

DANJ Newsletter

Issue 80

Spring 2011

Save the Date!
DANJ Fall Conference
Health Resources
Friday, Nov. 4, 2011
Monmouth University

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DANJ Doings

NJLA Spring Conference May 4 Ocean Place, Long Branch NJ—**DANJ** cosponsors with College & University Section, Reference Section: **NJ Judiciary – Partnering to Promote Access to Justice**. Thanks to **Ma Lei Hsieh**, Reference and Documents Librarian at Rider University and DANJ Treasurer, for her work on this partnership!

Susan Lyons, Rutgers Law Librarian at Newark and former DANJ president (several times), has been appointed by the Public Printer to the [Depository Library Council](#). It is a three year appointment. “Over the years, the Council has offered advice and recommendations on matters relating to the indexing, classification, cataloging, distribution, format, storage, utilization, and administration of depository material. Council also has advised the Public Printer on information policy issues affecting depository libraries and the FDLP. “ DANJ is proud and lucky to have Sue serve on such a prestigious council.

Rutgers Law (Newark) has received a grant from the National Archives to digitize two key NJ collections: Lilley Commission Hearings; documents surrounding the Mt. Laurel decision.

Caitlyn Cook, 2011 DANJ President, will draft a letter in support of continuing the agency that produces the [Statistical Abstract of the United States](#). The letter will be sent to the NJ Congressional delegation on behalf of DANJ. There is a *Save the Statistical Abstract* facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/topic.php?uid=202626512363&topic=15290> . GODORT (Government Documents Round Table of the American Library Association) also has a page devoted to saving this valuable resource: <http://www.godort.ala.org/news/2011/04/help-save-the-statistical-abstract/>.

Sue Lyons will draft a letter on behalf of DANJ to request amendment to the Coburn/Kohl (senators) bill to allow printing of core government documents for archiving at depositories as well as the National Archives. For more on this legislation see: http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ContentRecord_id=91837bcd-f3a6-43b4-bf19-511d8f2f19f0.

Deborah Mercer, New Jersey Documents Librarian, is working with a Senate sponsor to bring A2742 to the NJ Senate. The bill would mandate that 6 hard copies of agency documents will be sent to State Library and requires that each State agency provide an agency liaison to the State Library.

Deborah Mercer taught 23 Rutgers SCI (School of Communication & Information) students how to find New Jersey government information as part of Kay Cassell's Government Information class. The class focused on resources from all three branches of New Jersey government, looking at both paper and electronic resources.

Documents Doings

The “tried and true”:

FDsys

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>

While technically a new site, I’m seeing this as the new presence of GPO (it replaced GPO Access this year) and so, a “tried and true” site for many purposes. FDsys is by no means a “complete” site – the available collections offer varying content types and date ranges. Having said this, FDsys is the “go-to” site for a cross section of important government collections, ranging from the Federal Register and Congressional Record to Economic Indicators and ERIC documents. Be sure to also explore the “Core Documents of Our Democracy” links, which provide access to important works like the Constitution, The Gettysburg Address, and the now-threatened Statistical Abstract.

Earthquake Hazards Program

United States Geological Survey

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/>

USGS earthquake and related data has been available for some time, but given the recent and tragic events in Japan, I’ve noted an uptick in research interest. This site provides a number of interactive features, allowing patrons to explore near real-time earthquake data visually. Tectonic summaries, maps, and other related data are provided for significant events. Historic data is also available and searchable across a variety of measures.

The “new”:

National Center for Biotechnology Information

National Library of Medicine

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>

I came across this while searching for addictions counseling related materials. The site provides access to biomedical and genomic information from a number of sources, both public and private. The “bookshelf” section features full text access to reports and e-books. For example, I found SAMHSA’s Treatment Improvement Protocols (TIPs) Series. You can just as easily locate material from the National Center for Health Statistics or the UK’s National Collaborating Centre for Cancer.

Sea Levels Online, Sea Level Trends
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/sltrends/index.shtml>

NOAA provides an incredible range of data sets. For my students, though, I'm always interested in presentation of that data. Sea Levels Online provides an interactive map feature allowing patrons to get a global perspective of sea level change. The map leads patrons to data sets and graphs, accessing data collected over time from global monitoring stations. It has a lot of interesting content, presented in a user-friendly manner.

Partner sites:

Hathi Trust Digital Library
<http://www.hathitrust.org/>

The Hathi Trust is a community of research institutions working to digitize and preserve a wide variety of collections, including government document collections. The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) has certified the Hathi Trust as a Trustworthy Digital Repository and more than 50 institutions have begun adding content. Brows-ability is somewhat limited, but a host of historic government documents are available if you are willing to search for them. For example, I recently used the site to locate Bureau of Indian Affairs reports from the 1960s.

Historical Census Browser
University of Virginia Library
<http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/>

The University of Virginia has digitized content from the historic Census of Housing and Population, 1790-1960. While digitized volumes are available as zip files through the Census Bureau, this site allows you to manipulate and search across the data. Depending on your need, this site may provide an easier access point.

Thanks to Caitlyn Cook for submitting these websites and comments!

