Promoting Government Information: Outreach to Non-Depository Libraries

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Presentation notes are available at the UNO Library Web site

A PDF copy of my notes, including titles for catalog records viewed during this presentation, is available at *http://library.unomaha.edu/special/presentations/*. You may find it helpful to search the titles in the UNO Library catalog at *http://catalog.lib.unomaha.edu* and to view both the public and MARC displays. You are welcome to rework my presentation and use it at other library association meetings and workshops.

Monitor the rapidly evolving Federal Depository Library Program

Our colleagues at non-depository libraries can benefit from visiting the FDLP Desktop (*http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/index.html*) to learn more about changes and new opportunities for electronic access. Relatively few non-depository colleagues monitor lists like GOVDOC-L, so the FDLP Desktop can serve as a current awareness tool for them.

We do not know how the "look and feel" of New Electronic Titles will change with the advent of GPO's Integrated Library System, so take care to alert colleagues that the information will remain available though likely in a different format.

Learn about PURLs

Those of us familiar with the FDLP are well-acquainted with PURLs, but many other colleagues are not. OCLC provides a very good, basic definition: "PURL is a **P**ersistent **U**niform **R**esource **L**ocator. Functionally, a PURL is a URL. However, instead of pointing directly to the location of an Internet resource, a PURL points to an intermediate resolution service. The PURL resolution service associates the PURL with the actual URL and returns that URL to the client. The client can then complete the URL transaction in the normal fashion. In Web parlance, this is a standard HTTP *redirect*." More can be learned by visiting *http://purl.oclc.org/*.

Link maintenance remains a major (and valid!) concern for many colleagues, so I emphasize that GPO's staff keep the actual target URLs up-to-date and that the PURLs should remain stable. PURLs work well enough that link maintenance alone should not be a reason to avoid cataloging electronic government publications.

Consider batch loading options

My library has not contracted with MARCIVE for *Documents Without Shelves*, but we are considering it. I appreciate the advantage of direct selection when I review *New Electronic Titles,* because we only get records for publications we really want. However, as physical receipts through the FDLP decline, we may reach a tipping point at which it will make more sense to establish an account for *Documents Without Shelves*.

At the time of this writing, MARCIVE has priced *Documents Without Shelves* at $1520 per year for a single library catalog and $3050 per year for a consortium catalog. Details are available at *http://www.marcive.com/homepage/dwsl.pdf*.

Nebraska documents news flash!

The Nebraska Library Commission oversees the state depository library program in Nebraska, and as of June 2005 the program switched to electronic-only distribution. The NLC harvests documents from state agency servers and places them on its own servers. It also installs catalog records in OCLC for libraries to export into their catalogs. The NLC alerts us via E-mail when a new list of records is available (*http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/ShippingLists/edocsalerts.html*), and libraries can use it to prospect for records. The Nebraska depository program included thirteen libraries, but any library can now be a Nebraska depository. Beth Goble, Director of Government Information Services at the NLC, will be happy to respond to questions about the program: E-mail bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us