

Highlights from GPO Interagency Depository Seminar, Washington, DC

July 31-August 4, 2006

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The GPO Interagency conference was a week-long seminar which introduced a large group of librarians to many government agencies and the information they gather and disseminate. The seminar was held at the government printing office building. Most days we sat in the room from 8:30 a.m. till 5 p.m. learning about the many ways data is gathered and stored by the government. There is a major focus on providing web access to government data and as such most speakers showed us their websites or gave powerpoint presentations showing the workings of each agency.

The tour of the government printing office was fascinating. There is still quite a bit of paper being published daily. The systems and machinery they use to print documents is state of the art. We also were introduced to the man who makes fancy leather covers for all documents for the president and senate library.

The tour of the Library of Congress was impressive and included time spent in the basement seeing how they store and access old newspapers and documents. The tour of the Patent office was too short and a disappointment.

This seminar week is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see and hear about the inner workings of information gathering of the United States Government. I met two librarians from New York state and many others from all over. Learning about the Economic Census and where that data is stored was the highlight of the week for me.

**Program for the week:**

Day 1 – Monday August 1, 2006

U.S. Bureau of the Census

Census Website

American community Survey

American FactFinder

Census Geography

2002 U.S. Economic census

Day 2 – Tuesday August 2, 2006

Tour of GPO

Congressional Publications

History of Serials Set

Keeping track of Serial Set

Cataloging U.S. govt. docs: GPO Policy and practice

The new catalog of the USGPO (CGP)

AskGPO

Day 3 – Wednesday August 2

Tour of Library of Congress

Homeland Security – CBP website (U.S. Customs and Border protection)

Tour of Patent Office

Day 4 – Thursday August 3, 2006

Federal Register

STAT-USA  
FirstGov (GSA)  
GPO:Federal depository Library handbook

Day 5 – Friday August 4, 2006  
National Transportation Library  
Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC)  
GPO wrap-up

## List of Agencies and Websites Presented During the Seminar

### Federal Depository Library Program

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fdlp.html>

### American Fact Finder

<http://www.factfinder.census.gov>

- Electronic system for access and dissemination of Census data
- Thematic maps
- Can move back without hitting the back button
- This website changes frequently!

### NEW! American Community Survey

A large continuous demographic survey that produces characteristics, not a population count like the census.

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

Also available through Fact Finder

<http://www.factfinder.census.gov>

### Economic Census

Census every 5 years on the 7 or 2 of each decade. There are 3 ways to access economic census.

1. <http://www.census.gov>

This is the “raw” data

2. American Fact Finder

<http://www.factfinder.census.gov>

More user-friendly

3. Stat-USA

<http://www.stat-usa.gov>

A subscription based web interface to the Economic Census, an added attempt at making the census more user-friendly. Government depository libraries have access Stat-USA.

Our username 90394

Our password HOTPEPPER

### FirstGov.gov

<http://www.firstgov.gov>

U.S. government’s official web portal. Link to government websites with a “robust” search engine. Has won several best web site awards.

## **Especially for Government Documents Librarians**

- New Federal Depository Library Handbook: One stop shop where manual and instructions are merged into a “living” document
- GPO Congressional Serial Set: No longer published in paper on a large scale. So LTIS – Library Technical Information Staff catalogs them using PURLS and a 440 field added entry.
- Federal Register system  
<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register>  
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr>