North Carolina Library Association: Government Resources Section meeting  
Friday, June 7, 2024 at Rubenstein Library, Duke University

Per David Durant, Chair of GRS and Federal Documents and Social Sciences Librarian at East Carolina University, the purpose of this session is the exchange of ideas and discussion, rather than just presentation of information.

Nota bene: Per David, about 16 months until the end of his term as chair, and he is currently the only elected officer.

Session 1: “Transitioning to the Post-Print FDLP: Overview and Discussion”
Angela Bardeen, Regional Depository Librarian for North Carolina, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- Mention of Kenny Jones as Government Documents Manager at UNC Chapel Hill – works with the actual physical collection
- Historical physical collections will be maintained
- National Collection Service Area (NCSA) will create development plans for print
  - Steering committee – not all members are from regionals (for diversity of opinion)
    - Come up with a what-if plan: What if someone selected materials and then cannot receive them – where do they go?
    - Create a policy going forward
    - Possible future plans for maintaining/weeding tangible materials, but for now nothing changes
- David: Does anyone in the room get the titles that have 20 or 50 copies issued?
  - Reps from ECU & UNCW: Yes
  - UNC did not ask for anything – are comfortable with digital plus are preservation stewards for Sudoc Y4 hearings
- Question: Will we be weeding maps? Per Angela, it will depend – email Angela with questions
- David: There are special selections, but no one will be getting print anymore unless we ask for it
- Angela: Space constraints can encourage the move to digital
- Question: What should we be considering for ILL policies, such as scanning part of a document, but for different types of documents beyond print?
  - David: Beyond NCSAs, you have regional/locally based collaborative preservation schemes (e.g., ASERL w/ the Collaborative Federal Depository Program) to keep a certain segment of documents and make those titles available to others through ILL in some form (e.g., physical lending or scanning)
- Angela: We have 2 regional depositories – UNC & UVA
- Angela: What challenges/opportunities are you experiencing?
- Elisabeth Garner: Moved what they’re retaining (very small collection) to news space – deselected 250k documents over the last 3 years and just finished a few weeks ago – titles in a card-accessed reading room – currently closed for renovation – NC documents are in closed stacks – recently, ILL asked to lend out NC microfiche and scan a land-use
item – supervisor said you aren’t supposed to do that – but what is the spirit of the thing to support access? – idea of if we have it available to lend, we should – if available to be scanned, that’s a better policy? – in this case, scanner was down

- Angela: Some things might not scan as well for lending
  - Many titles being born digital, which may curtail need for ILL
- Comment: Effort to remove titles from the catalog system itself is daunting
  - Even for a small library, takes months for cleanup
- Comment: Some records are suppressed for fiche titles in catalog, but show as lendable in OCLC – will need cleanup
- SLNC rep: Possess census and full serial set – depository library since 1850s – “benign neglect” depository library – preservation site – full inventory of holdings required – considering past/future decisions and commitments – 10-20% of collection is cataloged – strong in the subject of agriculture – long way to go with retrospective cataloging of print – items are sitting on shelves, but can’t lend because we don’t know what’s there – historically we were getting titles for free, so the idea was that they didn’t need cataloging
  - David encourages cataloging of titles
    - If you’re an ASERL Center of Excellence, becoming a Preservation Steward is at the same level – if you’ve done the one, it’s a pretty easy transition
  - SLNC has serial set – full run through 2000s, but not cataloged
- UNCG rep: Have embraced changes with digitization – end of fall, library tower will close for renovation – aligned with what long-time need to weed documents to make room for more student space – documents collection will have a reduced space after renovation
  - Question: Did you submit a plan of closing to askGPO?
    - UNCG Rep: Part of library will still be open, so no need – collection will be moved
- NC A&T rep: In 2018/2019, Renee (previous Regional Depository Librarian) came to evaluate use of space – worked out what to discard/keep – boxed up all documents at the time and now going through them to weed – switched to digital only going forward, starting in 2019
- Angela: Offering up documents to fill gaps – using the exchange – any questions, please get in contact – with space constraints, it can be so helpful to get guidance
  - Task force that predates Angela did a lot of work to make the digital transition work

