

HOW I FELL IN LOVE WITH  
GOVERNMENT DOCS AND WHY IT  
WILL BE A LASTING RELATIONSHIP

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Conference  
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This program brought to you by the following :

**Kathy Brazee**

U.S. Government Printing Office

**Jane Canfield**

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico

**Joe Fitzanko**

Peoria Public Library

**Diane H. Smith**

LexisNexis

**Marianne Ryan**

Northwestern University



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# Kathy

Kathy Brazee  
Outreach Librarian  
Education and Outreach  
Library Services and Content Management  
U.S. Government Printing Office  
732 North Capitol Street NW  
Mail Stop: IDED  
Washington, DC 20401  
kbrazee@gpo.gov (email)  
(202) 512-1187 (phone)

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## Building lasting relationships

- **Network with other colleagues.**
  - Take advantage of existing networks! Visit other libraries. Evaluate both technical and public services.
- **Spread the wealth with colleagues and researchers.**
  - Catalog, catalog, catalog! Integrate resources into general collections and services.
- **Promote the value of access to Government information.**
  - But, be aware of perception by others.



## It was a slam dunk



- Get to share interest in Government and access to information resources.
  - What is the highest court in the land?
- Hearing government publications is “too challenging” becomes a challenge.
- Enjoy interdisciplinary, authoritative, and “in the news” relevant.
- Have a unique opportunity with Federal librarianship.

## Sound familiar?

- “I need any gov pub. It doesn’t matter what it is.”
- Funny how the “Beige Book” wasn’t a description of the color of the pub’s cover.
- Read info (a summary about government in the sunshine) one day and impressed a researcher looking for that exact same information the next.
- Cataloging is a way to stay current with what Government agencies are doing online.

# Jane

## Jane Canfield

Coordinator

Federal Government Depository Library

Pontificia Universidad Católica

Biblioteca Encarnación Valdés

2250 Ave. Las Americas

Suite 509

Ponce, PR 00717-0777

- email: [jcanfield@email.pucpr.edu](mailto:jcanfield@email.pucpr.edu)
- telephone: 787-841-2000, ext. 1806
- cellular: 787-348-5151



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## How to get hired as a Documents Librarian



Educate yourself before the interview

Learn something about what kind of documents the government publishes

Speak English

Be a News and Politics Junkie

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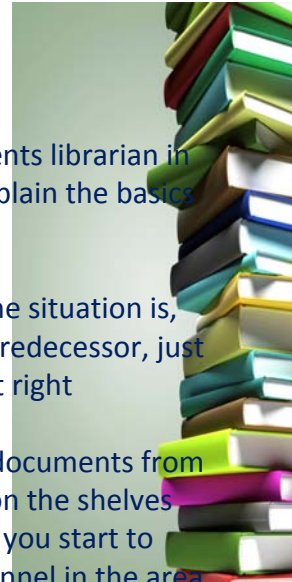


## STARTING THE JOB

Find another documents librarian in your area who can explain the basics to you

No matter how bad the situation is, do not criticize your predecessor, just learn the job and do it right

Learn to process the documents from arrival to placement on the shelves and practice it before you start to supervise other personnel in the area



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## WINNING FRIENDS ON THE JOB



Train your fellow librarians and be willing to learn from them also

Make friends with the reference department and the computer center staff

Find a project of interest to your users and for your geographic area

Learn your institution's programs and needs



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NEVER A DULL MOMENT



What's a federal government?

If this is in Spanish, how could it be from the federal government? They only speak English.

Can you answer my question if I am an independentista?



I need all the laws on children for my class project



Can the government help me pay for pet therapy

If Mona Island becomes a country how would it establish diplomatic relations with the United States Government?



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# Joe



Joe Fitzanko  
Coordinator  
Federal Government Depository  
Peoria Public Library  
107 N. E. Monroe Street  
Peoria, Illinois 61602  
• email: [joefitzanko@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us](mailto:joefitzanko@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us)  
• telephone: 309/497-2145

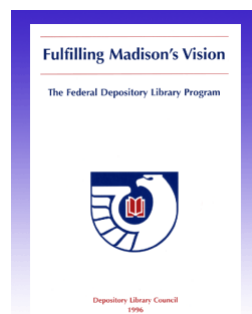
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## Be Inspired!

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- Know the role of the FDLP.
- Know the history of the FDLP.
- Know the purpose of the FDLP

*"The Federal Depository Library Program and depository librarians break down the barriers between the Federal government and the American people."*



## Not Funny, but Fun!

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*Now inspire your patrons!*

"I need to see a law."

"Oh, it's really the corresponding regulations I'm looking for..."

"Wow! Do you mean that I can really have a voice in this process?"





## Trends

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- Increase in service to inner-city homeless communities via gatekeepers/intermediaries



- Bridging the digital divide
  - Increase in e-government

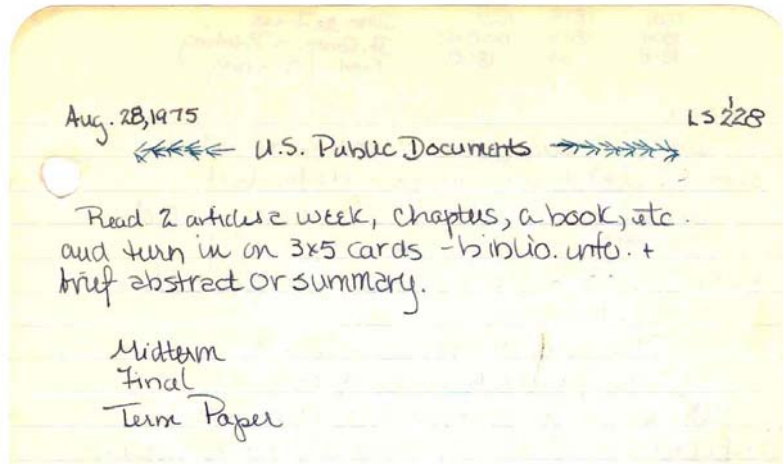


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## Diane

Diane H. Smith  
VP, Product Solutions and Management  
LexisNexis  
[Diane.smith@lexisnexis.com](mailto:Diane.smith@lexisnexis.com)  
301-941-2936

