

ISLAC SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION

The Indiana State Library Advisory Council's Subcommittee on Government Documents and Information was established in 1984 by the State Library Director. It was established to implement, monitor, review and update the Indiana State Plan for Government Documents and Information. The original State Plan had been prepared by members of the Indiana Library Association's Government Documents Round Table in response to a recommendation of the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer. The Subcommittee consists of eight members who are appointed by the Director of the State Library for staggered three-year terms. The Subcommittee reports to the Networking Committee and one member of the Networking Committee serves on the Subcommittee as liaison.

The first project of the Subcommittee was to revise and publish

the state plan in tabloid format. As such it was considered to be a separately-published part of the Indiana State Library's Five-Year Plan for 1985 to 1990. It was distributed widely throughout the state and the Subcommittee received a commendation from the U.S. Superintendent of Documents for its work. The Subcommittee revised the State Plan for Government Documents and Information again in 1989.

The next task the Subcommittee addressed was a review of disposal procedures for federal documents. The Subcommittee reviewed disposal guidelines of other states and worked with Indiana State Library personnel to revise the Guidelines. In addition, the Subcommittee urged an annual updated directory of Indiana depositories. The Directory is now published every year in the fall.

During the first eight years of

its existence, the subcommittee functioned both as an advisory group and as a quasi-professional organization for documents librarians. A popular annual documents workshop was established in 1986 and in 1987 the subcommittee sponsored a pre-conference to the Midwest Federation of Library Association (MFLA) conference on the topic of "Managing your collection". Among the other projects of the subcommittee was to establish a notable documents selection process in conjunction with the American Library Association's Government Documents Roundtable. In addition, the subcommittee sponsored promotional materials, set up information booths at the Indiana Library Federation's annual conferences, and prepared articles for the ASLA newsletters. Finally, the subcommittee responded to several issues of information policy at the state and federal levels.

In 1991, the subcommittee decided to divorce itself from purely professional activities and focus entirely on its advisory and planning role for government information and distribution issues. Because the subcommittee is appointed and not elected and because it has no means of funding any event or service, it is

very limited in what it can do. In addition, working on "professional organization" activities had in effect usurped its established mission.

Working outside the subcommittee, member Judith Violette of Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne and Sally Holterhoff of Valparaiso University Law Library along with Steve Hayes of the University of Notre Dame set the groundwork for a new documents organization in Indiana. In June, 1992, INDIGO was established. The subcommittee will be working closely with INDIGO to promote government information in the State of Indiana. This issue of *Indiana Libraries* is the final "professional organization" project of the ISLAC Subcommittee on Government Documents and Information.

Current Members of the Subcommittee:

Harriet Cohen
Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library

Ruth Davison
Indiana University - Bloomington

Barbara Elliot
Bluffton-Wells County Public Library

Sally Holterhoff
Valparaiso University School of
Law Library

John Robson
Rose-Hulman Institute
of Technology

Cheryl Truesdell
(liaison from Network Committee)
Indiana University-Purdue
University at Fort Wayne

Judith Violette, Chair
Indiana University-Purdue
University at Fort Wayne

Ex-officio:

Doug Conrads
Serials and Documents Section
Indiana State Library

David Lewis
Indiana Division
Indiana State Library

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