

FIRST MEETING !!!!!!!

(U.P.I. -- M. Mason) The first ever annual meeting of INDIGO was held 13 November 1992 at the State Library. Academic, public and special libraries were represented.

First on the agenda was a brief business meeting with Andrea Singer providing committee chairs with their charges. ISLAC's role in creating INDIGO was described as fulfilling the goal of establishing a network of documents librarians and libraries. Discussion followed as to how best to make the network grow. Ideas included the use of the ALSA newsletters, INCOLSA workshops, the electronic bulletin board -- GovDocL, and telephone trees to publicize issues, facilitate lobbying, and information.

Steve Fisher moderated a panel on CD-ROM usage with the participation of John Autio, Steve Hays, and Judie Violette. Pros-cons-challenges were discussed for ninety minutes. Old users love them, new users have discovered them, and libraries can provide reams more of data on site. Unfortunately there are issues of longevity, staff training and assistance, library burdens at a time of shrinking budgets to provide more and better hardware, and how best to catalog and promote this technology and not neglect our investment in the printed word. Librarians

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TRI-STATE LIBRARIANS GATHER

(A.P. - M. Mason) INDIGO was invited to participate in a meeting of Ohio and Michigan GODORT librarians in Toledo on October 23rd. Only a representative group of Indiana librarians showed to attend this historic meeting. The hardy group proudly represented Hoosiers, meeting new people and seeing old friends.

The morning session began with a GPO-Library Programs Service update by Sheila McGarr, chief of Depository Services. She described the poor budget situation at GPO, discussed the personnel changes, and presented the positive impact of the new computer system on the depository program. She suggested that changes may occur in regard to the library inspection rating system from the current rating scale to a pass/fail rating. Ann diamond, from the Library of Michigan, described the progress and the process in compiling the *Federal Depository Manual*. The final product has taken longer than expected with publication slated for early 1993.

Three Hoosier librarians were invited to speak at informal Table Talks during concurrent sessions in the afternoon. Andrea Singer, beloved leader, from IU-

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need to encourage producers to standardize the software, let them know what the users wants, and offer suggestions for improvements. The producers are often in the dark as to applications.

The afternoon included two concurrent suggestions. Kathleen Burke presented the virtues of the National Trade Data Bank. She represents the U.S. Department of Commerce. GEODIST, the software owned by ISL, was demonstrated. Legislators use it to aid in redistricting.

Sally Holterhoff and Hays reported on the proceedings of the Fall Depository Council meeting. The new protocol discourages the participation of members and observers as of old. The Council only advises the GPO. The influence is further diluted by the paucity of depository librarians -- the real folks -- that are on the Council.

The Council meeting focused on the complete restructuring of the depository program. (see Administrative Notes of September 15, 1992). The "facts of life" (unless President Clinton changes things with a little help from us) are:

1. info will continue to be available in print and electronic formats for 5-10 years;
2. information professionals will be needed to serve the end user;
3. technology will be the driving force for years to come;
4. user expectation will rise;

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Bloomington, participated with two others on the topic of "Interesting and Useful State Documents"; Tim Sutherland, IU-Northwest, joined a Michigan and Ohio librarian to discuss "Outreach Program Success Stories"; and Marianne Mason, IU Law-Bloomington, participated in a discussion of "CD-ROM Policies and Practices."

A brief INDIGO business meeting followed. Methods for broadening membership and spreading the word about documents to interested souls were hashed out. Particular attention was given to the increasing attendance at the Annual Meeting, scheduled for November 13th. The tax benefits of affiliation with ALA should be explored.

All in all, the joint meeting was a great success and INDIGO was launched.

#### **LOBBYING EFFORTS NEEDED NOW !!!!!**

Chairperson Singer and Letter-writer Extraordinaire Hayes have composed a lengthy letter to send to influential Senators and Representatives in response to proposed changes in the operation of the GPO. All members are strongly encouraged to write to the legislators and express their views. Hayes reiterated the observation that these men and women will respond positively to ever so few letters. A dozen cogent letters and the issue becomes important. (See Below for text)

6. financial constraints will grow:

7. Internet/NREN will be available in all libraries and to individuals:

8. Fed/State/Local investment in networking increase dramatically over the next 5-10 years:

9. uncertainty of "environment" and T.44 changes will be difficult to plan but will continue to be a constraint:

10. telecommunications issues will be resolved on a much wider scale:

11. there is a need to restructure the DLP;

12. some depository libraries will be partners in change and others will not; and.

