

Government Publications Needs and Wants: A Survey of Indiana Non-depository Public Libraries

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Introduction

In 1982 a task force of government publications librarians developed a plan to improve services provided to Indiana citizens through the federal depository library system. By 1985 the Indiana Plan for Depository Library Services was approved and action recommended in the plan had begun. A Government Documents and Information Subcommittee was appointed as part of the Indiana State Library Advisory Council. In keeping with the goals and concerns of the plan and the committee, the purpose of this survey is to present information and ideas needed by Indiana librarians and library committee members who are committed to providing wider dissemination of government publications to the general public through public libraries.

The responses recorded in the survey come from non-depository public librarians whose primary mission is to serve Indiana's general public. This group of librarians deals with a great variety of questions. Only a few of those questions may involve the use of government publications, but librarians feel a need to keep informed about documents, even when they cannot spare much time to do so. Depository librarians can help in this area if they understand the needs and desires of librarians in the

state's non-depository public institutions.

My reading of the goals of the Indiana Plan and my memory of experiences with Indiana public libraries suggested this survey. As a field consultant for the Indiana State Library in the 1960's, I became familiar with some of the operations and problems of public libraries. Keeping informed about new government publications was one of the continuing challenges for librarians. At the time I knew little about government publications or depository arrangements and was frequently unable to answer questions about them. After some experience as a government publications librarian, I began to answer questions for those public librarians who continued to ask.

Throughout the last twenty years the questions have remained largely the same. How do we know what is being issued? Where can we find the prices? Why are so many not available after they are ordered? How do we know if a publication is depository? Can it be borrowed? Which titles should we have? Is there a basic list?

Methodology

I surveyed Indiana's 231 non-depository public libraries to determine what information or services the li-

brarians want depository librarians to provide. Goal three of the Indiana Plan defines the responsibility: "to increase awareness of government documents and information that are available through depository libraries." The most effective way to determine what services or information non-depository librarians want is to ask them.

My goal was to obtain suggestions from as many librarians as possible. Preliminary testing proved that a survey by mail would not produce the desired number of responses. A questionnaire, combined with a personal interview, samples of available government publications and annotated U. S. Government Printing Office lists appeared to be most effective.

I decided to visit each library to explain the purpose of the survey and to leave the questionnaire with the director or the person designated by the director for completion. The desire for 100% response was unrealistic, but I wanted as high a rate of response as possible and thought the personal interview the best method to assure the best results. To compile significant data, should time not allow complete coverage, I first concentrated on a sampling of 75%, 50% or 25%, based on population served. This sampling was not needed as there was time to complete a 100% survey. Since ALSA librarians had expressed interest in the workshop topics chosen by librarians in their areas, I collected

data by ALSA district as well. The results will be sent to them separately and are not a part of this report.

Letters from public librarians, the Indiana State Librarian, the ALSA Administrators group, and the Government Documents and Information Subcommittee supported the project. With the cooperation and helpful suggestions of nine librarians representing public libraries, the State Library, and the ALSAs, I tested my idea. Colleagues in the Government Publications Department at Indiana University Library aided substantially.

