Dear Fellow GD-SIS Members,

Due to the government shutdown, this latest issue of JURISDOCS was delayed. This issue includes a recap of the AALL Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington, and the Interagency Seminar. Ordinarily this issue would have including preparatory materials for the Depository Library Council meeting/FDLP Conference in October, cancelled due to the shutdown. Expect news very soon regarding virtual sessions to complete some business from the cancelled conference, and a spring conference being planned.

As always, we love hearing from you! Submissions to Jurisdocs are welcomed and encouraged. Please consider contributing an article. Submissions can be forwarded directly to either Kate or Camilla.

Sincerely,
Kate Irwin-Smiler and Camilla M. Tubbs
Your Editors
AALL Government Documents SIS
Annual Report for 2012/2013

Submitted at the AALL Annual Meeting by:
Janet Fischer
Immediate Past Chair of the Government Documents SIS &
Collection Development Government Documents Librarian
Golden Gate University Law Library

The Government Documents SIS continued to have an active and productive year in 2012/2013. GD-SIS members continue to write and update the AALL State Documents Bibliography series. Since July, 2012, three new or updated bibliographies have been released: Maryland, New Hampshire, Georgia, and Rhode Island. GD-SIS’ arrangement with William S. Hein & Company for the distribution of the bibliographies continues. Electronic versions of the new and historical bibliographies are included in the Spinelli’s Law Library Reference Shelf library on Hein Online. Additionally, Hein sells print copies of both new and historical bibliographies. The Section expects to receive royalties from W.S. Hein & Co. Inc. in the amount of approximately $5,000. As of the date of our business meeting, July 16, 2013, our royalty check had not yet been received but is expected shortly. Our Section is in good financial health.

At our 2012 Annual Business Meeting in Boston, the membership voted to amend our grants policies as follows: the Veronica Maclay Grant was increased from $1,000 to $1,250; the Section will fund the attendance at the annual Depository Library Council meeting in Washington, DC, each fall for one officer – either the Chair, Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, or Secretary/Treasurer.

The GD-SIS awarded several grants to further librarians’ and one library school student’s educational opportunities. It awarded one grant of $750 to GD-SIS member Chris Pamboukes to attend the fall Depository Library Council Meeting in Washington DC. Jennifer Wondracek, the Secretary/Treasurer, attended as our officer representative. GD-SIS also awarded the 2013 Veronica Maclay Grant in the amount of $1,250 to Antionette Vanterpool to assist her attendance at AALL in Seattle. Finally, GD-SIS awarded two grants of $1,250 each to Rosalind Romain and Trina Holloway to assist in attending AALL in Seattle.

In 2013, the GD-SIS is pleased to have been able to sponsor one program in Seattle: “State Constitutions: Current, Historical, and How They Change,” program B8. The program was well-attended. The Section also sponsored a talk with Mary Alice Baish, Superintendent of Documents, GPO: “GD-SIS Coffeehouse Chat: A Conversation with the Superintendent of Documents on the Future of Government Information.” Approximately 40 people were in attendance. Also, Camilla Tubbs, incoming Chair, worked to get a special category added to the “Day in the Life” photo contest this year entitled “Government Information Librarians or Libraries.”
At our annual business meeting on July 16, 2013, the membership voted to create a new committee to continue the work of the FDLP Taskforce, and to ask the Grants Committee to study and recommend further changes to our grants policy to allow members broader access to grants.

The Section continued work on developing an updated strategic plan, but this work has stalled. We hope to pursue this during the next year.

However, the Section successfully revised and updated the Section’s bylaws. The revision was approved by the AALL Bylaws Committee and presented to the membership for a vote. The membership voted to approve the revised bylaws in May, 2013. The members of the Bylaws Revision Committee were Ed Hart, Kate Irwin-Smiler, Larry Meyer, Joel Fishman, Eric Parker, and Janet Fischer.

Our election, held in May, 2013, was our first-ever electronic ballot. Rosemary LaSala, Chair of the Nominations Committee, made all of the arrangements with AALL’s technical department to great success. Along with approving the revised bylaws, the membership elected Edward T. Hart as Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, and Amy Taylor as Secretary/Treasurer.

