American Library Association  
Government Documents Round Table  

Government Information Technology Committee (GITCO)

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Wyndham Chicago, Salon C  
7/9/2000 2-5:15 p.m.  
Doralyn Edwards, Chair  
Megan Fitch, Secretary

Opening Remarks

Doralyn welcomed everyone to the meeting and the agenda was approved by voice vote.

Program

Judy Russell from NCLIS spoke about the upcoming study on reforming government information policy. She asked GITCO to consider ways to participate. Information about the study is available at www.nclis.gov/govt/ntis/ntis.html and www.nclis.gov/govt/assess/assess.html For more information, contact Judy at jrussell@nclis.gov or Woody Horton whorton@nclis.gov.

Barbara Aldrich from the Census Bureau spoke on trends in dissemination of Census 2000 Products. Data to be distributed in (probably) CD-ROM and DVD format, with many zipped files on the CD's. Maps to be distributed in DVD format.

Carolyn Kohler gave an update on the state of the CD-ROM Documentation Project database. Approximately 900 titles are in the database, including Federal titles received through 7/1 and some other foreign, state, international, and commercial titles as well. URLs from the handout exchange and information from Indiana University's floppy disk ftp site are going in or already in. Iowa is still migrating data; some fields in the records are blank and will need to be filled in by editors. Carolyn has started creating a pulldown menu listing agencies. A question was asked whether the list would cross-reference for agency name changes, but Carolyn has not gotten that far yet. Current titles are obtained from Marchive shipping lists.

Grace York and the committee thanked Carolyn for her hard work in realizing the vision of the Documentation project.

15 minute break between presentations and the Business Meeting.

Business Meeting
Doralyn reminded the committee and visitors that the GODORT reception followed the meeting from 6-8 at the Chicago Public Library. She thanked those members rotating off the committee for their contributions: Barbara Levergood, Brian Rossmann, Barb Mann, and Stephen Woods.

The minutes from the midwinter meeting were approved by voice vote. Barbara Levergood so moved, Brian Rossmann seconded.

**Reports**

Web Site (Brian Rossmann and Eric Forte): Over the past year the various GITCO pages have been consolidated at Rice. Eric will be assuming responsibility for the web site as of this meeting, and it will be migrating to UC-Santa Barbara. Redirect pages will be put up at the Rice address, and Andrea Sevetson will make the appropriate changes on the GODORT site. Eric attended the GODORT web managers meeting and reported that there may be changes to the front page coming soon. Information about the CD-ROM Documentation Project may go in a soon-to-be-developed area of the GODORT site, and may receive mention on the front page. Eric also noted that Andrea will be rotating off soon, and encouraged those present to consider volunteering for the web coordinator position. Eric was instructed by the committee to feel free to make changes to the site, but to run major changes by the committee via email.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the CDROM DOC email list and what should happen to it now that GITCO's involvement in the project is declining. It was decided to postpone discussion until the old business portion of the agenda.

SLDTF-no report, meeting concurrently
IDTF-no report, meeting concurrently
FDTF-Eric Forte reported that Cindi Wolff is looking for people to help put together a Census program for San Francisco. Also, FDTF and Rare and Endangered are co-sponsoring a preconference June 13th 9-3 on tools to access and research historical documents. The FDTF also got an update on Census efforts to digitize historical census data (not name rolls). FDTF is asking GITCO to look into Census issues such as file format, software, zipped files, and the different physical formats that are going to be available.

Historical Documents Digitization Working Group: Barbara Levergood reported on this ad hoc committee originated through Cathy Hartman's work in Texas on the CyberGraveyard. Barbara suggested Ann Miller call an ad hoc committee, Miller working on charge and membership. Ann reported that the charge would be to do the following (plus more) over a 2-year period: explore practices, standards, technologies, authentication, grants, create bibliographies, copyright issues, principles for targeting items for inclusion. Membership: 10 members, 3 from task forces, 1 each from GITCO, Education, Cataloging, Rare & Endangered, 3 at large members, hopefully from other stakeholders such as ARL & GPO, if interested. To be brought up at steering. Hope to have virtual work begin fall, first face-to-face meeting midwinter. No definition yet of what is "historical." Barbara Levergood was thanked for attending and reporting.

**Old Business**
Web page template: The committee thought it was a good idea for Cathy to write an article for Public Libraries and to add a section on metadata to the help file. T.C. Evans requested that the metadata material be shared with GPO for the search engine project.