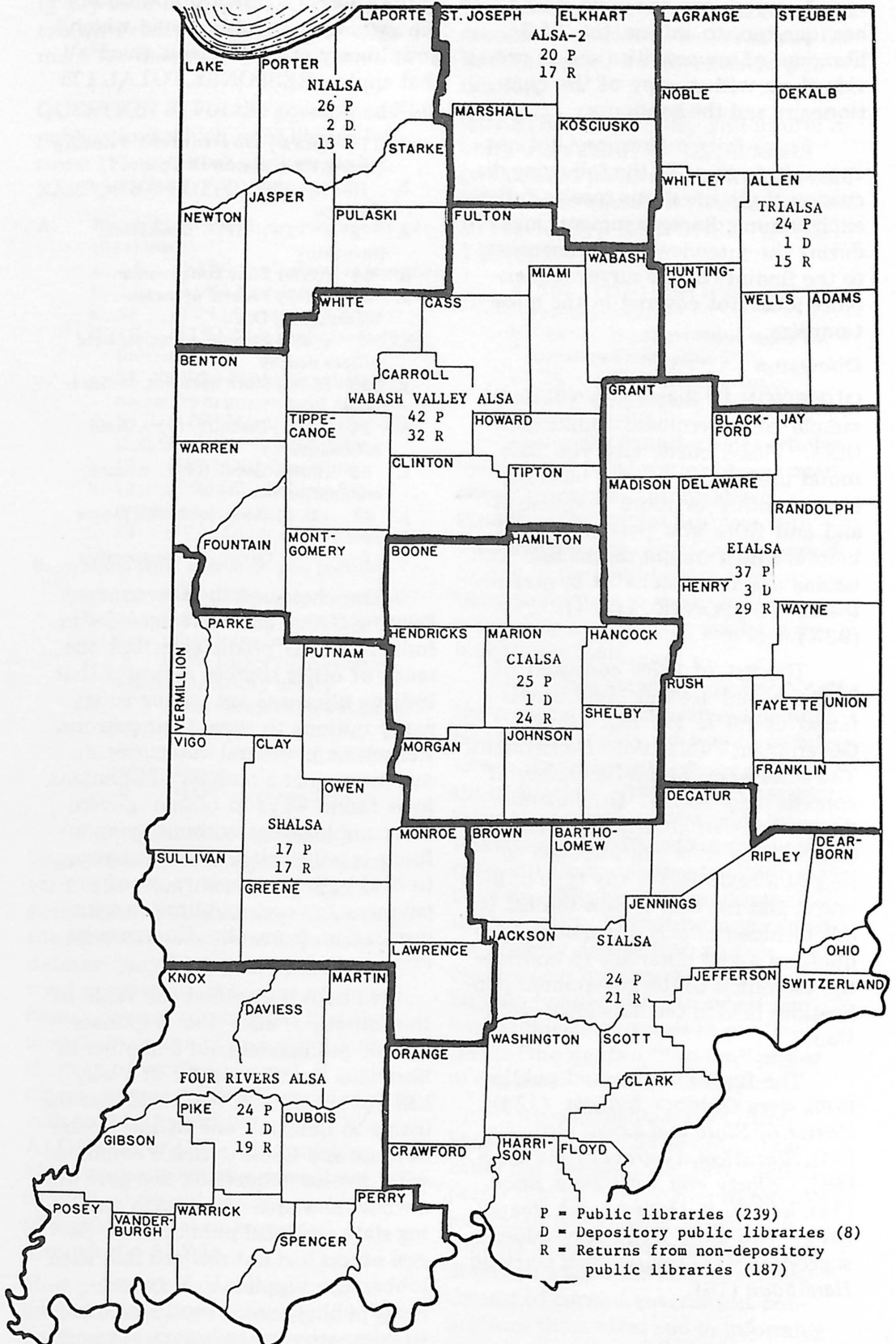
Public relations personnel of the U. S. Government Printing Office agreed to supply handouts for all the libraries I visited. My department provided sample government periodicals (9 titles) for discussion, and the Indiana University Library underwrote the cost of duplicating the questionnaire, stationery, and much of the telephone costs. The remaining expenses were my own.

With the exception of one library, which was closed during a move to a new building, I visited all the non-depository public libraries in the state. To make the survey complete I called the librarian who was moving and offered the possibility of participating. Of a possible 231 responses, 187 libraries returned the questionnaire, a response rate of 81%, well distributed according to population served (See Table 1).

