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DLC Meeting and FDLP Conference Grant Reports

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I have wanted to attend the DLC meeting since library school, but the costs of attendance always prevented me. While the conference itself is free, the necessities of lodging, food, and travel were all out of my reach without institutional support. I had assumed attendance would be permanently out of my reach, but the 2017 DANJ travel grant made the trip possible. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity it gave me to become a first time attendee after ten years in the profession.

Having been there, I now realize how much I would have benefited from attending earlier in my career. Getting to meet colleagues, experts, and potential mentors would have been invaluable and likely shaped research, project, and career directions. For this reason, I would like to encourage any new documents librarian to attend and to make use of the DANJ travel grant to help get you there. The boost to your career trajectory might be enormous.

That said, attending at this later point in my career was surprisingly beneficial, too. I knew that I would benefit from a practical perspective – getting updated on policy and initiatives, learning from the tips and tricks of my esteemed colleagues, etc., but I will admit I was not expecting to leave inspired.

The presentations I attended were all interesting and the follow-up discussions fascinating. I had the chance to put faces to the names I’d only previously seen in govdoc-L and press these colleagues on topics discussed months earlier. I gained so much from their insight and perspectives.

The poster sessions were a nice mix of analysis and demonstration. DANJ Treasurer Wen-Hua Ren brought a glimpse into the incredible 50th anniversary celebration she threw for Rutgers University’s depository program. Not only did she create a display and guide, she also offered 50 mini sessions on government resources! Brilliant. Her 50th anniversary LibGuide can be found here: https://libguides.rutgers.edu/c.php?g=336584&p=4106603
DANJ member Darren Sweeper (Montclair State University) presented on using Census data to help shape College recruitment. It was such an interesting sociological topic with direct benefit to the institution and students! (https://tinyurl.com/ycx4htxp)

I regret that I was unable to attend all of the sessions. One of these is my own fault – I severely misjudged DC area rush hour and missed the keynote speech of Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress. Getting to meet Dr. Hayden was a personal goal for attending the DLC this year and so, I was particularly bummed. From the accounts I heard, she offered a wonderful, inspiring speech about our profession and the challenges ahead.

The remaining presentations were, like the posters, a great mix of research analysis and experience sharing. Handouts and slides are available on the conference page (https://www.fdlp.gov/events-and-conferences/2017-depository-library-council-meeting-federal-depository-library-conference) I’d like to highlight just a few and have included tiny urls for each of them:

- Renee Bosman and Wendy Isicson of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (Davis Library) shared their experience inventorying their collection(s). They offered training and management strategies as well as lessons learned. Their slides can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/y9ttl82l
- Title 44 reform with members of the Depository Library Council was illuminating. I had already reviewed the proposed changes and had not developed much opinion regarding them, but hearing the questions and concerns from the audience opened my eyes to the nuances of change that could impact particular types of depositories or particular regions more heavily than others. I left the conversation still in favor of the proposed changes, but grateful to have heard so many points of view. The mix of legal and ideological arguments presented was exactly what I’d hoped to hear from our colleagues. (https://tinyurl.com/y8b7vdb6 and https://tinyurl.com/y8cmnxrr)
- Robert Lopresti, of Western Washington University, offered a presentation on his book When Women Didn’t Count. This book and presentation explored the history of Federal statistics that overlooked, ignored, or in other ways misrepresented women. I didn’t think I would be surprised by any of the general theme presented, but I was wrong! The specific examples and resources presented were at times shocking and fascinating. For example, in the 1990 Census, the sex of the reported spouse of a married same-sex couple would be changed to the opposite sex, thus literally erasing some women from the statistics entirely. The talk further explored the subjectivity of statistics and as a result, armed me with new ways to approach these research resources. (https://tinyurl.com/y7kcsbsd)
My personal favorite presentation was Kelly Smith’s (University of California, San Diego) demonstration on small scale web archiving. She began the presentation by explaining she’d started her project, GovSpeak (https://ucsd.libguides.com/govspeak), as a way to begin web archiving government sites without funding, advanced technical knowledge, or technical support. Her approach was simple and effective – she created a LibGuide listing the acronyms and abbreviations listed in the US Government Manual. Then, one by one, she located their associated websites, requested their capture through the public (free) WayBack Machine, and then linked to them. Over time, she built an incredibly comprehensive collection and a management approach that allowed her to efficiently check on the status of these pages and request new captures. I find it to be an incredibly useful resource and encourage everyone to check it out. What a great, manageable approach to a massive project. (https://tinyurl.com/y9zylpve)