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**Vice Chair’s Report 2012-2013**

**Camilla Tubbs**  
*Acting Director Thurgood Marshall Law Library*  
*University of Maryland Law School*

One of the most important duties for the Vice Chair is coordinating the programs for the Annual Meeting. This year, the Programs Committee consisted of: Camilla Tubbs - Chair (University of Maryland); Andrew Evans (Washburn University); Janet Fischer (Golden Gate University); Sarah Gotschall (University of Arizona); Edward T. Hart (University of Florida); Kate Irwin-Smiler (Wake Forest University); Rosemary LaSala (St. John’s University); Larry Meyer (San Bernardino County Law Library); Jennifer Bryan Morgan (Indiana University); Eric Parker (Northwestern University School of Law); Jennifer Wondracek (University of Florida); and Annmarie Zell (New York University).

During the program proposal process in August and September, the GD-SIS had one conference call and various email discussions to generate ideas for the Annual Meeting. As a result of those discussions, our GD-SIS proposed four different programs reflecting the needs of our community:
1. *Increasing the Value of Government Information - An E-Learning Showcase:* Many government information professionals are creating their own online tutorials and 'just-in-time' learning opportunities to meet the needs of 21st-century learners of all backgrounds. These resources can fill other librarians’ curricular gaps, provide time-saving research assistance on websites, and serve as inspiration for similar in-house creations. In this showcase of e-learning tools and following discussion, participants will learn how different librarians and government organizations are enhancing online instruction. Participants will get to view a selection of high-quality online government information tutorials and have the opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of each tool with the presenters.

2. *State Constitutions: Current, Historical and How They Change:* Using the United States Constitution as an example it's easy to think of constitutions as being stable and unchanging. State constitutions, however, are frequently amended and revised. This program will guide participants through finding state constitutions, examining the methods of constitutional revision and amendment, and following the historical path of a constitution. Speakers will begin by outlining the resources available for finding the text of current and historical constitutions, for conducting historical research, and will then discuss the revision process and the documents generated. Lastly, speakers will introduce a resource for comparative state constitutional research.

3. *A Coffeehouse Conversation with Mary Alice Baish on the Future of Government Information:* a candid conversation between Superintendent of Documents Mary Alice Baish and UW Documents Librarian Cass Harnett about the future of government information based on recent developments and GPO’s forecasting project.

4. *Authentication of Digital Government Information—Why Does It Matter?:* Authentication of government information in digital format has been a major concern for law librarians and legal researchers for some time. While the Government Printing Office has established its own standards for authenticating information, state and foreign government websites often contain important legal information without any assurance as to its authenticity. Using tips from this presentation, librarians will learn plain language techniques for explaining both the technology behind authentication and its importance. In turn, librarians can effectively advocate at the state level the importance of UELMA. And researchers in foreign and international law will learn tricks for identifying when a foreign legal document is authentic, and
how to encourage the promotion of authenticated materials.

When these programs were not selected by the AMPC, the Programs Committee was able to vote via Survey Monkey on which program they wanted submitted to the AMPC as the “GD-SIS sponsored program” for the Annual Meeting. The Programs Committee selected *State Constitutions: Current, Historical, and How They Change*, which was then scheduled in slot B8, taking place on Sunday, July 14th from 2:00 – 3:00pm in Rooms 605/610.

The Committee also worked outside of the normal conference schedule to develop programs of interest to our members. For instance, we sponsored an unofficial coffee talk entitled *GD-SIS Coffeehouse Chat: A Conversation with the Superintendent of Documents on the Future of Government Information*, on Monday, July 15th at 11:45 within the Sheraton – Juniper Room. This was a modification of our previous Coffeehouse program proposal and included updates from Mary Alice Baish about FDLP Forecast Study, and allowed our colleagues to connect outside of the normal busy conference schedule.

