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Going Digital with Government Information

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Going Digital
with Government Information

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Documents in the Digital Age

Since the inception of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), depository libraries and librarians have been striving to make the documents of our government accessible to its citizens.

As documents librarians we know the importance of an informed citizenry—at every level of government—to our democratic process; as academic, public and special librarians we are aware of the vast amount of research publications on a great variety of subjects that federal, state and local governments produce. Obtaining, organizing and making this information available to the public has always been a challenge.

In today's digital age, many of the challenges from the "paper age" remain the same, such as preservation and accessibility. New formats and technologies require new approaches. Collecting and making available fugitive documents (which should be placed into a depository program but are somehow missed) and "gray literature" (often produced by an agency for its own use but with value to a more general audience) has always been, and may always be, problematic.

The information environment has irrevocably changed. Information is going electronic, not merely to save its producers money and time but because students, scholars, and citizens are demanding it. It makes information more visible in many ways when you can call it up on any computer connected to the Internet. A wider audience can gain access.

But there are certain dichotomies in this digital environment. Free access on the Internet would seem to make an item more accessible to more people. But placing an item online does not guarantee continued access. A document that is available in only one place can be easily deleted, either through error, in the belief it is no longer useful because it is outdated, or even deliberately suppressed because it conflicts with current policy. Such scenarios cause nightmares for librarians and historians.

This issue of *OLA Quarterly* examines many of the efforts in progress to capture and make available information at all levels of government: efforts to preserve the past, make the present available to all citizens, and insure that the future of government information is secure.

The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) is at the forefront of this dramatic and basic change in information storage, access and preservation. The article included here describes many of GPO's current efforts to make information available through their GPO Access service. The Oregon State Library is implementing an important change in the way Oregon state documents are collected, distributed and preserved, described in the article by Robert Hulshof-Schmidt.

Three Oregon projects dealing largely (although not exclusively) with federal documents are described. Deborah Hollens gives us a look at the Southern Oregon Digital Archives (SODA) project and discusses the effect it has had on Southern Oregon University's depository program. SOU's Hannon Library was named 2004 Depository Library of the Year by the U.S. Public Printer, due in part to the work they are doing to build this fascinating archive.

Bonnie Avery talks about how Oregon State University Libraries is using its institutional repository to provide electronic access to older U.S. Forest Service research, simultaneously rescuing and preserving the information. Oregon Explorer, a collection of natural resources digitization projects also headquartered at OSU Libraries, is described by Avery and Janine Salwasser of the OSU Institute for Natural Resources.

Local documents are also getting the "digital treatment." Portland State University librarians Rose M. Jackson and Gary W. Markham describe partnerships formed with state, local, and municipal agencies to pull together and preserve the Portland area's historic urban planning documents. Tom Stave describes the University of Oregon's efforts to collect local Oregon government documents from the Web and place them in their institutional repository, expanding the local community documents collection the UO has been assembling in paper for several years.

The Digital Age is an exciting time for libraries, and documents librarians are making major contributions to library collections. We cordially invite you to use the Web sites and virtual repositories described in these articles.

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Guest Editors

The History of GPO Access

by **Kelly M. Seifert, Heidi L. Ramos**

and

Lisa M. Russell
The U.S. Government Printing Office

For more than 140 years, the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) has been committed to disseminating information effectively, efficiently, and inexpensively. As information dissemination methods are evolving to a more digital environment and as the public's necessity for immediate access to official Federal information has grown, Public Law 103-40 was passed, which calls for the GPO to maintain an electronic directory of Federal electronic information, provide a system of online access to the *Congressional Record, the Federal Register,* and other appropriate publications, and operate an electronic storage facility for Federal electronic information.

The response of GPO was not just the mandated information, but also the creation of *GPO Access.* What began in 1994 with just three online applications is now a Web site that provides worldwide access to about 8,800 databases through 45 applications including the *Congressional Record,* the *United States Code,* the *Code of Federal Regulations, Congressional Bills,* and *Supreme Court Decisions.* It is the product of an agency-wide initiative and commitment to the widespread electronic dissemination of information that was carried out without additional funds from Congress. The site delivers most electronic documents the day of publication and permanently maintains public access to Government information products, making it a hallmark for Government efficiency.

The information provided on *GPO Access* is the official, published version, and the information retrieved can be used without restriction, unless specifically noted. *GPO Access's c*ore objectives include:

improving access to Federal Government information in electronic formats;

ensuring access to a broad spectrum of users with a wide variety of technical capabilities, both directly and through the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP);

establishing and operating an online interactive service that is capable of rapid expansion to meet the needs of Federal agency publishers and public users;

and ensuring permanent public access to publications and electronic products available through the service.

GPO Access provides free electronic access to official information from all three branches of the Federal Government. The site was carefully designed, developed, and implemented for easy access to and use of Federal information products online. All major applications on the site allow for full text search and retrieval of all documents in the databases.

Today, *GPO Access* is continuing to grow and expand both in information volume and user volume. In response to the needs of GPO Access users, new features to the Web interface are being added and other applications are being enhanced. Additionally, new technologies are being researched and employed to assist users in obtaining the most up-to-date and accurate information as quickly as possible.

What started in 1861 as an agency dedicated to printing Government documents is now an agency on the move to a digital environment.

What started in 1861 as an agency dedicated to printing Government documents is now an agency on the move to a digital environment. While GPO will keep its historical commitment to quality printing, it will also focus its efforts on electronic preservation and worldwide electronic dissemination of publications and documents.

Right now, GPO is at the epicenter of change in the ways individuals use information to communicate, remain informed, research a topic, and preserve information. As part of its efforts to meet the demands of these changing requirements and continue to carry out its mission, GPO is currently working on several new undertakings. These undertakings are only part of the beginning steps of GPO's progress towards its new vision of delivering Federal Government information products and services from a flexible digital information system into the electronic environment. This future digital system will form the core of GPO's future operations. Three of the more recent undertakings include a Disaster Recovery site, use of RSS and blogs, and GPO's authentication initiative. These will be discussed in greater detail through the course of this article.

Current Initiatives

Disaster Recovery
In the wake of the September 11th attacks, the GPO is moving forward on the implementation of a Disaster Recovery (DR) plan. This will ensure that an off site backup system will continue to offer all of GPO's Web services to users in event of an unforeseen system failure or catastrophe. It will also maintain an archival copy of GPO data for redundant, off-site backup. A statement of work for DR hosting services was sent to several companies offering such services in September 2004, and a contract was awarded to Akamai Technologies, Inc.

Through Akamai, GPO's DR service makes use of a globally distributed and highly scalable content caching and de-

livery network that is comprised of approximately 14,000 servers deployed in some 1,100 networks across more than 65 countries. The Akamai system identifies and deploys the most efficient routes for data throughout the Internet, based on the individual user needs and application and content demands. By pushing GPO's data to the edge of the Internet through Akamai's distributed, secure network, we will ensure the reliability and stability of *GPO Access* services.