Table 1
Percentage of Non-depository Libraries Responding
to Survey by Population Served

*Population served	Non-depository	Returned	Percent
over 100,000	6	5	83%
50-100,000	9	8	89%
25-50,000	21	17	81%
10-25,000	47	43	91%
5-10,000	47	40	85%
under 5,000	101	74	73%
TOTAL	231	187	81%

*Categories taken from *Statistics of Indiana Libraries, 1984*



I also visited the nine ALSA headquarters to inform the ALSA librarians of my activities and to provide them with a copy of the questionnaire and the handouts.

Flaws in two questions did not appear in testing. In the following discussion those questions receive fuller explanation. Some comments made during the interviews add dimension to the findings of the survey and explore ideas not covered in the questionnaire.

Discussion

QUESTION 1. Below you will find a sample of government publication titles. Please check any you have found useful on a regular basis (at least monthly or more frequently) and add titles you personally find helpful which are not on the list. The issuing agency is included in parenthesis. RESPONSE TOTAL 173 (93%).

The list of titles consisted of 26 state and federal publications found useful in the I.U. Library, Government Publications Department. The titles were chosen for variety of content and format to illustrate the diversity of government publications. They were not intended to suggest a basic list for any type of library, and for that reason the list is not included in this discussion. The question asked librarians to consider the usefulness of the government publications held in the individual collection.

The five most checked publications were *Outdoor Indiana* (124), *Roster of State and Local Officials* (94), *Statistical Abstract of the U. S.* (89), *County and City Data Book* (74), and *U. S. Government Manual* (67). The most frequently added suggestion was *Occupational Outlook Handbook* (16).

QUESTION 2. How do you obtain the government publications which your library owns? (Please check all that apply). RESPONSE TOTAL 175 (94%).

- a. 119 (68%) Government Printing Office, Washington D. C.
- b. 13 (7%) GPO Bookstore, Chicago
- c. 3 (2%) GPO Bookstore, (location)
- d. 61 (35%) Your congressman
- e. 29 (17%) Federal agencies, Washington, D. C.
- f. 7 (4%) Federal agencies, field offices nearby
- g. 112 (64%) State agencies, Indianapolis
- h. 16 (9%) State agencies, field offices nearby
- i. 50 (29%) Local (city, county, regional) offices
- j. 43 (25%) Book jobbers, (please specify)
- k. 0 Other (please specify)

The choice of the Government Printing Office and state agencies in Indianapolis is predictable, but the range of other sources indicates that Indiana librarians are willing to try many options to serve their patrons. Responses in several categories demonstrate that a number of librarians have found ways to obtain government publications without tying up funds in a deposit account or having to deal with the paper work of prepayment for each publication when purchasing from the Government Printing Office.

Initially I doubted the value of this question since the responses seemed predictable, but a number of librarians found it useful in a way I had not considered. One said that the listing in question one of the Roster of State and Local Officials combined with choices in question two gave him a whole new area of access in obtaining state and local publications. Several others had not realized that their jobber also supplies U. S. government publications. Another wanted to know why, when libraries prompt-

ly pay their bills, the GPO does not establish a charge card billing arrangement for them.

QUESTION 3. For the government publications which your library borrows: (Please check all that apply). RESPONSE TOTAL 162 (87%).

- A. Which library tools do you use as verification?
- 56 (35%) Periodical references
 - 1,7 (10%) Newsletters
 - 28 (17%) Newspaper articles
 - 43 (27%) Bibliographies (books, journal, etc.)
 - 33 (20%) Flyers or announcements from government agencies
 - 28 (17%) Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications
 - 19 (12%) OCLC terminal
 - 12 (7%) GPO Subject Bibliographies
 - 20 (12%) Other (please list)
- B. From what source do you borrow?
- 140 (86%) Through your ALSA
 - 21 (13%) Direct from Indiana State Library (regional)
 - 8 (5%) Direct from another federal depository library
 - 8 (5%) Direct from a state depository library
 - 19 (12%) Direct from another public library
 - 0 (0) Other (please list)

Periodical references and bibliographies are the major sources of verification for interlibrary loan of government publications, but during the interviews librarians expressed a definite "anything goes" attitude toward proving the existence of elusive items. Several commented that they use whatever the patron supplies in the way of verification and, if necessary, augment that information with calls to ALSAs and the use of *DI-ALOG* files or OCLC, if available. Many requests are of a subject nature; these do not present problems of verification when requested through the ALSAs.