Second, the GD-SIS shared a table in the convention center at the Annual Meeting with the AALL Task Force on the Future of the FDLP. Task Force member and JURISDOCS co-editor Kate Irwin-Smiler presented at the Annual Meeting’s “Poster Session” on Tuesday, July 16 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. with her display entitled *Law Libraries and the FDLP: Still a Winning Partnership*.

Finally, the GD-SIS was able to get a special category added to the “Day in the Life” photo contest this year entitled “Government Information Librarians or Libraries.” As Vice-Chair of the GD-SIS and member of the AALL Task force on the Future of the FDLP, I served as a guest judge alongside the AALL Public Relations Committee. The selected winners, many of whom are members of our GD-SIS, were recognized on AALLNET, in an issue of AALL Spectrum, and during the Annual Meeting.

In addition to the programs planned by our Committee, this year, we sponsored two VIPs at the Annual Meeting: Arlene Weible and Cass Hartnett. Arlene Weible is the Oregon Federal Regional Depository Coordinator at the Oregon State Library in Salem Oregon and is the Chair Elect of Depository Library Council. Cassandra (Cass) Hartnett is the US Government Documents Librarian in the Government Publications department at the University of Washington and a former GODORT Chair. Cass teaches a course on Government Publications in the UW Information School, which was recently added as a required course for the UW Law Librarianship (MLIS) program.
Treasurer’s Report
Jennifer Wondracek
Instructional Services Reference Librarian
University of Florida, Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center

End of Year Treasurer’s Report
Prepared by Jennifer Wondracek, University of Florida, Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center
Dates Covered: 7/1/2012-6/30/2013

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Expenses:
- AALL Misc Expenses: $483.82
- VIP AALL Travel Grant: Maciver, Laster: $1,574.42
- AALL Travel Grants: Dewey, Hart, Childs: $3,393.52
- AALL GD-SIS Breakfast: $3,080.14
- AALL Equipment Fees: $330.66
- DLC Officer Grant: Wondracek: $1,818.73
- DLC Travel Grants: Pamboukes: $699.38

Total: $11,380.67, $26,729.54

* Hein Royalties delayed until after AALL - expected amount - $4886.96
** Corrections from Mid-Year - Miriam Childs Travel Grant added in - accidentaly left out. Corrected starting balance used. Previous Hein Royalties had increased it by $1200.
Report from GPO’s Interagency Depository Seminar
by Ta-Shire Tribbett,
Library Associate, Thurgood Marshall Law Library

As a novice to Government Documents, I was elated at the chance to attend the 26th Annual Interagency Depository Seminar held at the U.S. Government Printing Office. I knew that the experience would leave me well-informed about the various resources than can be found through GPO and better equipped to handle information requests from various patrons.

The week-long seminar had a plethora of informative sessions and was comprised of onsite attendees and (later in the afternoon) virtual/webinar attendees as well. On our first day, as we were welcomed with coffee and introductions by the major players at G.P.O., including Mary Alice Baish, Jane Sanchez, Robin Haun-Mohamed, Laurie Hall and Ashley Dahlen, we were quickly apprised of what would be in store for us during the remainder of the conference, leading with the first presentation: FDLP Forecast Overview, where attendees were provided with an overview of the FDLP Forecast Study, forecast results, and an overall forecast agenda.

The Technical Services portion of the seminar gave us an overview on the behind-the-scenes workings of the GPO, which a lot of us in attendance felt was a great idea, because it really drove home the fact that even though they are tasked with a vast amount of vital information, the processes and procedures were essentially the same as at our home institutions. The rest of the day went by quickly with sessions from the Outreach librarians from the GPO, the Senior Web Content Manager of USA.gov and a reference librarian from the National Library of Medicine.

