

DEPOSITORY LIBRARY SERVICES DURING THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Arlene Weible, Oregon Federal Regional Depository Coordinator, Oregon State Library and Depository Library Council Chair

Arlene leads a discussion about the effect of the Government shutdown on depository library services and the impact on users.

From 12/03/13 09:15 AM To 12/03/13 09:45 PM Pacific

From 12/03/13 12:15 PM To 12/03/13 12:45 PM Arizona

From 12/03/13 12:15 PM To 12/03/13 12:45 PM Mountain

From 12/03/13 01:15 PM To 12/03/13 01:45 PM Central

From 12/03/13 02:15 PM To 12/03/13 02:45 PM Eastern

---Begin Transcript---

Beth Harper: I second this frustration of uncertainty of length of shutdown...not sure what can be done.

Sonnet Ireland: I took the time to stress the importance of our physical collection. It seems like libraries like to push for us to weed and go electronic only. This was a great time to counter that argument.

ASTERIA NDULUTE: Some graduate students needed specific information on nutrition and available resources provided partial solutions

Connie Reik: faculty on their lists shared info too

Hallie Pritchett: There were several options for accessing Census data - free and fee-based - during the shutdown

Barbara Levergood: it was good to have the more comprehensive Regional Library's collection available to us

Kate Irwin-Smiler: I forget what agencies - I found a few links where the data wasn't available but the URL didn't redirect to a landing page. So I was able to take the URL to archive.org & get some docs.

Linda Zellmer: Data sources that are no longer printed (especially USDA but also Census)

Hallie Pritchett: Other agencies were hit or miss - mostly miss

Kathleen Amen: I tended to feel somewhat torn regarding the availability of websites; of course it was a horrible inconvenience but in a way it perhaps sent a message that these sites ARE important...something Congress needs to appreciate

Rich Gause: ditto to Sonnet's comment about ensuring folks understood the problem with total reliance on electronic

Lori Smith: Searched Hathi Trust and Wayback Machine.

Karen Russ: Our Census State Data center was not helpful - didn't even offer help and they are on our campus

Timothy Woodard: I would like to stress that LibGuides was a great help during the shut down...

Valery King: Loss of access to the National Map was a problem at my school; can we encourage agencies like USGS to leave things running rather than shuttering?

Beth Harper: I work on a campus with lots of libraries so wasn't sure what web sites were of interest to users in all areas. I couldn't provide information on status of all federal website. I asked my campus library colleagues what sites were of most interest and investigated those.

Karen Russ: sharing of libguides was wonderful

Sonnet Ireland: I know this sounds terrible...but I almost feel like it's good that these sites shut down. If they don't you miss a lot of the complaining that will happen...that helps move things along in my opinion.

Laura Horne-Popp: Users were surprised that the shutdown affected them... so it was a good reminder of what we pay for as taxpayers

Sonnet Ireland: I agree Laura.

Leola Brock: I actually had someone that thought because the government was shut down that all of our print gov doc collection was unavailable as well.

Christine Fletcher: We created a LibGuide for alternative sources of government info. Access to ERIC docs was especially problematic since they stopped sending fiche over ten years ago.

Larry Romans: can GPO take advantage of various libguides to create a combined libguide at a GPO sites?

Karen Russ: loss of info led me to give several impromptu talks about voting and what to ask for from legislative reps

Margaret Jobe: Good tip for finding online subs: search "database" and "subject". Example: database clinical trials. Found usable options using Google for Prof who normally assigned students to search for clinical trials.

Cindy Etkin: Good idea Larry

Linda Zellmer: Some U.S. Government documents in Hathi are cannot be downloaded. If they are U.S. Government documents they should be openly accessible or moved to Internet Archive

Carl Olson: Our business program uses the Census a lot. I kept my colleagues informed of what workarounds were available.

Sonnet Ireland: I got really familiar with our physical Census documents during that time. lol

Ashley Dahlen: GPO <3 our FDLs! You guys rock!

Lori Smith: I spent more time trying to put up notes on various web pages explaining that many government links wouldn't work rather than finding alternate sources.