13. the DLP has value. Bottom line -- If you believe in what you do for users, know your legislators and Federal policy makers and write those letters.

At the end of the day each of the INDIGO committees met and a good time was had by all.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

I regret that at this crucial time for the depository program that I have not produced the newsletter in a more timely fashion. Send your thoughts, news and copy to John Robson, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology Library, 5500 Wabash Ave., Terre Haute, IN 47803-3999 (812-877-8365 or e-mail JOHN.ROBSONRose-Hulman.EDU

#### GODORT MEETING

##### Warning!!!

Those attending Godort in sunny Denver should e-mail the editor of Inkblots some brief reports.

#### NOTES FROM ANDREA

1. Members are encouraged to send Sally Holterhoff information detailing their depository's contributions for inclusion in an INDIGO mailing to Congresspeople. (see below)

2. For those interested in the fate of the Indiana Division of the ISL, mark your calendar for 12 Feb. 1993 at 9:30 A.M. Ray Ewick will report to the Lib. and Historical Bd. on implementation of recommendations from the Jt. User/Staff Adv. Comm. report of 9 December 1992. The Indiana Depository program is a most important part of the Indiana Division..

3. The November issue of *Illinois Libraries* is devoted to "little know ethnic and religious records" useful to scholars and genealogists.

## SAMPLE LETTER TO SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Please reply to:     Andrea Singer  
                          INDIGO Chair 1992/93  
                          Documents Department  
                          Indiana University Libraries  
                          Bloomington IN 47405

December 16, 1992

Dear

We are writing to you on behalf of the Indiana Network for Documents and Information of Government Organizations (INDIGO) to express our concern and apprehension over actions being taken by the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO). These actions will have a tremendous effect upon us, the selective depository libraries within the Federal Depository Library Program. At a special emergency meeting of the Indiana Depository Libraries, it was concluded that the GPO's proposal, expressed in their letter dated November 18, 1992, will adversely affect access to federal government information by users in the congressional districts. These users include businessmen, consumers, and the general citizenship including many faculty members and students. Therefore, we, on behalf of the INDIGO membership, are requesting your help in preventing the further elimination and erosion of access to government information.

For fiscal year (FY) 1993, GPO prepared a budget of \$32.5 million to maintain the operations of the Federal Depository Library Program at the existing level of service and choice of format. However, they have been appropriated \$29 million, resulting in a shortfall of \$3.5 million. In order to deal with this shortfall, GPO has sent a letter, dated November 18, 1992, which spells out decisions that GPO has made to change the formats and types of materials available to depository libraries. They include such measures as the following:

1. Asking libraries to change from paper copies to microfiche for their selection of Congressional hearings and committee prints, House and Senate reports and documents, the daily Congressional Record, Monthly Catalog, and the Code of Federal Regulations.
2. Distributing the bound Treaties and Other International Acts and the bound U.S. Congressional Serial Set to

Regional depository libraries only.

3. Distributing the U.S. Reports, House and Senate Calendars, slip treaties, and slip Supreme Court opinions in microfiche only to all depository libraries.

4. Allowing claims to be made only for certain "core" publications, rather than for all titles.

5. Distributing the fiche collection of the Department of Energy and of the National Aeronautics and Space Administrations to regional libraries only.

While we understand the concerns and problems being faced by GPO and while we are sympathetic to their plight, we are not supportive of their solution. We are asking that, at a minimum, the GPO put a hold on the plan outlined in the letter until the larger depository community and other users have had adequate time to study the plan, analyze its effects, and estimate the cost of such a plan to the libraries.