Interspersed with presentations from various employees from the GPO were once-in-a-lifetime trips to various libraries within D.C. and Bethesda, Maryland. The tour of the National History Museum Libraries gave us great insight to their library and research facilities that inform on everything from anthropology to vertebrate zoology. For a group of librarians, no visit to D.C. is complete without a persona tour of the Historic Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress, where we got a special talking tour of the Government Documents section of the Library. By the end of the week, we had also toured the libraries of the U.S. Senate and the Supreme Court. I can authoritatively state that everyone was in shock and awe at the amazing collections we saw at these institutions. I made it a point to ask everyone what their educational background was, and I was pleased to see that an MLS and passion is what got most of the people I spoke with where they were.
In the midst of sessions about the *2012 Census of Governments*, the *Library of Congress, Current Issues in Digital Stewardship* and *Basic Copyright*, what really stood out for me was the program on the Federal Register entitled *Federal Register: What It Is and How to Use It*. The session also covered the CFR, which is one of the most used items with our patron base. Presenter Jim Hemphill from the National Archives gave a very thorough, easy-to-understand overview of the history and parts that comprise both the Federal Register and the CFR. He provided all the attendees with copies of the Register and the CFR and showed us the correlation between the two. As someone without legal training, it was a real “aha!” moment.

My goal for attending the Interagency Depository Seminar was simple: learn enough about the items and the process to enable me to go from novice to expert. My fellow attendees gave me great information about listservs (namely GODORT of ALA) and walked me through certain things they had a problem with they when they were just starting out with GovDocs. I was inspired to create a GovDoc LibGuide for my Law Library, and in the process of creating it, I am confident that I am slowly on the way to becoming a subject matter expert in the field of government documents.

If you are newer to government documents, but were unable to attend the Interagency Seminar, please feel free to contact me. I’ve saved my notes from the presentations and would be happy to connect with other Government Documents librarians.

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**Report from the AALL Annual Meeting**
by Antionette Vanterpool
Library Assistant II, University of Florida Legal Information Center

I am a proud recipient of this year’s Veronica Maclay Grant to attend the 106th American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting & Conference in Seattle. I would like to express my deepest thanks to the Government Documents-Special Interest Section for choosing me as this year’s grant recipient and giving me the opportunity to attend my first AALL Conference.

As a first time attendee I was overwhelmed by the number of activities and sessions that I could attend. I know that some people have recommended taking time to see the sights when attending a AALL Conference but as a first time attendee I wanted to soak up as much information as possible. As a recipient of this grant and as someone interested in working with government documents I tried to attend as much sessions related to government documents interspersed with other sessions on other topics from understanding vendor statistics, how to increase my influence in the workplace, and top trends that are reshaping the legal industry.
One of the many government documents sessions I attended was the “Coffeehouse Chat: A Conversation with the Superintendent of Documents on the Future of Government Information.” This was truly an interesting session where I was able to hear from Mary Alice Baish, the Superintendent of Documents, about the results of the Federal Depository Library Program’s (FDLP) Forecast Study. One of the many noteworthy findings of the study showed that FDLP libraries wanted GPO to harvest more agency content because it may be here today and gone tomorrow. Ms. Baish also spoke about why libraries should stay in the FDLP stating various reasons including giving the public documents that they have a right to have access to, serving the pro bono mission of the institution (if applicable) and not losing a seat at the table and the ability to have your 2 cents heard. It was also interesting to see the eagerness of the librarians in attendance to express their questions and concerns and to see Ms. Baish listening intently and taking notes on the things that were being said so that she could take the concerns back to work on.

Another fascinating government documents session I attended was “Please Turn Your Electronic Device On: Exploring Congress.gov.” This session was led by Library of Congress staff and was an interactive session where attendees actually used their electronic devices to complete challenges to find information on congress.gov which was launched in September 2012. Attendees were given the opportunity to ask the LOC staff questions about the functionality of the site and the content of the information contained in the site.

Not only did I attend interesting sessions I also ventured into the Exhibit Hall and spoke with various vendors to learn about their products and met with several AALL members who gave me insight into their respective organizations and special interest sections. I learned that a AALL Conference is a fast-paced event that you have to be prepared for and although I was overwhelmed I must say it was an experience that taught me valuable information about the profession and one that I will never forget as my first time at a AALL Conference. I look forward to next year’s Conference in San Antonio and I hope to get to know and learn more from the wonderful librarians in the profession.

