

# Wisconsin Document Depository Program Open Forum Discussion

Government Information Day, June 6, 2008



## Background

There was an open forum discussion held at Government Information Day regarding the current state of and future plans for the Wisconsin Document Depository Program. Abby Swanton from the Reference and Loan Library facilitated the discussion. About 10 people attended the open forum discussion. Those in attendance represented state, regional and selective level depository libraries in special, public, and academic library settings.

The questions presented below are from a brief survey that was sent out to the depository library community prior to Government Information Day. The goal of the survey was to get feedback from the depository community before the Government Information Day in order to better structure the time allotted for the open forum discussion. The survey also allowed for input and participation from those who were unable to attend the open forum discussion. The results from the survey are represented in the outline following each question and were the basis for most of the open forum discussion. There were libraries that responded to the survey that were not able to attend the open forum discussion and there were attendees at the open forum discussion that did not respond to the survey. The “Discussion Results” are based solely on the open forum discussion held at Government Information Day.

### 1. How has the introduction of the Wisconsin Digital Archives to the Wisconsin Document Depository Program impacted your library?

- a. Cataloging
  - i. Integration of print and electronic holdings
  - ii. Classification of web sites
  - iii. Does anyone use the URL's outside their catalogs?
- b. Impact on collection development
- c. Changes in staff education/promotion of digital archive holdings
- d. Promotion to users
- e. Increased use of docs? Or Decreased?
- f. Affect on ILL
- g. Are the DA titles harder or easier to work into your tech services workflow?

### Discussion results:

Libraries enjoy the convenience of having digital archives records distributed fully cataloged. It makes using and providing access to digital archives records in local OPACs easy for libraries. Libraries reported that no additional work was being done to the records chosen to incorporate

into local OPACs. Incorporating digital archives records into collections integrates well with existing tech services workflows and does not create barriers.

Digital archives records provide depository libraries the opportunity to choose specific documents to add to their collections instead of having to provide access to everything. Some libraries have chosen to add all digital archives records to their OPACs while others choose only select documents or none at all. It was determined that state level depository libraries would include all digital archives records in their OPACs while regional and selective depository libraries would still have a choice. Since depository libraries are often part of shared systems, digital archives records are being added to system OPACs, creating much wider immediate access for e-publications i.e., InfoSoup covering much of NE Wisconsin.

There is still no valid way to determine how often the documents collection, both print and electronic, is being used because many documents collections do not circulate. A non-circulating print collection provides no circulation statistics to quantify usage. It's equally difficult to determine usage of digital archives records because there are no statistics currently being tracked regarding usage. Abby Swanton is going to investigate what various reporting mechanisms OCLC has in place that could potentially provide information on digital archive record usage. Libraries reported that with the amount of electronic information constantly being added and made available at the click of a button they encourage both staff and patrons to first search the OPAC when providing reference.

## **2. What are your collection priorities for state government information?**

- a. Interest by subject matter?
- b. Preferred or disliked formats?
- c. How much of the collection is cataloged/uncataloged?
- d. Are your docs integrated in your collection? In vertical files? Shelved separately?

### **Discussion results:**

Collection priorities are unique by library based on type of library, location and patrons. There was discussion about making sure the depository library community felt comfortable providing input about what should be digitally archived. Creating a strong line of communication would support a variety of different collection development priorities and better serve depository libraries with electronic formats. Communicating with depository libraries about options and what might be archived would also be a way to increase interest and use of digital archives records. There was interest expressed in fostering communication by having the Wisconsin Digital Archives work directly with the depository community to identify deadlinks in OPACs that can be replaced with digital archives URLs.

Libraries agreed there is still an appreciation for both print and electronic formats. There is stability with print but convenience with electronic. Libraries reported various ways they provide access to print gov docs. Some libraries have a separate gov docs collection. Others assign Dewey numbers to gov docs and integrate the docs with the library's collection. Some libraries allow for gov docs to circulate and others have non-circulating collections. Some libraries maintain separate pamphlet/brochure files and create short, brief records in their catalog for the pamphlet/brochures that are most pertinent to their collection. Some libraries select only certain

docs to shelve in the open collection but adhere to the retention guidelines by shelving all other documents in the back work area so they are accessible upon request. Libraries primarily rely on cataloging done by WHS/Co-op cataloging so tech services only needs to copy catalog.

**3. What are some of the biggest challenges to providing state government information/documents in your library?**

- a. Space
- b. Staff
- c. Time
- d. Knowledge
- e. Money
- f. Prof. development: How much? What kind? What format?
- g. How do you incorporate existing Web 2.0 technologies into your library services for staff and patrons, how could the gov docs world contribute further to this?

**Discussion results:**

All of the points above are challenges. There is interest in developing training for librarians to help in further promoting the value and use of gov docs to other library staff and patrons. There was interest expressed by public librarians in working with the program to identify publications that are most useful at the reference desk. Details are still to be determined for additional needs but there is clearly interest and a need to provide more outreach, improved communication and additional support to the depository library community.

**4. What do you see as important functions for the Wisconsin Document Depository Program in the future?**

- a. Provide an element of branding, logo, domain and program name continuity that ties WDDP and WIDAG together as one multi-format program
- b. Provide a way to quantify/justify value of gov docs beyond usage statistics
- c. Provide ongoing training to promote gov docs and their use (librarians and patrons)
- d. Establish gov docs processing best practices for efficient collection management
- e. Establish criteria for levels of usages for DA records that correlate to depository status. (i.e. State level depository libraries provide access to all da catalog records in OPACs)

**Discussion results:**

All participants felt that the Wisconsin Document Depository Program is still relevant. The next open forum discussion will be held in Nov. 2008 at WLA in Middleton. Until Nov. there will be an ongoing effort to foster and facilitate discussions with the depository library community to collect more information and input and to gain perspective about the future of the program.