Session 2: “Depository Librarians and Open Access: Making the Connection”
Allison Kaefring, Publishing & Open Access Support Librarian, East Carolina University

- Introduction by David: Need to find other ways to show relevance of documents – being an “old school” documents coordinator doesn’t cut it anymore – one way to participate: open access (OA) – we were doing it before it was cool! – Allison has been at ECU for a year and a half
- Allison: US Government Image Search for free images – but there are some restrictions on using government images:
In the public domain: if created by a government worker
- Possibly covered under copyright: if created by a **contracted** government worker
  - Sometimes only *some* components may be copyrighted (e.g. underlying map/application/etc.)
  - However: not all contractor content is covered by copyright
- Consider attribution requirements (e.g., photographer’s name w/ “NPS”)
- Privacy of people in photos can make items not usable in commercial realm
  - “Right to be forgotten”
  - State and local laws may vary

- **Nelson Memo** from Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP): requirement that researchers make their publications open access at time of publication
  - Set to begin on January 1, 2026, but may not be implemented
  - The *data itself* must be open access (not just “available upon request”)

- **First Day Access at college campuses**
  - Department of Education junk fee regulations may force this program to switch from opt-out to opt-in
    - However, campus bookstores say this is not economically feasible
  - See [www.inclusiveaccess.org](http://www.inclusiveaccess.org) – there may possibly another comment period to reconsider the use of opt-out versus opt-in
  - SLNC rep: Harvard created a website to show how open state data is
  - UNCW rep: Barnes & Noble on campus + SGA are revisiting the program
  - UNCG rep: For first-generation students, First Day Access felt predatory – decision in second year to make opt-out more visible – library has had to guide students through their options – course reserve requests have dwindled

- **David:** Print collections are almost entirely retrospective in nature – in our roles going forward, we’re not so much responsible for just physical collections but also looked to, as FDLP members, to provide services/gateways/access for information – level of expertise needed which involves OA (e.g., OSTP memo, DoE regulating junk fees) – government *is* regulating – we are the people who can provide the source and show how the government is fostering OA, rather than just shepherding collections

- **NC A&T rep:** Push from higher up to throw away everything – have to tell them it’s a process – hard for higher ups to understand when they just want the space – document retention is governed by federal law

- **SLNC rep:** We provide digital content – repository data sets have to be preserved and made available – what institution is supplying that in perpetuity? – how will we access the content to describe it in MARC – how will it be maintained? (e.g, consider corrupted data and limits to how many people can access at once)

- **David:** We need to promote what we know and what we do, and also federal government data in various formats – not just to our communities, but to our colleagues – make them aware of documents as a source of OA resources – if other librarians are working with faculty, they may be able to find what they need through us – consider some ugly-looking documents vs. breathtaking [NASA digital images](https://www.nasa.gov/centers/johnson/digital-images) – it’s an untapped source
  - UNCC rep: How do you approach this, especially if I’m a new documents manager?
■ David: Reach out to an OA colleague – ECU has an alternative textbook program that offers grants to faculty to create OA content – awardee gets access to a librarian to find suitable OA resources for their project
  ● Did a presentation to subject librarians on federal documents as a source of OA materials
  ● Approach documents from proactive rather than reactive point of view – have a legacy or vision of what your collection should focus on, rather than waiting until you urgently need the room for student study space
■ UNCG rep: At the FDLP spring meeting, there was discussion about creating flyers/one-pagers to argue for FDLP – some faculty/librarians made the assumption that we’re getting out of FDLP with digitization, but this is not necessarily true
■ UNCW rep: LibGuides promoting documents can be embedded in faculty course pages
  ● Allison: Encouraging using documents for faculty to create their own materials within courses
  ● NC A&T rep: As the library’s agriculture liaison, created a workshop about the FDA
  ● David: Several hundred thousand volumes in basement compact shelving (legacy) – think about what would you like it to look like and take initiative – weed collection to get to a certain size, focusing on agencies/topics most relevant to your institution – 55% of ECU documents print is cataloged – the main focus is adding to ASERL Center of Excellence/Preservation Steward areas (this 100% cataloged because it has to be) – remaining print titles are almost a special collection (i.e., an archival source, not being added to – 7 titles selected out of limited-run print items, along with “whatever I’m in the mood to request”) – in the past, we had someone focus primarily on cataloging documents, but they retired and weren’t replaced – now cataloging as we can find time
  ● UNCW rep: Created faculty position and did not replace staff position, so I’m the sole cataloging/documents person
  ● NC A&T rep: Future of Marcive records?
    ○ David: GPO Cataloging Record Distribution Program
  ● SLNC rep: No dedicated person to catalog – did have a graduate student intern to catalog retrospective – based on whose whim it is to catalog what and when we have time – 2 catalogers for all state, federal, and public collections – retrospective cataloging just hasn’t happened

