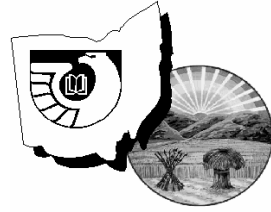


Docs Prescriptions



The Newsletter of the Government Documents Round Table of Ohio

Issue 65

25th Anniversary Issue, Fall 2006

Twenty-five years ago...

On November 30, 1981, a group of government documents librarians and library staff members gathered at the old State Library of Ohio “to explore the possibilities of forming an organization of librarians working with documents within the state of Ohio” (according to the minutes of that meeting). Along with sharing problems and solutions regarding certain documents materials (such as the “U.S. census data, Ohio legislative materials, and disposition of unwanted materials”), those present discussed the details of forming the organization soon to be known as the Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) of Ohio. By the next meeting on May 17, 1982, suggested bylaws were presented to the membership, the group made revisions, and the initial “constitution” was accepted as amended by a unanimous vote, thus launching the new organization onto the waters of statewide cooperation and information-sharing.

Twenty-five years, fifty meetings, seven Superintendents of Documents, and five Public Printers later, GODORT of Ohio has become one of the strongest and most visible state documents organizations nationwide, earning the respect of our documents colleagues elsewhere in the country as well as of members of the Government Printing Office staff. The organization as a whole has actively lobbied legislators, agencies, and the GPO itself regarding issues of concern to libraries, and the Depository Library Council has included seven members who hailed from Ohio at the time of their service (though other Ohio librarians served on Council while in other states). GODORT of Ohio has consistently welcomed new members, whether new to the state or new to the profession, and Ohio documents librarians have often continued their work elsewhere, even at the heights of the GPO.

Several of our original members remain in the organization, active as usual and inspiring those of us who still feel “new” to the group, and some of them will share their memories of the early days of GODORT of Ohio in this special anniversary edition of *Docs Prescriptions*. Other glimpses into Ohio GODORT’s vibrant past come from reprinted articles of previous issues of our newsletter, profiles of veteran members, and a comparison of what life was like for documents librarians in 1981 and 2006. We’ll extend this stroll down Memory Lane on November 17, 2006 at the new State Library of Ohio when GODORT of Ohio meets once more and celebrates a quarter of a century of outstanding service in the field of government information.

Whether you’ve been a member of GODORT of Ohio for 25 years or 25 minutes, pat yourself on the back, come to the party, and celebrate with us!

Jennifer McMullen
Co-Editor, *Docs Prescriptions*

Docs Prescriptions

The Newsletter of the Government
Documents Round Table of Ohio

Issue 65 • 25th Anniversary, Fall 2006

SaraJean Petite, President
Case Western Reserve University Law
Library
11075 East Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44106
(216) 368-6356
sarajeau.petite@case.edu

Mark Gooch, Program Chair/President Elect
Libraries
College of Wooster
Wooster, OH 44691
(330) 263-2522
mgooch@wooster.edu

Joy Gao, Secretary/Treasurer
Public Services Librarian and Coordinator of
Government Publications
Beeghly Library
Ohio Wesleyan University
43 Rowland Ave.
Delaware, OH 43015
(740) 368-3238
yyhe@cc.owu.edu

Jennifer McMullen
Co-Editor, *Docs Prescriptions*
Libraries
College of Wooster
Wooster, OH 44691
(330) 263-2119
jmcmullen@wooster.edu

John Graham
Co-Editor, *Docs Prescriptions*
Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton
County
800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 369-6932
john.graham@cincinnati.library.org

Federal Depositories: Then and Now

Since the Government Printing Office initiated their transition to online government information in the 1990s, we in the depository community have become accustomed to – sometimes even blasé about – constant change. But how many of us really remember what libraries were like in 1981 when GODORT of Ohio was formed? How many of us realize the breadth and depth of the changes we've experienced over the years? In 1981, IBM introduced its first personal computer, running MS-DOS; now it almost seems as though the computers (whether they run Windows XP, a Mac OS, Linux, or something more esoteric) are running us! A little digging in early issues of *Administrative Notes* reveals a depository world that was both very different and very much the same.

Publications

Administrative Notes had only begun publication in 1980, a brief typewritten newsletter on white paper that carried helpful hints, procedural information, and notices about changes to titles and call numbers. Now *Admin Notes*, after years of those familiar yellow pages, has gone online, and its derivative publication (*Administrative Notes Technical Supplement*, also online) contains regular detailed columns for class changes and updates to the *List of Classes*.

The List of Classes ran on a quarterly update and publication schedule back in 1981, and the GPO excitedly announced in 1982 that the September issue would be the first “automated” edition since the information had been stored on computer tape. (Yes, tape. Remember that?) Now we only see a paper copy of *List of Classes* once, maybe twice a year, and many of us rely more heavily on the online version for more up-to-date information.

The founding members of Ohio GODORT had no formal *Federal Depository Library Manual* to guide them: the first draft did not appear until 1983, and the final edition came out in 1985. Revised in 1993, the *Manual* is currently under

revision once more, with chapters posted on the GPO web site as they are completed.

The *Monthly Catalog of U. S. Government Publications* arrived in depository shipment boxes either in paper or microfiche format in 1981, although the files used to create the *Monthly Catalog* had been in machine-readable format at the GPO starting in 1976. In the late 1990s, paper and microfiche gave way to a CD-ROM version, and though paper made a brief millennial comeback, the CD was discontinued, and our most up-to-date access now is available – you guessed it – online.

Procedures

In 1981, depository libraries received shipping lists for paper, maps, and the newest format, microfiche. Today we receive all of those formats (although microfiche is being phased out and only one contractor ships them any longer) as well as CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, and videocassette. (I haven't seen any floppy disks in a while, have you?) A notice from the GPO in *Admin Notes* vol.3, no.3, asked librarians to notify GPO of any problems with “mutilated” shipping lists. Well, some things never change! Now, though, if we fail to receive a shipping list, we can search for it online and print a PDF copy identical to the actual list. To claim selected items that aren't received, we no longer have to trust our claims to the U. S. Postal Service: for microfiche and map claims, we can contact the contractor by fax, and for all others, claims can be submitted to the GPO through an online form.

During those early Ohio GODORT days, depositories had the opportunity to add new item selections on a quarterly basis. Items could, of course, be dropped at any time, and the same holds true today, although the item selection update cycle now occurs on an annual basis.

The needs and offers lists generated by weeding or excess gifts in libraries have undergone a transformation thanks to the ubiquitous computer. In 1982, a brief article in *Admin Notes* aimed at those librarians creating needs and offers lists requested that they “type your listings so that we can cut and paste them in constructing the list,” then distributed in paper. Lists now are usually typed on the computer and sent either to the online discussion list (either in Ohio or to GOVDOC-L) or to the GPO, and some lists are posted online as web pages at

individual libraries. Requests no longer need be made by phone or mail; email generally gets the request sent much more quickly.

