

GODORT Rare and Endangered Government Publications Minutes
ALA Annual Conference, Toronto
June 22, 2003
Courtyard by Marriott, Alexander

Present: John Phillips (Chair), David Utz, Yvonne Wilson, Timothy Skeers, Mark Phillips, Bert Chapman, August Imholtz, David Griffiths, Jackie Druery, Christof Galli, Wendy Mann, Erhard Konerding, John Hernandez, Susan Xue, Hui Hua Chua, Joyce Lindstrom, Linda Kennedy, Nena Thomas, TC Evans, Valerie Glenn, Diane Smith, Linda Johnson

Meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. This was followed by introductions.

The agenda was adopted with the note that Dr. Marilyn Parr was not able to attend the conference and her presentation would be rescheduled. The minutes of the Midwinter 2003 were approved after one correction was noted.

There was a short background given about the Serial Set Inventory. Donna Koepp was not able to attend but provided a press release about the inventory to the committee for distribution. The site is now at Harvard and the address is: <http://hcl.harvard.edu/govdocs/serialsets/index.html> August Imholtz provided some information about the number of inventories that are on the site and that more were about to be added. August mentioned that Readex would be adding to the site information about any fugitive documents that it finds while working on its digitization project. Some of these are publications that were withdrawn from the Serial Set and those that have been found to be missing. About 100 pieces fall into the latter category.

David Utz asked about items found from this time period that are not in the indexes to the Serial Set. August replied that those from the pre-15th Congress would be reviewed for addition but those after this time period did not fit into the criteria established for the Serial Set. In order to find items missed in the early years of the United States, *Greeley* will be digitized and made available on the site to help libraries in identifying items that they might own as well as helping them identify items that could be classed as fugitive documents.

The current status on the NewsBank/Readex project to produce a digital *U. S. Congressional Serial Set* was discussed by August Imholtz. He had given a longer presentation Saturday afternoon and provided a summary of this report. The project began in January 2003 and in March an advisory board was established. A demo of the project was released in April and this consisted of 38 documents. New metadata has been created for the publications in the set and an agreement has been made with the Library of Congress to add their color maps to the project. A staff of 15 is working on the project. Creating the metadata for the reports is the most laborious part of their work. The first parts of the project will be released in Sept. and there will be monthly installments to the database as other sections are added. Questions were asked about what name and subject authorities are being used. A variety of tools will be used to make sure the names and subject terms are correct and accurately index the publications. August mentioned that the source documents for the project are from Readex's microfiche product as well as additional input from various collections like that at the New York Public Library and the Library of Congress. When a question was asked concerning the indexing of racial groups,

August mentioned that there would always be the need for human intervention when using the online version of the product.

Diane Smith from LexisNexis reviewed what her company is doing to provide a similar digitized product. They began looking at digitizing the Serial Set during the summer of 2002. Focus groups were used at midwinter and annual ALA conferences to gather more information. An advisory group has also been established. A prototype will be released soon.

Reports from Task Force Representatives and Liaisons:

Jackie Druery from IDTF mentioned that they had discussions about a possible pre-conference about the digitization of IGO materials and their cataloging.

Timothy Skeers from SLDTF mentioned the publication of a new book by Lori Smith on state and local documents. Their committee also discussed a pre-conference in Orlando concerning cataloging.

Old Business:

More information was provided about the plans for a pre-conference on the Serial Set. Cindi Wolff and August Imholtz are working on the planning for this and the idea will be taken to the Programs meeting on Monday. Most likely this will occur in 2005 and the exact site for the meeting has not been determined. The members of the REGP committee agreed that this would be a great idea and they would lend support in its planning.

New Business:

John Phillips mentioned the need for a book to be written about the Serial Set. Further information on this will be gathered and brought back to the committee.

David Utz mentioned that there needs to be a discussion on the preservation of local documents. This could be part of an REGP meeting or a separate program that would allow more time for the subject.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Minutes submitted by John Phillips, Chair-REGP