

public documents highlights

U.S. Government
Printing Office

October 1975
Number 12 GP 3.27:12

Assistant Public Printer
(Superintendent of Documents)

Regional Libraries Needed

Every State needs at least one regional depository library. Here will be found on microform and/or in print every available depository item currently produced by the United States Government. The regional depository library provides the possibility for centralizing as complete a collection as is possible within a State.

It also provides the machinery under existing Federal Law for reaping the documents collections of depository libraries within the State. Runs of documents no longer relevant to the needs of today's library patrons can be listed for the regional depository library. Selection may then be made to assure completeness of holdings, and the lists circulated to aid in rounding out other collections. The regional library can then authorize disposal of unneeded documents.

To date, some 36 States have taken advantage of the opportunity to establish regional depository libraries. Indeed, each State is entitled under law to two regional depositories and 6 States have availed themselves of this provision.

Presently, there are 21 university libraries serving as regional depositories, 13 State libraries, 4 public libraries, and 2 State library commissions. The universities have been especially alert to the excellent research possibilities afforded to a library undertaking the responsibility of being a regional depository.

In New England, 3 States have a tri-partite arrangement with the University of Maine at Orono which serves

as the regional depository for New Hampshire and Vermont.

How difficult is the task of being a regional depository? A few years ago, the University of Colorado Libraries at Boulder answered the question this way: "The regional depository system works very well, without overloading the designated library. It involves only a small increase in the number of documents received, very little refer-

ence or interlibrary loan. The biggest problem has been assisting the other libraries to dispose of their unwanted documents. Even this is a very small problem, if the donor library will submit its list in a format suitable for Xeroxing. We then act as a liaison with the receiving library, serving first the region, then out-of-state depositories developing collections."

Continued on page 2



Questions and Answers

Two Ways of Establishing Regional Depositories



Q. What does a library do having lost the 10 new style claim forms you sent this spring?

A. Just write us for 10 more. For each claim you make, two additional forms will be mailed to you. Our address is: Library Division, Library and Statutory Distribution Service, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20401.

Q. When will we see another five year index to the Monthly Catalog?

A. The 1961–1965 five year index is presently in the hands of a private contractor. Hopefully, it will be ready by the end of this year.

Q. Is there a master list or subject index of Department of Agriculture Bulletins?

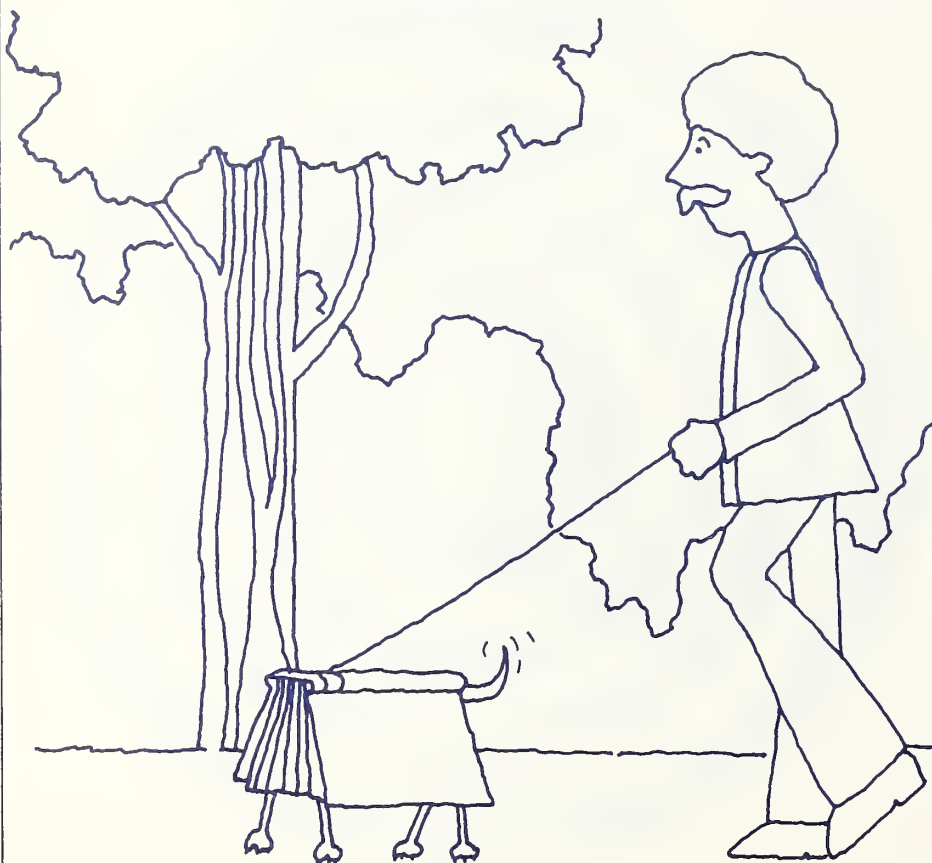
A. No, says a spokesperson for the National Agricultural Library, unless some depository library has produced one. But if you need a bibliography on windmills or hydraulic rams, drop a line to: Reference Division, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Maryland 20705. They will be glad to do a search for you.

