GODORT Newsletter
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GODort for Sustainable Living:
A Workshop on Using Government Resources Creatively and Effectively for Green Solutions

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GODORT’s workshop this summer is scheduled for July 8, 2011 at the Festival Hall in the Argiro Student Center at Maharishi University of Management. The program will feature a mix of librarians and green activists, and we are taking an unusual step this year: we will be opening the workshop to the general public, since Fairfield has a strong interest in green initiatives and since this workshop is being listed as part of Fairfield’s activities for July, which is being promoted by the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce as Go Green Month. Our registration fees will be $5 for GODORT members, $10 for ILA members, and $15 for everyone else.

Registration will be at 8:30 am with an organic continental breakfast with scones, coffee cake, and free trade coffee and herbal tea. At 9 am, David Fischer, the head of the Maharishi University of Management Sustainable Living Department, will introduce the morning meeting, followed by Mayor Ed Malloy of Fairfield, listed among the greenest mayors in the nation. He will be accompanied by a member of the Fairfield Green Council.

A panel of speakers will follow, moderated by Maeve Clark of the Iowa City Public Library who is also the current Director of the Iowa Library Association. Co-moderator is Brenda Nations, Environmental Coordinator for the City of Iowa City, who supervises the environmentally friendly flood control project in Iowa. The panel will consist of local green activists: Francis Thicke, former candidate for Secretary of Agriculture of Iowa, June Oliver, the Grant Specialist for Sustainable Living in charge of financing construction of the Maharishi University of Management Sustainable Living Center, which is unique in that it incorporates all existing standards for green building. Mark Stimson, the Sustainability Coordinator for Maharishi University of Management, and Leann Hays, Maharishi University of Management student and administrator for the Sustainable Living Center, will also be on the panel.

Lunch offers many venues in a town full of reasonably priced restaurants committed to healthy and fun-to-eat choices that are organic. Downtown Fairfield includes places such as the librarian’s dream:
Revelations, a combination used bookstore of large proportions and light meals. Revelations is a gathering place for many locals, and often features entertainment at night, as does nearby Café Paradiso, the vendor for the coffee provided at the workshop. Oriental/American restaurants include the Green Gourmet, an all-organic restaurant that offers both vegetarian and non-vegetarian food in buffet style. Thai Deli has roomy, quiet booths and a buffet mix of vegetarian and non-vegetarian food, some organic. There is also an Indian restaurant (Gupta’s), a Mexican restaurant (Kokopelli’s) and a Middle Eastern restaurant (Istanbul Grill) as well as traditional venues such as George’s Pizza (on the square) and Best Western (on the strip). Another very attractive option is the Argiro Center Cafeteria, which is conveniently located next to the Festival Hall. It offers a full organic, vegetarian menu, all you can carry for $8 (no trays saves food waste: studies have shown that people generally eat what they can carry). Everybody’s Whole Foods Market on Highway 1 just a few blocks south of campus has just opened a new restaurant: Crepe Escape, which features, not surprisingly, crepes with a wide variety of fillings. For high end dining, there is the Raj in Vedic City, just north of Fairfield, with a lovely gift shop. The drive to the Raj from Fairfield and the highway west of the Raj reveals the large extent of the commitment of the local community to building in accordance with the ancient architectural system of Sthapatya Ved.

There are two afternoon workshops: Sara Passoneau, Sustainability Librarian for the University of Northern Iowa, will offer “Greening Iowa Libraries.” Maeve Clark, Information Services Coordinator for the Iowa City Public Library, and Jen Jordan, Recycling Coordinator for Iowa City, will cover “Bringing Green Programs to Your Communities: an Update.” This workshop will address the progress made on the green flood control project in Iowa City and the role of the Iowa City Public Library in this effort.

The program wraps up with two tours: the M.U.M. Prairie Restoration Project, which has been going on for several years. The guide will be Kathy Brooks, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer at M.U.M., who is in charge of the project. The other tour is not to be missed: the Sustainable Living Center. It is a most unusual building, made of local materials, including unhewed columns that dominate the inside of the main entrance (such columns are much stronger than cut columns). Many other fascinating details of this one-of-a-kind building will be presented by June Oliver.

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What’s the Purpose of a Newsletter in the 21st Century

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For many years, ILA/GODORT has published a newsletter with updates about the roundtable’s activities, the government documents landscape, and happenings at Iowa’s depository libraries. In the past this newsletter was actually published—printed on paper and distributed—but recently this “publication” has been purely online. Still, the online newsletter has maintained the form of the old paper newsletter.
Material is gathered over a period of time, put into a single document, and then, four times per year, it is placed on the Web as a PDF that looks very much like a traditional, offline newsletter.

A quarterly publication schedule made sense in the pre-Internet age. Mailing out a collection of news items once a quarter was much more efficient than mailing a separate letter every time there was ILA/GODORT-related news. But now that it is possible to distribute information electronically for free, it no longer makes sense to limit ourselves to posting news four times per year.

Therefore, I propose that ILA/GODORT cease publishing a quarterly newsletter and instead launch a blog to keep the members apprised of ILA/GODORT-related news in a more timely fashion. Instead of waiting for the whole package of articles to be completed, individual news items could be published—blogged—as soon as they are ready.

This change would not have any financial implications if the blog were hosted through a free service such as Blogger (http://www.blogger.com). It would, however, require changing the bylaws, since the bylaws state that ILA/GODORT publishes a quarterly newsletter.

2011 Spring FDL Conference Summary

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Highlights of the Conference from my perspective:

After meeting the new Public Printer, Bill Boarman, and Superintendent of Documents, Mary Alice Baish, I got a strong sense that they are committed to bringing the Federal Depository Library Program in line with 21st Century practices. Mr. Boarman is actively promoting the visibility of the program to federal agencies for improved understanding of the mission of GPO and the FDLP, in particular. Significantly reduced GPO funding is likely—another reason for the Public Printer to promote the value of the FDLP to Congress and agencies.

The final version of the Ithaka Report that provides possible models for the future FDLP was not formally discussed at the meeting as announced due to some legal technicalities of an extended contract with Ithaka S+R. After GPO has had the opportunity to review the 200+ page document there will be plenty of time for discussion within the community. The individual draft documents are available at: http://fdlpmodeling.net/

FDSys http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/ is adding full-text Congressional Record (1873-1998), Statutes at Large (1951-2002), and Constitution of the United States: Analysis and Interpretation as authenticated files through a partnership with the Library of Congress. A partnership with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts will provide access to court opinions from selected participating courts.

The Statistical Abstract Program will be eliminated as proposed in the President’s 2012 Budget. This includes all formats of the Statistical Abstract of the U.S., USA Counties, State and Metropolitan Area
Data Book, County and City Data Book, State and County QuickFacts, and Map Stats. It remains to be seen whether an alternative resource is planned.

The FDLP Handbook is being revised to separate the legal requirements of the FDLP into a stand-alone publication which will be printed and distributed to all FDLibraries when it is available.

A new Depository Coordinator’s Tutorial which provides guidance in learning about managing government resources, the Depository Program, training opportunity, and professional contacts is available at http://www.fdlp.gov/help/tutorials/ndc

More information about the Council Meeting and Conference will soon be on the FDLP Desktop http://www.fdlp.gov/

Please contact me if you have questions or have comments about this mini-report.