Rich Gause: in academic setting we focused on identifying status of govt databases and research sites our faculty/students needed

Carol Arnold-Hamilton: Would have been great for me except that all our physical items are offsite

Carmen Orth-Alfie: Linda contact a HathiTrust member library so that we can report specific gov pubs that are not appearing. I have a good response to my requests.

Sonnet Ireland: Same here Lori...I was trying to tweet facebook and blog about what was down...and what each agency's plans were.

Roseann Bowerman: I agree with Linda Z. the fact that the U.S. govt publications on Hathi trust are not fully downloadable is a real problem in situations like this.

Karen Kitchens: Not sure why agencies couldn't keep databases up during shutdown as archived. I understand that new content wouldn't be added but they could have left them up as they were on the day of shutdown.

Sonnet Ireland: If they were left up though there was no one to fix problems as they arise. I do think in some cases it was a strategic move. It brought much more awareness to the situation.

Kathleen Amen: I assumed that even if an agency kept the site up if there was a glitch or somehow service was interrupted it couldn't get fixed.

Karen Russ: For those of you in this field for years does the shutdown remind you of the fun the day DC shutdown because of an impending hurricane in the early days of online access?

Karen Kitchens: I see that does make sense.

Mary Alice Baish: We learned that some agencies had their websites inside their firewalls so they had no choice.

Valery King: I hope some Congress people heard from their constituents about it! :)

Kathleen Amen: The whole situation was similar to our administration's (royal we there) wanting us to keep on providing services without more resources; do you struggle along and make do or do you put your foot down and say it just can't be done?

Sonnet Ireland: I agree with you Kathleen. I think there is a certain wisdom in saying enough is a enough.

Connie Reik: CENSUS

Barbara Levergood: Census Bureau!!!!!!!

Linda Zellmer: Data cannot be harvested. It either needs to be downloaded in its entirety or sent on CD-ROM

Vickie Mix: Agriculture

Sandra McAninch: those that went dark during the shutdown should go to top of list

Kathleen Amen: Isn't American FactFinder a dynamic site though? How can it be harvested?

Lisa Hartman: Library of congress

ASTERIA NDULUTE: USDA

Connie Reik: CDC

Barbara Levergood: I meant the digitized paper volumes from Census

Laura Horne-Popp: in the event of another shutdown would GPO be able to keep its site up? If not we should be discussing how GPO work with libraries outside of the federal system that can provide back up

Tammy Fishman: NOAA

Valery King: Interior

Lori Smith: You would almost need to mirror a site like the FactFinder rather than harvest it.

Karen Russ: CDC a good choice

Connie Reik: National Map

Christine Fletcher: USDA--we're a Land Grant. Mirror sites for USDA databases would be good--those are used live in classes.

Timothy Woodard: BLS Bureau of Labor Statistics

Sonnet Ireland: I think that's when we focus on the physical. It's important that we stay connected to each other...that way if a library needs info that a depository has we can share...I would happily scan information and send it during a shut down.

Lisa Nickum: Perhaps GPO could create agreements with these agencies similar to agreements with library partners.

Lori Smith: All the major statistical agencies.

Connie Reik: wouldn't a mirror site cost money?

Marie Concannon: Maybe in the event of a shutdown the OMB recommendation could suggest agencies mention the FDLP as a possible alternate resource

Valery King: I was actually somewhat surprised at how much of BLS was available. It was something nice in a difficult 2 weeks

Kevin McClure: PURL redirection to GPO's site would really reinforce the value of GPO & FDLP and earn some very positive publicity at the next time of trouble.

Timothy Woodard: Maybe increasing your physical data

Anne Whitver: yes!

Dorothy Ormes: yes

Leslie Cunningham: Absolutely

Christopher Brown: Yes links to harvested copies are essential

Tammy Fishman: That would be very helpful.

Kate Irwin-Smiler: definitely.

Barbara Levergood: I think both is good. sometimes the harvested set is not as complete.

Teri Taylor: yes

Valery King: It would indeed

Kathleen Amen: PURLS plus links to agency copy is a VERY good practice

Danya Leebaw: Yes very helpful.

Beth Harper: Second Kevin's point.

Beth Downing: I think that the more access points the better. If one does not work at least there is a possibility of getting the information.

