

2001 Annual Report AALL GD-SIS Fugitive & Electronic-Only Documents Committee

Background:

In Winter and Spring 2001, GD-SIS President Greta Boeringer, GD-SIS President-Elect A. Hays Butler, Depository Library Council member Charlene Cain, and AALL Washington Office Representative Mary Alice Baish discussed ways to identify and keep track of the growing number of U.S. federal electronic documents that were fugitive, or that were being cataloged by GPO but were not being distributed to depository libraries in tangible formats. This group asked GD-SIS member Rob Richards to coordinate a committee to address this problem.

Calls for members were issued on listservs and in the June 2001 AALL Spectrum.

The AALL GD-SIS Fugitive and Electronic-Only Documents Committee was formed in May 2001.

As of July 2001, the committee's members are: Christopher Anglim, Mark Bartlett, A. Hays Butler, Georgia Chadwick, Cecily A. H. Giardina, Gwendolyn Lohmann, Susan Lyons, Susanna Marlowe, Rob Richards, Caitlin Robinson, Randall Tenor, Alice I. Youmans.

The committee's purpose is to:

- 1) Identify and report to GPO fugitive and electronic-only U.S. federal documents on law and policy. A "fugitive document" is defined as a U.S. federal publication that, according to U.S. Code Title 44, should be distributed to libraries through the Federal Depository Library Program, but that has not been cataloged or distributed by GPO. An "electronic-only" document is defined as an electronic U.S. federal publication that GPO has cataloged and assigned a Persistent URL, but that GPO will not distribute to depository libraries in tangible format.
- 2) List fugitive and electronic-only U.S. federal documents on law and policy on the GD-SIS website;
- 3) Facilitate hard copy publication of some of these documents.

In May, the committee adopted a preliminary action plan as follows:

Preliminary plan to address fugitive and e-only federal government documents on legal and policy matters:

- 1) organize a group of law librarians to discover new electronic federal government publications (especially those related to legal and policy matters), by monitoring agency websites, BET, and news sources;
- 2) notify GPO of the existence of fugitive electronic documents, so they can be cataloged and added to the GPO electronic archive;
- 3) create a list or database of fugitive and electronic-only federal government documents relating to legal and policy matters, available on the GD-SIS website;
- 4) use e-mail to notify the AALL membership (and maybe GOVDOC-L folks,

too) of new fugitive and electronic-only federal government documents on legal and policy matters;

5) work with publishers to print electronic-only federal government documents of interest to the law library community.

So far the committee has accomplished the following:

- The committee has eleven members, nine from academic libraries, two from state libraries. A roster of committee members is attached;
- Six committee members regularly monitor U.S. federal agency websites for fugitive documents on law and policy. The committee regularly monitors a total of nine agency websites: AOUSC, Bureau of Reclamation, CIA, EPA, Forest Service, FTC, INS, SEC, State Dept.;
- Since May 2001, committee members have reported 35 fugitive documents to GPO. GPO has cataloged 18. Seventeen remain fugitive;
- Cecily Giardini of the committee member monitors GPO's New Electronic Titles site for law and policy titles;
- Cecily Giardini & Caitlin Robinson of the committee send out lists of fugitive and e-only titles to GOVDOC-L and LAW-LIB twice per month;
- Susanna Marlowe of the committee has communicated with the U.S. Dept. of Justice Library to explore ways of discovering fugitive USDOJ documents;
- Randall Tenor of the Committee is working with GPO to identify OMB Bulletins not yet distributed to depositories;
- The committee has created a website listing the fugitive and e-only documents on law and policy it has reported to GPO: <http://www.colorado.edu/Law/lawlib/ts/fugitive/> . These lists provide direct links to the documents, information on when the documents were reported to GPO, OCLC cataloging, and availability through the GPO Sales Program;
- The committee has created a procedure for identifying and reporting fugitive documents;
- The committee is constructing a committee website, that will list committee members, their monitoring assignments, and reported fugitive and e-only documents;
- The committee has reported several titles that GPO has confirmed as "e-only," and that GPO Sales Program will not distribute, to W.S. Hein for possible reprinting in tangible format. So far, Hein has chosen not to reprint any of these publications;
- Susanna Marlowe of the committee is working with GD-SIS President-Elect Katrina Stierholz to create a program proposal on fugitive and e-only documents for the 2002 AALL Annual Meeting;
- Susanna Marlowe of the committee is communicating with the Depository Library Council's committee on fugitive documents, chaired by Diane Eidelman and Director of GPO Library Programs Service Gil Baldwin. Susanna has sent the DLC Committee a list of our committee members and the agencies they are monitoring, to prevent duplication of effort;
- With the help of Charlene Cain, the committee has communicated successfully with Superintendent of Documents Francis Buckley and GPO Library Programs Service Director Gil Baldwin, both of whom support the committee's work.

A partial group of the committee's members will meet during the 2001 AALL Annual Meeting to discuss whether the committee should begin archiving fugitive documents, and techniques for monitoring agency websites.

The coordinator wishes to thank all of the committee members for their outstanding work during the past two months.

The committee wishes to thank Mary Alice Baish, Gil Baldwin, AALL President-Elect Barbara Bintliff, Greta Boeringer, Francis Buckley, A. Hays Butler, Charlene Cain, Laurie Beyer Hall of GPO, Robin Haun-Mohamed of GPO, Brian Jablonski of W.S. Hein & Co., Richard Spinelli of W.S. Hein & Co., and Katrina Stierholz, for their support of the committee's work.

Please let me know if you have questions or comments.