Also of interest:

Census Bureau Launches Interactive Map Showing Local 2010 Census Data

“The U.S. Census Bureau launched an interactive map widget that showcases local-level 2010 Census population counts being delivered on a state-by-state rolling basis.

The application enables users to view county-level population change from 1960 to 2010, as well as state-level data on race and Hispanic or Latino origin for 2010. The widget can be embedded on your website and will update as additional states are released. It can be found at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/>

The full local-level data set for these four states, which includes official census population totals, as well as data on race, Hispanic or Latino origin and voting age, is available on American FactFinder. FactFinder can be used to access data for multiple geographies within each state, including census blocks, tracts, voting districts, cities, counties and school districts.”

Resources:

Interactive census data map: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/>

American FactFinder: <http://factfinder2.census.gov/main.html>

Online press kit: <http://2010.census.gov/news/press-kits/redistricting.html>

Census Bureau's Redistricting Data Program: <http://www.census.gov/rdo>

Random Samplings blog post: <http://blogs.census.gov/censusblog/2011/02/a-birds-eye-view.html>

For more information about the U.S. Census Bureau, please visit <http://www.census.gov> and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, Flickr and YouTube (/uscensusbureau).

Digging Deep on Census Data and Update on PACER

Susan Lyons – Rutgers Law Library – Newark

I had the good fortune to attend what I am sorry to say was the last Spring Depository Library Council meeting in San Antonio. The FDLP will be cutting back to just the October conference in 2012. This conference featured many excellent programs. Here is a report on two.

Steve Barker, a program manager with the State Data Center of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce presented “**Digging Deeper: A Quick Tour through Census FTP Downloads.**” The first lesson was that while most census data may be on the Internet, it is not necessarily on the Web. For example, the Census file transfer protocol (FTP) site contains 295 tables of data from the American Community Survey (ACS) that are not available in any of the web-based tables on the ACS site. Many more FTP files are available from the economic censuses, decennial censuses, and Public Use Microdata (PUMS) files. Want to know mortgage status by age of householder? How about grandchildren under 18 living with a grandparent? The data is there for researchers ready to dig for it.

Mr. Barker pointed out that the Census Bureau assumes that those venturing to the FTP site are experts at census data and are comfortable working with large data sets. How large? Can you handle spreadsheets with 7,000 columns or 16,000 rows? At the mention of such quantities of data I was began to feel faint and wondered if I had chosen the wrong workshop. Mr. Barker quickly assured us that not all the files are that large and the FTP site contains numerous “Readme” files and tutorials to help a non-expert through the process, many buried within the FTP folders. Amateurs with an adventurous spirit can find rewards in exploring the depths of the FTP site. But most users will, at a minimum, need a copy of Excel or Access from Microsoft Office 2007 or later. An SAS database or similar statistical software may be useful for some very large data sets.

Finding the FTP site is the first challenge. The quickest way is to go directly to this website: <http://www2.census.gov/>, but that site offers a rather stark column of file folders without much explanation. The ACS website also has a link to FTP files and some brief introductory comments at this website: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/data_via_ftp/.

In a whirlwind 45 minute presentation, Mr. Barker then showed us how to search for files by specific geographies, locate help files, filter data, extract data and finally, open the files in Microsoft Access. The very useful PowerPoint that accompanied his presentation is on the FDLP Desktop at this URL: http://www.fdlp.gov/home/repository/doc_download/1944-digging-deeper-a-quick-tour-through-census-ftp-downloads

My takeaway from the presentation was that while I may not be ready to wrestle with large data files, some of my library patrons may be. Librarians will find it worthwhile to explore the census FTP site so that we have some awareness of the many data sets available and can guide serious researchers to this rich repository of government data.

PACER Update:

On Tuesday morning I attended the Council Session program: “Public Access to Federal Court Records: New Tools and Programs” presented by Wendell Skidgel and Ted Willmann from the PACER program within the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC). Librarians have long pushed for greater free public access to the dockets and court filings available on PACER. After an aborted pilot program that offered free PACER access in 17 depository libraries two years ago, the AOUSC has been cautious about expanding free access. They did change the fee system last year so that customers are not charged if their fees are less than \$10 per quarter. Formerly PACER waived billing only if fees were less than \$10 per year.

At the program, Mr. Skidgel announced a new plan to expand free access to depository libraries. For those libraries willing to offer four training programs per year on PACER, the AOUSC will forgive \$50 of fees per quarter or \$200 per year. He stressed that this would be a true forgiveness of fees and not just a delay in billing. For example, under the current system, a PACER account holder who incurs fees of \$9.95 in a quarter pays nothing, but someone with \$10.05 in fees pays the full amount. Those libraries participating in the new program would have the first \$50 in the quarter forgiven even if they exceeded \$50 in fees. For example, a participating library that had \$65 in fees in a quarter would only be billed for the amount over \$50 or \$15.

It is not anticipated that participating libraries would make PACER freely available at public terminals as was done in the recent pilot program. Rather, libraries might feel more comfortable having a librarian do a mediated search and downloading a complaint or brief for a public patron knowing they had a \$50 quarterly credit. PACER plans to offer this new program first to ten libraries this spring, then 47 libraries, and ultimately to any depository or public library that wishes to participate.

