

Documents

Report of the meeting of the Documents Section, North Carolina Library Association, Oct. 9, 1981, by Susan Van Dyke, Gardner-Webb College

"State of State Documents in North Carolina and South Carolina Libraries" was the theme of the October 9 meeting attended by approximately forty librarians. The featured speaker was Margaret T. Lane, Coordinator of the ALA-GODORT State and Local Documents Task Force. Her topic was "State Legislation and the ALA-GODORT Guidelines for State Documents." Copies of the pamphlet, *Guidelines adopted by the State and Local Documents Task Force*, were distributed to participants before the meeting, and Ms. Lane referred to several of the guidelines as she spoke.

Four main points addressed during Ms. Lane's speech were 1) What is a depository 2) What is a state depository program 3) What is the role of a documents librarian and 4) What are the standards. A depository, according to Ms. Lane, provides continuity of selection and acquisition, service to all segments of the population, and publicizes its availability. A state depository system provides automatic distribution, comprehensive distribution, and should provide tools for finding and locating publications, as well as aids for publicizing publications and services. Ms. Lane stressed that "without administrative enthusiasm, a law is a skeleton." She noted that the most successful depository programs are centered at the state's capital city, often aiding this administrative enthusiasm.

The role of the documents librarian is to make state publications available. Ms. Lane suggested several ways to make this task more effective such as working for legislation, keeping use statistics, accessing and evaluating the state checklist of publications, learning more about the federal depository system, and working with task forces.

Concerning standards, Ms. Lane referred participants to the published guidelines.

Following Margaret T. Lane's speech was a panel discussion by four librarians currently working with state publications. Mary Toll, Documents Librarian of the South Carolina State Library, spoke on "State of South Carolina Documents: Where We Are and Where We Want To Go." She focused on the history of collecting S.C. documents and the status of legislation. The S.C. collection began in 1969 with a survey of state agencies requesting three copies of all publications. A classification system was devised and a checklist issued after publications began arriving regularly. Legislation has not yet been passed for a state depository system in South Carolina, nor for a mandatory deposit arrangement by agencies. Librarians and interested others are still lobbying for legislation.

Cheryl Wood, Assistant State Documents Librarian, Division of State Library, N.C., spoke next on "State of North Carolina Documents: Where We Are and Where We Want To Go." The State Library has three functions concerning state documents, which are acquisitions, bibliographic control, and reference services. North Carolina has legislation providing deposit of five copies of all agency publications at the State Library (NC General Statute 141-50.1). This greatly aids acquisition but the State Library staff is still involved in reminding agencies of the Statute. The Statute also mandates publication of a checklist of all received publications. The *Checklist of Official N.C. State Publications* is now being published in AACR II format with a bi-monthly frequency. All new cataloging is through SOLINET. Other recent work of the staff includes a Name Authority Project and a revised classification system, organized by agency instead of subject, as was the original system.

Catherine Lewis, Director of the Horry County Public Library, spoke on problems with legislation in South Carolina, her topic being "Critique on State of South Carolina Documents". Attitude problems of state legislators are the main stumbling blocks for S.C. librarians, according to Ms. Lewis. Legislators are faced each day with a desk piled with agency publications. The legislators consider the publications "junk mail" and "not worth keeping". They cannot understand the importance placed on the publications by librarians. Ms. Lewis remarked that some current legislators have "no historical perspective" and "operate in an information void". She sees little hope for state depository legislation for South Carolina in the near future.

Final speaker for the panel was Suzanne Levy, Virginia Room Librarian, Fairfax County Public Library, Fairfax, Virginia (formerly Senior Cataloger of the North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, UNC). Her topic, "Critique on State of North Carolina Documents", focused on

points for improvement of the *Checklist*. Inclusion of each agency's mailing address, the legislative basis for establishing a new agency, and a subject index for each issue were all suggested as possible improvements. These could be implemented fairly easily with present computer capabilities at the State Library. Several points of confusion were also noted, such as whether the date of a publication is the same as the date of the *Checklist* and whether older items are still available from the State Library or from the issuing agency.

A report of the business meeting will be published in a forthcoming issue of *The Docket*, newsletter of the Documents Librarians of North Carolina.



Do you believe it? Yes, librarians, Ed Holley does have at least one four-in-hand tie!