



Annual Report of the Documents Association of New Jersey (DANJ) – 2015

The Documents Association of New Jersey (DANJ) is a proud advocate for the preservation, use, and provision of public access to government information. Our continuing mission is to:

- Promote the use of government documents
- Provide a forum for discussion of problems and concerns
- Provide training and continuing education events
- Facilitate communication among documents librarians and administrators

Membership

I am happy to report that our membership is up from previous years. We had 68 members in 2015 and hope to continue growing.

Federal Documents Interest Group (FDIG)

The FDIG, chaired by Laura Sours, continued its work to identify and discuss issues related to the preservation and access of federal information. Opportunities for continuing education and assistance were discussed, such as GPO's FDLP Coordinator Certificate, the FDLP Academy, and the FDLP Training Assistance Program. Practical concerns about individual resources and depository management were also discussed at length, providing members with a forum to share concerns, resources, and ideas. This year proved particularly exciting, however, as it saw two of our members participate in the Depository Library Council virtual meeting. Laura Sours and Council Member Teri Taylor brought their expertise and enthusiasm to the *Public Library Depositories: Creating and Demonstrating Civic Value During Challenging Times* panel.

State Documents Interest Group (SDIG)

Deborah Mercer, Chair of the SDIG, brought a lot of great information to the group this year. The New Jersey State Library has digitized over 18000 state documents and Deborah was not only able to keep us updated on the content, but also demonstrate the repository's features. We encourage you to explore this amazing resource <https://dspace.njstatelib.org/xmlui/>

International Documents Interest Group (IDIG)

IDIG Chair Susan White provided members with an interesting and informative presentation on the International Monetary Fund. We are grateful for her expertise and enthusiasm for international documents and hope to build on that as we recruit new members. Please join us at future meetings to share your knowledge and interests!

DANJ Web Page/Social Media

Susan Bucks did a tremendous job maintaining and reorganizing the DANJ website (danj.org). She also created a lot of new content for both the website and our Facebook page. Teri Taylor and Caitlyn Cook maintained our Twitter account (@docsnj), posting many interesting tweets about documents and other government resources. Together, this group helped elevate our public profile and we look forward to continuing that work in 2016.

Newsletter

2015 proved bittersweet as our newsletter editor, Elizabeth Patterson, retired from her post after many years of service. We thank Beth for her hard work and dedication, not to mention all the expertise and creativity she brought to the newsletter. We know Rebecca Kunkel, our new editor, will be able to build off of Beth's success as she brings her own expertise and creativity to the design. The newsletter archives are available online if any interested members would like to review them and I encourage all members to contribute their own interesting finds to future issues.

Continuing Education

Following some very positive feedback from previous Conferences, a practical and interesting topic was chosen for the 2015 Fall Conference. The Conference, entitled *Getting Down to Business in New Jersey: Government Resources and the Bottom Line*, is to be held at Rider University and feature a number of distinguished speakers. Jon Gertner, author of *The Ideas Factory*, will offer the keynote address. Dr. Ronald Cook and Diane Campbell, both of Rider University, will offer a panel presentation on business plan development. Andrew Hait, of the US Census Bureau, will offer a demonstration of the Census Business Builder and Ka-Neng Au, of Rutgers University, will offer a presentation on less common government sources of business information.

I would like to thank all members of the Executive Board for their roles in attracting such wonderful speakers. I would like to thank LibraryLinkNJ for so generously sponsoring the Conference this year. We look forward to building upon this successful partnership to do great things in the future.

I would like to thank Rider University for their hospitality and for providing such wonderful facilities for the Conference. I would like to thank Ma Lei Hsieh in particular for all her time and effort arranging and overseeing Conference logistics and preparation. Your work was fundamental to the Conference's success. Thank you!

School of Communication and Information (SC&I), Rutgers University

DANJ was once again pleased to offer an award competition to the students enrolled in Rutgers University's Government Information course. Manuel Jusino's work, *Stimulus Package: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*, was selected to receive the 2015 DANJ Award, which included a \$300 scholarship. This and all previous winning papers are available on the DANJ website. I encourage you to read through them at your leisure.

Treasurer's Report

We are grateful to our treasurer, Wen-Hua Ren, who did an excellent job maintaining our financial accounting. We are also very thankful to Mary Fetzer, who served to audit our Treasurer's Reports.

Conclusion

It has been my honor to serve DANJ in 2015 and I thank you for that privilege. I am grateful for the service and support of the Executive Board and the Membership at large. I look forward to finding new ways to serve DANJ in the future.

Yours respectfully,

Caitlyn Cook