In early 2005 Akamai began implementing a DR solution for GPO static content and WAIS databases. Akamai has been working with Fast Search & Transfer (FAST) for the DR search component to replicate the look and feel of GPO's web sites while improving search accuracy. The static content delivery for the DR site was activated for gpo.gov and bookstore.gpo.gov in September 2005. The five most

popular *GPO Access* applications (*Federal Register, Code of Federal Regulations, Congressional Record,* Congressional Bills, and Congressional Hearings) were developed as a Proof of Concept and delivered in June 2005. Once the workflow for automated content delivery to the DR storage location is completed, the DR service will be activated for these five applications. While implementing the fully redundant off-site DR solution, GPO also will assess the use of the Akamai and FAST solution as an interim replacement for WAIS until a new platform is developed.

GPO's DR planning will benefit libraries by ensuring that digital Federal information accessed over the Internet will remain available for permanent public access. Additionally, if the FAST solution is evaluated favorably, libraries will see improved search functions in the applications on *GPO Access.*

RSS and Blogs

As part of its efforts to move to a digital environment, GPO recently began to explore ways to disseminate news and information to the widest possible audience in a timely manner. One solution was the development of an RSS Feed (Rich Site Summary/Really Simple Syndication) for two of GPO's popular Web features. RSS, a small XML file that notifies users when a Web site has been updated, allows users to stay up-to-date on frequently changing content. Its structure includes a title, date, brief description, and a link to the full text of content. RSS can be used to automatically deliver lists, or feeds, of noteworthy content and descriptive information to users who subscribe.

In the past, the quickest way for users to obtain GPO information and updates was to subscribe to various GPO e-mail announcement services. While e-mail announcement services are useful tools, RSS allows for even faster dissemination of pertinent announcements and information to be circulated. Additionally, e-mail announcement services depend on the user to check their e-mail in order to receive the information. With RSS, as long as the users are subscribed to a reader and keep them active, the feeds will appear on the user's monitor as the content is updated.

GPO has also recently implemented the use of blogs. A blog is a Web site for which an individual or a group generates text, photographs, video, audio files, and/or links, typically on a daily or otherwise regular basis. GPO blog owners will typically post discussion topics, which can then be commented on by users and viewed by anyone. Postings on a blog are arranged in chronological order with the most recent additions featured most prominently.

GPO has been using blogs to foster communication among its user communities. They serve as a rapid method by which people located all over the world can communicate and collaborate on important issues. Information sharing has never been easier.

Additionally, a blog is easier and quicker to update than a static HTML page. Whether those who post are at an outside location or at GPO, they are able to do so in little time and reach countless numbers of people with up-to-date information. Another noteworthy feature of blogs is that they can be easily filtered to reflect various formats. For instance, in most cases, blogs can be sorted by date, author, etc.

These information dissemination tools will have an immense impact on the future. Previously, information-sharing potentially took days or even weeks in some cases, as it depended on the customer or user to seek out that information, through checking a Web page or e-mail or by attending a meeting or conference. By using these tools, customers can now not only obtain up-to-the-minute information, but can also actively participate in discussion in the timeliest manner possible. This will undoubtedly accelerate the rate at which

new initiatives and problem solutions are accomplished and foster a more collaborative and productive environment. These tools succeed in delivering new information directly to the customer.

Libraries will also be impacted greatly through the use of these tools. In libraries with limited time and staff, these RSS and blogs will make helping patrons much easier, as they will have access to the most recent and accurate information at their fingertips, instead of having to actively seek it out. Also, for those limited in budgetary resources, blogs have the potential to make it much easier for those who can't attend a meeting or conference to participate and offer input to relevant issues of the moment. These tools cultivate a more productive environment for GPO and the library community, as they afford countless individuals and stakeholders the opportunity to share ideas and opinions and work together with ease of access with one another.

Authentication
As movement toward a digital environment continues to grow rapidly, GPO has taken initiatives to address user concerns about the authenticity and integrity of electronic Government documents disseminated through GPO. The increasing use of electronic documents poses special challenges in verifying authenticity, because technology makes such documents easy to alter or copy, creating multiple versions that could be used in unauthorized ways. There is a need for information that is reliable because it is from a trusted source, as well as a need to certify that content is free of unauthorized modification or substitution of information.

Currently, GPO is implementing an authentication initiative that will provide the capability of certifying content as authentic and/or official at both the document and granular levels. The primary objective of GPO's authentication initiative is to assure users that the information made

available by GPO is official and authentic and that trust relationships exist between all participants in electronic transactions. GPO's authentication initiative will allow users to identify when, where, by whom, and what changes were made to the content and will be conveyed by users through the use of integrity marks. It will allow users to determine that the files are unchanged since GPO authenticated them, will help establish a clear chain of custody for electronic documents, and will provide security for and safeguard Federal Government publications that fall within scope of the National Collection of U.S. Government Publications.

GPO has implemented a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) to ensure the authenticity of its electronically disseminated content. PKI provides the framework that allows GPO to deploy security services for trusted transactions based on encryption. It is a technology based mainly on asymmetric cryptography and asymmetric key pairs that encrypt and decrypt information. PKI operates in a security environment that supports the transmission, delivery, and receipt of digital communications over a non-secure communications channel.

GPO will use digital signature technology to verify the authenticity and integrity of electronic U.S. Government documents disseminated through GPO. Digital certificates will be used to apply digital signatures to documents in PDF format and will add a visible Seal of Authenticity.

Ensuring customers that the electronic information made available through GPO is official and authentic is of paramount importance for our future. Implementation of PKI and the associated digital signature process used in accordance with the policies and infrastructure of this system will enable GPO to assure customers that electronic files are unchanged since being authenticated by GPO.

The impact of GPO's authentication initiatives on libraries will be of great significance. Libraries will be able to assure

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their users that they are using authentic versions of Government documents and that those documents and the information contained within has not been altered since they were disseminated by GPO. The Seal of Authenticity will provide libraries with a visible marker that indicates a Government document can be trusted and the information it contains is the authentic version disseminated through GPO.

Looking to the Future
As Government information continues to go digital, a strategic vision to transform GPO into a 21st century digital information factory has been initiated. The introduction of digital technology has changed the ways in which GPO products and services will be created and how they will look and function to meet the changing needs of the Federal Government and the public users. GPO's strategy is to create a Digital Information System and develop a new model for the FDLP that increases partner flexibility.

The DR site, RSS, blogs, and the authentication initiative are only a few operations that are underway at GPO. Future efforts will revolve around the GPO developed Digital Content System, or the Future Digital System (FDsys), that is being designed to organize, manage and output authenticated content for any use or purpose and to preserve the content independent of specific hardware or software so that it can be migrated forward and preserved for the benefit of future generations.

FDsys will ingest, preserve, and provide access to the information produced by the U.S. Government, including information produced by all three branches of Government, and to the material currently in the custody of GPO and Federal depository libraries. The proposed system is envisioned as a comprehensive, systematic, and dynamic means for preserving any kind of content independently of specific hardware and/or software. When

it becomes operational, FDsys will enable GPO customers to obtain hard copy publications and to electronically access and retrieve the content they want, and it will enable GPO to deliver that content in different formats. The system should automate many of the content life cycle processes and make it easier to deliver the content in the formats best suited to the needs of GPO customers.