Most public libraries in the state belong to ALSAs and routinely send interlibrary loan requests through them.

Neither the library or the ALSAs keep records to indicate whether or not the item requested is a government publication.

QUESTION 4. To help you inform library users about the usefulness of government publications, would you like to have available: (Please check all that apply). RESPONSE TOTAL 142 (67%).

- 107 (75%) news articles for use in local papers?
- 13 (9%) short video tapes for broadcast over cable TV?
- 70 (49%) traveling display?
- 29 (20%) other (please specify)

Librarians consider news articles most useful in informing library users about government publications, although an important problem with their use remains. Patrons will expect to find in the local library the publications mentioned in the news item when they may only be available on interlibrary loan.

Traveling displays, chosen in half the responses, are considered helpful, particularly if they are adaptable in size so that only part can be used as space dictates. Video tapes interest those libraries with local cable installations. The 29 responses to category "d" include some good ideas for both traveling materials and one-time use materials. Librarians in the smallest libraries suggest that posters, ready-to-cut bookmarks, traveling bulletin boards, and clip art all can help publicize government publications. One wants a "top-ten" poster of the most popular publications.

Two comments reflect differing viewpoints on advertising: "Educate me, the librarian, first" and "I prefer that ad money goes to services instead of advertising." Nearly all answers indicate that non-depository librarians wish some help in keeping abreast of current government publications themselves and in informing their patrons about what is available.

QUESTION 5. When you refer a patron to another source for government publications, is it usually to: (Please check all that apply). RESPONSE TOTAL 177 (95%).

- a. 33 (19%) a federal agency?
- b. 46 (26%) a state agency?
- c. 40 (23%) a local agency?
- d. 65 (37%) a federal depository library?
- e. 35 (20%) a state depository library?
- f. 32 (18%) write his congressman?
- g. 85 (48%) a special collection library (e.g., Allen County Public or Indiana State Library for genealogy; Lilly Library, I.U. for rare books; an Indiana history collection nearby; etc.)?
- h. 26 (15%) other (please give example)
- i. 18 (10%) Do not refer patrons

Most librarians responding to this question are willing to refer patrons to other agencies for help, but several commented that they wished they knew what kind of reception their patrons would receive. One said she could never be sure if the patron followed her suggestions. The highest rate of referral was to special collections available in only one or two places in the state. During an interview, one librarian suggested that a list of special collections with a description of the subject matter in the collection and the hours accessible would be an excellent addition to reference service.

Next to "write his congressman," one respondent wryly wrote "Never!" Another said, "Now that I have a list of depository libraries it will be easier to refer patrons!" Twenty-six (15%) librarians gave examples of referral, all naming a specific nearby library or an ALSA, except one who makes use of the Louisville Federal Information Center. In "i" eighteen (10%) respondents indicate that they do not refer patrons.

The variety of replies to this question demonstrates the willingness of non-depository librarians to refer patrons to other sources. Such willingness, when coupled with an effort by depository librarians to provide information on current government publications and the compilation of a descriptive list of special collections would add greatly to reference services state-wide.

QUESTION 6. Where do you call or write for detailed census information? (please check all that apply). RESPONSE TOTAL 183 (98%).

- a. 98 (54%) ALSA reference center
- b. 13 (7%) a Regional Planning Commission
- c. 49 (27%) Indiana State Library Census Data Center
- d. 19 (10%) U.S. Census Bureau
- e. 22 (12%) Other (please list)
- f. 51 (28%) Have had no requests

Over one fourth of the respondents state that they have had no requests for detailed census information. Comments in "e" reveal that some librarians answered thinking of current statistical publications while others had in mind genealogical material. The failure to define the question properly detracts from its usefulness, although observations volunteered by respondents help restore some value.

