ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

**Steering Committee Conference Call Notes**
**ASERL Collaborative Federal Depository Program**
**July 22, 2015 - 3:00pm Eastern**

**Attending:**

Stephanie Braunstein, Louisiana State University

John Burger, ASERL

Mary Clark, Library of Virginia

Cheryle Cole-Bennett, ASERL

Chelsea Dinsmore, University of Florida

Sandee McAninch, University of Kentucky

Judy Russell, University of Florida

Bill Sudduth, Chair, University of South Carolina

Guest:  Valerie Glenn, Government Documents Registry Analyst, University of Michigan Libraries

Agenda

- Conversation with Valerie Glenn, Government Documents Registry
  Committee members welcomed Valerie to the meeting.  As one of the early adopters of the CFDP and a member of the committee while serving as the Government Documents Librarian at the University of Alabama, Valerie needed little introduction.

  Valerie reminded committee members that the purpose of the Registry of US Federal Government Documents is to gather - in one place - the metadata for the comprehensive corpus of U.S. federal documents at the item level.  In 2014, HathiTrust placed a call for institutions (HathiTrust partners and non-partners alike) to share their cataloging records for US federal government documents to aid in building a knowledgebase of the total corpus of US federal government documents, and to help identify the portion of total materials that are in HathiTrust already, the portion not in HathiTrust that exist in digital form (digitized by Google or others), and the portion that is yet to be digitized.  Records were received from 39 institutions, for approximately 44.1 million items.

  Valerie reported an alpha version of the Registry has been released, cautioning that it is very much an alpha version.  The majority of the records obtained from the 2014 call for records have been loaded, and include basic information:  Title, Author, SuDoc number, and OCLC #.  She is seeking feedback in testing the alpha version of the Registry, explaining that they are aware of problem areas - in the use of the SuDoc, as well as in the item description and

chronology.  She noted that libraries record data in different ways so matching is often difficult.  The database includes a number of records for material that are not US Government publications.  When the call for records was made, they did not specify how to record the fact that the material was a government document, and as a result, they received a large amount of material that was not, some of which was commercially produced.

Valerie explained that the database contains approximately 3.6 million records at the item level, though she said she is not generally comfortable sharing the numbers because she recognizes that there are many duplicates and many gaps in the records.  The next step for testers will be focusing on duplicates, Proquest and Lexus/Nexus records, and that gap detection will be better once dup detection is better.  She plans to also do some testing to show relationship between items – for example, Farmer's Bulletins, which include both series records and monograph records.

Part of the difficulty in identifying gaps is the inability to dedup at the point of submission because of the lack of match points – there are not only multiple OCLC# for items, but many do not have ISBNs or ISSNs which further complicates matching.   She reported that they are not discarding any information from the records they received.  If they have 3 items that appear the same but have 3 different OCLC numbers, the records are retained.  If discarded, it is likely to affect their ability to match with the digital library at a later date.  If the record has an OCLC number, it will be displayed and linked.  They are not displaying holdings information, but they are keeping it.

Valerie anticipates having better control of the duplicates by late summer, though she does not have an estimate for gap detection improvement.

Bill Sudduth shared his findings in determining comprehensiveness for the Dept. of Education.  He had run a test of his holdings against the Monthly Catalog and found about 60% of the materials were present, validating that gaps do exist in the documentation.

Sandee McAninch explained that she maintains a "known-but-not-owned" list for the WPA.  Between the list and what they have in their catalog, she feels their documentation to be fairly complete.  Judy suggested that the Panama Canal data – National Recovery Agency – would also be a good agency for testing, as it was only in existence for 2 years.  Both she and Sandee agreed to help Valerie run a comparison against the Registry.  Valerie agreed that narrowing the focus is important.  When they started the project they started from such a broad perspective – everything, from the time government documents were first published – which has made the process difficult.

Valerie explained that now that the Registry has transitioned from theory to practice, they will need to consider usability - that the system can be used as users need.  How do people intend to use the system?  How do we make the records available?  Will there be an ability to download records?  Discovery will be an important first step - is the material available, who owns it?  Then to determine how to get it digitized and into HathiTrust.  The hope is to discover more government documents that have already been digitized, and for which there has been no good way to previously identify them.

Judy noted that she had raised the question at the Print Archive Network meeting as to whether HathiTrust will identify print archiving commitments within the Registry.  For example, an additional field where the retention commitment could be recorded and identifies the institution holding the print copy.   Valerie responded that HathiTrust will need to have a conversation about holdings, as that information is not currently displayed.  They link to OCLC with the expectation that the institutions are maintaining their records.

In closing, Valerie explained that they are making progress in the development of the Registry, though it is an enormous undertaking.  They always want to do more, faster.

Committee members again thanked Valerie for sharing information on the Registry, after which she left the call.

- ALA Conference Highlights/FIPNet Meeting and Other Announcements – as time permits
  Due to time constraints, Bill gave a very brief report of the FIPNet meeting that was held at ALA. He explained the meeting had been coordinated by GPO and attendees were there by invitation of GPO.  Mary Alice Baisch, Laurie Hall, and Anthony Smith were in attendance, as was Hallie Pritchett (UGA) as the representative on the Depository Library Council.
  His primary take-away was that there should be a "proof of concept" pilot/trial to better define what is meant by FIPNet.  More information is needed before libraries will be able to make a determination as to their ability to sign-on to this initiative.

  Mary Clark announced that a meeting of the Virginia government documents librarians will be held in August, and that Mary Alice Baisch will be their guest.

  Stephanie Braunstein announced that their inventory of County Studies is well underway and as soon as it is complete, she will be contacting Sandee regarding WPA materials.

  - Next meeting date
    Wednesday, September 23, 2015, 3PM

The meeting adjourned at 4:10pm