Future Government information will be either born digital or will be transformed into a digital structure for manipulation, storage and delivery to end users. GPO envisions an FDLP that will follow documents into the digital age. The FDLP will determine the content of GPO's new digital content system, set the standards for Federal documents, authenticate documents, catalog and manage the content, and determine the standards for preservation of the content for the future. The FDLP will also set the standards for digitizing retrospective tangible documents and digitizing services and provide quality assurance for the content.

While GPO's mission will remain essentially the same in the future, new technologies are transforming the manner in which Government information is being delivered to users. FDsys will allow GPO to deliver Federal information products and services from a flexible digital platform. Through the FDLP, GPO will continue to provide nationwide community facilities for the perpetual, free and ready public access to the printed and electronic documents and other information products of the Federal Government. 🌿

State Library Launches Virtual Documents Repository

by Robert Hulshof-Schmidt
Oregon State Library

This year will see the introduction of a major step forward in the distribution of state documents from the Oregon State Library. The Library, working with state agencies and libraries around the state, is establishing a virtual repository of state publications. All state agencies will submit electronic copies of their publications (much as they submit paper copies for distribution through the depository system). These electronic copies will be permanently mounted on a server and made accessible through the State Library's online catalog. While many states have established some framework for dealing with electronic documents, the Oregon model is unique in its scope.

Two factors help facilitate this model: the use of a centralized content management system, and the recent passage of HB2118, which updated the depository program. Oregon government has been using TeamSite software to create and manage its Web presence for the past two years. Most agencies have moved their online content into this system, which provides a common look and feel for Oregon. gov, the state government Web portal. The use of a common, centralized system also allows agencies to easily identify the type of content they place in the system. By using a simple metatag, agencies can clearly mark each publication they place on the Web. The Library can then harvest those documents on a regular basis for cataloging and inclusion on the repository server.

The legislation which established this program, HB2118, was passed in April and signed by the governor in May. This bill modifies the print depository program, reducing the number of copies required of each publication. It also mandates that all publications be sent to the State Library in electronic form for inclusion in the repository. This legislation was the result of stakeholder meetings with depository libraries and state agency staff. These meetings helped the State Library understand the best ways to approach electronic archiving and to work with the legislature in crafting effective legislation.

After the passage of HB2118, State Library staff met again with depository librarians to discuss the most effective ways to implement the changes to the depository program. We also met with interested state agency personnel to discuss the new electronic archiving requirement and its impact on agencies and the Library. The results of these meetings were modifications of the Oregon Administrative Rules relating to the depository program (OAR 543.070). These modifications include a reduced list of depository libraries, updated requirements for depository libraries, and a clear definition of what constitutes a publication that must be archived in the virtual repository.

Working with EDS, the contractor that maintains TeamSite for the state, State Library staff have developed a working model to manage these publications. As new materials are published on the Web, they will move into a special area for library staff to process. Catalogers will analyze each document to verify that it needs to be included, then catalog it. After they are cataloged, the documents will be moved to their permanent home on the library server.

The State Library will make records for these documents (including a link to the permanent location) available to all libraries in the state, allowing every library to serve as a "virtual depository" if they choose. This local accessibility, combined with access through the State Library catalog and a plan to include the repository in the Oregon.gov search engine, greatly increases citizen access to the work and information of their government. Another significant benefit of the repository is the capture of electronic-only publications. Without such a system, these documents might not have been collected, leaving gaps in the State Library's thorough collection of state publication.

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The U.S. Forest Service Research Legacy Collection:

ScholarsArchive@OSU

by Bonnie E. Avery
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View our Web site at:

http://ir.library.
oregonstate.edu/dspace/
handle/1957/93

In July of 2005, OSU Libraries created a collection in its institutional repository ScholarsArchive@OSU (formerly, DSpace@OSU) to house the U.S. Forest Service research documents that we planned to digitize as part of an in-house project. The project and collection name, the *U.S. Forest Service Research Legacy*, is intended to convey a sense of history. The Digital Processing Unit at OSU Libraries is working with two series from the Forest Products Laboratory (at Madison, Wisconsin), Technical Notes and "mimeo" Reports. Other documents from this and other research stations will be added to this collection if further funding is available, but only if they are unavailable in electronic format elsewhere. Our intent is to contribute the scope of U.S. Forest Service research made available via the Web in such a way that each item is easily located through commonly available search engines.

Oregon State University is home to one of the oldest forestry education programs in the United States. To support this program OSU Libraries has developed, over many years, a strong forest research collection. At the heart of this collection are the publications of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Research and Development Program. Many consider this gray literature. It is at least a "graying" literature.

The USFS research has its roots in the formation of a Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin in 1901. The first forest experimental station began in 1909 outside of Flagstaff, Arizona and many others were established in quick succession. As a result of the merging of regional facilities in more recent years, today the USFS Research and Development Program is a network of six Research Regional Stations, the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture in Puerto Rico, and the Washington, D.C. Office. Each of these facilities may publish its own editions of four series: General Technical Reports, Research Papers, Research Notes and Resource Bulletins.

USFS researchers have contributed over a century of work and research findings in an attempt to better understand how to preserve and manage the national forests. For example, the earliest long term forest genetics studies in North America began after World War I on natural stands of Douglas fir and Ponderosa pine. Likewise, the basic studies of wood properties used today are the result of early research conducted by the USFS. But the context for this research legacy, if not the research itself, is being lost. Researchers retire and die and take with them a rich source of firsthand information about their work. Special or branch forestry collections and librarians are becoming a thing of the past as a result of funding and space constraints. This results in a loss of collective knowledge about both the content and context of published research findings.

Meanwhile, the research publications of the USFS began being "born-digital" and made available electronically around 1998. As an aid to researchers and others trying to locate this information, the USFS introduced the *TreeSearch* database http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/ early in 2004. While it was obvious to anyone visiting *TreeSearch* on a regular basis that this database was growing, there did not appear to be a master plan for digitizing retrospectively.

USFS researchers have contributed over a century of work and research findings in an attempt to better understand how to preserve and manage the national forests.

This is the context that gave rise to OSU Libraries' modest efforts to preserve and make more widely accessible a portion of the U.S. Forest Service research legacy. In November 2004, the government documents librarians at the University of Montana and the University of Idaho invited OSU Libraries to participate in a project to digitize USFS publications from the three western regional stations. Our initial strategy was to complete digitization of the current series for these three stations and then proceed with digitizing earlier work held at our respective libraries. This was to be a digitization "capacity building" project and a contribution to the preservation and enhanced access of an important body of public domain research literature.

OSU students, among them Philip Vue shown here, are a critical component of the OSU Libraries Digital Production Unit.

As our initial funding option evaporated each library found itself in a different position in terms of what constituted a logical "next step." While we continue to entertain the notion that a collaborative project could be beneficial to each institution, we have gone our separate ways for the time being. For OSU Libraries the next step coincided with our strategic goal re-lated to making available digital collections of national and international importance and an increased involvement by subject librarians in initiating digitization projects.