Several libraries are partial census depositories and answer most questions without referral. Comments from several librarians near the census depositories indicate that they are not aware of these resources and so cannot refer patrons to them. One ALSA reference librarian said, "As an ALSA census data center, we seldom have requests from other libraries." Co-ordination of information is needed. A list of substantial census collections should be published.

QUESTION 7. Where do you refer patrons who want to examine detailed census information? (Please check all apply). RESPONSE TOTAL 179 (76%).

- a. 51 (28%) ALSA reference center
- b. 15 (8%) A Regional Planning Commission
- c. 51 (28%) Indiana State Library Census Data Center
- d. 14 (8%) U.S. Census Bureau
- e. 31 (17%) Other (please list)
- f. 69 (39%) Have had no requests

As in part six, a substantial number of respondents have not had requests for detailed census information. Among those libraries that do, referrals are evenly divided between ALSA reference centers and the ISL Census Data Center. Comments in "e" indicate that librarians frequently refer patrons to nearby university libraries, especially when they are partial census depository libraries or GPO depositories with large census collections.

One librarian used to supply INDIRS (now known as STATIS) print-outs for patrons and hopes to be able to do so again. Another uses DIA-LOG's *Donnelley Demographics*. Two librarians named specific area councils of government as being very helpful with census questions.

QUESTION 8. Do you prefer to use a non-governmental publication instead of a government publication even though they may contain much the same material? RESPONSE TOTAL 172 (92%).

- a. 26 (15%) yes
- b. 20 (12%) no
- c. 126 (73%) no preference
- d. (reason for answer in a-c)

A frequently heard reply to the question of using government publications as a resource is, "Not if I can help it." Is there a real aversion to use of government publications, or is it merely a conditioned response? If there is substantial aversion, efficient

provision of information to library patrons is jeopardized by the librarian's attitude towards an important and diverse body of material.

The 73% response of "no preference" and the 12% response of "no" in the survey indicate that librarians do not fear government publications and will search appropriate sources to satisfy their patrons. They desire an efficient, comprehensive source regardless of provenance. The most frequent comment in section "d" was "prefer to use whatever material is quickly available and has the most information."

Reasons for not using government publications reflect concern over problems of acquisition and integration into the collection. Non-government publications are "easier to catalog and use," "easier to purchase," "more attractive and better publicized." In contrast, some librarians found government publications cheaper to purchase and considered them more authoritative sources.

One librarian wrote, "For us gov't docs are a flaming pain to order." I found this feeling throughout the state. Many libraries cannot afford or are not allowed to tie up funds in a deposit account of unpredictable use. This was the problem most often mentioned during the interviews.

QUESTION 9. How do you handle government publications for inclusion in your collection? (Please check all that apply). RESPONSE TOTAL 178 (95%).

- a. 113 (63%) Catalog and shelve with other publications
- b. 3 (2%) Catalog, but shelve separately by SuDocs class
- c. 9 (5%) Catalog, but shelve separately by (give example)
- d. 124 (70%) Uncataloged in pamphlet file
- e. 15 (8%) Other (please specify)

It is generally assumed among librarians that government publications in non-depository public libraries are either cataloged and shelved with the rest of the collection or filed uncataloged in pamphlet files. Not surprisingly, the responses to the survey confirm the assumption. Two thirds of the respondents report that they catalog and shelve substantial publications in their regular collection and file ephemeral material with pamphlets. The decision to catalog is based on subject matter and usefulness of the item over a long period of time.

Seven librarians file government publications uncataloged on designated shelves in an alphabetic arrangement; four keep some publications uncataloged in ready reference and catalog the rest. Another four, including one librarian who uses a modified SuDocs based system for state government publications, have specialized arrangements.