And if you've been thinking that depository shipments have slowed way down in recent years, you're right. In 1981, the GPO distributed 37,385 *titles* (not copies) in paper and 27,993 in microfiche. In the first five months of FY2006 (the most recent figure I could find, thanks to the GPO update given at this year's spring DLC meeting), 4,340 titles in all tangible formats were sent to depositories, and another 1,963 titles were available online only.

How times have changed!

State Library of Ohio: Our Regional Depository

Clyde Hordusky

Retired from the State Library of Ohio

(Editor's Note: Clyde Hordusky served as Head of Government Documents at the State Library of Ohio, and thus as our Regional Librarian, from 1969 until his retirement in 1997. When Audrey Hall sent him questions for his profile under “Clyde Award Winners,” Clyde also offered these memories of working at the State Library.)

In 1969 I accepted the position of Head of Government Documents at the State Library. I accepted and moved to Columbus. At that time, the Documents Department at the State Library shared the space on the 3rd stack level with the Library Development staff. Federal, Ohio and other states' documents were collected as well as regional planning reports of Ohio. The first big project was to try to do something to organize the collection so you could find materials that were requested. Materials were stacked on book trucks, the floor, and the tops of stacks. Boxes of materials had been housed in the attic of the building. The first order was getting rid of duplicates that had been donated by the agencies, as well as the preparation of materials for binding.

While all of this was being done, the ongoing work by documents staff still continued. The

staff was also involved in the preparation of Swanson's Union Bibliography of Ohio Printed State Documents. We were responsible for the collection and dissemination of Ohio government documents as well as processing the incoming federal, state and out of state documents. Being constantly behind became the norm. After the Library Development staff was moved to another area in the building, we were able to take over their area and did a shift of the collection. At least some of the materials that were on top of the stacks came down.

The changes in documents became more noticeable. The establishment of regular inspections by the GPO staff helped to provide assistance in gaining more room for the housing of the collection. The shift from sending out tons of paper House and Senate bills and resolutions to providing them on microfiche was the day the staff shouted in relief. However, the Geological Survey maps as well as the navigation charts were added as depository items, creating another set of problems for housing this material. The creation of the ALA Government Documents Roundtable provided a forum for government documents people to meet and discuss common problems.

The accessibility of documents became more noticeable, and the demand for additional services increased. Computerized access to catalog records and the publication of materials on microfiche and compact disks increased the need for computers and printers as well as fiche to fiche duplicators. Staff had to be trained to deal with these new technologies. Cooperation with Ohio colleges, universities and public libraries increased the demands for government information from students, faculty, government employees and the public.

The space devoted to documents increased when agencies moved out of the Ohio Department Building and we once again relocated the collection. Previously on the 3rd stack level, the collection was now housed on the 12th floor, the 3rd stack level and half of the 11th floor. The microforms, except for those in the Genealogy Department, were added to the responsibilities of the document staff.

I remember that once a month at the State Library a Friday was devoted to catching up on filing in the card catalog. After the SLO joined

the LCS system at Ohio State University this task was no more. I also remember the street people coming in and taking over the main reading room, and we had to endure the demonstrations against the Ohio Department of Education housed in the building. When the State House was undergoing its extensive renovation the members of the house met in the large hearing room. It also didn't help that our building was undergoing extensive remodeling at the same time. I also remember having to give tours of the building starting with the Front Street level all the way to the 11th floor.

Of the many questions I had to answer two really stick out in my memory. One was from a state agency staff person who called in May of 1970 wanting the population of Ohio according to the Census that was just taken. I said that the results would not be out until December. She called me an incompetent and asked to speak to my supervisor. The other question was almost a tradition when working the desk on the 24th of December. The person wanted the names of Santa's reindeer.

SAVE THIS DATE!

*November 17, 2006
State Library of Ohio
Ohio GODORT's 25th Anniversary
and Fall Meeting*

Clyde Award Recipients

Clyde Hordusky (1988)

(Clyde provided this profile in response to questions from Audrey Hall, summer 2006; Clyde's recollections of the State Library are further detailed in a column elsewhere in this issue.)

My library career started at Case Institute of Technology in the fall of 1960 as a clerk at the circulation desk while I attended Western Reserve University School of Library Science. I was later given the responsibility of doing Interlibrary Loans. After graduation in 1963, I remained at Case as a reference librarian.

Finally I was assigned as the acquisitions librarian for materials not only in English but also for foreign languages. After the merger of Case and Western Reserve, I was responsible for science-technology acquisitions. In 1969 I accepted the position of Head of Government Documents at the State Library, a position that also served as Regional Librarian to Ohio depositories. Due to previous commitments, I commuted to Cleveland on weekends to finish up projects I had started at the University.

After the retirement of the Head of Reference, the duties of that position were shifted to me for administrative purposes. I was very thankful that the staff was so helpful and understanding during this transition.

I was a member of the Federal Depository Library Council from fall 1985 through spring 1988, and in the fall of 1987, I was chair of council. I was awarded the first "Clyde" by Ohio GODORT and still treasure the silver bowl I received.

After 28 years, I retired from the State Library with the last work day of June 30, 1997. The day after my retirement, I woke up at my regular time and thought "What do I do now?"

Since my retirement, I have traveled extensively, mostly by ship. One of my longest trips was from Bangkok to Venice. The air flights were killers: from Columbus to Bangkok it was 35 hours including ground time. Returning from Venice wasn't much better as they routed us from Venice to London's Gatwick to Dallas and then back to Columbus. Some day trips in Ohio are in the works as well as some longer trips in the U.S. In 2004, my fiftieth high school reunion was held. Those people have gotten old!

In 2004 I moved to a condo. After living in one place for almost 25 years, the amount of stuff one accumulates is appalling. Things that were in closets or packed away came to light. Most of my books were given to Columbus Metro to do as they wished. All my travel pictures are still waiting to be sorted and put into albums. I'm an active reader, especially travel guides planning new adventures in foreign countries. I keep busy working around the grounds of the condo and with the association.



Jean L. Sears (1990)

(compiled from email answers to questions from Jennifer McMullen, August 2006)

Originally from Elkhart, Indiana, Jean Sears earned her degrees at Taylor University (B.A.) and Western Michigan University (M.S.L.) before coming to Ohio. She notes that she entered the field of government documents "sort of by chance." In searching for a job, she found the open government documents position at Miami University, and with documents experience in library school and in a previous instruction/reference librarian position, she earned the position and quickly made her mark.

Jean attended the first meeting of Ohio GODORT and served a two-year term as program chair/chair in 1984-1986. She has found it "very rewarding and enjoyable" to work with other documents folks in Ohio as well as at Federal Depository Library conferences, and among her collaborative efforts was the publication of *Using Government Information Sources* (three editions!) with fellow documents librarian Marilyn Moody. Jean also remembers that Miami University was the "first OhioLINK library to profile for and load the retrospective GPO catalog records purchased through an OhioLINK bid process."