In addition to adhering to high standards for digitization, we observe four guidelines in selecting what to include in the *U.S. Forest Service Research Legacy* digital collection. First, the collection must reside at OSU and be useful to OSU students and/or researchers so that digitizing this material provides better local access to a portion of our own collection. Second, the collection must be a contribution to research literature and therefore consist of a definable set of materials for which there are no current plans for digitization outside OSU. Third, after digitization and uploading to the ScholarsArchive@OSU, items in the collection must be easily located by anyone using the Web without special knowledge of this project. Finally the collection should provide a challenge in terms of adding to our knowledge of the digital production process.

Since we hold material from all of the USFS research facilities and the breadth of research at OSU is sufficient to make any of these pertinent, the first criterion was easily met. Our initial choice for a definable collection centered on completing the four current research series for either the Pacific Northwest Research Station or Pacific Southwest Research Station. After several exchanges, we discovered plans within these two stations for digitizing this set of material and though the time frames were not definite, our second criterion dictated that we look elsewhere.

After an exchange of e-mails, it became clear that our biggest contribution would be to digitize the earliest reports series, *Technical Notes* and *Mimeo Reports,* published by the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin between 1919 through 1962. We were aided in our final decision by a strong interest on the part of OSU's Wood Science and Engineering faculty, which offered their in-house collec-
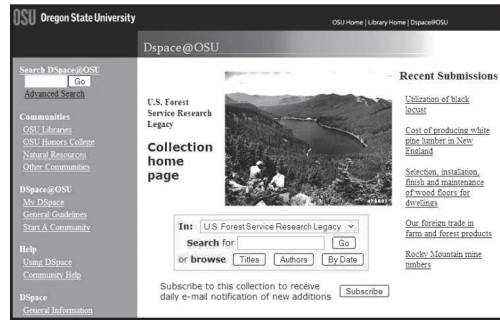
tion to augment our own. What has made this a successful effort is the enthusiasm of FPL librarian Julie Blankenburg, who acts as our liaison to the FPL and to the other *TreeSearch* collaborators. Ms. Blankenburg has provided knowledge of the publication record for this collection as a whole and copies of documents we lacked.

Dspace site: The ScholarsArchive@OSU serves as one open access archive for these materials.

TreeSearch site: Digitized documents will be up loaded into the USFS TreeSearch database.

The third "easy access" criterion is inherent in selecting a DSpace based repository as the home for this collection. Items in the ScholarsArchive@OSU can be located with a simple Google search

and are made available there for anyone who wishes to download the PDF for their research, Web site or thematic portal. The library community has bibliographic access to items in this collection via WorldCat. For the forest products research community, the Forest Products Lab librarian is notified automatically as items are added to this DSpace collection and she can proceed to add these items to the *TreeSearch* database as their time permits.

Finally, the age and condition of this material has provided a sufficient challenge to increase our general knowledge-base during this project. Enhanced OCR capabilities will allow full-text searching of the "mimeo" report series. For added subject description, CABI Publishing granted OSU Libraries an educational license to its *CAB Thesaurus* to enhance the indexing of documents on this site. Indexing with *CAB Thesaurus* terms will begin in 2006.

We have learned that no one has the complete "digitization" picture for U.S. Forest Service research but that many groups have a stake in its future, including forestry librarians, government document librarians, forest researchers, and citizens with a local interest. It would be remiss of us not to note the contribution of regional, portal-centered initiatives such as Southern Oregon Digital Archive's Bioregional Collection http://soda.sou.edu/bioregion.html in helping to keep the U.S. Forest Service "research legacy" alive. In the future the content of this OSU collection may serve as the core of one or more regional or thematic portals, related to the U.S. Forest Service Research Legacy. There are sufficient research stories to support many portals and we are not proprietary about who starts or continues that process.

Oregon Explorer™:
A Natural Resources Digital Library

by Janine Salwasser
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and

Bonnie E. Avery
*Natural Resources Librarian,
Oregon State University Libraries*

For the past four years, OSU Libraries in collaboration with the OSU Institute for Natural Resources (INR) has taken on several digital library initiatives with the ultimate goal of creating a Natural Resources Digital Library for Oregonians. This Web resource will be known as the "Oregon Explorer," a name that is intended to convey a sense of the ongoing need to find and/or make available information in a form that is useful to the people of Oregon. Predictably, much of this information is based in government documents and government funded research.

Citizens, policy makers, landowners, and planners want better access to natural resources information to help them make informed decisions. Yet public data gathered by one agency often cannot be used by another agency because it is in the wrong format or scale, or has not been archived and cannot be recreated. Worse yet, users may not know that the information existed in the first place. Oregon's last State of the Environment Report notes that essential data, maps, and information on natural resources are largely inaccessible, unusable or non-existent (Oregon Progress Board, 2000).

Our goal is that Oregon Explorer: a natural resources digital library empowers communities to actively engage in creating and sharing knowledge and taking action. Through the Oregon Explorer, Oregonians will have a single Web access point to learn about Oregon's natural resources and environment. Natural resource decision-makers and practitioners, researchers and scientists, educators and students will be able to use and share integrated information and tools to analyze and solve problems.

Informing Ourselves:
Assessing the Needs of Users

In 2001, a needs assessment was commissioned by OSU Libraries as the first step to determining whether a natural resources digital library was needed. The information gained from the assessment was critical in documenting the need for a digital library and better defining its recommended content, accessibility, geographic scope, utility, and range of services (Salwasser and Murray Rust, 2002).

Interviews with 35 citizens, policy makers, and scientists showed that potential users wanted to quickly locate, retrieve, integrate, and synthesize well-organized and geo-referenced information in a wide variety of formats. Users wanted more than a digital collection; they wanted an environment that enables:

information integration and synthesis;

evaluation of information quality; and

consideration of the human dimension—people to people networking.

Almost all of the users interviewed expressed a need to know what information exists for a particular place, particularly when addressing natural resource issues. "Place" is important and geo-referencing of information is a key goal. From a librarian's point of view, this came as a defining concept that made real how the Web environment could add value to archived material by locating it in space.

Another common need is access to available expertise. Most users rely on their contacts with knowledgeable people to get the information they need. An accessible database of people, keywords, research projects, and perhaps research needs would be welcome.

When asked if OSU Libraries should move forward with a Natural Resources Digital Library, the response was a resounding YES! Most of them felt that there was no effort that was fully addressing their natural resource information needs. All of the users interviewed wanted OSU Libraries to move forward with a natural resources digital library.

Building Partnerships

The assessment highlights the need for a digital library that integrates a wide range of information resources, technologies, and services. We have actively sought partnerships to help us develop the digital library environment described by the users. Our immediate goal is to provide access to natural resource information at basin, ecoregion, county, and statewide levels. Eventually, we would like the Oregon Explorer to be a gateway to natural resources information that exists for the entire Northwest, in partnership with other institutions. We feel that working towards a distributed digital library is the most realistic means of achieving this goal. OSU Libraries recognize we cannot realize this vision alone.

