

Federal Documents Task Force, Business Meeting
ALA Conference, 2008
Anaheim, Calif. – Saturday, June 28, 2008
Presiding: Justin Otto, Chair
Secretary: Tim Dodge

1. The agenda and meeting minutes for the ALA Midwinter Conference 2008 (January 12) were approved.
2. Presentations by Guest Speakers:
 - a) EPA Tagging Project (Daniel Cornwall, Head, Information Services, Alaska State Library)
 - Project inspired by rise of tagging images in Web 2.0 social networking applications such as NASA Clickworkers Project (Mars image digitization project) and Galaxy Zoo (images of galaxies from Slocum Digital Sky Survey).
 - Cornwall took 32 EPA documents posted online by EPA Harvest Program and uploaded them to Internet Archive. Located volunteers via listservs to assign descriptive tags. Volunteers all used del.icio.us (social networking site) accounts to post tags.
 - Cornwall reported positive results: tags assigned by volunteers were satisfactory. Suggested tagging would be good interim form of access to government documents until GPO can provide full cataloging. Main challenge is to develop sense of ownership by taggers. Cornwall suggests GPO create RSS feed by agency/sub-agency and thereby encourage interest of would-be taggers.
 - b) Update from the Government Printing Office (Ric Davis, Acting Superintendent of Documents, GPO)
 - Five new Depository Library Council members have been appointed; GPO will offer “boot camp” orientation prior to Fall Council meeting.
 - Davis appreciates comments on controversial Joint Committee on Printing study on regional depository libraries: *Regional Depository Libraries in the 21st Century: A Time for Change?* No date at this point established for final report. Still incorporating comments including those on possible Title 44 revisions. Will be transparent in reply back to JCP.
 - Digital Authentication Initiative is going well: *Budget of the United States, Public Laws* and *Private Laws* now are signed digitally. GPO now has technology needed to digitally sign any document; just needs buy-in from all federal agencies.

- Davis reported that GPO wants to turn FDLP Desktop into a collaborative tool by creating areas on web site for collaborative projects and setting up RSS feeds.
- Originally, when planned, the Digital Initiative project (to digitize the entire Legacy Collection) was to have 500 staff members but only 16 are actually available. Consequently, GPO is now seeking partners for this project via a request for proposals appearing in the July 3 issue of *Federal Business Opportunities*. When complete this project will allow free unrestricted online access to the Legacy Collection.
- GPO re-launched the Digital Registry project on June 17. Will add RSS feed and is looking for partnerships.
- GPO and the Naval Postgraduate School announced their recent partnership to provide access to the Homeland Security Digital Library, a database of over 50,000 non-classified Presidential directives, policy and national strategy documents, as well as specialized resources related to Homeland Security.

3. Old Business

- a) Update on FDTF virtual membership proposal: FDTF Chair-Elect Sarah Gewirtz.

Via appeals on two listservs, sought 12 volunteers to test concept out but, so far, has received only five responses. Task Force agreed that Gewirtz should send out more appeals and also ask for regional depository librarians to encourage volunteers from pool of people unable to attend conferences.

4. New Business

- a) *Regional Depository Libraries in the 21st Century: A Time for Change?* FDTF Chair Justin Otto encouraged an open forum on this controversial report since Acting Superintendent of Documents Ric Davis and Cynthia Etkin, Program Planning Specialist, both of GPO, were present.

Main themes of the discussion included concerns over possible changes to Title 44 of the *U.S. Code*: some thought these would be necessary to make the FDLP and regional depository library operations more flexible, others were opposed. Davis and Etkin emphasized that major changes to Title 44 were unlikely but potential technical amendments might be considered without danger to the core program (FDLP). Issues of concern included the current rigidity of the structure forbidding cross-state cooperation of regional depositories such as Kansas and Nebraska; the diversion of limited resources due to the current requirements that regional depositories maintain print and microfiche documents rather than digitized versions. However, with digital authentication now possible, it may be possible to consider a digital substitution policy for regionals, provided print and microfiche copies be maintained for ultimate authentication, archival storage, etc.