Like so many other dedicated documents librarians, Jean likes the "challenge and variety" found in documents collections: "Tracking down a particular document or piece of information can be convoluted, and there are so many separate research processes to learn, such as historical, legislative, and census." She has also eagerly embraced the electronic transition of government information as well as the unique issues relating to access in this format.

That variety in documents collections makes it difficult to choose a favorite title, though, and while Jean appreciates the historical value of resources such as the Serial Set and the practical everyday usefulness of titles like the *Statistical Abstract*, she prefers the National Park posters illustrated by Charley Harper. "I purchased a copy of one of them from GPO for my wall at home," she admits, "and I can't say that about any other government publication."



Karen R. Kottsy (1991)

(taken from interview with Nani Ball, as published in *Docs Prescriptions*, no.25, Winter 1992, and from George Barnum's memorial column in no.54, Fall 2001)

Karen Kottsy was elected the first president of GODORT of Ohio at the first meeting in the Fall of 1981. The most important thing for the organization at that time was simply pride in its fledgling existence.

Karen grew up in Batavia, New York. She knew as an undergraduate that she wanted to work in a library. Her undergraduate degree from SUNY at Geneseo, NY, qualified her to work in school libraries, but a practicum in a school library convinced her that a grade school/high school library was not her interest. There were only three graduate library schools that accepted students into their programs without a liberal arts undergraduate degree. One of those was the University of Colorado in Denver, and that is where Karen earned her MLS.

While in graduate school, Karen worked in the International Relations Library at UC-Denver. That position gave her a chance to work with international documents. She also had a very good class in documents and knew she liked working with government publications. In 1970 Karen came to Ohio and a newly created job with responsibility for government documents at the University of Cincinnati. Her documents collection at that time fit on seven shelves. U.C. had been cataloging most of their documents, and those seven shelves held "problem documents": the difficult cataloging.

I asked Karen if she had any favorite documents. Her response was that she thinks they are all "neat," but the CIA maps are among her favorites. In fact, she finds so much good stuff and so little time, she yearns for the luxury of occasionally reading the *Congressional Record*.

Since Karen was president of GODORT of Ohio, she has continued to be very involved. In 1987 she took on the responsibility of being editor of *Docs Prescriptions*. Many members have benefited from her efforts to keep us all informed about documents in general and about what members of the Ohio documents

community are doing, collecting, and specializing in. She has a spontaneous enthusiasm for government documents that is infectious.

Karen died on August 29, 2001 after a long illness, and members of GODORT of Ohio felt the loss deeply. As George noted, "Karen cared deeply about GODORT of Ohio, and about its individual members. She and others in the group taught me, by shining example, how important and how vibrant a group of professional colleagues can be."



Mary Webb Prophet (1994)

(from phone interview with Jennifer McMullen, August 2006)

Many librarians enter the field out of a love of books and libraries held from their childhoods, but Mary Webb Prophet showed a real affinity for libraries at a very early age. As a child in Huntsville, Alabama, Mary would arrange her books by author and insert cards and pockets inside the covers. Though she always wanted to be in libraries (following her mother's footsteps), she received an undergraduate degree in biology and her education certification from Alabama College (now University of Montevallo), and her minors of math, general science, and history helped her start off in teaching. She earned a master's in science education from Wichita State University, but when she and her husband moved to Ohio, they arrived at a time when the state was in the process of laying off teachers.

Mary returned to her first love, libraries, by accepting the position of night circulation supervisor at Denison University. She enrolled in the Kent State library school program then holding classes at the Columbus Public Library (and later at Ohio State) to earn her degree. Between her work and her studies, Mary gradually learned more about government documents and developed an independent study project in government documents that allowed her to use Denison as her "laboratory." With MLS in hand, she took the circulation librarian position at Capitol Law School for a brief interlude before returning to Denison to fill the newly vacated documents librarian position.

One of the main aspects of government documents work that Mary appreciates the most is the strong cooperative efforts that docs librarians in general and Ohio GODORT members in particular have built over the years. When asked about her accomplishments, Mary quickly pointed out that “all accomplishments are shared” and that she was happy to have contributed to so many outstanding projects over the years: the historical cataloging project in the Five Colleges, the shared cataloging responsibilities in CONSORT, the union list of item selections of Ohio depositories, and her term on the Depository Library Council. And ultimately, she added, all of these “stepping stones” come from wanting to further the cause of the Federal Depository Library Program.

One incident at Denison highlighted for Mary the value of the FDLP: while working in the stacks, she found a student from South Africa in tears as he looked at various hearings on South Africa, gently touching them and then drawing back. When she suggested that he could check out the documents, the student responded in disbelief and amazement that so much information from the government was freely available to anyone who wanted to see it. Mary noted that the memory of this encounter still moves her deeply, and she wishes everyone who has any kind of input into the FDLP (especially those holding the purse strings!) could have a similar experience in order to understand how the depository program provides something unique and valuable that we too easily take for granted.

When asked to name a favorite government document, Mary immediately chose the *Statistical Abstract* for its useful statistics and footnotes, making it a “stepping-off place” to other sources. For her personal enjoyment, though, she added that she loves the posters, especially those from World War II, that reflect the art, culture, and industry of the country.



George Barnum (1995)

(taken in part from interview with Karen Kotsy, as published in *Docs Prescriptions*, no.20, Fall 1990; from George’s column “On the Scene at GPO” in *Docs Rx* no.46, Winter/Spring 1998; and)

George Barnum started working with documents in 1980 at the Geauga County Public Library. He became Documents Assistant at Case Western Reserve University in 1984 and moved up to Head of Government Documents shortly thereafter. George earned his MLS at Kent State University, and for a number of years, he taught the government documents classes there.

In 1997, George headed to Washington on a one-year appointment as Transition Specialist in the Electronic Transition Staff at GPO, where he worked on establishing various kinds of partnerships to get and retain electronic information in the FDLP as well as in developing the GPO Electronic Collection. George himself noted, “In almost every case I am able to bring some of the depository librarian point of view to discussions, and have been pretty successful at improving the level of depository library involvement in partnership activities.” Nearly 10 years later, George is still working hard at the GPO and contributing his viewpoint as the GPO continues to develop the future of the FDLP.

George’s favorite documents are an 1854 map of Central America published by the Department of State, and the *American State Papers*. George’s love of the historical materials in government documents collections shone through in his series of columns, “Ex Libris Minus Aestimatis,” that appeared in *Docs Prescriptions* in the 1990s (one of which you will find reprinted later in this issue).



Julia Baldwin (1999)

(taken from interview with Nani Ball, as published in *Docs Prescriptions*, no.25, Winter 1992)

Thank you Julia for GODORT of Ohio!

Julia Baldwin was never elected president of GODORT of Ohio; however, with her idea that the time was right, and with the help and support of several people, she sent out flyers to see what interest there was in Ohio to begin a group focusing on documents. Julia had participated in the Michigan GODORT and thought that was a good model for Ohio to follow. (Her library, though it is in Ohio, is a Michigan depository library.) In 1981, OLA didn’t have any special

interest groups as part of its structure, so a separate government documents roundtable affiliated with ALA GODORT seemed like the logical way to organize. Julia mentions Clara Smith, Mel Spence, and Clyde Hordusky as some of the people who helped her in the beginning.

