Welcome the New Age of Information!
North Carolina State Information

Formats
- Printed Paper Documents
- CDs
- Microforms
- Databases
- Web Pages
- E-Mail
- Printed State Records
North Carolina State Information

Sources

- Executive Branch
- Legislative Branch
- Judicial Branch
- Educational Institutions
Dissemination of State Information

Historically...

- **Selected distribution** to other state agencies, educational institutions, libraries, and organizations

- “By Request” basis to libraries, educational institutions, citizens, businesses

- N.C. State Documents **Depository System** (libraries)
Dissemination of State Information

Today...

- **Traditional dissemination** (tangible formats)
  - Selected distribution
  - By request
  - N.C. State Depository System

- **Internet/Web** (intangible formats)
  - Born digital
  - Online versions of print documents
  - Web interfaces to database information
N.C. State Depository System

Established: 1987 by G.S. 125-11

Purpose: Enable citizens throughout North Carolina to have timely and easy access to current and historical publications of their state government.
N.C. State Depository System

**Function:**

- State agencies send documents to the N.C. State Publications Clearinghouse (State Library)

- Clearinghouse Staff receives, catalogs, processes, and distributes documents to depository libraries across the state

- State Library established as the official, complete, and permanent depository for all State publications
Dawn of the Information Age

- New technologies
- Information Super Highway
- Raised expectations for access to information
State Agencies and Institutions begin to provide...

- Desktop access to state government information (HTML pages)
- Digital versions of state publications
- Web interfaces for searching and extracting database information
More Changes in 21st Century

- **New technologies** provide efficiencies in data and information production and dissemination.

- **State Budget cuts** – encourage/require state agencies to reduce printing budgets and publish digitally.
State agencies and institutions begin disseminating information in digital formats only.

“BORN DIGITAL”
state information is born!
Advantages of Born Digital Info

- **Broader dissemination** of state information
- **Broader access** to state information
- **Easier to access** and share info
- **More timely dissemination** of information
Advantages of Born Digital Info

- **Cost efficiencies** for state government
- **State data** now accessible from the desktop for customized reports, etc.
- **Less shelf space and real estate needed** in libraries and offices to house printed documents!
So, is this good news?

Hmmm....
Let’s see....
For the most part, “YES!”

- **Users are happy** to have desktop access to timely state data and information.

- **Libraries** can expand their state information resources without adding additional shelving.

- **Librarians** have new information tools and resources at their fingertips!
And, for the Depository System?
New Titles (printed monographs and serials) received, cataloged, and distributed to libraries through the N.C. State Depository System – Publications Clearinghouse

1997: 819 new titles
2002: 475 new titles
Decrease in # titles: 344
% change: 42% fewer titles
State Library Permanent Collection

New monographs and new serials issues (printed docs) added to the State Documents Collection of the State Library

Monographs & Serials Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>955*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>548</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Decrease in # Items added 407*

*1997 estimates based on avg. per month
"It's the latest thing... 20% wool and 80% digital."
"Our competition launched their website, stole all of our customers and put us out of business while you were in the john."
So, where **exactly** is the Information?

- Does it still exist?
- Who knows?
- How do we find out?
- Is it on the Web?
- Where is it on the Web?
- Will it be there tomorrow?
- Can we print it out?
- Can we still get it in print?
New Challenges Abound...

G.S. 125-11 (Depository System) is still in effect but does not specifically address digital information formats and require agencies to submit tangible equivalents to the Clearinghouse.

State Publications Clearinghouse is really no longer the “central distribution center” for all state documents — just those in tangible formats.
Challenges...

- **No state government policy** or regulations exist for print vs. digital production and dissemination of state information.

- **No centralized point of control** – each agency or institution makes its own decision about publication formats and dissemination.
Challenges...

- **No official standards** have been adopted for digital formats and publishing in state government.

- **No state government policies or standards** exist to ensure the preservation and continued access to historical born digital state information.
"We rarely back up our data. We'd rather not keep a permanent record of everything that goes wrong around here!"
“That foul smell is coming from your computer. You’ve got some old data in there that’s gone bad.”
Are we at the mercy of...
How do we meet these challenges?
Or…
Or...
Or...
Access to State Government Information

Statewide Leadership Project

3-year Initiative to ensure continued public access to current and historical state information in ALL formats

- Managed by the State Library
- Funded by LSTA grant $$$
Advisory Group

Advisory Group of Stakeholders

- State Agency personnel
- Librarians
- State Data Center
- Archivists/Records Mgt.
- End-Users
Phase 1 – Research & Discovery

- Research
- Discovery
- Education
Phase 2 – Solutions Development

- Expand Advisory Group
- Determine possible solutions
Phase 3 - Recommendations

- Recommendations
- Implementation
“This project is extremely important, but it has no budget, no guidelines, no support staff and it’s due tomorrow morning. At last, here’s your chance to really impress everyone!”
HELP WANTED
“Frankly sir, we’re tired of being on the cutting edge of technology.”