

2014 NCLA Government Resources Section (GRS) Annual Meeting/Workshop

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David Durant

Federal Documents & Social Sciences Librarian

J.Y. Joyner Library

East Carolina University

FDLP Update:

After a welcome and introduction, we began this year's event with a discussion of Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) issues led by Beth Rowe, our Regional Depository Librarian from UNC-Chapel Hill. Beth provided a good overview of the proposed National Plan for the Future of the FDLP (<http://www.fdlp.gov/file-repository/outreach/events/depository-library-council-dlc-meetings/2014-meeting-proceedings/2462-national-plan-for-the-future-of-the-fdlp>). The other main topic covered was the transition of the state needs and offers process to the ASERL Disposition Database (<http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/content.php?pid=169679&sid=1429057>). There was a good question and answer session on both of these subjects.

State Documents Update:

Jennifer Davison and Denise Jones of the NC State Library gave a highly informative update on the NC state depository program. Their primary focus is to archive as many NC state documents as possible, in both print and electronic formats. Thanks to their efforts, the State Government Publications Clearinghouse has built an archival collection of over 250,000 print documents and over 13,000 digital publications. Among the more fascinating recent acquisitions is a collection of NC Symphony bills from the late 1940s to the present (<http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p249901coll22/id/660129/rec/2>).

Overall, Jennifer and Denise estimated that well over 50% of all NC state publications are what we would call "fugitive documents," published without informing the publications clearinghouse. Without effective statutory power to compel state agencies to submit their publications to the clearinghouse, the state depository program staff do what they can to track down publications and make state agencies aware of their program.

North Carolina Digital Collections: <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/>

North Carolina State Government Publications Clearinghouse:

<http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ghl/services/clearinghouse.html>

North Carolina State Government Publications Collection: <http://ncgovdocs.org/>

Online Mapping Made Easy: Create a Map in 10 Minutes:

We resumed after lunch with a great presentation by Phil McDaniel, GIS Librarian at Davis Library, UNC-Chapel Hill. He demonstrated how to simply and easily create basic maps that display statistical data, using freely available products ARCGIS Online (<http://arcgis.com/>) and Google Fusion Tables. Both resources allow the user to generate a map, then to import data spreadsheets onto the map, and geocode the data contained therein. The free version of ARCGIS offers somewhat more functionality, while Google Fusion Tables allow the user to geocode data without knowing the relevant latitude/longitude.

The North Carolina Open Government Coalition and Issues in Open Government:

The final professional development session was by Jonathan Jones, Director of the North Carolina Open Government Coalition and its Sunshine Center at Elon University. He gave an excellent presentation on open government issues in North Carolina, focused on the various aspects of the North Carolina Public Records Law. This session was very interesting, and of great relevance to anyone who is a NC state employee. Considering that we are covered by this law, I strongly encourage everyone to view his slides:

<http://www.nclaonline.org/sites/default/files/documents/gov/North%20Carolina%20Sunshine%20Laws.pdf>

Business Meeting:

The main topics of the GRS business meeting were the section's plans for 2015 and ways in which to increase participation and overall membership in GRS. In support of both these objectives, we will conduct a brief electronic survey of GRS members and of government information librarians in North Carolina who are not currently members of NCLA and GRS. The survey will be designed to find out ways in which we can make the section more relevant to such professionals, as well as what kinds of programming, topics, dates, locations, etc. would be of greatest interest. The minutes from our business meeting can be found at:

<http://www.nclaonline.org/sites/default/files/documents/gov/GRSBusinessMeetingMinutes6%2013%202014.pdf>

Overview:

Overall, the event proved to be quite successful. There were 23 attendees in all. Thanks to Belk Library and Elon University for doing a wonderful job of hosting. All the sessions were useful and well received. While the "Help! I'm an Accidental Government Information Librarian" webinar series has proved to be quite popular and effective, it is important that we as a section continue to conduct face-to-face events on at least an annual basis.