CHARGE:

UC and Stanford government information and maps librarians have a strong history of successful collaboration and resource sharing. All UC/Stanford libraries are federal depositories and, as such, are receiving much of the same electronic information. Given the substantial resources, especially in personnel, that making these electronic resources accessible requires, government information in electronic formats appears to be a particularly productive focus for Universitywide collaboration.

The Electronic Government Information Initiatives Group is charged on an ongoing basis to identify appropriate electronic government information resources, including maps, for systemwide or other multi-campus access. The group should identify projects which, because of Universitywide or multi-campus collaboration, will effect resource efficiencies (in personnel, equipment, documentation, etc.) and/or assure comparable access across campuses to government information in electronic formats. The group should also make recommendations on effective modes of access, whether via MELVYL or other systemwide electronic mechanism, or via a campus gopher, WWW server, or other campus mechanism.

The UC/Stanford Government Information Librarians, a recently-formed systemwide selectors' group, have discussed a number of projects which meet the above criteria for efficiency and comparable access. These appear to be feasible projects which can significantly advance access to government data; they should receive immediate attention. The UC/Stanford Electronic Government Information Initiatives Group is also charged with developing recommendations for implementation, possibly through a structure of project subcommittees, of the following projects. Project subcommittees could include members who are not members of the EGIIG and members will vary according to the project (e.g., maps).

1. GPO Access Implementation Task Force: Review plans for database implementation, including the software used for access and online documentation. Prepare brief documentation on searching the database and make recommendations to HOPS if more elaborate documentation or training is needed on a Universitywide basis. Review experimental versions of access, if applicable. Develop and implement evaluation procedures.

2. Federal census data. Review existing mechanisms for access to tape and CD-ROM versions of U.S. Bureau of the Census data, including the UCLA Office of Academic Computing On-Line Census Data and the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory/UC Data/UC Berkeley Government Information Service CD-ROM based census system. Recommend, in consultation with the UC data archivists, appropriate methods of access and functionality which can be provided to users of census data at all campuses, either separate from or in conjunction with existing mechanisms.

3. Digital mapping data. Recommend, in consultation with the UC/Stanford Map Libraries Group, appropriate mechanisms for delivery of digital mapping data, such as the shared set of U.S. Geological Survey digital orthophotoquads.
The Electronic Government Information Initiatives Group will report to HOPS and is expected to make its recommendations after consultation with the UC/Stanford Government Information Librarians and other groups as appropriate. EGIIG should identify additional specific projects.

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