## How and When I Fell in Love with Government Documents



## Fuel the Passion

- Think cultural anthropology
- Find a mentor (or 2 or 3)
- Learn the native language
- Learn the administrative organization of the culture
- Study the goals of the natives
- Get your hands “dirty”
- Review the cultural artifacts on a daily basis and make connections
- Develop a series of “elevator speeches” to convert others



## You Want To Know WHAT?



- Youth in Asia?
- Title I, II, IX . . . you name it
- How many acres of grass there are in the US?
- Let me get this right, you want to patent something, but you can't tell me what it is...but you want me to help you?
- If the US owes you money for a horse stolen in the Civil War?
- How do you cook Mac and Cheese for 500?
- The Army Register Man . . .

## Why It Has Been a Lasting Relationship

- I love mysteries & puzzles
- Highly relevant -- constant news reinforcement
- Intellectually & technically challenging
- "Serendipity of quiriness"
- Kept fresh by varied disciplines and different skills needed
- Supportive community

# Marianne Ryan

Associate University Librarian for Public Services

Northwestern University

Evanston, IL 60208

847.467.1158 voice

847.491.8306 fax

marianne-ryan@northwestern.edu

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## The Blind Date

- Thwarted lawyer seeks meaningful connection
- A friend of a friend . . .
- “Library School?” Who knew!
- “Until something else comes along . . .”
- 21:353 Government Publications:  
love at first sight!

## A Complex Relationship

- Seduced by SuDocs classification
- Messing with my mind: left and right brain
- Codependence or just needing to make a difference?
- Going the extra mile . . . always
- Feeling at home in “a library within a library”

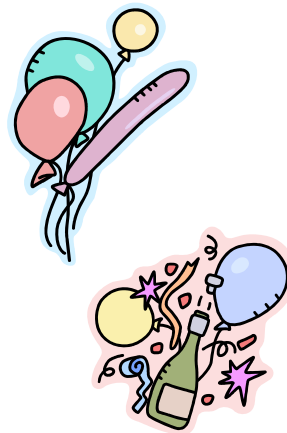
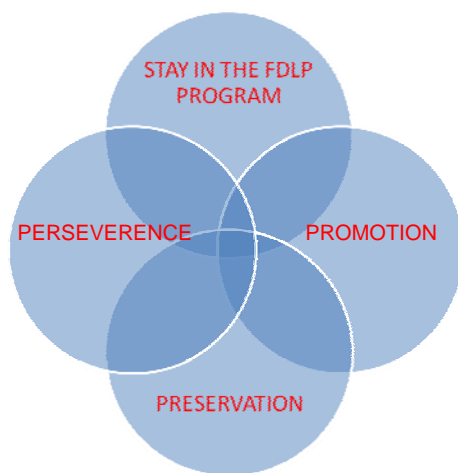
## Getting to Know You . . .

- “Recipes for Cooking Muskrat Meat”
- Annual consumption of ice cream, per capita
- First is third
- An Act of April 24, 1800 (2 Stat. 56)
- *Federal Register* – the daily newspaper of the Federal government

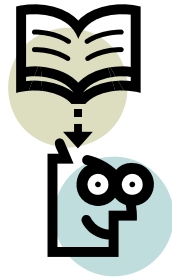
## Til Death Do Us Part

- It never gets old
- Replicating real life
- Celebrating success
- Admitting failure, never defeat
- Sharing the good news

## PARTY WITH US – What do you think?



## RETENTION OF PERSONNEL AND PROGRAMS



Provide sufficient support personnel, materials and budget

Enjoy the variety of materials and information

Look for opportunities to share your knowledge

Convince your boss that government docs are a great source of free information

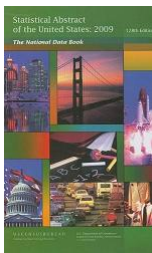
Make government information useful for your colleagues and users

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## Retention of government documents librarians and programs

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- Capitalize on shift to general reference services
  - Government Documents touch every subject area



## Retention of government documents librarians and programs

- Promote how the program and resources support the library's mission, which supports the community's Government information needs.
- Obtain library user testimonials.
- Develop strong partnerships with other libraries. Take advantage of networks.
- Be a mentor. Help a new colleague.



## Promote government documents to retain your job and program

- Identify different ways Government information resources are used in the library.
  - 75% of reference questions are answered wholly or in part using Government information at Benton Harbor Public Library. 2006 FDLP Library of the Year.  
(You Don't Have to be Rich: Practical Ways Depositories Can Mine the Intangible Wealth of Community. David Cismowski, Senior Librarian, California State Library. Spring DLC Meeting, 2007.)
- Make Government information resources more accessible and document usage.



## PROMOTION OF GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS



Offer Workshops

Teach a class of graduate students

Establish a contact with your local government

Establish contacts with other libraries

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Thank you very much for  
your participation in this program!

We hope you too have *fallen in love* with  
government documents and  
are making it a lasting relationship.