We are jointly managing the Oregon Explorer with the OSU INR. The mission of the INR is to provide Oregon leaders with ready access to current, science-based information and methods for better understanding natural resource management challenges and developing solutions. The role of the INR has been to identify and integrate available information about Oregon's natural resources and environment to support effective decision-making at local, state, and regional levels. In short, they identify the needed content and uses, and we focus on making the information accessible in meaningful ways. It has been a rewarding partnership with shared ownership in the success of the Oregon Explorer.

Because of our land grant and sea grant status at Oregon State University, another important partnership will be with our Extension Service program. The statewide network of Extension Service agents provides a trusted outreach and delivery mechanism for getting information and useful tools to landowners and citizens so that they can be better stewards of Oregon's environment.

Additional partnerships have formed and continue to develop in each of four digital library areas: development, content,

funding and usability. The result is an expanding expertise base:

> to help develop the digital library infrastructure;

> to identify the depth and breadth of content needed;

> to explore cost sharing and fundraising opportunities; and

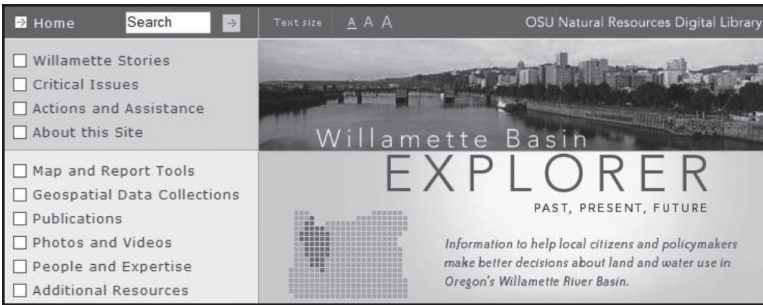> to engage with our users and assure that the solutions we create work for them.

Creating Prototypes

We have completed two prototypes at the basin scale: the Willamette Basin Explorer and the North Coast Explorer. With each prototype we have learned the benefits of partnerships, incorporated a diversity of available digital content, and developed an expanding set of digital library technologies.

Willamette Basin Explorer

In 2003, as a first step in developing the Oregon Explorer, OSU Libraries and INR (along with other key partners) joined forces to develop a prototype. Funded by the Meyer Memorial Trust, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and OSU Libraries, the Willamette Basin Explorer was developed as the first prototype of the Oregon Explorer (www.willametteexplorer.info). The Willamette Basin Explorer provides information access to help local landowners and policy makers make better decisions about land and water resources in the Willamette Basin, taking advantage of data and content from a $10 million research investment by the US Environmental Protection Agency made available to the public initially only in a hard copy atlas (Pacific Northwest Ecosystem Research Consortium, 2002). What users have liked the most in the Willamette Basin Explorer have been the "feature story" on the Willamette Basin and the mapping tools.

North Coast Explorer

In 2004, INR and OSU Libraries again partnered to create the second Oregon Explorer prototype, the North Coast Explorer (www.northcoastexplorer.info). Developed with funding from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and with a different set of public agency and local community partners, the North Coast Explorer is intended to support decision-making associated with the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds by informing the creation of a statewide natural resources information system. The focus of this Web site is the provision of information to and by local watershed councils, decision-makers and natural resource practitioners. It was built using the Willamette Basin Explorer prototype, adding new features to facilitate sharing of data from different sources, generate statistical reports, and enable discussion among interested users.

Moving Forward with the Oregon Explorer

A home page for the Oregon Explorer™ http://www.oregonexplorer.info has recently been developed to serve as blueprint for a fully functional natural resources digital library. Fifteen domain names have been registered for each of the existing and potential "Basin Explorers" in the Explorer Series (i.e. Willamette Basin Explorer, North Coast Explorer, and most recently, the Umpqua Basin Explorer). Meanwhile we anticipate the need to create a federation of "Explorers" sites, both place-based portals (e.g., Pacific Northwest Explorer) and other topic portals (e.g., Wildlife Explorer) as specific needs surface and funds are made available. The Oregon Explorer will serve as the home page for all of the portals in the Explorer Series.

Access to content related to the Explorer sites is supported by a "Meta Search" tool being developed by members of the OSU Libraries and Open Source Lab. We hope this will enhance the usability of the Oregon Explorer and allow users to define their information need while at the same time offer a timely and informative context as well. Initially the Meta Search tool will search across the content of the library catalog, our DSpace based, ScholarsArchive@OSU, and some state agency resources. Our goal also is to get away from search results that display as a long list, but instead display as an array of format or content types that are more usable and self-explanatory.
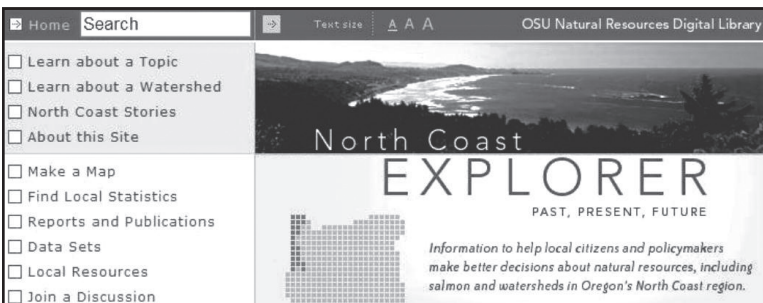
Sustaining the Oregon Explorer

To address the fiscal aspects of sustainability we are working with the INR to develop a business plan for the Oregon Explorer. This will be used as a fund raising tool with potential private and public entities. Sustainability also means developing "explorer" content locally by more actively seeking out content that may be hidden in our collection (or elsewhere). By keeping in mind that "place" matters to our users as we add material to our digital collections, we hope to make them more findable. We will likely continue to tweak the Oregon Explorer concept as we find new opportunities to partner with information providers. What remains a constant is the belief that when research is funded with public money a high value should be placed on making those research findings available and understandable to the public. If the Oregon Explorer contributes to that end, it will be a success.

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The Southern Oregon Digital Archives:
Unique Opportunity and Continuing Challenge

by Deborah Hollens
Government Information Resources Coordinator, Southern Oregon University Hannon Library

The Southern Oregon Digital Archives (SODA) project http://soda.sou.edu/) at Southern Oregon University Hannon Library began in one of those serendipitous moments that, in retrospect, seems to have unalterably enlarged our mission and the nature of a good portion of the daily work of several SOU librarians. One October morning in 2000 we received a telephone call from the Oregon University System's Washington, D.C. office. They asked us to provide ideas for a digitization project that could be funded by a congressionally directed grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). There were several of us around that morning to overhear that call from Washington. The opportunity to attempt a cutting-edge digital project was absolutely irresistible and greeted with great enthusiasm.

