

Government Information Technology Committee (GITCO)
ALA Annual Conference, 2004
Orlando, FL

Sunday, June 27, 2004
2:00-5:30pm
Renaissance Orlando Resort, Nomeus

Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions - John J. Hernandez, Chair
- II. Approval of Agenda
[Insertion of Interagency Committee on Government Information under “New Business”]
Moved, Seconded, and Approved as amended.
- III. Approval of Minutes, Midwinter 2004 - submitted by Michael Smith
 - Will be inserting entire list of attendees
 - Section IV. F: Should read “Census 2000”
 - Moved, Seconded and Approved as Amended
- IV. Liaison Reports
 - a. Federal Documents Taskforce - Amy Stewart-Mailhiot
 - i. Old Business: letters sent out.
 - ii. New Business: looked at awareness project in minimal detail. Also talked about a pre-conference for 2006 called Government Info 101. Pre-conference proposal for 2005 failed to pass.
 - b. International Documents Taskforce – Brett Cloyd (for Carolyn Kohler)
 - i. Reports from committee liaisons and vendors and agencies.
 - ii. Barbara Sloan from the EU delegation is retiring.
 - iii. Eurostat on the web is now free. EuroBookshelf is another new product.
 - iv. Attempts to merge 2 databases failed.
 - v. My Eye Library working with IGOs to digitize their info to make it available as a commercial project (Kutz?).
 - vi. OECD is encouraging folks to try their new product.
 - vii. U.N. official documents database (ODS) should be available for free online, no password required in October, 2004. This does not include every UN document, but what’s in ODS right now.
 - c. State & Local Documents Taskforce - Michael Smith
 - i. 2 speakers: Richard Matthews spoke on Permanent Public Access to Electronic Government Information. Deacon Waters (?) spoke on digitizing and preserving Florida State documents.
 - ii. Jim Church is organizing a 2005 program on cataloging and preserving online documents. Also, program tomorrow: Potholes on the Information Highway...
 - d. Other reports and/or announcements

John Hernandez attended First Legislation Committee Meeting; 3 resolutions in the works:

- supporting THOMAS
- SUDOCS salary and expenses appropriations
- Privatization of government information.

V. Old Business

a. Legacy CD-ROM Issues

i. Working group updates & discussion of next steps

1. Brett Cloyd: Carolyn looked at the elements of the database that they created. She created a data dictionary and a document mapping database fields to MARC tags. 15% decline in usage of the documentation database. 2500 hits this past year, 2900 the previous year. Has made an Excel version of the database. May want to upgrade to Access.
2. John Hernandez: Did a PowerPoint presentation at FDLC in St. Louis. [See Handout] Some key points are as follows:
 - a. As time goes by, CD Rom products become less and less accessible. Tom Byrnes (University of Kentucky) working on a project involving reviewing status of CD products in terms of problems.
 - b. Obsolescence, both physical and system, is the key problem. Backwards compatibility issues arising from software upgrades, laser rot, etc.
 - c. Library of Congress has a useful report: "Longevity of CD Media." NIST also has a useful report: "Care and Handling of CDs and DVDs."
 - d. Tom's key findings: many CDs still usable. However, there are many problems: read/write errors, installation problems (looking for specific software), superseded (new formats), proprietary software that isn't being updated to be compatible with newer platforms and operating systems, etc.
 - e. Next steps: Want to do a systematic review of 5,210 products (titles) distributed up to this point by GPO. Discussing doing an agency-based approach. Considering how to break-up the task so that no one institution has to take on the project alone.

Discussion: we need to treat electronic products like any others and archive. We need to migrate content, and export from proprietary sources that which is exportable, in order to preserve permanent public access. It will need to be a sophisticated archiving scheme because CDs contain a wide variety of information formats (data, text, maps, images, etc.). Question of whether it is worthwhile to save/migrate 100%, given our limited resources. May want to consider assessing the value of individual products. Gregory Lawrence Cornell

(present at meeting) has done a considerable amount of work in this area, especially with Dept. of Agriculture products, and is happy to work with us on this issue. We may need official FDLP guidance on this issue if we're to consider selective retention. We will want to prioritize the usefulness of products as a means of deciding what to focus our efforts on. Some discussion of feasibility/usefulness of developing a common interface to support existing and forthcoming data from multiple agencies. We need to figure out what has been done already on this topic. Yet another issue with migration, we need to consider certification/authentication process.