First of all, it should be noted that the letter from GPO dated November 18 and postmarked November 25 had not been received by most Indiana libraries until November 30. Yet, we were expected to respond by December 4 with a possible extension to December 11, 1992. We feel that GPO is trying to hasten this proposal through before the new administration takes over. Moreover, the time frame for response is unrealistic and uncondusive to thoughtful consideration on the part of the depository libraries. This situation is further complicated by the fact that regional depository libraries received different surveys than the selective depositories received. Instructions are unclear and confusing, and yet we are supposed to be coordinating our responses with our regional.

Second, the vast majority of the materials that GPO is asking to be received in microfiche only, or to go only to regionals, are the core publications for many libraries. These are also the same titles to which the smaller depositories and many public libraries often refer people to consult at the larger depositories. While fiche distribution may serve the letter of the depository law, the spirit of the law requires that the information be usable to the people within the congressional district. To fully realize the impact of this decision, please imagine your staff being required to consult Congressional publications (e.g. Congressional Record, all congressional reports and documents, treaties, etc.) in fiche. We suspect your staff would not find this a suitable medium for use. Yet, this is exactly what is being proposed by GPO for the general user. The fiche recommendation is further complicated by the nature of the medium. We in the Depositories are not

convinced that microfiche will remain readable for as long as the paper versions. Fiche darkens and becomes illegible.

Another factor is that many Indiana libraries did not have access to certain information for a significant period of time due to the GPO's dependence on microfiche. In the early 1980's several Indiana libraries, in cooperation with GPO's effort to cut costs, selected various titles in fiche (i.e. hearings, committee prints, reports and documents). Due to a problem with the fiche contractor, we did not receive any fiche for three years. We are now just catching up on material which should have been distributed in 1985-90. Because of problems such as this one, which is not solely the GPO's fault, we are reluctant to depend further upon microfiche.

Third, the University of Notre Dame, Indiana University, and Purdue University are contractors or receive grants for both the Department of Energy and NASA. GPO's recent proposal suggests that DOE and NASA fiche be limited to the Regional Library in Indianapolis. While this measure will cut GPO's costs, it will hamper research at the above-named universities, limit access that local firms have to this information, and increase costs to the Regional Library for such expenses as fiche-to-fiche duplication. Moreover, this measure will cause those involved to spend contract dollars originally earmarked for research, either to purchase titles or to obtain information via interlibrary loan--information which should already be on-site for their convenient use! It is ironic that while the DOE is exploring ways to increase the dissemination of their information, GPO is proceeding in the opposite direction. Of even more significance is that such policies set a dangerous precedent in that the GPO appears able to decide what library will receive which classes of information.

Fourth, the libraries in Indiana have been fiscally responsible in that we have attempted to cooperate within the state so as to make the most economical use of limited resources while at the same time maintaining the best available service for our users. Besides the question of accessibility, we are tremendously concerned with the preservation aspects involved in the GPO's recent proposal. Microfiche and similarly, electronic media, have unknown lifespans. However, it is the opinion of many experts that the lifespan of such media are far less than that of paper. Thus we are concerned that, in the name of fiscal responsibility, we are resorting to media which will not stand the test of time.

Therefore we are asking you as representatives of Indiana's interests to request the GPO: 1) to extend the deadline for returning the survey attached to the letter dated November

18. 1992 so as to allow selective depositories to make more careful decisions, 2) to put a hold on the plan outlined in the letter until the larger depository community and other users have had adequate time to study the plan, analyze its effects, and estimate the cost of such a plan to the libraries, 3) to go back to Congress with a supplemental appropriations request for FY 93 or to transfer money from GPO's revolving fund to make up the projected budget shortfall, and 4) to explore fully the uses of electronic dissemination, including: the online resources, the GPO bulletin board, and the Department of Agriculture's CIDs system.

Finally, we are asking that you communicate with your fellow congresspeople and House and Senate Subcommittees on Legislative Appropriations, requesting: 1) full and adequate funding for the depository program, 2) support for GPO's supplemental appropriations request to make up the shortfall for this fiscal year (1993), and 3) implementation of a study to identify the proper levels of funding and media necessary to carry out the depository library program as envisioned by the various stakeholders (i.e. Congress, the depository libraries, and the citizen users).