BREAK FOR LUNCH 11:45-1:20

Elisabeth Garner, Government Information Librarian, University of North Carolina at Wilmington
  ● Government information used to be its own thing, then new director grouped special collections, archives, and government documents
    ○ Center for Southeast North Carolina Archives and History: All housed together in expanded building, new reading room for federal government documents only
In the past few years, job duties have changed significantly – what do I do now? – new roles – much less print to maintain – will go through some questions I have for others who work in documents

Is anyone at an academic library? Can you teach a class if you want to?
- Workshops, but not many can teach 1-3 credit courses
  - UNCW librarians can (e.g., entry level in honors college)
  - Chose to create class on federal documents (FDLP’s top 15-16 resources – created syllabus to go through one per week) – going to see how it goes – director of honors college (from political science department) was excited to see Elisabeth will be teaching this area – proactive with American values directive

How are we handling things? Has anyone taken anything else on?
- Angela: New supervisory role, working with Kenny (not in the same department – Kenny is in access services) – used to have international documents person, but no longer
- Elisabeth: Have had to learn more about special collections/archives and gain familiarity with ArchivesSpace
- UNCG rep: Predecessor was full-time dedicated to documents – now coordinator is mostly reference with side of documents
- Elisabeth: Reading room shifts in addition to chat reference keeps skills sharp – ask patrons if they’ve considered documents as a source (patrons have no idea they exist)

Do you hire student workers for your department?
- Usually 1-2 at UNCW – helping with deselection and finding online equivalent for titles – requires more specialized training

Print bibliographic records with electronic links attached in the catalog
- Need to delete holdings in OCLC, but 80% of bibliographic records have links in the catalog – how to reconcile?
  - For 776 field links, can run a monthly report on Worldcat holdings for any updates needed in the catalog

Is anyone still actively deseleting?
- There is a whole career’s worth of work to do
- Questions about whether we have to keep CDs and/or microfiche formats

Inventoryed NC microfiche (10,000+ items)
- Considering a grant of some sort to digitize collection
- Well-organized – completed in a year after reviewing what to keep