Julia grew up in Chillicothe. She got her undergraduate degree from Ohio State, majoring in music history and French literature. In 1967 she was living in Toledo and went back to school to get her library degree at the University of Toledo. She could take classes in the late afternoon and find a high school student to babysit her children. Julia envisioned working in a public library, but her first job was in reference at the University of Toledo in 1973. Two years later she began working with government documents, which became her first love. Some of Julia's favorite documents are publications of the Smithsonian. One specific favorite is "*If Elected...: Unsuccessful Candidates for the Presidency 1796-1968*."

Julia has found working with government documents people to be very rewarding. She says these are interesting civic-minded people, attuned to what's going on in the government and how it may impact our daily lives.



Margaret S. Powell (2002)

(excerpted from "A Collector of Ideas," *Wooster*, Summer 2001, by Ellen Conrad, with additional information from August 2006 interview with Jennifer McMullen)

Margaret (Margie) Powell graduated from Oberlin College and earned a master's in library science at the University of Illinois. Her first job while still in high school was shelving books at the Linda Hall Library of Science and Technology in Kansas City, Missouri. With a library degree in hand, she served a brief stint in a Madison, Wisconsin, elementary school library, then moved to the technical services department of the University of Wisconsin General Library.

Margie served The College of Wooster since 1972, beginning as cataloger and assistant editor of the Atlanta University-Bell and Howell Black Culture Collection project. From 1980 to her

retirement in 2001, she shared the position of government information librarian with Barbara Bell. While Margie's personal research interest remains place-name literature, she has been a devoted advocate for government information, editing and contributing to the first edition of the *Federal Depository Library Manual*, helping to found the Northeast Ohio Documents Group, serving as long-time chair of the Five Colleges of Ohio Documents Subcommittee, and contributing to committees and serving as chair of GODORT of Ohio.

Before her retirement, Margie saw the culmination of one of her dreams: the cooperative cataloging of historical government documents in the Five Colleges of Ohio libraries, a project which received the Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award from ALA.

The national network of government documents librarians has proven to be the part of docs librarianship that Margie has enjoyed the most, and she has appreciated the support from others in what she affectionately terms "the same leaky boat." She also likes that government documents departments tend to be microcosms within libraries, where you can see new publications as they come in and handle them through every stage on their way to the shelves.

Margie has great difficulty choosing a favorite document from the vast history of government information, and though she enjoys the historical and intellectual content of the *Foreign Relations of the United States* and the beauty of "picture books" from the Smithsonian and the Library of Congress, she thinks that the wide range of materials from the Interior Department going all the way back to the early explorations of the West top her charts.



Karen Kimber (2005)

(Karen provided this bio in response to email questions from Jennifer McMullen, September 2006.)

Although I was born in Wisconsin and spent most of my school years before college in Kentucky, my roots in Ohio are deep. My father and mother both grew up on farms near Springfield, Ohio, and when I moved back here I felt I came home.

I got my undergraduate degree at the University of Kentucky (in French!) and then did some graduate work at the University of Chicago in linguistics. I got my M.A. in Library Science from the University of Iowa in 1975.

I got involved in documents purely by accident. My first professional library job was here at Wright State as a reference librarian focusing on humanities. During my first year, the documents librarian (Joanne Tortoriello, who was one of the co-authors of the *Ohio Documents Classification Scheme*, along with Jean Sears) went on pregnancy leave. I was assigned to work with Ohio documents in her absence, and I quickly got interested in them. My supervisor noted my enthusiasm, and when Joanne later resigned, he asked me if I would like to transfer into the documents librarian position. I was delighted, and I really enjoyed the years I was able to focus my major attention on documents.

I started work with documents in 1977, and I enjoyed those early years when we dealt with paper records. Then it was an exciting time when we got our online catalog in 1986 and I began working to get records for the documents in the catalog to make information about them more easily available. Shortly after that, our library was reorganized and I was no longer involved in the processing of documents. As a reference and collection development librarian, I continue to enjoy being our resource person for government publications.

It has been quite an adventure to live through the information revolution brought on by the Internet. I can remember when I had to try to talk people into going to the Internet to find government information. Now, of course, many people don't want to use print sources. It has been wonderful to be part of helping people find information in a new and convenient way, but, as we are all aware, the change has also brought technical challenges and worries about permanent access.

One of the things I have enjoyed most about my work in documents librarianship has been my association with other documents people. These are people with a mission! Documents librarians are passionate about the right of citizens to have access to information produced by their government and about letting people know about the riches to be found in government documents.

It has been inspiring to work alongside people fired by idealistic goals.

Perhaps it's perverse, but I've also enjoyed the sheer challenge of documents librarianship. Especially in the earlier years, it was a calling surrounded by mystery. The intricacies of the indexing in the pre-1976 *Monthly Catalog*! The mysteries of the Serial Set! The publication pattern of Census data! Every reference librarian knows the thrill making a patron happy by digging out just that piece of information needed. Working with documents has provided plenty of opportunity for that kind of satisfaction.

I don't really have a favorite document. When I walk through the documents stacks, I see so many documents that I regard with affection. I will admit that occasionally I reach out and touch a spine just to greet an old friend.

The highlights of my career have been very much involved with my participation in Ohio GODORT. I was a charter member, but I did not really take an active role until late in the 1980s. Since then I have served on many committees. I was proud to serve as Program Chair in 1992-93 and President in 1993-94. In 1998 I became the editor of our newsletter *Docs Prescriptions* and continued in that position for six years. Receiving the Clyde Award in 2005 was truly the highest point of my career. I was both thrilled and humbled to have my name added to that list of colleagues whom I respect and admire so much.

I look back on these past twenty-five years of the organization and am amazed by the changes we have seen and the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. It has been and remains an exciting time to be a documents librarian.

**Visit
Ohio GODORT
Online**
<http://www.wooster.edu/library/gov/ohgodort/>

Ohio's Council Members

Just in the past few years, Ohio has been well represented on the Depository Library Council with two of our members serving overlapping terms. But did you realize that just within the 25 years of Ohio GODORT, seven Council members have hailed from Ohio, and others have been connected?

Jeanne Isacco, 1981-1984
Cuyahoga County Public Library
OCLC

Clyde Hordusky, 1985-1988
State Library of Ohio

Judith Russell (yes, *that* one!), 1987-1991
Mead Data Central, Dayton, OH
(for part of her Council term)

George Kosman, appointed 1989 but did not serve due to his untimely death weeks after his appointment
Case Western Reserve University

William C. Cassell, 1992-1994
Heidelberg College

Mary W. Prophet, 2002-2005
Denison University

John Graham, 2003-2006
Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County

And while he was not an Ohio depository librarian at the time, Francis J. Buckley, Jr. served on Council and later went on to become Superintendent of Documents.