QUESTION 10. Do you prefer to channel all of the government publications questions not answerable in your library: (please check all that apply). **RESPONSE TOTAL 185 (99%).**

- a. 125 (68%) through your ALSA reference librarian?
- b. 41 (22%) directly to a depository library?
- c. 16 (9%) to your congressman?
- d. 37 (20%) by referral to another library nearby?
- e. 46 (25%) by referral to the government agency most likely involved in providing that information to the public?
- f. 9 (5%) other (please give example)
- g. 12 (6%) Does not apply to my library

A large group (68%) of responding librarians channel their unanswered questions involving government publications through ALSAs. Comments in category "f" make clear that librarians refer patrons to those in-

stitutions which they believe can answer a patron's questions quickly and adequately. Some librarians like to add material that answers a specific question to their own collections to be prepared for similar questions later.

Several request documents from the Indiana State Library, since they know it is the regional federal depository and that it coordinates the state documents depository program. One librarian would like a toll-free number available in a depository library for help with difficult government publications questions.

Throughout the survey, librarians stated in unsolicited comments that the ALSAs are an invaluable source of help in all areas of library service.

QUESTION 11. Do you find interlibrary loan service for government publication equal to interlibrary loan service for other materials? **RESPONSE TOTAL 175 (94%).**

- a. 56 (32%) yes, reasonably fast
- b. 23 (13%) no, slow
- c. 77 (44%) do not borrow them
- d. 19 (11%) other comment on service

Many librarians commented in category "d" that they make no distinction between government publications and non-government publications in their interlibrary loan requests. Seventy-seven do not borrow government publications; some can find the information desired in sources they own, others feel no need to consult government publications. Seven librarians commented that most government publications they request turn out to be reference materials in other libraries and do not circulate. They cite the cost of reproducing the noncirculating material as a problem for patrons. A conspicuous problem for librarians is the lack of indexes to verify publications. Three respondents said that they borrow by subject through their ALSA and do not notice

whether or not the items sent are government publications.

While the majority of librarians who answered this question do not usually borrow government publications, more than half of those who do feel the service is reasonably fast and efficient.

QUESTION 12. Would you like to see regular articles on government publications published in Indiana library periodicals or newsletters? **RESPONSE TOTAL 155 (83%).**

- a. 15 (10%) no
- b. 134 (86%) yes (Please give suggestions as to which titles)
 - 64 (41%) *Focus*
 - 29 (19%) ALSA newsletters
 - 17 (11%) *Indiana Libraries*
 - 6 (4%) (comments only)

One hundred thirty-four librarians expressed interest in articles on government publications in Indiana library periodicals and newsletters. Depository librarians ought to consider reviving the documents column in *Focus*, or develop a column for use in all of the ALSA newsletters or both.

Other suggestions included the preparation of a timely list of annuals with critiques, descriptions of state documents, articles geared toward smaller libraries, and articles on useful publications with reasons for recommending them. One librarian wants a home-study course on government publications to keep up to date on what is available.

QUESTION 13. Would you like to have a government publications librarian: (Please check all that apply), **RESPONSE TOTAL 179 (96%).**

- a. 42 (23%) at your request, visit your library for a discussion of government publications?
- b. 19 (11%) at your request, set up a visit for you at their library to discuss government publications?
- c. 92 (51%) conduct a workshop in your ALSA district during district meeting?

- d. 82 (46%) conduct a workshop in your ALSA district at a time other than district meeting?
- e. 101 (56%) be a contact person, by phone, for quick answers for "desperate patron" questions about government publications?
- f. 8 (4%) Other (Please give suggestions)
- g. 22 (12%) I would not be interested.

The response to this question indicates a desire for contact. When only 22 of 187 total possible returns feel strongly enough to mark the not interested category, depository librarians can be assured that their efforts to provide information for non-depository librarians of the state will not be wasted.

