

Annual Report 2008

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, Collections Librarian New Jersey State Library, keeps us informed on legislation relevant to New Jersey depository law. Two bills of interest are S305 and A2642. Deborah Mercer continues to monitor and lobby for legislation that ensures that agency publications be submitted to the State Library for distribution and archiving.

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 Health and Senior Services for its publication, *New Jersey Hospital Performance Report: A Consumer Report*. The "World Wide Web Site of the Year" goes to the *State of New Jersey's, Division of Consumer Affairs* <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/>.

The SDIG and FDIG held combined meetings to discuss training options for librarians throughout the state. Based on the data collected from last year's "Survey of Training Needs for Librarians using Government Information and Resources", a desire for state data in government information was identified. A Wiki is being developed to address this need. Additionally, training opportunities are being explored, include online training and on site training. Deborah Mercer and Laura Saur (FDIG) are investigating adapting existing training programs (i.e. Webjunction) and cooperatives with libraries in other States.

The Federal Documents Interest Group (FDIG)

The Federal Documents Interest Group, under the leadership of Laura Saur, continues to identify concerns regarding the preservation of and access to government documents. Additionally, Laura keeps FDIG informed of GPO's depository inspection process which is being piloted in New Jersey. Three NJ depository libraries have been inspected: Rowan University, the State Library and Trenton Public. Laura reports that GPO is concerned foremost with access issues.

International Documents Interest Group (IDIG)

Sue Lyons, the chair of the Group, is hoping to expand interest by attracting new members.

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, DANJ Newsletter editor for many years, recently retired from Rider University. We thank Dorothy for all her years of service. Elizabeth Patterson has agreed to take over the newsletter. The fall 2008 issue provided a detailed announcement of the annual Fall Conference and was distributed electronically.

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.

This year's fall conference focuses on the 2008 election. Ingrid W. Reid, from the Eagleton Institute, will discuss the election process in New Jersey, John Hernandez, Politics and U.S. Documents Librarian at Princeton University, will examine election resources. Dr. Joseph Romance, Political Science professor at Drew University, will discuss what makes this election unique.

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 35 members who have renewed/joined in 2008. This number is down from previous years.

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.

Nadine Sergejeff received the DANJ 2008 Award for Outstanding Achievement in a Government Documents Paper/Project. Her paper is entitled "The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 and the Interstate Highway System in the United States."

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.

Conclusion

Among the many complicated issues involved in GPO's migration to digital only publications, perhaps the most significant is the breakdown of the traditional partnership between GPO and FDLP libraries. In the past, GPO relied upon libraries to house, archive, and catalog and makes accessible the thousands of government documents produced annually, providing "a secure, authentic, permanent network of local collections of government information provided to the public without charge and preserved for the future." In the future, GPO envisions the creation of a monolithic database of "all Federal documents – past, present and future" housed at two mirror government facilities in a "Digital Publication Content" system. "With these goals, GPO treats libraries as it does other users – no documents are deposited, and libraries are free to "access" materials held by GPO and other government agencies." ¹

The Depository Library Council recognizes that the changes at GPO mean that FDLs are "no longer exclusive locations for access to government information" nor are they merely "repositories of printed government information." Instead, the DLC envisions FDLs will add value to GPO's huge digital repository by providing expertise, managing metadata and collections (print archives and online documents), facilitating access (via finding aids and instruction) and more. ²

In light of the changes proposed by GPO, DANJ is committed to serve New Jersey librarians. DANJ seeks to disseminate information, serve as a forum where concerns are discussed, and be a place where librarians can collaborate efforts in response to the upcoming challenges of archiving and providing access to government information. DANJ welcomes all to the discussion!

Respectively submitted by:
Elizabeth Patterson – DANJ President

¹ Jacobs, James A., Jacobs, James R., and Yeo, Shinjoung, "Government Information in the Digital Age: The Once and Future Federal Depository Library Program," *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 31, no. 3 (2005): 200, 2001.

² Depository Library Council. "*Knowledge Will Forever Govern*": *A Vision Statement for Federal Depositories in the 21st Century*." Prepared by the Depository Library Council and Others. March 15, 2006. http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/council/dlc_vision_doc31506.pdf