I had recently acquired several local watershed assessments for our government publications collection and immediately realized that state, federal and local documents about our Siskiyou-Klamath-Cascades bioregion were full of possibilities for one part of a digital project. Mary Jane Cedar Face, our Collection Development Coordinator, was inspired to bring together a large collection of materials about regional tribes that were difficult to find, and scattered throughout Hannon Library and a myriad of other libraries. We gathered a team of five eager librarians to work on our newly born digitization project which we christened the "Southern Oregon Digital Archives," or SODA. Teresa Montgomery would be project director, keep us on track, shepherd the budget, and write the

reports back to IMLS. Jim Rible, our systems librarian and computer wizard, was project manager and would be responsible for the innumerable technical decisions that would make the project a success. Lisa McNeil would make the cataloging and metadata decisions. Mary Jane Cedar Face would gather the materials for the First Nations collection and make contacts with the tribes for permissions. I was to assemble a huge collection of local, state and federal documents on the ecology of the Siskiyou-Klamath-Cascades and check for permissions with local researchers.

Over the past 25 years in government publications at Hannon Library I had made a concerted effort to collect documents concerning the Southern Oregon Siskiyou-Klamath-Cascades bioregion, a unique area recognized world-wide for its ecological significance. The region is characterized by a particularly complex geology that contributes to unusually diverse plant and animal species. Natural resources include Crater Lake, the Rogue, Klamath, and Illinois Rivers, several National Forests, four mountain ranges and an incredible range of life forms, many of them threatened or

The Current SODA Team (from left): Dorothy Ormes, Cataloging & Metadata; Mary Jane Cedar-Face, Collection Development (First Nations); Deb Hollens, Collection Development (Bioregion); Teresa Montgomery, SODA Project Director; Jim Rible, SODA Project Manager; Kate Cleland-Sipfle, Cataloging & Metadata Coordinator; Tatiana Fox, Digitization

endangered species. Many federal and state agencies are devoted to the study and management of the region and over the years have produced thousands of research monographs that were languishing on our shelves and hidden on theirs.

My job was to gather together all of the bioregion publications in our documents collection of over 290,000 items. While we had a large body of fully cataloged state and federal monographs, many were still uncataloged and hiding in the stacks under the SUDOCS numbers for the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Army Corps of Engineers, Geological Survey, and Congressional Committee hearings. I had large numbers of "fugitive" and "gray" documents, written by researchers that were not regular staff members of the state or federal government, but who had contracted with regional government offices to do environmental research. Many of these had long been sitting on our shelves, waiting for sufficient staff to process them.

None of us knew anything about the digitization process, but we knew what we wanted in a final product-- a digital library on our bioregion that was full text searchable across the entire library so that research would be as easy as searching a familiar journal database. That idea turned out to be a tall order at the time. After examining several options we found that software for full text searching of lengthy volumes was not easily available. Unfortunately the brunt of the initial stress to find an appropriate technical solution was placed on Jim Rible. I had recently heard Sheila McGarr, then Director of the National Education Library, give a speech at an ALA breakfast. She suggested that we investigate PTFS, Progressive Technology Federal Systems, Inc., a company that had a good reputation for full text capabilities. Jim evaluated their product, ArchivalWare, and found it to be just what we wanted. It offered full text searching of large PDF files in a variety of fields, e.g., author, title,

subject, abstract and more. (Jim wrote an excellent article, "The Digitizing Project that Made SODA" in which he described at length the technical components that make up SODA's navigation system. (Rible, 2005)) PTFS also provided training in the process of scanning, digitizing and making our documents work as a searchable whole.

We were on our way. I spent most of a one-academic-quarter sabbatical gathering bioregion materials from the government publications collection. In the catalog I performed searches on every subject and geographic heading that I could think of that related to the Siskiyou Cascades —national forests, landmarks, rivers, endangered species (plants and animals) and also likely keyword combinations. Those searches reaped about 400 printouts of cataloged monographs, but I was sure there were many more hiding in those long ranges of uncataloged federal documents. As I gathered cataloged publications from the collection and closely examined our federal and state documents stacks I fell upon hundreds of uncataloged documents covering a period of about 1890 to the present that could be added to a library of bioregion research materials.

In addition we also sent letters to federal researchers in the area, requesting copies of reports that we found in the bibliographies of the last decade's environmental impact statements. Faculty members donated publications they had done for the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management. We found opportunities to partner with local federal agencies that had a desire to mount relevant documents on their own Web sites, but had neither the time nor the staff to complete such a project. We made lasting partnerships by providing federal agencies with CD-ROM copies of important documents, and in return receiving numerous studies we would not have acquired otherwise. (Cedar-Face and Hollens, 2005)

One of my major responsibilities was contacting the myriads of contracted re-

searchers who had authored some of these studies to request permission to mount their work on the web for free access. Although the publications of government employees who do research as part of their official duties are copyright free, contracted work is not in the public domain. We did Internet searches, combed phone books and wrote letters for permission to add documents to our digital library. Researchers were extremely enthusiastic about SODA. They began to use the digital library for their own studies and were extremely complimentary about the results. We have had entire collections of federally contracted research given to us by local scientists who recognize the value of the database.

SODA has changed the face of our government depository and the work that I do every day as the Government Information Resources Coordinator. As federal and state agencies add documents to their own Web sites, we add those relevant digital resources to SODA. We are constantly on the lookout for old or new documents that will contribute to the ecological history of our region. At present we add about 15 federal and state documents per month to the database which now numbers about 1800 volumes between the Bioregion and First Nations collections. I am in continuing contact with local state and federal agencies and federally contracted researchers. Collection development for SODA has become just one more piece of what we now do everyday in the Government Publications department.

Naturally, we must be constantly on the lookout for ways to support and grow SODA so that it can become an even more robust library of materials critical to the information needs of Southern Oregon. Recently, a new Hannon Library team headed by Kate Cleland-Sipfle wrote and successfully applied for an LSTA grant to digitize a collection of Southern Oregon history brought together through the cooperative efforts of Southern Oregon University, the

Southern Oregon Historical Society, and Jackson County Library Services. These heretofore relatively inaccessible materials will document the period of the 1840s to 1920s. This superbly appropriate collection will complement the many government publications that document the ecological history of the bioregion and the materials relating to the native tribes. Digitizing the Southern Oregon history collection will begin in Spring, 2006 and continue through January, 2007.

Hannon Library's enthusiastic commitment to the growth of SODA necessarily corresponds with changing some of our priorities and making difficult decisions regarding the time, energy and resources we can give to an activity that is an entirely new one for us. Collection development for SODA, contacts with authors, scanning, cataloging, and metadata creation for the digital documents are all additional responsibilities that must be accommodated along with database maintenance and annual software fees. SODA is now fully part of our regional commitment and an innovative means for us to serve a much larger constituency. We are dedicated to the development of our digital collections, both in growing those that already make up the database and in finding additional materials to benefit the region. Finding ways to continue that mission will be a continuing challenge for this small university library.

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The Oregon Sustainable Community Digital Library:

Built to Fill a Need

by Rose M. Jackson
Reference Librarian to the College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University

and

Gary W. Markham
Cataloging Librarian
and NACO Coordinator,
Portland State University

Introduction

What can nineteenth and twentieth century urban planners and policy managers teach today's researchers? And how can we best represent this material to these twenty-first century students and scholars? Those are the questions librarians at Portland State University (PSU) Library hope to answer with the launch of the Oregon Sustainable Community Digital Library (OSCDL). What makes the OSCDL so great is the collaboration among the university, the library, state and municipal agencies to create a central repository for the accession of historical planning documents scattered across the metropolitan area.