Blast from the Past: Reprint from Spring 1984 JURISDOCS
Legislative Histories State of the Art and View of the Future
GD-SIS program moderated by Marian Parker
Panelist Michael Gehringer, President FDR Online, Inc.
Washington, D.C.

Michael prefaced his remarks by saying that as far back as 1948, legislative histories were becoming a way of life, and that today the compilation and use of legislative histories is a growth industry!
And what does the future hold? We quote Michael, "I would like to be able to tell you that in our careers we will see the day when an attorney will sit down at a terminal, enter any U.S.C. citation, and instantly have available for review all pertinent sections from all related bills, all reports, all prints, all documents, all floor debates, all executive branch comments, and all testimony and communications, published and unpublished. As we all know, however, that day is not likely to be, for we will never be able to train most attorneys to sit down at a terminal to do anything!"

"It is certain, however, that more and more legislative materials will be converted to machine readable form, and that the indexing and identification of the materials that constitute legislative histories will continue to improve with rather surprising rapidity in the near future. The day when the 'major Washington law firms will stop getting copies of every bill, report, document and print may be a long time in coming, but the way most of the rest of the world discovers and examines legislative intent is rapidly changing."

For a discussion of methods and tools for compiling legislative histories in the traditional way, Michael recommended Folsom, Gwendolyn B., *Legislative History: Research for the Interpretation of Laws*, Charlottesville, U. Press of Va., [1972]. He then mentioned the well-known commercial services, including a reference to Nancy Johnson's AALL publication, *Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories*.

"By now," Michael continued, "most of you are probably suppressing the urge to cry out, ‘but what about online databases?’ Indeed, if ever a topic was subsumed with sound and fury, this is it. In the past three years, the business of producing federal and state legislative status databases has grown and collapsed like a supernova, and is now growing again. All the companies involved have correctly deduced, as I am sure all of you have also, that the legislative history field is antique, outdated, paper-laden, and ripe for automation. The problem is that the task is nearly Sisyphean, and no company has yet produced a bill identification and status system that adequately serves the needs of the legal community that works as well as the Congress' own system, LEGIS. That is a problem, because no one can use LEGIS except Congress and people within commuting distance of the Library of Congress….”

“But I digress. At present, at least four companies: Legislate, CCH, Public Affairs Information, and Legitech --produce systems that will identify bills on particular topics, and report the status of those bills with relative immediacy. Of the four, Legislate has been around the longest, and offers, in addition to the standard ability to identify bills by subject, group them into files, and then produce status reports, some interesting member-of-Congress profiling abilities of enormous value to lobbyists, but of little value in traditional, legal issue research. CCH and PAI offer the added attraction of bill identification and status for many of the bills from all 50 state legislatures. The shortcomings all four share are identical however; they all lack the ability to adequately perform detailed subject searches at every stage of a bill's progress, and a reliably up-to-date status system.”
"In defense of these commercial databases, only an organization with the resources and staff equivalent to the U.S. Congress could compete with the Congress in this area. All of the commercial databases rely for subject access on either free text terms in brief official bill summaries, or broad assigned subject terms. LEGIS, the Congress' database, on the other hand, allows the use of any one of the following subject access routes: fairly detailed legislative indexing vocabulary terms; free text search capability for any term in the bill title, in the official summary, in lengthy multipage descriptive abstracts written by CRS legislative analysts at every crucial stage in the legislative process; and even on terms in the full text of public laws. The lengthy digests are written for virtually every bill by an army of attorneys and law students, and allow unparalleled subject searching. And, as far as bill status is concerned, LEGIS has the advantage of enforced reporting compliance by all committees and subcommittees with the Digest Clerk. The commercial files must rely on what appears in the Congressional Record and calendars which means that their status updates can never be as current as LEGIS. The Senate version of LEGIS has even introduced same day floor status access this Congress-- something no service can match. In addition to these features, LEGIS also allows online access to member and committee schedules, committee assignments, and free text searching of parliamentary rules and procedures."