Ohio Documents

Karen Kottsy
Excerpted from No.16, Fall 1989

The Ohio State Fair is an amazing place to collect Ohio documents. This past summer I gathered a shopping bag full of documents while checking out the chickens, rabbits, and pigs.

(Rabbits come in strange sizes and colors these days.) Most of the documents that I got did not look familiar, and I have been processing the Ohio depository shipments for the past few months, so I do not think that they have made it into the depository system. I acquired the following:

- * 187 Ohio documents in all sizes and shapes
- * 5 plastic bags with agency logos
- * 4 bumper stickers
- * 3 shopping bags
- * 3 coloring books
- * 2 magnets from the Public Utilities Commission
- * 2 packets of shredded money from the Ohio State Treasurer
- * 1 button "I Milked a Cow at the Ohio State Fair"
- * 1 whistle from the Ohio Victims of Crime Program
- * 1 Ohio map (the 1987 edition is the latest)
- * 1 packet of wildflower seeds from the Ohio Department of Transportation

Most of the documents handed out at the Fair were consumer oriented such as *Ohio Consumer Guide to Automobiles* from the Attorney General's Office. Many had the agencies' 800 hot line number or address. Other documents explain or give information on what an office or department does or information on a specific program. Examples are *The Secretary of State of Ohio: Duties and Responsibilities* (Ohio. Secretary of State); *The Governor's Office of Advocacy for People with Disabilities*; and *Ohio's Minority Business Enterprise Act* (Ohio. Attorney General).

The following list gives some documents that you might like to have in your library. I have included the issuing agency. The addresses are available from the Ohio "Red Book" (*The State of Ohio Official Roster of Federal, State, County Officers and Departmental Information*) available from the Secretary of State.

Spreading Like Wildflowers (Ohio Dept. of Transportation): information on the state's wildflower program.

If It Sounds Too Good to Be True... A Guide to Ohio's Consumer Laws (Ohio Attorney General).

You and Stress (Ohio Department of Mental Health): two pamphlets, one for adults and one for teenagers, both containing a copy of the Social Readjustment Rating Scale.

Ohio's Utility Disconnection Rules and Other Utility Issues (Office of the Consumer's Counsel).

Composting... Guide to the Proper Disposal of Leaves and Other Organic Materials (Ohio EPA).

Ex Libris Minus Aestimatis

George Barnum

Reprinted from No.20, Fall 1990

J. H. Powell, in his 1956 Rosenbach Lecture in Bibliography, lamented that government documents are "alas! books no collector esteems, and bibliographers have not studied. To pore over...fiscal accounts, departmental and committee reports,... Senate and House journals, ...and the like is not the most beguiling pursuit in American studies."

"Yet," he continued, "the subject is not entirely lacking in that special kind of charm which belongs to books... and there are actually items, even minor ones, which tell the sort of story collectors love." Powell went on to suggest that his discussion of these "books of a new nation" could appear under the Latin phrase above, "Out of the least noticed books." We in the field of documents librarianship are starting to discover that "special kind of charm" that Powell described for the first time in the mid-1950s. In the wake of the increased and increasing attention that our colleagues are devoting to preserving our collections of increasingly fragile materials, and in the face of skyrocketing prices on the open market for books, we in documents, too, have begun to turn our eyes toward what is in our collections that is of value and how we can act to safeguard it on a number of fronts.

The first question that is asked in this discussion of what we now routinely call rare and valuable documents, and which needs to be asked again and again, is "What constitutes rarity and value?" There is, naturally, no firm ten-word answer. There is no firmer an answer from rare

books and special collections librarians with regard to our collections in general. There are, however, guideposts, and the list of considerations seems to be fairly consistent among collectors, dealers, and librarians:

- * Fundamental documents (landmarks: e.g., the Emancipation Proclamation in the General Orders of the War Department)
- * Authority (author of significance)
- * Graphic embellishment (plates, photographs, maps, etc.)
- * Geographical discovery, especially the West
- * Scientific or technological discovery
- * Change or revolution in any branch of government
- * Political activity or change
- * Landmark or controversial laws
- * Significant hearings or investigations (e.g., the Warren Commission, probably before long the Iran-Contra hearings)
- * Agency of origin (defunct agencies, controversial agencies)
- * Printer
- * Association value (who owned, gave, stole, wrote in, sold the volume)
- * Scarcity factor (how many were printed, how many are left?)

(I am indebted for this list to James Babcock, who outlined it at last year's rare and valuable documents session at Depository Library Council.)

This list is in no particular order or ranking, but divides into a couple of categories: those concerns unique to government documents, and those common to all rare books collections. Any of us who have collections more than a very few years old begin to think immediately of titles which fit into one of these criteria. One example that is frequently given is the *National Atlas*, which many have in their collections and which fetches a substantial price on the O.P. market. Another title is the Warren Commission report (Pr 36.8:K 38/H 35/). Documents need not be old or august to be considered valuable.

The key to preserving and safeguarding what is of value in our collections is awareness. Over the coming issues of *Docs Prescriptions*, I hope to look at some of the issues that surround rare and valuable documents themselves. In addition, I'll be keeping an eye on the rare book

market and offering updates on what's changing hands.

One final note, if you've never read *The Books of a New Nation* by J. H. Powell (Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 1957), you owe it to yourself. I dislike pronouncements like "A must-read for documents librarians," but Powell's lectures are a literate and very warm examination of pre-GPO government printing and publishing that may well change the way you see your collection.

(Ed. note: George's column appeared in issues 21, 22, 24, 25, and 26 of *Docs Prescriptions*.)

Lock Up Your Comics

Jeff Wanser, Hiram College
Reprinted from No.23, Summer 1991

Not all rare and valuable documents are old, or, for that matter, rare. I recently came across a treasure from 1961 that some of your comics collecting patrons might kill for. The *Pogo Primer for Parents (TV Division)* by Walt Kelly, creator of the Pogo comic strip (FS 3.224:2), is a 24-page booklet from the Children's Bureau, concerning children, television, and mental health. Published in the wake of the 1960 White House Conference on Children and Youth, the primer attempts to assuage parental fears about TV's effects on children, while urging guidance in viewing. It's funnier than it sounds. Kelly subverts the message slightly, satirizing middle class families (with Pogo as Mom) and psychiatry along the way. The format is more of an illustrated story than a comic strip, a technique Kelly commonly used in his book-length Pogo collections.

I have not seen this publication listed in any comic book price guide, but based on the going rate for other Kelly material, a ballpark figure of \$50-\$100, depending on condition, would be a good guess. I haven't checked with any comics dealers. Not bad for a 20¢ booklet! ☺

DON'T MISS IT!

25 Years of Ohio GODORT
November 17, 2006
State Library of Ohio
A Day to Remember!

Have You Seen?

