

INDIGO News

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From the Chair:

The fall conference will be held Friday, December 4, 1998 at IUPUI's University

Library Room UL1132. Items on the agenda include presentations on digital copyright and Indiana's Open Records and Meetings Act, the annual business meeting, and planning for a possible government documents promotional tour patterned after a similar event held in Arizona during 1997.

Since some of us have faculty status, we are subject to our institutions promotion and tenure requirements. Such requirements can include acknowledgement of our professional contributions from colleagues. It would be beneficial, therefore, for INDIGO members to become familiar with each others professional accomplishments and serve as supportive reference sources for those evaluating us at our parent institutions. Given the unique professional characteristics of documents librarianship and its mysteriousness to some of our colleagues, we need to provide a support system for each other when we are evaluated and when major decisions affecting our work are made.

Indiana Depository News

Ball State's SIRSI System

Diane Calvin reports that Ball State is bringing up SIRSI as its online system in late November.

INDIGO WWW Page News

The INDIGO web page will be brought up soon on the Purdue Documents Department homepage. The anticipated URL will be www.lib.purdue.edu/library_info/departments/govdocs/Indigo/ Please take a look at the page and make suggestions for updates and enhancements since it contains outdated information. In addition, the Purdue Libraries Documents Department web page will be unveiled at: www.lib.purdue.edu/library_info/departments/govdocs/

INDIGO Listserv Needs New Moderator

A new INDIGO listserv moderator will be needed after December 23. Current moderator Fannie Cox will be leaving to accept a professional position at the University of Louisville. We wish Fannie the best in her new position.

Purdue Libraries Adopt Voyager Online System

Purdue Libraries moved from Notis to Endeavor Information System's Voyager as its library management system in July 1998. Voyager provides enhanced access to government publications through its use of hotlinked subject headings and links to Internet versions of documents when those publications are in the bibliographic record. Technical services aspects are more problematic as they require setting up prediction patterns for each individual serial title which is an extremely time-consuming process. Purdue Libraries Documents Department staff hope to have this process complete sometime next year.

GPO Reform Bill

This past session of Congress saw the first major attempt to reform the statutory basis for the FDLP since 1962 passage of the act creating the Regional Depository system. S. 2288, the Wendell Ford Government Publications Reform Act was introduced on July 10, 1998 by Senators John Warner (R-VA) and Wendell Ford (D-KY). It was referred to the Senate Rules Committee which held hearings and reported favorably on it on September 28, 1998. This committee issued Senate Report 105-413 on October 16, 1998. However, the legislation went no farther due to the end of the congressional session and furor over the Starr Report and Lewinsky scandal. The status of this legislation involving the depository community and Joint Committee on Printing for the upcoming 106th Congress is uncertain.

Congressional Research Service Reports Legislation

The 105th Congress also saw attempts to make Congressional Research Service

(CRS) reports publicly available on the Internet. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) introduced S. 1578 in this regard on January 28, 1998 and a hearing was held on March 4, 1998 by the Senate Rules Committee. Despite being cosponsored by outgoing Senator Dan Coats (R-IN) and a total of 11 senators, this legislation went no further neither did a July 20, 1998 legislative amendment by McCain. January 28 also saw the House version of this (H.R. 3131) introduced by Rep. Chris Shays (R-CT). H.R. 3131 was referred to the House Oversight Committee and was cosponsored by 33 representatives although none of these were from Indiana.

U.S. Senate Candidates Depository Library Invitation Attempts

Invitations to visit the depository facilities at Purdue University were extended to U.S. Senate candidates Evan Bayh and Paul Helmke. Neither invitation was accepted.

Indiana Government WWW Site Award Proposal

Since increasing numbers of Indiana governmental agencies have WWW sites, INDIGO might want to consider issuing an annual certificate of recognition to the agency having the best site. Awards could be issued in the following three categories: best Indiana state agency site, best Indiana local (city or county) government site, and best Indiana congressional member site. Criteria for these awards should include substantive quality of information, updating frequency, ease of use, and aesthetic appearance. IPFW's Indiana sites homepage, Purdue's Indiana local government site www.lib.purdue.edu/govdocs/local.html and the Indiana State Library's homepage are good sites for locating links to Indiana local government sites.