"For their part, the commercial files all perform satisfactorily if one already has a list of bills to be monitored, and doesn't have to be the first one on the block to know when reports are issued or votes taken. Generally, these files are not retrospective in coverage, and are therefore of little use for historical research (as opposed to LEGIS, WHICH DATES BACK TO THE 93rd CONGRESS) they certainly represent a useful tool, however, for the person who has a number of bills to monitor, and no time or staff with which to monitor them.”

"Finally, there exists that rarity in the legislative history field, the database that contains in a full-text searchable format the components of a legislative history. In concept, this is the next logical step beyond our bound legislative history collections. Those who have pored over pages of debate or voluminous hearings searching for some mention of how and why some obscure subsection got into a statute can understand the enormous value that a full text documentary database presents. At this time, only LEXIS has attempted to put together, on a limited scale, an online legislative history library for the commercial sector. The government has made strides in this direction also; the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act legislative history documents were put into a database by the Interior Dept. and JURIS, the government's legal database, is scheduled to soon have the full text of the legislative histories of major clean air and clean water acts--everything from bills to debates to reports to hearings. Such databases will suffer from the same problems any present full-text database without added controlled vocabulary indexing or consistency of structure suffers-- the polar possibilities of overly broad retrieval or of missing pertinent but poorly phrased material completely--but still they represent an enormous step forward toward the day when researching the legislative intent behind a statute more closely resembles method than madness.”

"What can we expect of the future? As I have indicated already, the near future holds more of the same kind of progress we have recently made in the areas of better identification and control of
the information and documents generated by the federal legislative process. State legislative monitoring will likely continue to improve, not only via commercial vendors, but also via the legislative status systems developed and marketed by the state legislatures themselves. I have no crystal ball, but I can tell you of a few pending improvements that may prove to be generally significant. First, Congressional Quarterly will be coming out with a new legislative status database coupled with online versions of Congress-in-Print, the CQ Weekly Report, the CQ Scanner, and other Congressional information, adding one more respected Congress-watcher to the family of automated databases, and perhaps easing somewhat the burden of those who must monitor bills on a daily basis.”

"Second, the Congressional Record and the Congressional Record Index are being intensively automated. You may have noticed that the biweekly indexes are arriving about a month more quickly these days. This is because the entire indexing process, with the exception of the printing process, is now done electronically. The indexing for the biweekly period ending June 11th was finished and on its way to the printer June 16th. The next step is to have the index searchable online, and it appears that this may be possible, at least on Capitol Hill, within the next year. The immediacy this would provide would be an obvious gain, but also, because of the way the indexing is being done, the online index would generate references to both daily and final edition page numbers. This means that some way of translating daily to annual page numbers may someday be possible. Additionally, the chances of having the full text of the Congressional Record searchable online also appears to be improving, and will be the next phase tackled after the index is online.

"Why is this important to anyone besides Congress, when LEGIS and the Congressional Record are only available on Capitol Hill? One reason is that the Joint Committee on Printing announced last month the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on the Availability of Federal Databases to Depository Libraries, to which the Senate Rules Committee among many other federal agencies is represented. While many doomed attempts have been made in the past at getting Capitol Hill databases off Capitol Hill, hope springs eternal, and perhaps this approach, using depository libraries as the crowbar to pry these databases loose, might be successful. Having access to the subject and status searching capabilities of LEGIS, coupled with the superior file creation capabilities of the commercial legislative databases, is nearer to being a possibility than at any time in the past.

"Perhaps, ultimately, the dream I alluded to earlier, of any attorney sitting down at a terminal and pulling up the text of all relevant legislative history material, may actually come true. The question may ultimately be which is harder--getting the database online, or getting the attorney to the terminal!"
Pick of the Month

AALL’s Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month: **Recharge: The Look of Leadership Today: What It Is – and What It Isn’t.**

Effective leadership can have a profound impact on libraries of every kind. This presentation encourages librarians to think about leaders in a new way and to challenge common myths of leadership. The presenters use an entertaining and energetic approach to engage the audience and demonstrate why everyone in an organization should be viewed as a potential leader.

Find this and more than 100 other free continuing education programs and webinars for AALL members on **AALL2go!**

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**OFFICERS**

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