Karen Kottsy

Selected titles from nos.16-26

During her tenure as editor of *Docs Prescriptions*, Karen ran a regular column called "Have You Seen?" that highlighted interesting new documents or books and articles related to government documents. Here's a sampling of the titles she pointed out to her fellow members:

Terrorism: Avoidance and Survival
J 24.2:T 27/989

"Into the Hopper: Stalking the INF Treaty: A Geopolitical and Bibliographic Safari."
Morehead, Joe. *The Serials Librarian*. Vol.16, no.3/4 1989. "A very good article."

Fish and Wildlife News I 49.88: (611-P-1)
The May 1990 issue had a short article on page 10, "Telling Tusks Apart," a report on new techniques being used to distinguish mastodon and mammoth tusks from new elephant ivory tusks. It was necessary to develop the process as new ivory was being imported as old ivory. Mastodons and mammoths are already extinct so their tusks are not covered by the ban on elephant ivory.

Computers and Privacy: How the Government Obtains, Verifies, Uses, and Protects Personal Data (GA 1.13:IMTEC-90-70 BR)
The General Accounting Office surveyed 178 federal agencies and found 2,000+ different computerized systems that contain information on individuals. They also discovered that not all systems are reported in the *Federal Register* as required by the Privacy Act.

"Instances of Use of United States Armed Forces Abroad, 1798-1989," by Ellen C. Collier was printed in the January 3rd (1991) *Congressional Record*, on pages S14-S19.

Historic Landscape Directory (I 29.126:H 62) is a source book of agencies, organizations, and institutions providing information on historic landscape preservation. It also has information on sources for historic plant materials.

Maps: Colorful Maps

Evron Collins, Bowling Green State Univ.
Reprinted from No.27, Summer 1992

Although most of us enjoy our work, it is even better when the materials we handle are enjoyable. Color and illustrations frequently draw our eyes to new publications. However, many documents are bland and not visually interesting. Maps are by nature eye-catching. First they are either rolled in tubes which keep rolling off the space allotted them or they are folded in such a way that there is no space to place an ownership stamp. We are therefore forced to see some of the information on the maps as they are processed. How much better it would be if we could have the time to look at them and enjoy them.

The U. S. Geological Survey publishes several series of colorful maps. The geologic ones are my favorites. The designs created by the colors make me think of marble paper or beautiful fabric patterns. If you understand what the colors mean the maps become very interesting; but if not, they are still pretty.

If you are a systematic person you might enjoy the checkerboard patterns of the Bureau of Land Management maps. Here the pattern is a series of colored squares depicting the use of the land. The colors are quiet and regular in their symmetrical patterns.

If you are monochromatically inclined you will find many black and white maps in the A 13.28s. Black and white is very chic this year, so if we could just get them to use more polka dots, the maps would be fashionable as well as informative. The Daily Weather maps are produced in no more than three tones, making them almost eligible for this category. If you prefer a pictorial image, check out the NASA maps from space or some of the orthophotoquads. They offer nice shades of black and white with gray tones.

Of course many colorful maps are published by commercial firms. Some color schemes are pleasing, some are very subtle, some are very wild and may not please everyone. Cases in point: Wild – *Bedrock Geology of the World*

compiled by Larson, R. et al; Subtle – *Ecoregions of North America* by Bailey, R.; Pleasing – National Geographic maps of all sorts.

However the color is presented, isn't the information the map conveys the most important facet of the map? True, but why not enjoy the use of color to brighten our black and white days? Maps make very good display items and the color will attract the eye to the other information in the display. Maps can be hung on walls to help brighten a dreary room. The other color illustrations which maps frequently have often contain very interesting information. Therefore, let's enjoy the color in our maps and use it to cheer us up when it seems things are about to bury us.

BGSU's Canadian Documents Collection

Carol A. Singer, Bowling Green State Univ.
Reprinted from No.51, Spring 2000

When Evron Collins became Bowling Green State University's Map Librarian in 1981, she realized that the easiest method of acquiring the Canadian maps of the Great Lakes, to match our U.S. maps of the Great Lakes, was to get them as a depository library. Being a Canadian depository would also be useful for faculty and students in our Canadian Studies program and would complement our Historical Collections of the Great Lakes. Several times since then the library has attempted to be named a Canadian depository. Two years ago Consul General John Tennant, from the Canadian Consulate in Detroit, visited BGSU to become familiar with the Canadian Studies Program. While he was on campus, Evron asked if it might be possible for BGSU to become a Canadian depository. Mr. Tennant directed a staff member to look into the matter. We were told how to apply for Canadian depository status, including stating why we wanted to become a depository. Last fall, we received a phone call telling us we had been granted status as a Canadian depository. The only other Canadian depository in Ohio is the Case Western Reserve University Law Library.

The Depository Services Program is the agency that runs the depository system in Canada. Their main web site is: <http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/>. The Program has placed its handbooks and manuals on the Internet for those who need them to download. They don't send out a long list of all of the classes available from which depositories can choose. There aren't classes such as Small Business Administration Handbooks, Manuals, Guides where you aren't really sure what you're going to get. You also don't get only one chance each year to add on series that you wished you had previously selected. And, you don't find that new items are constantly being added to previous item numbers without getting a chance to select the new item separately.

Every week the Library receives a copy of the pink sheets, the Weekly Checklist of Canadian Government Publications. This booklet, also linked from the Depository Services Program web site, includes a list of all of the available documents for that week. The last page of the booklet is a page on which you can check the publications you want to receive. Some of the documents listed are periodicals or other publications that are distributed by a mailing list. If you check one of these titles, you are placed on the mailing list for that title. Some items are monographic publications that you can receive by checking the appropriate box on the last page. Once you have checked the boxes of the documents you want from the Depository Services Program, you send them the checklist or order electronically. Other titles listed in the Checklist are available free to depositories from the issuing agency and the pink sheets list the correct address and telephone number from which to request the document. The Checklist also includes prices of documents if you need to purchase a copy. For documents that are available on the Internet, the URL is included in the record. Coleen Parmer, BGSU's Head of Government Documents, has also made a database that lists all of the documents selected by BGSU and the selections are entered into that database.

Once the Library receives the selected titles, they're stamped, cataloged, and barcoded. Some are sent to the bindery. All of our Canadian documents are included in the BGSU Libraries Catalog. Our Canadian documents are shelved in a separate collection within the Government

Documents Collection using the Canadian equivalent of the SuDocs classification system. As with U.S. government publications, we receive paper copies, microforms, posters, and CD-ROMs. We also have the opportunity to subscribe to electronic files.

A few of the series we're getting are *National Library News*; *Canadian Economic Observer*; *Consumer Price Index*; *Employment, Earnings, and Hours*; *S&E: Science & the Environment Bulletin* (monthly).