I hope this tiny glimpse into the DLC meeting accomplishes two things – first, I hope I’ve conveyed how grateful I am to have received the DANJ travel grant and the opportunity to attend the 2017 DLC meeting and second, I hope I’ve built a desire among fellow DANJ members to do the same. The DLC meeting was enlightening and professionally inspiring. It connected me with colleagues from across the country, validated the work I was already doing, and inspired new ideas for the projects I could begin. All in all, it was a successful trip for me and I highly encourage others to make the trip as well.

Photo by Teri Taylor.
Photos from the FDLP Conference

By Teri Taylor,
U.S. Documents Collections Supervisor,
New Jersey State Library

Above: Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress. Left: Davita Vance-Cooks, Director, Government Publishing Office and conference materials.

Right: Dr. Carla Hayden, Teri Taylor, and Davita Vance-Cooks
DLC Meeting and FDLP Conference Grant Report

Wen-Hua Ren
Documents/Business Librarian
John Cotton Dana Library, Rutgers University

The 2017 Depository Library Council Meeting & Federal Depository Library Conference was held in Arlington, VA from Oct. 16th to 18th. The theme of the conference was Safeguarding Government Information Access for All.

In recent years, I attended FDLP conferences virtually. This year, as my poster submission got accepted by GPO, I attended the conference in person. I took Amtrak to Union Station in DC on Sunday, Oct. 15, and switched to Red line and Yellow line Metro trains to Pentagon City station. The conference location/hotel was only a few minutes’ walk from the station.

All posters were required to be set up by 10:00am Monday morning. Supplies such as poster trifold, cardboard poster boards, and easels/tables were provided by GPO, which made poster mounting easy and efficient.

After the poster setup, I attended the conference kick-off session at 9:00am. As usual, that was most important and exciting event of the conference, where all the attendees gathered to meet the Depository Library Council (DLC) members, GPO Director, the Superintendent of Documents, GPO staff members, the keynote speaker, and fellow librarians from all over the country. First, DLC members introduced themselves. The audience cheered when the council member, Jane Canfield, from Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto introduced herself and described how she had overcome all the difficulties after the horrific hurricane hit Puerto Rico in order to be at the conference.
GPO Director Davita Vance-Cooks gave a warm welcome to attendees. She reported GPO’s accomplishments in 2017, including her three testimonies before Congress about the need to revise the laws governing FDLP. She discussed GPO’s strategic priorities in the coming year, emphasized the importance of modernizing the laws in Chapter 19 of Title 44 of the United States Code and encouraged attendees to participate in discussions about the recommendations the council collected from the FDLP community.

The Superintendent of Documents Laurie Hall also spoke at the meeting. She highlighted various GPO’s initiatives and projects such as the FDLP Exchange, FDLP Academy and its educational programs, preservation stewards partnerships, and the On-the-Go Initiative which sent GPO outreach staff to visit depository libraries around the country. She invited attendees to explore various sessions at the conference, all of which covered topics in line with the conference key theme.

The key-note speaker for the kick-off session was Dr. Carla Hayden, the first female and the first African American Librarian of Congress. Dr. Hayden stated that Library of Congress and GPO shared the same goal and mission: Keeping America Informed. She traced the history of the Library of Congress, highlighting its services to the congress, especially the Congressional Reference Service, and its various projects that make its valuable collections accessible online. Throughout her inspiring speech, Dr. Hayden emphasized multiple times that librarians have been providing information on the frontlines, making important contributions to the making of an informed citizenry. She encouraged the conference participants to continue steadfastly on this path while facing tremendous difficulties and challenges.