Contact people and workshops are of primary interest. Some depository librarians have obviously been working on this. Comments made on several surveys and during interviews indicate that local workshops have been held and personal contacts are available. One librarian said that a depository librarian had visited and discussed government publications.

Two respondents thought the idea of a contact person the most important suggestion. Another had a strong preference for in-house visits and for workshops held at times other than district meetings. One suggestion was to have a workshop on government publications during the Small Library Conference.

Several librarians who replied that they "would not be interested" explained that their libraries are too small to need such in-depth attention. They are able to obtain sufficient help through their ALSA.

QUESTION 14. Have you had opportunity to attend a government publications workshop or conference session within the last year? **RESPONSE TOTAL 172.**

- a. 22 (13%) yes, attended
- b. 43 (25%) yes, but was unable to attend
- c. 107 (62%) no, none was offered

Question 14 was poorly worded. The intended "opportunity" was "local opportunity," but since that was not specified, many who responded referred to the Indiana Library Association conference sessions. The usefulness of this question is therefore limited to its second part, the tally of workshop topics in question 15.

QUESTION 15. If answer to question 14 was "yes, attended" what was the topic covered? RESPONSE TOTAL 22 (100% of those answering "yes" to 14a.)

Of the 22 librarians who responded to this question, four attended more than one workshop. Two commented that their Boards restricted their attendance both in the number of meetings and to the immediate usefulness to the library. Others mentioned similar restrictions during the interviews. Additional comments pointed out that government publications sessions at ILA conferences are frequently scheduled at the same time as other reference oriented meetings, thus making difficult the choice of attendance.

Comments on questions 13, 14, and 15 reveal that a variety of workshops on government publications are needed at a variety of times. Several librarians suggested that the leader of a workshop present the same material at several locations at different times. This arrangement acknowledges the time spent preparing the workshop, offers opportunities to librarians with limited chances to attend meetings, and cuts down on travel time for them. It allows presentors to reach more people than a small local meeting would and gives them the feeling that their work is worthwhile.

Topics of workshops attended are consolidated into the following:

eleven favored "U.S. Government Publications" (excluding census); seven favored Census Materials; five favored "State and Local Agency Publications"; two favored "Relationship of Libraries and Public Agencies"; one favored "Genealogy and Archival Materials."

QUESTION 16. Below are sample topics which could be covered in future sessions. Please check any which would interest you and feel free to suggest others. RESPONSE TOTAL 168 (90%).

124	(74%)	"Genealogical Resources in Government Publications"
107	(64%)	"Indiana Tourist Information"
105	(63%)	"Acquiring Government Publications"
101	(60%)	"Population Census"
98	(58%)	"Sources of State Government Information"
85	(51%)	"Career Information"
71	(42%)	"Indiana Legislative Materials"
70	(42%)	"Interlibrary Loan of Government Publications"
65	(39%)	"Statistical Indexes and Statistical Sources"
65	(39%)	"Drug Problems and Information"
62	(37%)	"Government Publications in the Pamphlet File"
57	(34%)	"Indiana Agency Rules and Regulations"
54	(32%)	"Health Information"
52	(31%)	"Pretty Publications" (display material)
45	(27%)	"Food and Nutrition"
43	(26%)	"National Archives Material"
43	(26%)	"Congressional Materials"
41	(24%)	"Economic Census"
31	(18%)	"Processing Government Publications"
29	(17%)	"Federal Agency Rules and Regulations"
27	(16%)	"Information Sources for Marketing"
21	(13%)	"Information about Foreign Countries in U.S. Documents"
*9	(5%)	"Workshop on Basics (U.S. state, local) for Small and Medium Sized Libraries"
*7	(4%)	"Presidential Libraries"

- *4 (2%) "Monthly Catalog as a Cataloging and Reference Tool"
 *1 (.6%) "Hot Topics Workshop"
 (abortion, capital punishment, etc.)

*Suggestions added by public librarians.