Some of the individual titles we've received are *Je Parle Français: A Portrait of La Francophonie in Canada*; *Protection of the Waters of the Great Lakes*; *Husband Abuse: An Overview of Research and Perspectives*; *Toward a Healthy Future: Second Report on the Health of Canadians*; *South of the Border: Graduates from the Class of '95 Who Moved to the United States*; *Acid Rain*; *A Portrait of Seniors in Canada*; *Characteristics of Dual-Earner Families*; *How to Make Your Organization Bilingual*; and *Shaping the Future of Canadian Defence: A Strategy for 2020*.

Among the differences between the Canadian and United States depository systems is the method of discarding publications. Canadian documents must not be discarded, but instead must be returned to the Depository Services Program, even if they've been superseded.

Unfortunately, another difference is that the map depository program is separate from the Depository Services Program, so we're still not getting the Canadian maps, which was Evron Collins' original reason for investigating the possibility of becoming a Canadian depository.

This collection is extremely valuable for our Canadian Studies Program and also for other programs, such as International Studies. It is used by students and faculty for a variety of classes in which other countries are studied or in which the United States is compared to other countries.

As we received our first documents at the end of 1999, the collection is still small, but it will become more useful every month as we continue to receive more documents.

Reclaiming Our History: Ohio GODORT Archives

Jennifer McMullen
The College of Wooster

Although Ohio GODORT came into existence in the fall of 1981, several years passed before the question of establishing a permanent archive of the organization's records came up in a business meeting. At the May 17, 1988, meeting, the "advisability" of creating such a historical record was discussed, and the minutes indicate that Kent State University "might be willing to house such a collection." Graham Walden, the incoming Program Chair, and June Coughlin, the first Secretary/Treasurer of Ohio GODORT, agreed to look into the matter.

By the following spring, Graham had made arrangements with Dean Rosemary Dumont of the Kent State University School of Library Science to house the Ohio GODORT archives at the library school, and in a letter dated May 9, 1989, Dean Dumont replied,

On behalf of the School of Library Science at Kent State University, I am glad to accept the Ohio Government Documents Round Table archival material for housing in our School. We will label it properly and provide for archival arrangement.

On October 4, 1989, then-Secretary/Treasurer Nani Ball sent the first shipment of records to Dean Dumont, indicating that as more material was collected, "it will be forwarded to you." The files from this original shipment included account information and bank statements for the treasury, information on the Award for Service and Achievement (the "Clyde"), a copy of the constitution, correspondence (including early letters sent to organize the first meeting, contributed by Julia Baldwin), a full set of *Docs Prescriptions* issues (numbers 1 to 15 at that time), membership directories for 1980 and 1989, minutes and program materials from meetings, and treasurer's reports and receipts.

Subsequent deposits of Ohio GODORT records were made in the spring of 1994, the summer of 1997, and the fall of 1998. These records included additional treasury receipts and

statements, subsequent issues of *Docs Prescriptions*, membership directories for 1994 and 1998, more minutes and program materials, and treasurer's reports. No detailed list was kept in the Secretary/Treasurer's files about deposits, though the original list was briefly annotated to reflect what was sent.

In August 2000, Jan Schnell, newly elected Secretary/Treasurer, contacted Diane May at Kent State, looking for executive board meeting minutes at the request of Margaret (Margie) Powell, then Chair. Diane responded that she was unable to track down the Ohio GODORT archives, and her suggested contacts of the University Archivist and the Secretary at the library school were unable to offer much help, indicating that they thought the files might have been sent with regional history records to the University of Akron (they had not) or simply discarded.

Jan began an intensive reconstruction effort to organize the existing Secretary/Treasurer's files as the organization's "traveling archives," and by May 2001, she shared a list of available documents with the membership:

- * Minutes 1988 to 2001
- * Treasurer's reports 1988 to 2001
- * Financial documents 1996 to 2001
- * Membership lists 1994 to 2001
- * Correspondence 1989 to 2001
- * *Docs Prescriptions* complete set
- * Constitution (1989)

Jan deeply regretted the loss of the early correspondence "leading up to the founding of the organization" and hoped that the early issues of *Docs Prescriptions* would help fill in the gap. These files were organized and kept in a large plastic file tub and passed on to later Secretary/Treasurers for added materials.

During the summer of 2004, as newly elected Secretary/Treasurer, I reviewed the files and decided to make another effort to fill in gaps in the "traveling" archives, contacting original members of Ohio GODORT and sending out another plea for materials on the Ohio listserv. Karen Kimber, George Kline, Margie Powell, and Jean Sears graciously contributed correspondence, minutes, treasurer's reports, and other materials from their personal files, and George as well as Lorna Newman not only filled

in gaps of *Docs Prescriptions* issues but also helped to establish a second full set of issues for later digitization.

In the search to reestablish a permanent location for the Ohio GODORT archives, I contacted Audrey Hall at the State Library of Ohio, and Audrey responded in an email of August 17, 2004, that “The State Library will gladly house the GODORT archive. Keep in mind that they will be in a regular file cabinet in our work area.” I agreed to organize the archival materials clearly and to create a finding aid or index to the collection, along with specialized deposit forms for all future officers to deposit their correspondence and records.

After all of these efforts, I received a phone call in December 2004 from Cara Gilgenbach, the new Curator and University Archivist at Kent State University, who indicated that she had unearthed a file of Ohio GODORT materials. The materials arrived shortly thereafter, and the file box proved to be the entire archival collection originally deposited at Kent State from 1989 to 1998, including the valuable early correspondence.

Joe Salem, Program Chair and then Chair, offered to begin digitizing archival materials in order to make much of the Ohio GODORT history available online. The first round of digitized materials included meeting announcements, minutes, and business agendas, and additional records are gradually being scanned and saved as PDF files to add to the Ohio GODORT web site. The archives have since expanded to include committee membership lists, executive board meeting minutes, an updated state plan, information on the union list created in the early 1990s and the trial mentorship program developed in 2005, and copies of pages from the web site (including on CD-ROM).

As we approach Ohio GODORT’s 25th anniversary in November 2006, we now have a nearly complete archive of our organization’s history, membership, and activities. More records are being digitized to share our history with newer members of the group as well as to make these “public” records more accessible. Audrey Hall, our Regional Consultant, has agreed not only to house the archives but to serve as the new Archives Liaison, and any

questions regarding the archives can be referred to her. (Many thanks, Audrey!) It is hoped that the work of all the members involved with the archives over the past two decades, as well as the work of all Ohio GODORT members, will live on and grow as the future work of Ohio GODORT continues to be recorded and saved for posterity, too.

Special thanks to Margie Powell and George Barnum, who contributed information and ideas to this history and who pointed me in the right direction for finding the details.

What’s News? 25 Years of *Docs Prescriptions*

Jennifer McMullen
The College of Wooster

Following the founding of Ohio GODORT in 1981, news about the meetings and upcoming activities traveled to depository libraries through letters from Karen Kottsy in her role first as organizer and then as chair. Karen’s newsy letters sometimes outlined the business agenda to come and always served up a bit of her usual tongue-in-cheek wit. (Her letter announcing the Spring 1983 meeting, found in PDF format on the Ohio GODORT meeting page online, carried the editorial comment, “Some days I’m not sure I want to be computer literate, but I am looking forward to hearing about what can be done with documents and computers.”)