At the meeting, GPO announced the recipient of the Federal Depository Library of the Year Award. Dr. Hayden helped present the award to the Department of the Interior Library. This was the first time a federal agency library received the award.

During the recess, Dr. Hayden and Director Vance-Cooks signed their photos for attendees.
I attended three DLC sessions on Chapter 19 of Title 44 in the afternoon. These sessions were especially interesting to me because I had discussed with my library director about modernizing Chapter 19 of Title 44 in August when GPO sent out a letter to FDLP directors for comments on the subject. I wanted to learn more about it from the larger FDLP community and the recommendations the council made. Various topics were discussed at the sessions, including definitions of government publications, formats of government publications, the size requirement for being a FDLP library, selection and disposal, long-term preservation, regional depositories for sharing collections across states, and electronic copies in the collection. It was very enlightening for me to hear the views, comments and questions from fellow documents librarians across the nation.

Tuesday morning, I attended another DLC session on GPO grants to depository libraries. “GPO with grant-making authority,” a new section to be added into Chapter 19, was proposed by Director Vance-Cooks at the July 18th Committee on House Administration Hearing, which will enable GPO to provide FDLP libraries with grants to support their innovative digital initiatives related to enhancing electronic access to government publications. Speakers from GPO envisioned types of grants (discretionary and mandatory) for projects and activities such as digitization, preservation and cataloging.

GPO would like to hear feedback from the library community and will have more related discussion programs at the DLC virtual meeting in spring 2018.

On Tuesday afternoon (10/17), I made my poster presentation on John Cotton Dana Library’s “Celebration of 50 Years of Being a Depository Library.” It reported what my colleagues and I did to celebrate the special occasion. It was a year-long program which included an exhibit of selected federal publications, 50 mini-sessions on various online government resources, and a library guide with a page listing 50 popular federal websites (https://libguides.rutgers.edu/danagov). Quite a few librarians and GPO staff members came to view my
poster and asked me questions. I was excited to share my experience and happy to know that our special project was helpful, especially to those who are planning their own anniversary celebrations. The poster session also gave me a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow presenters and discuss their posters, which covered many interesting topics. (https://www.fdlp.gov/file-repository/outreach/events/depository-library-council-dlc-meetings/2017-meeting-proceedings/2926-poster-presentation-summaries-fall-2017-dlc-meeting-fdl-conference)

It was truly rewarding experience for me attending the 2017 FDL conference in person and make the poster presentation. I am very grateful to DANJ for its travel grant. As always, the FDL conference was an exciting event to go to. It is the conference where documents librarians meet, talk, and discuss issues important to us, to depository libraries, most importantly, to the American Public. Thank you, DANJ!
2017 DANJ Annual Conference

The 2017 DANJ Fall Conference “Honoring New Jersey Military History” was held on October 27 at Thomas Edison State University.

The speakers (pictured at right) were Regina Fitzpatrick, Genealogy Librarian, New Jersey State Library (Researching the Revolutionary War and Civil War Military Service of New Jersey Residents); Mark Lender, Professor Emeritus, Kean University (Morning at Monmouth, 28 June 1778: Charles Lee and the Opening Rounds—What Really Happened); Patricia Chappine, Adjunct Professor, Stockton University (New Jersey Women in World War II); Maren Read, Director, Navy Archives, Naval History and Heritage Command (Preserving the Institutional Records of the U.S. Navy: An Overview of the Naval History and Heritage Command and the Navy Archives).

Awards

Awards (Continued)

Best New Jersey Document: *Juvenile Justice Commission Weekly Demographics and Statistics*

Best New Jersey Website: *Delaware River Basin Commission*
Executive Board Announcement

Due to vacancies on the executive board, pursuant to the DANJ bylaws, the board has appointed a new President and Vice President to serve for the remainder of the 2018 term. Congratulations and thank you to Ma Lei Hsieh (2018 President) and Susan Bucks (2018 Vice-President/President-Elect)!

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Vice-President/President-Elect: Susan Bucks  sbucks@monmouth.edu
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New Jersey Documents Interest Group Chair: Deborah Mercer  dmercer@njstatelib.org