On the questionnaire the topics were listed in alphabetical order; the results above are rearranged into ranked order by number of responses.

For those planning workshops or single sessions on government publications this list of interests should prove useful. As for the topics themselves, census materials could be combined and covered by a single meeting with a formal presentation by Census Bureau personnel. The state's genealogical librarians might discuss publications and sources for genealogical research. Acquisition, processing and interlibrary loan of government publications would make a manageable workshop. A "hot topics" workshop could include abortion, AIDS, capital punishment, drugs and health with displays of sample publications that provide information.

As a result of questions asked during interviews, I suggest a boring but nevertheless useful session for local workshops on the *Indiana Register*, the *Indiana Administrative Code*, and the *Indiana Code*. Every library receives these documents, but not every librarian knows how to use them, what they include, or that they are regularly updated and some superseded volumes may be discarded.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are not ranked in importance. They reflect the written and verbal comments of non-depository public librarians. Some require funding, or at least underwriting of expenses by those providing the service. Others provide suggestions to those depository librarians interested in offering government publications services outside of their own institutions. Indiana librarians, representing either depository or non-

depository institutions, should cooperate in order to:

1. Explore the possibility of joint ordering from the U. S. Government Printing Office.
2. Publish a list of jobbers who supply government publications on standing order. Include information as to service charges if any.
3. Prepare a two part annotated list of basic government publications for libraries. Part one consisting of those items considered most useful for small collections. Part two consisting of items useful in medium and larger collections.
4. Encourage depository librarians throughout the state to contribute to an annotated "awareness bulletin" of recently issued government publications. The list would be most useful if published simultaneously in the ALSA newsletters. Many librarians indicated in the interviews that the annotations should include priced and unpriced items. They want to be aware of new material whether or not they add it to their collections.
5. Provide news items which can be cut at logical places if needed. Considerations include the cost of producing timely material, the availability of prepared copy from GPO and the ability and willingness of Indiana depository librarians to prepare timely copy.
6. Investigate the availability of traveling displays of government publications to use as prepared or adapted to local needs. Multiple copies of displays on popular topics would assure that no one received worn or out-dated material.
7. Ascertain the cost of rotating collections of bulletin boards and clip art. Assess the interest of librarians in using these materials before establishing a program.

8. Publish a list of partial depositories of the U. S. Census Bureau located in the state in the ALSA newsletters or in *Focus*. This could prove useful for referrals.
9. Establish a routine in cooperation with the State Library and the Census Data Center to alert non-depository librarians through an awareness announcement in the ALSA newsletters that a major census (population, housing, economic, government, etc.) is ready for distribution. The announcement should remind those interested to contact the Census Bureau for descriptive order leaflets.
10. Publish in *Focus* and the ALSA newsletters a directory of special collections in the state to aid librarians in referring patrons. Include subject matter, hours open and, if possible, a contact person or telephone number.
11. Re-establish a regular government publications column in *Focus* to publicize new items. If a rotation system is set up whereby volunteers from depository libraries of the state take turns, a column every two years or so would not be an onerous task.
12. Investigate funding for an 800 number or numbers for use in depository libraries with available staff to service a hot line and act as contact persons for non-depository libraries.
13. Compile a list of depository librarians who are willing to conduct mini-workshops or district meeting sessions on government publications. ALSAs are interested in this list and topics of concern to non-depository librarians are ranked in part 16 of the questionnaire.

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS IN INDIANA.

During 1985, the Subcommittee for Government Publications and Information requested the assistance of the IU-Bloomington School of Library and Information Science Library (SLIS Library) in order to establish a centralized location for storing information produced by documents groups and librarians in Indiana. Pat Steele, SLIS Librarian, agreed to receive and make available the file of documents pamphlets, descriptions of documents collections, and program outlines to librarians around the state. They may be borrowed. Request the "Government Publications—Clearinghouse" folder by writing directly to Pat Steele SLIS Library, Main Library, Bloomington, IN 47405