Under present law, one or two depository libraries within a State may be designated as regional depositories. Such designation must be approved by the State Librarian and is made by a Senator. A depository library must be capable of the regional duties, including service to the other depository libraries in the State.

A second method, seldom used, can be accomplished. A regional depository of a neighboring State may be designated to serve neighboring states (as Maine now serves New Hampshire and Vermont). This can be done on recommendation of the State Librarians involved, and through the offices of a Senator of each State.

Continued from page 1

Surprisingly, 12 States have yet to take advantage of their opportunity to establish a regional library. They are: Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota and Tennessee. Hopefully, their State library associations and existing depository libraries will encourage them to take this necessary step towards better service for all.



One library uses a small rubber stamp which reads:

"Jennie Cross says:
DOCUMENTS ARE FUN
Take One Home Today"



A



A. Students find it a pleasure to work with Government publications in the excellently lighted library of the University of Maryland's Baltimore County campus.

B. Attractive display of Government Documents greets visitors entering the Julia Rogers Library of Goucher College in Towson, Maryland.

C. Kardex control of Depository Documents is being effectively employed by the library of the University of Maryland's Baltimore County campus.

D. Government publications are an integral part of the State Department's Law Library in Washington, D.C.



B



C



D

New Telephone Numbers



Dear Documents Librarians:

If you have any experiences or suggestions to share with other depository libraries, send them along for publication in **Public Documents Highlights**. Keep the questions coming, too. We'll do our best to get the answers.

Editor
Public Documents Highlights
Library and Statutory
Distribution Service
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20401

For questions on depository shipping lists and claims, "Monthly Catalog" entries, classification numbers, and related subjects, you can call Mrs. Mae Collins at (703) 557-2145, or Mr. Norman Barbee at (703) 557-2146.

For placing sales orders, call (202) 783-3238. If you are having problems with a sales order, ask for customer assistance at (202) 275-3050.

For microform questions, call Mr. L. R. Gulick at (703) 557-2025.

Correction

Publications: Automatic Distribution

On page 2 of the August issue of Highlights, the item number of the Daily Statement of Treasury should read 923-A-2; and the item number of the Internal Revenue Bulletin should read 957.



Public Documents Highlights is circulated bi-monthly by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402, and is mailed at first class postage rates. **Public Documents Highlights** is intended primarily for librarians of the Federal Depository Library Program. Material proposed for circulation may be

submitted to the **Editor, Public Documents Highlights, Library and Statutory Distribution Service, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20401**. The Superintendent of Documents, however, retains the right to accept such material, to edit it, and to assign priorities of circulation.

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1975-O-210-569 #2940