Meeting Minutes-2/18/2011 Round Table Discussion of Federal Document Publications

In attendance: Mary Elizabeth Priebe, Jessica Nhem, Paula Bartlett, Andie Craley, Beth Blankman, Jim Gillispie, Susan Wheatley, Gaylord Robb, Martha Zimmerman, Carl Olson, Leigh Ann DePope, Cindy Terry, Cynthia Nyirenda, Michelle Flinchbaugh, Maria Pinkas

• Upcoming Events were announced including:
  o Teen Zone area of Caroline County Public Library started in November 2010
  o Joint MLA/DE Conference May 4-6, 2011
  o TSD is hosting 2 programs: preconference on RDA, and an Open Source program during regular conference
  o TSD is contributing a Chocolate themed goodie basket during Silent Auction. If anyone has any items to contribute, please ILL to Jessica Nhem
  o June 7, 2011 will be a program on the Collaboration of Digital Collection. There will be a special showing of the Hein Collection. This is a formal program with catered lunch.

• Martha Zimmerman, Associate Dean/Head of Technical Services from Salisbury University presented the following:
  o A definition of what a Government Document is, and why they are overlooked as a valuable information resource
  o Librarians’ attitudes towards government documents fall into different groups
  o Many popular Reference Resources are Government Documents
  o A depository library receives lots of valuable information for patrons at no charge
  o Martha also talked about the online FDLP Desktop, which allows depository librarians find depository rules and regulations, file claims for missing material, join listservs, etc.
  o Hearings seem to be used the most at Blackwell Library
  o Raising awareness: document of the month display on the home page of the library, by sending weekly email to reference staff informing them of new documents received, promoting documents through in-house newsletter

• Carl Olson, Reference librarian at Towson University contributed Towson’s experience with government documents.
  o History of Government Documents at Towson University
  o They were a Federal Selective Depository from 1978-1998, with only a 5% selection. Between 2000-2003 they got rid of government documents
  o They deaccessioned and offered monograph to other institutions. Serials were weeded through and identified what to keep and what to get rid of
  o Government documents catalog records are received via Marcive document load, which is a monthly load from College Park, including load shipping list, use temporary codes, match to Marcives full record, run reports, edit for duplicate entries.
  o Course offered “Using information effectively”, information literacy which is part of the full semester course on Government Documents.

• Items discussed during roundtable included:
  o What a PURL is, which is the permanent url, for a government document
  o Discovery Tools are the default search strategy in some institutions.
- Documents can be searched by typing in “purl” and topic.
- Government documents come up regularly in catalog searches for ebooks.
- Government Catalog of Publications, online publications begin with http://purl.fdpl.gov
- The public website for government documents is FDSYS or the Federal Digital System
- USMAI has Documents without Walls, which consists of records for every born document in a loader. Available in catalog USMAI College Park, free access to all through URL. Other institutions have found that downloading all available government documents to their catalog clogs it up and makes it hard to find other resources.
- FDLP has digitized publications for desktop
- Government Documents can be ILL
- On March 11 GPO Access will become archive only. See http://www.gpoaccess.gov/. Users of this site are being redirected to FDsys www.gpo.gov/fdsys .
- For Public libraries there is kids.gov which is a government portal
- Jim Gillespie is looking for anyone who has maps of Baltimore City that they want scanned, he is interested in doing so.