



Opening the Door to the Future: A Summary of the State Depository Libraries Survey

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Purpose of Survey

- ◆ Purpose:
 - Understand needs of Depository Libraries
 - Evaluate current Clearinghouse services
 - Plan future of Depository System
 - Guide efforts to manage digital state publications
- ◆ Conducted survey in Fall of 2005
- ◆ Surveyed 37 library staff at 24 Depository Libraries



Successes

- ◆ 84% indicated that being a state depository library added value to their collection and services
- ◆ The most valuable services provided by the Clearinghouse are:
 - distribution of publications
 - cataloging publications
 - customized shipping lists
 - maintaining a permanent depository for all state publications



Shortcomings

- ◆ Does not distribute all state government publications
- ◆ Does not identify, track, catalog or distribute digital publications
- ◆ Needs to be more proactive with State Agencies to represent the needs of the Depository Libraries
- ◆ No orientation for new Depository Library staff



Scope of Publications Distributed Through the Clearinghouse

- ◆ Few depository libraries have a policy defining the content of their state documents collection
- ◆ Health and Legal information are the most-used and most important government publications
- ◆ On average, ephemera is rarely kept by Depository Libraries
- ◆ More than $\frac{1}{4}$ of libraries no longer wish to receive ephemera.



Identifying State Government Publications

- ◆ $\frac{3}{4}$ said the State Library should be responsible for pro-actively tracking and identifying state publications
- ◆ $\frac{1}{4}$ said the State Library should track fugitive documents on-demand only
- ◆ 80% were willing to develop criteria for identifying state government publications
- ◆ $\frac{1}{2}$ were willing to help identify and track state publications



Distribution of State Government Publications

- ◆ 43% would not want to receive microfiche through the Clearinghouse if that information was readily available and accessible online
- ◆ Several Depository Libraries expressed interest in storing digital information as part of a distributed Repository System



Cataloging State Government Publications

- ◆ The cataloging service was rated as “Extremely Useful” by Depository Libraries
- ◆ 83% feel that digital publications should be catalogued like print publications
- ◆ Several Depository Libraries expressed interest in helping the State Library to catalog and/or create metadata for state publications



Accessing State Government Publications

- ◆ 61% have difficulty locating state government information online
- ◆ $\frac{3}{4}$ have created online reference guides to digital state government information
- ◆ Nearly half prefer to access digital state government information via the Library's Catalog



Improving Communication within the Depository System

- ◆ 22% do not communicate with the Clearinghouse
- ◆ 1/4 did not find the Clearinghouse website useful
- ◆ Nearly 90% could possibly participate in a Consortium of Depository Libraries to:
 - Develop criteria for selecting/identifying digital publications
 - Identify track digital resources for a specific agency or topic



Vision for the Future

- ◆ 83% felt the Clearinghouse should
 - Develop and maintain an accessible online digital repository
 - Catalog digital publications like print publications
- ◆ 24% described their vision of the Clearinghouse as:
“Identifying, cataloging and providing reliable access to digital state publications”
- ◆ State Library and Depository Libraries now have the opportunity to work together to make this vision a reality!