Sandra McAninch: were the harvested copies available during the shutdown?

Ashley Dahlen: PURLS routed to harvested content worked; PURLS routing to agency sites sometimes worked

Timothy Woodard: so will this be a great time to increase your physical copies or just mainly keep a balance with electronic & paper?

Cindy Etkin: Once the shutdown happened we were not at work to redirect PURLs

Lori Smith: Yes as long as GIO exists it should be advertised as widely as possible.

Larry Romans: Who could say no to promoting this?

Valery King: Promoting use of GIO would take some stress off the doc librarians certainly.

Karen Russ: Timothy I think that is up to individual library. Look at what you can get in hard copy in relation to what you wish you had

Rich Gause: If agency website is going dark need to encourage them to have the "website down" posting include the redirect information to GPO GIO FDLP libraries.

Beth Harper: yes promote FDLP libraries as well as GIO

Marie Concannon: I agree with Rich

Sonnet Ireland: Timothy I think a balance is needed. If you know you're people heavily use Census information don't discard those items.

Timothy Woodard: thanks

Lisa Nickum: The GIO option could always be present on the records pages etc. for users (so no change would need to be made during the shutdown).

Connie Reik: but current Census is only online didn't help to have everything else in print

Sonnet Ireland: I think we deal with so much pressure to weed...and sometimes we get forced to weed items that turn out to be necessary when this stuff happens.

Sonnet Ireland: Actually we got print Census materials from 2010

Connie Reik: only housing

Sonnet Ireland: It was better than nothing.

Karen Russ: Sonnet I used this as a means to slow the pressure to weed by keeping special stats on questions I could not answer online but had in paper. Extra work but it slowed the admin's harassment

ASTERIA NDULUTE: Thus microfiche should continue to help us during such crisis

Beth Harper: Yes test public access to LOCKS-USDOCS

Lisa Nickum: There should be communication between GPO and the LOCKSS-USDOCS and library partners well before any future shutdown.

Lori Smith: I think we do need to have digital depositories as a backup in case GPO itself has to go dark at some point.

Kathleen Amen: I second Lori's remark

Timothy Woodard: I agree lori

Sandra McAninch: however current LOCKSS is mostly just a reflection of FDsys which did not go down

Sonnet Ireland: That is awesome Asteria! I'm currently working towards including our subject specialists...hoping to show how gov docs can fill in the gaps when we don't have money to buy books and journals.

Linda Zellmer: Agencies that issue data need to allow us to buy copies on DVD

Anne Whitver: thank you

Rosemary LaSala: Thanks Arlene

Tammy Fishman: thank you Arlene!

Kate Irwin-Smiler: Thanks!

ASTERIA NDULUTE: Thank you and this is very enlightening.

Ella Shurr: thank you!

Perveen Rustomfram: Thank you!

Ashley Dahlen: Hello - we will get started at 3pm EST with an FDLP Forecast Study Overview.

Arlene Weible: Thanks Everyone great conversation!

Kevin McClure: It was interesting to see how quickly things went from "Who needs libraries for government information? It's all on the web!" to "Why aren't libraries doing something?" So these crises are opportunities to prove that yes we're still relevant and doing something.

Rich Gause: FDLP libraries serving as partner sites for agencies might also help provide continuity when an agency website does a major update. FLDP partner site can preserve previous look until the new site has all the bugs worked out. I've gone crazy sometimes trying to find a source I've used before that seems to be gone in a "new and better" refreshed agency site. It's been a recurring problem with state agency websites especially when a new governor is elected.

Sonnet Ireland: I agree Kevin. It was a great time to show people that we aren't obsolete just yet!

Karen Russ: Very true Kevin.

Arlene Weible: Promoting the FDLP during a shutdown is a great idea ... but the libraries will have to take the lead since GPO staff would not be available!

Karen Russ: Promoting our collection is one of our responsibilities so we should not limit to shutdowns but it sure made a few eyes open when they had to look some place else

Cindy Etkin: We'll start back in about 5 minutes

Sonnet Ireland: I agree Arlene. We tweeted about the shutdown and I emailed our librarians about different resources that were shutdown that affected them...or the subjects they work with.

---End Transcript---