Public Policy Process and Community Nursing Classes at IU-Northwest

A graduate research course in IUN's School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) program requires a semester long legislative research project. Students choose a public policy topic then a related law from the 1980's or 1990's which sought to address problem(s) relevant to that topic. Students find relevant information about the

law and its legislative history such as committee hearings, debates, regulatory impact, and subsequent legal challenges. I provide an instruction session for the class and provide additional assistance for individual students throughout the semester. Students tend to start with commercial sources such as Congressional Quarterly publications then move to electronic versions of the Congressional Record through GPO Access and Thomas. Students find the course challenging but gain a sense of accomplishment at the end of the class. The students also gain a new level of information literacy which will help them in the workplace. An upper level course in IUN's Nursing Division requires two library research projects. Students first choose community health issues such as asthma, AIDS, teen pregnancy, or teen smoking. They proceed to use bibliographic indexes and sources to locate medical related sources including government publications as a preparation for writing a research paper. Students also use government and other statistical sources in print, CD-ROM, and the Internet to document incidences, morbidity, and mortality concerning this issue at national, state, and local levels.

A second step in the project is creating a community profile of a Northwest Indiana municipality, using various statistical sources to locate demographic, vital statistics, and other relevant data to compare the local community against a "healthy" community. I provide a 1-2 hour instructional session for the class on relevant print and electronic sources and followup assistance at the Reference Desk or in my office for individuals providing additional guidance. (Tim Sutherland)

Indiana History News

Much attention has been paid to the electronic dissemination of government information in recent years. It's also important for Documents Librarians to remember the important role of government documents historically and in historical research. An excellent example of this latter role is provided in Donald Carmony's *Indiana 1816-1850: The Pioneer Era*. This work is the newest in the Indiana Historical Society's five volume series on Indiana's historical development. Carmony chronicles Indiana's early years as

a state covering events such as the state's early efforts at economic management, the building of the Wabash & Erie Canal and the serious financial consequences it produced, Hoosier involvement in the Mexican-American War, and how Indiana dealt with issues which would eventually erupt into Civil War. His study also makes extensive use of U.S. and Indiana documents. Federal documents used by Carmony include U.S. Statutes at Large, Congressional Globe, House and Senate Journals, decennial census reports, and public lands, Indian affairs, and finance volumes of the American State Papers. Indiana documents used in this study include the 1816 and 1851 state constitutions, Indiana state and Northwest Territory laws, the Journal of the Indiana Territory for 1816 constitutional convention coverage, Indiana House and Senate Journals, and gubernatorial letters and papers from William Henry Harrison, Jonathan Jennings, and Samuel Bigger. Although partially weakened by a wooden writing style, Indiana 1816-1850 is a significant contribution to Indiana's first three and a half decades of statehood and a must addition to Indiana history collections in our libraries.

New Indiana Congressional Representative

Former state legislator Baron Hill (D) was elected to fill the 9th congressional district seat held since 1965 by Rep. Lee Hamilton (D) who is retiring. Hill's committee assignments are not known at this time or whether he is familiar with the FDLP.

Statistical Universe and Academic Universe

Purdue University Libraries have acquired access to CIS' Statistical Universe and Lexis-Nexis' Academic Universe. Statistical Universe is a web-based version of CIS' ASI, SRI, and IIS indexes covering statistical publications produced by various governmental organizations. Academic Universe provides access to a variety of information sources with particular emphasis on legal resources such as court cases and federal and state law. Access to these resources is limited to Purdue users who have been appreciative of the benefits provided by these sources.

New Indiana Local Government WWW Sites

New Indiana local government WWW sites since the last newsletter include:

Auburn <http://www.auburn-in.com/>

Carmel <http://www.ci.carmel.in.us/>

Crawfordsville <http://www.wico.net/~crawfordsville/>

Fowler <http://www.arealink.com/fowler/>

Garrett <http://www.dekalbnet.org/garrett/>

Greene County (GreeNet) <http://www.greenet.net/>

Howard County <http://co.howard.in.us/>

Tippecanoe County <http://www.county.tippecanoe.in.us/>

Vincennes <http://www.vincennes.org/>

Washington <http://www.dmrtc.net/~mayor/>

Upcoming Events

ALA Midwinter-Philadelphia, January 29-February 2, 1999

Federal Depository Library Conference-Washington, DC-April 12-15, 1999

INDIGO Spring Conference-Date and location TBA.

Send news of developments at your depository or other contributions to:

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