Are your deselections being claimed by other libraries?
- Yes – some

Any other ideas for sharing resources?
- NC A&T rep: Direct patrons who ask for documents to the electronic versions
- Workshops for students, faculty, and/or public, to promote documents
- Rowan County Library rep: Related to documents, patrons chiefly want tax forms
  - Community would connect with agriculture documents
- Encouragement for academic libraries to reach out to public libraries – there maybe interest/collaboration – consider non-traditional students as well
- Rules to become an FDLP in your district?
  - David: GPO is encouraging smaller libraries and tribal libraries – you can be digital-only
  - Angela: You can simply have a LibGuide with links and be an FDLP – you do NOT have to catalog items to be an FDLP library
  - David: Resources for teachers – Ben’s Guide to US government (for kids)
- Grants for preservation housing?
- SLNC: Had ongoing grant where we purchased archival supplies and kept track of what was used
  - NC documents such as newsletters are floppy in Princeton boxes – sampling what we have in this condition in order to apply for a grant for better supplies
- David: Assigned alternate duties, so now I’m social sciences subject librarian and documents manager – when I meet with faculty, I mention that we are a depository with free information – occasionally asked to do new/candidate faculty library tours – browbeat administration to show government documents to these candidates – find materials of interest (e.g., criminal justice faculty – show Department of Justice titles) – outreach: don’t expect grand, immediate results, but consistency adds up (“it takes its toll on them”)
- Does law school have a higher correlation with use of depository resources?
  - Duke rep: Documents are embedded – law students kind of have to be interested
    - Main campus library is a much larger repository
  - UNC rep: Even when titles were online, law students would ask for print docs 5-7 years ago, but that demand has since faded
  - David: GPO is emphasizing authentic digital documents (PDFs) – law libraries are overrepresented in FDLP (6 of 33 depositories in NC – 3 of 33 are public)
    - Comment: Previously, a path was created for law libraries to join FDLP because of expertise of staff – currently there is encouragement and a path for tribal libraries to join FDLP
      - Thought: What is equity – consider distance from a copy of a document, but also the format and how it’s used – remember digital divide/unreliable internet
    - Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) – how to decide who gets it (NCSAs allowed libraries to ask, but then after inventorying decided which libraries would get remaining current print versions)
- Elisabeth: A supportive dean is very helpful, especially if they took documents courses during their library school program
- Angela: Think about election season workshops on researching candidates and how to look up voting records
  - UNCW OLLI – usually older adults – a way to share information about documents
- UNCG rep: LibGuide needs to be a robust entry point – focused on customized finding aids
Made a layer in OCLC-based catalog that will automatically search SuDoc within catalog

- UNCW rep: “Bento box” catalog where documents are deprioritized in results

Nota bene: Per David, slides will be available on the GRS website

“GRS Business Meeting/Wrap-up”
David Durant, Federal Documents and Social Sciences Librarian, East Carolina University

- GRS meets usually once per year (NCLA conference + this session)
- In a holding pattern until October 2025 with next NCLA conference
  - Could do virtual event of some kind
- Only currently elected officer since October 2023
  - Need vice chair/chair elect + secretary/treasurer
  - David is available to work with you – no one would be thrown to the wolves
  - Tasks as chair include arranging this meeting (2-3 month main focus) + preparing for NCLA (2-3 months, but not as busy – sections don’t have to sponsor our own events anymore)
  - Contact David with any interest – can share bylaws
  - Elected officials attend quarterly NCLA executive board meeting – most by Zoom

- Vision for the section and its future
  - 2 areas of emphasis:
    - Depository librarian-focus – should be our base – a place for them to meet, exchange ideas, and have a platform to collaborate
    - People who are interested in other aspects of government information that are not traditional members
      - Those interested in statistics or OA
      - Expand our horizons – consider ways to appeal/reach out to interested parties and ways to integrate/collaborate with those interests
  - Currently GRS has 17 members – ideally 20-25
  - Starting to think in terms of what we want section to look like when the idea of a traditional depository as a storehouse of print documents goes away – how to work with legacy collections to preserve them
    - David “will probably subject” us to a session on the topic at NCLA
  - What would we like to see the section do to make more people interested in membership
    - Gave the webinar series “Help I’m an Accidental Government Information Librarian” over to ALA GODORT
    - What would be helpful to your job-colleagues – we have lot of experts and want to draw on that knowledge
    - Idea of a database of each of us in NC and what projects we’re working on, to give others ideas
• Can be used when, for example, an interim supervisor has trouble writing goals because they don't know what you do
• We had old-fashioned listserv (which will be allowed to retire) – using a Google account now to get in contact with members
  ○ If you can’t find a document, ask for help
  ○ For weeding, we could share institutional knowledge
• Spreadsheet of attendees will be shared
• GOVDOC-L through Penn State
  ○ Want to see GRS stay relevant to our needs going forward as a place to connect colleagues and as a source of information
• NC A&T rep: Can we meet at Duke again?
  ○ David: Yes, since we now know the lay of the land
• David: Please share via email ANY feedback about today – anything is helpful (e.g., meeting format, thoughts on content, etc.), since we want GRS to be relevant and timely for members