NTDB: Carrie and Esther examined the November release to see if it required the full release of Adobe Acrobat 4: it does. A handout was distributed listing the programs that required Adobe. The question was raised, since CD-ROM production is ceasing 10/2000, whether this is worth bringing up on govdoc-l. There was general uncertainty about how well the contents of NTDB mapped with STAT-USA. It was suggested that Carrie or Esther contact Commerce to check on the content question. Several questions were asked about MISER data and whether networking was allowed under the licensing agreements. Grace York asked whether it was GPO or Commerce that was stopping production: T.C. Evans confirmed that it was Commerce. T.C suggested that Mike Bright could be contacted with questions at mbright@gpo.gov to get the information GPO possesses. Starting 10/1 depositories will be getting 2 passwords for STAT-USA. Carrie and Esther are going to follow up with GPO/Commerce, and will report to GITCO. Eric Forte will report those results to FDTF and eventually to govdoc-l. Esther and Carrie were thanked for their work.

CD-ROM Documentation Project

Doralyn brought up the idea of changing the name of the project before it goes super-public. Concern about confusion since the Project documents more than just CD-ROMS. The comment was made that if libraries were going to link to this in such a way that the public would be searching directly, it should be clearly named. The committee decided to move the discussion to the GITCO email list. The discussion should involve the committee, Carolyn Kohler, the Managing Editors and other interested parties.

Managing Editor: A discussion took place about the applicants and the structure of the managing editor position. Doralyn is to contact the 2 candidates.

A working group was formed to look at responsibilities of the host, editors, and GITCO to make sure all ducks are in row. Megan Fitch will coordinate, Eric Forte, Amy West, the candidates, and Doralyn Edwards will participate. Eventually the working group will move toward a single GITCO liaison with the project. Summary emails will be sent to GITCO. They will also try to put together a timeframe, where appropriate, to apply to the various responsibilities. Ideally will be able to make an announcement to GODORT by midwinter. The group will also get together a list of information resources for editors.

Grace York pointed out that it would be a good idea to have a Handout Exchange person serve as an editor. Carolyn suggested Larry Schankman would be good for technical documentation.

Host Update: The database will be migrating to a new and better server, possibly in the fall. Iowa is developing ideas, possibly software, for the GITCO funds available for the project. Carolyn will communicate her needs through the subcommittee and ultimately to Doralyn. Most of her questions and issues are more appropriate for the workgroup. She noted that for now searching on date modified/created is not a meaningful search since so much work is going on. Will be more effective one database settles down a bit. The basic information is
coming from Marchive shipping list, not final cataloging by any stretch. Carolyn is going back, finding GPO records, and updating. Iowa switched the mediation software that webbifies the database, and they may no longer be able to hotlink the URLs.

A discussion ensued about the ability to download records and data from the database. The working group was tasked with examining this issue as well. Barbara Levergood suggested that a good project might be to develop a template for downloading information from the database and integrating it with local data. Ideas about downloading should be passed to Megan Fitch at mfitch@nevada.edu.

CDROM email list: to live at Iowa. Members should include relevant Iowa people, managing editors, Megan Fitch, Eric Forte, Amy West, and Doralyn. Doralyn will send the information to Carolyn. Barbara may take down the list residing at UNC.

Barbara Levergood made motion to extend the meeting until 5:15, Brian Rossmann seconded, passed.

**Brainstorming**

FDTF/Census issues: discussion about how/what to pursue. Grace gave out 3 handouts on CD/DVD functionality specs, questions for librarians, and a handout from a census marketing workshop. Issues include paper products and CD/dvd, fear/intimidation in depository community surrounding dvd. Should GITCO solicit opinions on dvd vs. CD? Decided that issue sounds like a pretty done deal on part of Census people.

Grace pointed out that people are needed to test software Census is thinking about using.

Idea brought up to post periodic tech updates/bulletins/FAQs/etc. on the GITCO web site to help demystify the technology. Suggested that Emerging Technology Committee in the Instruction Section of ACRL might be good partner or source of information. Perhaps someone could volunteer to go to meetings. Amy West suggested clearinghouse for technical guides a la handout exchange. Larry Schankman suggested a Tech Notes column in DTTP. Doralyn is going to contact John Schuler and Aimee Quinn to discuss. Amy West will coordinate columns, if idea flies.

Census projects: look at zipped files issue. Investigators needed. Need to contact Census and find out how software operates, about access to data in nonproprietary formats. T.C noted that there has been a lot of discussion at GPO on these issues, and that library input would be a good thing. We need to know where Census is in software selection process. Grace will follow up with Census. Amy, John Hernandez, Megan Dreger, and Barbara Levergood will test software.

Barbara Levergood suggested it might be time for GITCO to sponsor or co-sponsor a program. The committee decided that virtual discussions would commence in the fall, followed by a more detailed discussion at midwinter.

Doralyn encouraged those present to attend the Business meeting and consider the role of the GODORT councilor.
Barb Mann motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Amy West, passed, meeting adjourned.