers Program Associates to promote the government documents area.

Thomas Ayars was the winner of the DANJ 2007 Award for Outstanding Achievement in a Government Documents Paper/Project. His paper, "The Road to the Iraq War: An Annotated Bibliography" was also selected to be published in the fall 2007 issue of *Progressive Librarian*.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Ella Strattis, the Treasurer of DANJ, has done a superb job of maintaining the financial records of our group. Her annual Treasurer's report is submitted at the same time that this annual report is submitted. We are very grateful to Mary Fetzner for providing an audit of the Treasurer's reports. Her report states that "[she has] examined the DANJ Treasurer's balance sheets dating from April, 2006 through June 22, 2007 and find them to be accurate".

## **Conclusion**

In last year's annual report, Geetali Basu noted that government documents libraries "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" and expressed the 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". Her concerns are shared by the DANJ Executive Committee, who bring you this year's conference theme in order to continue our professional education about preservation and access issues related to digitized government information.

Serving on the DANJ Executive Committee has been a highlight of my professional career and I encourage you to become a part of our discussions and our pro-active involvement as government documents librarians. Government Documents librarians from the state of New Jersey have a tradition of pro-active and determined involvement and we are doing our best to uphold New Jersey's fine reputation.

Dorothy Warner  
President  
DANJ  
November 2, 2007