2015 Depository Library Conference Notes


Federally-Funded Research
Recommended resources -
- OSTP Memo > http://tinyurl.com/OSTPMemoFDLP
- Oregon State libguide > http://guides.library.oregonstate.edu/publicaccess
- Shared Access Research Ecosystem (SHARE) http://www.share-research.org/
- Clearinghouse for the Open Research of the United States (CHORUS)
  http://www.chorusaccess.org/
- FASTR Act – proposed legislation to codify the 2015 memo > http://taxpayeraccess.org

FIPNet
UNT comments
- Digital info is now the category most at risk (ephemeral) FIPnet as a unfunded new mission for selected fdlp libraries, will be challenging to implement
- Collective impact model
- common agenda
- shared measurement etc.
- mutually reinforcing activities
- continuous communication
- Backbone Organization
- Prioritize most important areas, metrics for gauging progress in preservation ID most critical infrastructural elements, stages in building access strategies advocate for targeted program/project funding incentivize libs to undertake this work

Bill Sudduth - ASERL
- ID national collection, build one that relevant to local collections

Jesse Silva
- Accepts duplication
- No UCs will drop out
- Worked: UC has strong shared infrastructure, shared in placed, systemwide coll dev initiatives. ULs priority. Shared RLFs
- Pressing HathiTrust to open Full text of gov docs to anyone
- Not worked: Cataloging inconsistencies, serial vol & issues (used at NRLF) or Mo & date (SRLF)
- Outside concern or fear

David Cismowski
- UC B was a land grant institution
- Other UC's joined FDLP, but not as land grant inst UC Merced: Representative depository, very little tangible receipts
- CSL supported making it work, vs. losing depository libraries. Streamlined weeding policies - ok with discarding all but one copy of a publication Keep UC's strong Very supportive of efforts, wants to ensure best possible outcome

**Hallie Pritchett**
- Maps Collection
- Many maps are electronic only (nautical charts, usgs), scanning maps & putting them online
  - made it easier to withdraw print.
  - which libraries will continue to retain print?

Question:
In light of what they've learned, how do we take this to next level? Collab at scale, what is sustainable?

How does GPO pick partners?
- UNT is result of longstanding working relationships w/ GPO on several projects -UNT was willing to preserve info
- GPO looking for tangible collections; esp in areas when stacks access restricted.
- Crowd sourcing opportunity; esp for fugitive docs

Closing comments - Katherine
- Cache - hard to demonstrate or validate participation in fdlp, need Next level, scale, how do we demonstrate what we have? Advocacy - better advocacy for what we are doing and trying to achieve
- Law & Policy - GPO concerns
- Collections mgmt & care : libraries
- How much agency particip stems from preservation mandate from U.S gov
- We don't map across all the groups we need to. Where are pressure points that might get agencies involved. Where are pressure points?
- Possible to get a reasonable inventory?
- Where can space be carved out for Fipnet?

**FOIA**
FOIA included a signing statement by Johnson

Interesting tidbit: Initially Rumsfeld was a big supporter; Bill Moyers was against it

Now more popular than ever; 700K requests a year to Nat Archives

What is released?
bullet public right to access records created & maintained across exec agencies

What is withheld?
bullet Exemptions: 9 - nat security, law enforcement, info about indivs, etc.

Who does it cover?

How does it work?
bullet Has to be a written request. Rules vary by agency. New efforts for online forms, consolidate requests to single form. No central place yet.
bullet Agency must respond w/in 20 days. Can place in queue if there's a backlog. Must use a tracking number.
bullet Records most often requested are held by program office. Some requests are quick, others are remote, takes awhile to request info from storage.
bullet Requesters can appeal, handled by sep legal office who looks at entire request. can appeal search terms agency used to find the info.

Making a request
1. Find out where a request should go. Foia.gov admin by DOJ, office of info policy. Helps agencies fulfill mandate on policy side. Good for determining where to start.
2. Write a letter. Request access to records. Agencies don't have to answer questions or do research for someone.

Figuring out the agency and formulating a properly formatted request is a good librarian job. FOIA can feel formal and legalistic. Rejections can be stiff, but also some FOIA-fillers go above and beyond. Sometimes will reach out to requestors to clarify their request.

Fees: Agencies can recover costs of search, review & reproduction. Req in 3 categories 1. commercial, charged full amount. 2. All Other, not business or journalist 3. Journalists, academics on behalf of instit only pay part. Be VERY up front with what kind of status you fall into. Justify. Put min & max amount willing to pay. OK to note on forms: Making request as a scholar, info is of timely value so reach out to me by phone instead of mail.

Reporters committee for freedom of the press has a FOIA requestor tool that generates a letter. RCFP.org

OGIS in 2007 - office of gov info services in NARA aka FOIA ombudsman. 1. provides mediation. 2. provide agency review of FOIA policies, procedures, compliance ex: template letters, share best practices, law, agency assessments (new), talk to agencies about their practices. Reports on their website.