Another improvement PACER plans to offer is a free training database with real PACER documents. This database will be available to all libraries. Instead of doing PACER trainings with screenshots on a PowerPoint, the training database would allow students to do hands-on searching in a computer lab. This is a welcome development!

Finally, Mr. Willmann spoke about new PACER Case Locator which replaces the old and unlovable U.S. Party/Case index for searching across all of the federal courts to determine whether a party is involved in federal litigation. The new Case Locator provides enhanced search and display capabilities including the ability to: request lists of cases for a specified date range by court type; conduct searches based on chapter, discharge date and dismissal date for bankruptcy cases; access case information for the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation; choose result formats, including HTML, delimited text, and XML which can be easily imported to other programs for analysis; change the sort order of the results displayed; and conduct refined searches within the results of a previous search.

All positive changes. Now if only we can get back to free PACER...

Annual Report of the Documents Association of New Jersey - 2010

This has been a busy year for DANJ, as we faced the challenges of the budget cuts, kept the website functioning, and revised the DANJ by-laws, among other things. The Executive Committee also discussed the Open Government Directive and the use of social media to track government news.

Federal Documents Interest Group - In 2010, the Federal Documents Interest Group held ongoing discussions on the effects of library budget cuts on depository operations, and on the Open Government Initiative and other new efforts at making government information more readily available. (Submitted by L. Saur)

State Documents Interest Group - The New Jersey State Documents Interest Group provided several letters of support in reference to legislative matters this year. The legislation involved the deposit of electronic documents with the State Library, along with paper copies and the provision of a departmental liaison. The State Documents Interest Group also submitted a letter to the legislature recommending that the State Librarian be given a seat on the State Records Committee. To date none of the legislation has passed though the sponsors of S1838 and A1541 (regarding the deposit of electronic publications) have agreed to incorporate the State Library's recommendations into their respective bills. (Submitted by D. Mercer)

SC& I Award - Liaison to School of Communication and Information, Susan Kadezabek and several DANJ members read students' research papers from Professor Cassell's class and selected Ryan Dement to receive the annual award for his paper "Identity Theft: an annotated bibliography." Susan has kept in touch with the school during the past year and learned from Dean Schement that SC&I offers the most online classes in the entire Rutgers' system. (Submitted by S. Kadezabek)

Membership – For the 2009/2010 year, there were 33 DANJ members. (Submitted by B. Patterson)

Newsletter - For the same period, two DANJ newsletters were sent out, one in the fall the other in the spring. Both newsletters are distributed electronically; the fall newsletter is also sent out in print. (Submitted by B. Patterson)

DANJ Web page – After overcoming the initial problems concerning hosting issues, the DANJ site is now back up with all the necessary information, thanks to Sue Lyons, Laura Saur, and Ma Lei Hsieh.

Continuing Education – The 2009 DANJ annual conference was held at the Lewis Library at Princeton University. The theme was “Documenting Climate Change” and the speakers were professors from Rutgers and Princeton universities and staff from the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection. Special thanks go to Susan Bucks, chair of this committee and to Linda Oppenheim for all the wonderful arrangements that she made for the conference at Princeton University.

It has been a pleasure to work as the president of DANJ and I would like to thank each and every committee member and the chairs for their support and encouragement. Special thanks go to the New Jersey State Library and Monmouth University for hosting the DANJ meetings. Also, I would like to thank Caitlyn Cook for taking an initiative in revising the by-laws. Lastly, I would like to thank Ma Lei Hsieh for being our Treasurer and Mary Fetzer for being our auditor. I consider myself extremely lucky to be part of an organization that really has made access to government information its primary objective
Respectfully submitted,

Geetali Basu, DANJ President - 2010

DANJ balance from 1/1/2010	\$5,247.45
DANJ balance as of 10/8/2010	\$5,729.62
DANJ CD balance as of 10/8/2010	\$4,241.54

2011 DANJ Officers

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Upcoming DANJ meetings

DANJ invites anyone interested in learning about depositories to our meetings, held the first Friday every other month. The location of meetings change; driving directions and parking instructions are always provided. Meetings for 2011 are:

- ⇒ June 3
- ⇒ Aug 5
- ⇒ Oct 7
- ⇒ Dec 2

For more information about time and place of meetings, contact 2011DANJ

Current DANJ Members

Stephanie Bartz
Geetali Basu
Benjamin Beede
Terrence Bennett
Susan Bucks
Donna Burkey
Ellen Calhoun
Liz Cogger
Caitlyn Cook
Ryan Dement
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Mary Fetzer
Ma Lei Hsieh
Michele Hoban
Susan Kadezabek
Karen Kilpatrick
Susan Lyons
Susan McCabe
Nancy McConville
Rhonda Marker
Deborah Mercer
Linda Oppenheim
Diane Oster
Elizabeth Patterson
Beverly Railsback
Laura Saur
Robert Stewart
Ella Strattis

⇒ **Did I miss you?**

epatters@drew.edu

⇒ **Join DANJ**

<http://www.danj.org/membform.htm>