As noble as the goal of the project is, it would not have been possible without start-up funding from the Oregon State Library via a Library and Services Technology Act (LSTA) grant. With the first two years of funding the digital team is hoping to convert a significant amount of the vital planning reports and images from the 1960s through 1990s into a digital format so that researchers are not hindered by barriers such as physical location or the off-site storage of print material, thereby limiting accessibility to records.

What's in the Collection?

As this article goes to press, the OSCDL is completing its first year and preparing for its public unveiling in January 2006. The collection development goals of the project are contained in the framing paper commissioned from Professor Carl Abbott, a noted scholar on the history of planning in America. Carl developed a list of categories and agencies of record that can be viewed at: http://oscdl.research.pdx. edu/framing.php.
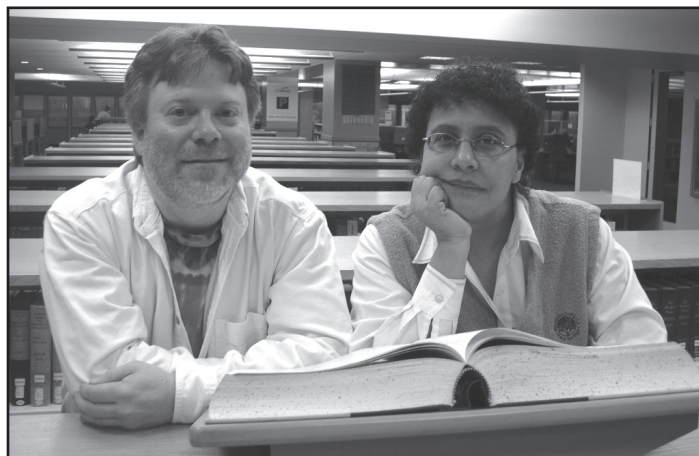
The authors Gary W. Markham and Rose M. Jackson.

Based on his detailed analysis, the team selected the following material for the launch of the project. Each collection provided opportunities (read: challenges) to how best to catalog and represent the data.

Metro

Becky Shoemaker, the archivist at Metro (the Portland area metropolitan service district), identified several key advisory policy committee meeting notes for inclusion. Currently the OSCDL hosts the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) notes from inception in 1979 until 1994. We hope to have the complete holdings in the collection by the end of 2006. This type of document lends itself to cataloging similar to a serial record; the monthly notes are added to the base record.

Mark Bosworth, the Data Resource Manager at Metro, had nearly a dozen years of Regional Land Information System GIS data on CDs. The OSCDL now hosts this material, making it available freely to researchers within geography, urban studies, history, and other fields. Since GIS is a dynamic representation of information, the team decided to employ, as much as possible, geo-referencing fields in the MARC record to link other documents to the associated GIS.

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There are varying amounts of usefulness to implementing these fields based upon predicting future informational needs. We can foresee a time that a patron will want to view documents or images specific to an individual street in a specific neighborhood, during a specific time period, related to a specific GIS data layer.

The Ethan Seltzer Collection

Ethan will be delighted to find he has a library collection! Ethan Seltzer is the Director of the School of Urban Studies and Planning at PSU and the library team is using his name as the official name for all contributions from the School of Urban Studies. Not only is he a noted scholar in the field but Ethan has led planning departments for several major municipal agencies. He had several major land use plans in his office that are now in the collection. Documents selected from his collection were traditional book-like material. Some had existing bibliographic records in OCLC and a few were already in PSU's catalog. Considering that he had assembled and maintained this collection over several moves and years gave impetus to our fully cataloging this gray literature.

The lead cataloger decided to fully implement the MARC field 583, the preservation action note (see generally http://www.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic/stmanf.html. Fields identifying other types of record keeping information were also employed, such as who provided these documents (MARC 541), whether they donated or lent them (field 580), and collection and/or sub collection information (field 773).

TriMet

Dareth Murray, TriMet librarian, has contributed material relating to the first light rail project—the Banfield rail system, which is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary. Additionally, TriMet has contributed material on the development of Portland's Fareless Square. TriMet has a significant amount of streaming videos on light rail projects and we hope to develop standards for their incorporation into the library during the upcoming year.

City of Portland Archives

Archivists Diana Banning and Brian Johnson contributed the neighborhood community plans for the City of Portland and are working on compiling all the Annual Reports of the Parks Director, starting with the Olmstead report of 1901 for inclusion in the OSCDL. The Archive has recently contributed maps and reports from the 1880s requiring original cataloging and the creation of a method within the library for searching static maps.

Oregon Department of Transportation

Laura Wilt, the Librarian for ODOT, recommended digitizing the series of Biennial Reports of the Oregon State Highway Commission. The collection holds years 1916–1922. The ODOT archive holds a substantial collection of images of the bridges that we hope to include in the upcoming year, again necessitating a method to search images being added to the site interface.

The Ernie Bonner Collection

Ernie Bonner was the former Director of Urban Planning in Portland in the 1970s. His wife, Lynn, donated his papers to the PSU Library special collections. Ernie was also a wonderful teacher and lecturer and his papers were arranged in thematic areas, such as "Harbor Drive" and "Front Street." His papers have been cataloged based on these themes in the library's catalog and the digital library. The OSCDL has digitized approximately 70 percent of his donated papers for inclusion in this first year.

Hardware, Software, Design, Data Management

Based on several financial factors, the project team has limited outsourcing to the

digital conversion of print materials; all other aspects of the project are organic to the university. The PSU Office of Information Technology (OIT) designed our Web interface and architecture, and retrieves material from our Innovative Interface online catalog system. OIT provides our storage and is in the process of building the "backend" of the content system so that we can perform all editing and administrative functions within the library. This collaboration has given us more financial and design flexibility as well as strengthened the working relationship between our departments.

The Way Forward

Besides the ability to collaborate across the metropolitan area, the most time consuming and fascinating aspect of this project has been implementing a methodology of geo-referencing the material. For the team, deciding which material to code what specific coordinate positions has been illuminating for subject selectors, catalogers, and system designers alike.

Consider the following. While a very general book on city planning in Portland for the 20th century will have little foreseeable need for encoded longitude and latitude data, the decisions regarding how and why the public market in Portland turned out how it did in the year 2000 based on decisions made in the 1940s could be very interesting and information-rich. The decisions made determining the granularity of describing a document with regard to its geo-referencing will be informed (or limited) by the availability of resources.

Planning minutes from historical counsel meetings will receive different treatment than the commercially published general planning book on the development of Portland, due to the specificity of the nature of the two examples: decisions to implement a certain planning decision on the Portland public market made in 1940 can be specifically geo-referenced with available map images of that area and therefore should receive detailed geo-data, but not necessarily other traditional cataloging attention. These minutes do not require a well thought out title supplied by cataloger or even that they were originally produced on leaves versus pages, but their being linked to relevant coordinate-level and time period data could potentially be very interesting to researchers.