Mediation Services:
bullet Resolve FOIA disputes
neutral third party, request for both agencies and requesters, vol process, party-driven approach, goal of preventing litigation. Not mandatory, not legally binding, does not preclude litigation.
OGIS advocates for neither the requestor nor the agency (stay neutral) For the FOIA process to work as intended; clarify how FOIA process should work
Works hard to not get involved in disputes, waits until after appeal process is completed, strives to work in conjunction w/ the existing request & appeal process. May become involved at any point in the FOIA admin process -clarify fee category
cases range from the simple to the complex NGOs who make requests across several agencies, connect agencies with best practices

Kerry Macguire
www.ogis.archives.gov
ogis@nara.gov
@FOIA_ombuds

Sees librarians as partner in FOIA process; connect users with best way to get info they need.

How open ended can the request be?
- Agencies see a range. ex FBI. Questions posed as: give me all records on this investigation or this individual, do you have records on Gotti will be thrown out, but will honor: give me all records on Gotti.

Time of response - start with info in public domain. 3 requests usu trigger putting it online. not always well organized. FOIA reports from agencies includes average processing time. 20 working days is standard (1 month) but some are faster/slower.

Longevity of records - records turned over to NARA.

Record schedules available online.

**GAO**
Mission
- Support Congress in meeting constitutional responsibilities
- Est 1921; 2004 - name changed to “accountability office”
- Work starts in cong requests, statute (mandates), conf or committee reports, -issue legal decisions, audit agencies

Products
- Report or bluebooks
- All (1921-) online, no longer in print but still referred to by color
GAO does not have authority of classify docs; only agency or military entity requested it. Public release mandated in 30 days. List of restricted reports > http://www.gao.gov/restricted/restricted_reports

Request form for agencies to request classif req Other citizens have to use FOIA, GAO not subject to FOIA but they try to follow it.

Don’t release their notes, or agencies supporting into; have to go to agency to obtain.

Testimonies:
Held on committee website or that of commercial publisher.

Bid protest decisions - contracting out for goods & services. Gov awards contract and can be contested. Can dismiss or render an opinion

Product Classifications
- Standard report, year and number
- Testimony has T after number
- Numbered corresp - issued a letter R; FISCAM guidance - G; has a Fact sheet - FS; Comptroller General pres or speeches CG; NI stands for Not Internet (unreleasable nonclassified)!!!; Special publications is SP

By the numbers: GAO is 2nd largest publishing house after GPO

research@gao.gov is their email address

Reports not updated unless Congress asks them to. Sometimes reports run for 5 Fiscal Years, then ends. Not produced again unless Congress asks.

Contact member of congress if an update is required

Don’t/can’t comment on ongoing work. Even if congress or congressperson releases info through their channels. GAO cannot do the same.

Responsive to both parties, don’t favor one over the other.

Not an enforcement agency, can only recommend. Don’t look into judicial or legal matters, or constitutionality of an issue Can refuse a cong request if it goes outside their mission

Searching/Obtaining docs at gao.gov
- Google report number, it will come up Search box is full text, doesn't respond well to report number
  - good for table or figure: ex table: school lunches
  - agency name
- use protest and other decisions page to find that info, don't use standard search engine "improper payments" payments to dead people Reports go back to 1920

- Narrow down by doc type
default is relevance, it's not very helpful Words after the colon are searched second, so narrow by date or other refine options Main title in phrase before colon, then title itself, then highlights page, then rest of report. Most relevant result will be in first part of title/topic.

- Advanced search does not appear on first page, have to search first Adv search is pretty good. Field is the most useful.
Use report number if avail:
use SP (only) or G etc. if that is the type of info you need.
NI are indexed. Does not include FT
- does not include classified info

Use contact info on highlights page to go straight to author of report. Gives why and what of the report plus contact info for questions.

Summary vs. highlights: It's a mystery... [even they don’t know what it is]

Tables and figures indexed in full text! Awesome!

Cannot release date behind tables, that comes from the agencies as it was given in trust/legal confidence (same with bid info etc.); have to go to agency for that info

Bid Protests: Closed means the case is closed, not that an opinion was issues Suggest searching by agency use the protestor name and other report numbers to search elsewhere If no bid number exists it means file dismissed.

8 months to a year to produce a report, some take years longer

**Promoting Government Information Using LibGuides**

- mostly a review of University of South Alabama government guides
  [http://libguides.southalabama.edu/](http://libguides.southalabama.edu/)
- encouraged to create course and topic-specific guides rather than or in addition to general guides
- use guides as a virtual display space to highlight pubs
- suggested including a gov resources tab in course guides as appropriate; opportunity to collaborate with subject specialists
- email Vicki Tate with suggestions/additions for the USA training resources guide at
  [http://libguides.southalabama.edu/docstraining](http://libguides.southalabama.edu/docstraining)
- includes libguide use stats in monthly reference stats
- finding other libguides: springshare community page, google (but only finds guides from libraries that allow indexing; possibly not indexing all v.2 guides)
- encouraged to have a personal name attached to each guide as author/contact
Digitizing the USDA Collection – Year Three

- http://archive.org/details/usdanationalagriculturallibrary > about > browse serial titles
- added transcripts of radio shows, 4H publications, newsletters

FDsys Content – What’s the Latest?

New
- GPO annual reports 1859-1947
- NIST technical series 1959-
- US Courts opinions
- eCFR bulk data

Upcoming
- Court of federal claims
- Judicial panel on multidistrict litigation
- Tax court opinions 2010-
- FDLP pubs
- Bound congressional record
- Federal register
- Panama canal committee reports