- b. Digital Projects Clearinghouse partnership with GPO (Judy Russell) [see handout] We don't need a bunch of competing products. However, is it reasonable to have one registry which serves everyone's purposes? Want the registry to be open access. Talking with OCLC about feasibility of this project. At minimum we could map what we do, over to OCLC. Overall, this project is essential. We can't do this digitization project without a registry.

Discussion: it doesn't make sense to have competing projects. IMLS is okay adding fields, but they may not want to give away a bunch of fields.

John would like to have GITCO have an action item to bring this to the business meeting:

Motion:

Chair of GITCO to write letter to GODORT officially transferring clearinghouse to GPO to use as a basis of their registry, and that GPO registry would go beyond Federal to include state, local, and international records.

Hearing no further discussion...

Motion carries.

Additional action:

Establish a small working group (open to anyone, not just GITCO members) to work with GPO on this registry, and the GITCO Chair should serve on this group. John asked for volunteers: Grace York, Grace Ellen McCrann, Hui Hua, Wendy, James (anticipated Chair), and Brett (tentative)

Motion:

Chair of GITCO to send letter of appreciation to Aric and Illinois Institute of Technology thanking them for their work regarding the clearinghouse.

Motion carries.

PPM: taking GITCO responsibility for this out of the Policies and Procedures Manual.

VI. New Business/Program

- a. Interagency Committee on Government Information
 - i. Has issued a couple of reports. John wants to recruit some GITCO members to work with the Legislation Committee with the review of these documents. (Documents have been posted on GOVDOC-L.) Volunteers: Kathy, Susan
 - ii. Judy Russell mentioned that they want broad public comment on these documents before they go to OMB.
- b. Discussion of methods for gathering meaningful usage statistics on documents reference
 - i. What kind of data do we want to collect? What metrics?
 - ii. Ultimately, would like to make a recommendation to GPO.
 - iii. Need to consider that many reference desks are merged, many docs questions are answered while not on the desk, and many people don't distinguish docs questions from other questions.
 - iv. Would like to see us consider:
 1. amount of time spent on transaction
 2. types of formats used
 3. sample vs. census
 4. usage statistics, circulation of items, web hits, database hit counters
 5. kinds of questions that get referred to the docs librarian vs. those that are handled at the general reference desk. Maybe consider tracking number of referrals.
 6. types of users
 - v. Should we form a small group to work on this? Is this is a GODORT discussion? Let's pass this along to GODORT rather than creating another working group.
- c. Presentation on PDQ Explore software for Census PUMS data - Grace York [see handout] Grace gave an excellent presentation on using PDQ Explore for analyzing PUMS data. Thanks, Grace!

VII. Census Update - Andrea Severson

- a. Depository Libraries did not get all Census Briefs. You can send Andrea a checklist indicating which ones you want. Emergency and Transitional Shelter (Special Report) also did not get distributed, so let her know if you want that report.
- b. American Community Survey presentation will soon be available on the web.
- c. Census Bureau Update [see handout]
- d. Additional info on American Community Survey:
 - i. Tract level data will be available in 2008.
 - ii. No products will be released; data will only be distributed via AFF. ASCII data will be available via FTP site.
 - iii. Comparability: should look like Census 2000

- iv. Confidence intervals: lower and upper bounds will be given rather than a specific value. Will be presented to look more like sample data to the users. We'll need to find ways to talk about this, explain this to users.

VIII. Program Ideas for Future Conferences

- a. 2007 Pre-conference on American Community Survey? We agreed to bring it to the Programming Committee as a potential idea for a full-day pre-conference event.
- IX. Thanks to presenters, Grace and Andrea. Also thanks to those rotating-off the committee for their work. Also, there are several new appointments to the Committee.
- X. Adjourn

Minutes recorded by:

Edited by: John Hernandez