At the May 1984 meeting, George Kline proposed creating a newsletter for Ohio GODORT, supported by the organization’s treasury. Since at that time the treasury had a balance of \$476.44, the members agreed that the treasury “could easily afford to support a newsletter” and passed the motion. George then became the first editor of the new periodical, *Docs Prescriptions*, and published the first seven issues. When George passed the baton to Karen Kottsy in 1987, the membership extended their “formal appreciation” to George at the fall meeting for his leadership, hard work, “time, devotion, and talent” on the newsletter.

Karen began her editorial tenure with the help of a strong committee and regular columnists, including perennial favorite Carol Singer and

her “Docs Detective” writings. Ellen Conrad, then at the College of Wooster, spearheaded the work to obtain permission from the State of Ohio to use the Great Seal as part of the newsletter masthead, and a week after she submitted the detailed application, it was returned with the permission and signature of then-Governor Richard Celeste. Notes from the committee at that time reveal eager discussions of font size and type, publication schedules, and ideas for columns (including ideas that remain useful to today’s editors!). Karen and her committee stuck to a quarterly publication schedule for five years, up through issue #27 in the summer of 1992, and each hefty issue contained a variety of articles from members all over the state. Toward the end of her service as newsletter editor, Karen received the Clyde Award in recognition of her hard work and contributions to the organization.

The next editor, Melanie Putnam, gave *Docs Prescriptions* the next push into the computer age. In one of her first issues as editor (#29), she requested that articles submitted for the newsletter be sent on “a floppy disk in either WordPerfect 5.0 or ASCII.” Melanie continued the tradition of drawing in guest columnists on special topics, and she livened up the look of the newsletter by adding clip art. After 10 issues, in 1995, Melanie turned the editorship over to George Barnum due to her new responsibilities at her home library and at AALL. (We can only assume that the legendary lost issue #38 resulted from a rare oversight in this transfer; Melanie’s last issue was #37 while George began editing with issue #39.)

Avowedly eager to put on his “green eyeshade” for the editorial task, George launched into his new task with a newly formed committee (Margie Powell, Cynthia Hall, and Karen Kimber) and a new look for the masthead. George’s editorials kept us up to date with the ongoing changes at the GPO as the transition to electronic materials began in earnest, not to mention his own upheaval of moving into a new library at Case Western Reserve University.

Once George left for the GPO himself in 1997, the publication of *Docs Prescriptions* paused for a breather. A year after George’s last issue (the combined 44/45) in Winter/Spring 1997, Karen Kimber picked up the reins and carried on the grand tradition. Karen added her own touch to

the masthead, giving it a clean look to take us into the 21st century, and generated new interest in the newsletter by encouraging new members to write articles or columns on new topics, especially in regard to government resources available online. Shortly after beginning her tenure as editor, Karen proposed the question of electronic-only delivery of *Docs Prescriptions*, a suggestion declined at the time but considered with increasing frequency in subsequent years. (We’re still committed to sending out paper issues, but don’t be surprised if the question comes up again soon.) After 6 years at the helm and the longest term as editor to date, however, Karen decided to pass the editorial work on to someone new. Karen’s fine work with the newsletter contributed to the reasons behind her receipt of the Clyde Award in 2005.

In 2004, as Karen made known her plans to step down as editor, few people were willing to take on the complete task of publishing the newsletter. The Executive Board therefore re-established the Newsletter Committee, with the labor divided between co-editors. Jennifer McMullen agreed to edit, write as needed, and shape the look of the newsletter (with Joe Salem converting the Word file to PDF format), and John Graham volunteered to print, copy, and distribute the final copies. (Sandy Duwel helped with printing and distribution for about a year before moving on to a branch library in Cincinnati.) It’s still too soon to tell what mark we’ll leave on *Docs Prescriptions*, but in following a long tradition of newsy issues, good articles on useful reference topics, and an audience that not only expects a good read but also supplies it, we hope to continue bringing you a quality periodical for years to come.

Who Was There on November 30, 1981?

Julia Baldwin (U. Toledo), Barbara Bell (Wooster), Becky Blocher (ASCPL), Bernard Block (OSU), Connie Britton (OARDC), Essie Bruce (U. Dayton), Loretta Cole (U. Akron), June Coughlin (BGSU Firelands), Judith Daso (Ohio U.), Clyde Hordusky (SLO), Karen Kimber (Wright State), George Kline (TLCPL), Karen Kottsy (U. Cincinnati), Penny Marshall (Stark Co.), Andre Martin (U. Akron/Law), Becky Metz (Marion PL), Sherry Mosley (Youngstown State), Nancy Sherwin (Cleve. Heights PL), Clara Smith (U. Toledo/Law), Melville Spence (BGSU), Wanda Weinberg (Ohio U.), Teresa Winning (Ohio U.), Joan Wright (U. Toledo)

Ohio GODORT Fall Meeting, November 17, 2006

State Library of Ohio, Columbus, OH

Agenda

Come join us at the State Library to celebrate 25 years of Ohio GODORT! Our hard-working ad hoc committee (Karen Kimber, Audrey Hall, Nicole Merriman, Lorna Newman, and Mary Prophet) have arranged a special day for us. After the morning's business meeting, we will enjoy a catered lunch provided by LexisNexis, a keynote speech by Robin Haun-Mohamed of the GPO, and a panel discussion by Ohio GODORT members on the highlights of our organization's history. Enjoy a little nostalgia, visits with former members of Ohio GODORT, and the chance to revel in all the tremendous work our organization and members have done over the last quarter of a century!

Preliminary Agenda	
9:30 - 10:00	Registration and Refreshments
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome
10:15 - 11:30	Business Meeting
11:30 - 1:00	Lunch (Provided by LexisNexis) RSVP to Audrey Hall by November 1
1:00 - 3:00	Anniversary Celebration Keynote Speech by Robin Haun-Mohamed, GPO Panel Discussion by Ohio GODORT Members

For Conference information, contact Mark Gooch at mgooch@wooster.edu or (330) 263-2522. For RSVPs, directions, accommodations, parking, contact Audrey Hall at ahall@sloma.state.oh.us or (614) 995-0033.

Directions

The State Library of Ohio is located at 274 East First Avenue in Columbus. [Driving directions](#) and a map are available on the State Library website. The building is in the Jeffrey Mining Corporate Center along the north side of East First Avenue. The parking lot and entrance are on the west side of the building. Parking is free.

Thursday Night Gathering

Please RSVP to Audrey Hall at ahall@sloma.state.oh.us or (614) 995-0033 if you are planning to attend. The gathering will be at the [Mongolian BBQ](#) at [295 Marconi Blvd.](#)

Accommodations

Many options exist. Extensive listings are provided at [Experience Columbus](#). Select "search lodging", select the desired area. The State Library is located about mid-way between the University and Downtown areas.