We thank you for your attention in this important matter.

Respectfully,

Andrea Singer  
INDIGO Chair 1992/93  
Documents Center  
Indiana University Libraries  
Bloomington, IN 47405

Stephen M. Hayes  
Federal Depository Repre-  
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cc: Wendell Ford  
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Lee H. Hamilton  
Andrew Jacobs, Jr.  
Richard Lugar  
Dan Coats  
Harry Reid  
Vic Fazio

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

Sally Holterhoff

INDIGO would like to create a one-page fact sheet or quick spec sheet to be used in Indiana to build support for the Federal Depository Library Program. We'd like this to be ready as soon as possible so we can send it to our Indiana Congressional delegation, as well as distributing it to key people in our own organizations (directors, deans, presidents, etc.) and to users of our libraries. The idea is to present information on the value of the DLP to our state and to encourage the writing of letters of support for the program and its budget. We hope to include a map of Indiana showing the new Congressional districts and which Federal depositories are located within them.

What we need from you is some information (anecdotal or statistics) on who uses your library (steel workers, retired people, school children, veteran, etc.) and on what being a depository means to your institution (financial commitment you are making, quotes from users, what resources you are making available and to whom, selective housing agreements, etc.) We want to demonstrate in concrete terms the value of this program to the people (voters) of Indiana. Ideas of other data to include are welcome. From what you send we will summarize and select particularly convincing items to include in our final product. So go to you pc or typewriter right now and get us some information!! The future of your depositories depends on you!

EXAMPLE: As a depository library, Valparaiso University Law Library serves people with government information needs, particularly those that are legal in nature, primarily in the Porter County area (although we do have a number of attorney users who work in Lake County) Some recent reference questions answered with depository information were: a high school student seeking information for debate team, a veteran looking for information on Agent Orange, a university employee seeking a recently enacted Federal law that deals with co-generation, local credit bureau requesting information on a new Federal act, cable company employees wanting regulations on mobile phones, a woman with a newspaper article that mentioned a new government study on nutrition, and the wife of a steel worker concerned about a possible violation of OSHA regs in her husband's workplace.

We also receive referral from Valparaiso Public Library and we provide access (phone reference or ILL) to the resources of the regional depository at the Indiana State Library. We have had a cooperative arrangement with the Valparaiso office of Representative Jim Jontz (5th district before redistricting) for exchanging information and helping local residents deal with government-related problems. Our library has been a selective depository since 1978 and we select approximately 13% of the available item numbers, which means that we received nearly 2700 paper documents and over 19,000 microfiche in the past year. We have one full-time documents librarian and a 32-hour/week paraprofessional working with depository materials, plus 5-



15 hours of student help per week. Approximately 1/6 of our library's area is used for housing the documents collection in paper, microform, and CD-ROM and for the documents office and workroom.

We purchase 1 or 2 microfiche cabinets per year to house our GPO microfiche (cost = approximately \$550 apiece). We pay to have about 25 volumes of depository materials bound each year, at a cost of \$8 - \$10 a volume. Several years ago our library purchased a \$8000 microfiche reader-printer that is used over 50% of the time for government microfiche. We have also recently purchased two 6-disk CD-ROM changers for our two CD-ROM workstations (with one attached printer, primarily to handle the depository materials now coming to us in CD-ROM format. All in all, Valparaiso University has made a significant commitment to our being a depository library, the great benefit of the residents of our area, who have free access to our government information resources. We hope the Federal government will consider the benefits to citizens when they make funding decisions that affect the depository program and the Government Printing Office.

Send your information to:

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-----Original message-----

Friends--

A couple of people have posted here letters from Wendell Ford saying that the proposed cuts have been delayed for further study.

Although that is what we had hoped would happen, according to people at GPO it is not correct. They are planning to reduce the level of the cuts somewhat, but the basic program, including the serial set and the "voluntary" reductions from the survey are apparently proceeding as planned.

Again, it appears to me that the only solution is to secure a directive (and supplemental money) from JCP. Short of that, the changes are already being made.

Bob

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