As we complete the end of the first year, and finalize plans for the second and beyond, we hope to entice other librarians, archivists, researchers, and interested citizens to recommend items and methods to be added to the collection and to assist in identifying, obtaining, and sharing access to these key local, regional, and state agency treasures.

Web site for the Oregon Sustainable Community Digital Library (OSCDL) http://oscdl.research.pdx.edu/

Preserving Local Documents:

The UO Library's "Scholars' Bank" Project

by Tom Stave
Head, Document Center,
University of Oregon Libraries

For many years the University of Oregon Library has collected the essential planning documents for Oregon cities and counties. Our paper collection of comprehensive plans, development codes, sub-area and special purpose plans from the 1960s to the present now numbers in the thousands. (To see what we have from your community, you can visit our catalog at http://janus.uoregon.edu/search/X, and do a search like this: "keizer and planning"). Although these documents are collected for the use of Community and Regional Planning program faculty and students, they are also available for anyone else to use on-site, or to borrow through inter-library loan.

We have noticed, however, that paper has become passé—the Web has emerged as the preferred publication method for the information of local governments. When we ask Centerburg for a comprehensive plan or development code, they're more likely to give us a Web address than to send us a paper document. For a library like us—who wants to maintain a comprehensive archival collection—this poses some real challenges and opportunities. Our opportunity is that we can now serve up these invaluable documents electronically, so that our patrons can use them wherever it's convenient, and take advantage of the power and flexibility of digital formats. The challenge consists in finding them in the first place, capturing them in a usable form, preserving them permanently, and making them easily available for users.

Many libraries are trying to solve the problem of "gray" digital literature. A solution being tried by the University of Oregon Libraries is an innovative use of the UO's institutional repository, Scholars' Bank https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/dspace/. Scholars' Bank is an open access archive for UO scholarly output, which uses a digital asset management software called dSpace, developed by MIT Libraries and Hewlett Packard (Jenkings et al, nd).

While Scholars' Bank is used primarily for the digital archiving and dissemination of UO scholarship, it also suits our purpose perfectly. We have established two categories in Scholars' Bank, one for Oregon cities, and another for counties. Within each of these "communities" is a set of sub-categories for major types of planning documents: comprehensive plans, development codes, sub-area plans, strategic plans, and a growing number of other varieties. We are in the process of filling out these categories with documents captured from local government Web sites.

Once we have identified a candidate Web document, we capture it and deposit it in the appropriate Scholars' Bank collection. Regardless of its original format, we capture the document as a PDF file. Internal links from the original documents are retained, but we disable external links (such as to the department's home page). Each file is accompanied by a set of metadata, which describes the essential features of the document (date, authorship, subjects, original URL, etc.), and enhances its likelihood of being found by internet search engines. We plan to check routinely for revised or newly-published documents.

To view a set of these documents, try browsing through the set of comprehensive plans for cities:

https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/dspace/handle/1794/1271//browse-title. Similar plans for counties are at https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/dspace/handle/1794/1419//browse-title. As of this writing, we have mounted such plans for 30 cities and eight counties. If your community's plan is missing, it may be because we are waiting for some action to be completed, such as State or judicial review. In most cases, however, we could not find the plan on the city's Web site, or the file was too complex and multi-layered to capture easily. In such cases, we may contact the local

government directly and request an alternative file type.

Local governments produce such a bewildering variety of information that we cannot predict what any given jurisdiction might have authored. The UO's project focuses initially on those categories that are required by federal or State statutes, regulations or programs, and can therefore be reliably expected of every jurisdiction. Once we have these fundamental documents under control, we plan to branch out to less standard fare. Here is a listing of the categories currently being addressed:

Comprehensive plans. A comprehensive plan is a document stating the general, long-range policies that will govern a local community's future development. These plans are required of each city and county by Oregon legislation.

Development codes. Development codes are ordinances implementing a local government's comprehensive plan. They generally include two components: a zoning ordinance and a subdivision ordinance.

Sub-area plans. These are often officially adopted as subordinate parts of comprehensive plans, for smaller units of a city, such as neighborhoods, downtown areas, or commercial and industrial lands; or for unincorporated urban areas of counties. These documents may also be called "refinement plans" or "community plans".

Transportation system plans (TSP). An Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development rule requires a TSP as an element of a community's comprehensive plan. These are typically published as separate documents.

Consolidated plans. A consolidated plan is a document describing the housing needs of the low- and moderate-income residents, outlining strategies to meet the needs, and listing all resources available to implement the strategies. This document is required to receive HUD Community Planning and Development funds.

Strategic plans. Strategic plans report the results of a comprehensive long-range governmental planning process, and typically address major planning themes through vision statements, goals, and concrete action steps. They are often referred to by titles such as "Economic and Community Development Plan."

Other types of documents, optionally produced, are more specific in their thrust and are of particular interest to academic programs at the UO, but have potentially broad appeal outside the University. These will be addressed in later phases. Examples include:

Historic preservation documents. These include inventories, surveys, and preservation plans for historic areas, districts, sites, landscapes, and buildings. Titles vary widely, and may include cultural resources inventories and archeological investigations.

Environmental protection documents. These can include studies or officially adopted plans for the protection of such areas as wetlands, open spaces, riparian areas, and the Willamette Greenway.

Natural hazard mitigation plans. In developing this collection the Libraries will be working with the UO's Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup (ONHW).

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Park and recreation plans. Nearly every jurisdiction has a parks master plan, and often adds specific plans for individual parks or activities.

This is not a complete list, but represents the categories of high interest to UO programs and, we believe, to many Oregonians. We are interested in working together with partners in the State to identify valuable documents, and to coordinate our efforts with other activities, in order to create a lasting archive of public information for both current and historical research. Contact the author at tstave@uoregon.edu to discuss ideas for collaboration.

The collection owes its historical depth to the legacy of the reports of the UO's now-defunct Bureau of Governmental Research and Service (BGRS); and to the largesse of libraries throughout Oregon who, when pondering their old local documents, thought of us as they did little Mikey in the old Life cereal commercial: "Give it to Mikey—he'll eat anything!" 🦋

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Virtual Documents Repository

The beta test model of the repository will go into effect in February 2006. State Library staff will continue to work with libraries and agencies to ensure that the system works effectively and provides the services that each partner needs. This ongoing conversation has been critical to the success of the project so far and will continue to be. The repository will go live in July 2006. 🦋

OLA Quarterly Publication Schedule 2006

The *OLA Quarterly* is an official publication of the Oregon Library Association. Beginning with volume 3, number 4 the *Quarterly* is indexed in Library Literature. Each issue of the *OLA Quarterly* is developed by a guest editor(s), on a topic decided by the Publications Committee. To suggest future topics for the *Quarterly*, or to volunteer/nominate a Guest Editor, contact any member of the Publications Committee or click on the appropriate e-mail link on the OLA Web site.

Vol./No.	Theme	Deadline	Pub. Date	Guest Editor
Vol 12 • No 2 Summer 2006	TBA	March 15, 2006	June 15, 2006	TBA