

Doc · u · ments

As this column goes to press, it includes some news which will either be outdated by the time it appears in *North Carolina Libraries* at the end of June or will be already known to readers of *The Docket* or of *Tar Heel Libraries*, both of which have deadlines later in May and which will be published earlier in June. This news will be apparent as one reads the column.

State Documents

The bill to amend the state depository law (House bill 241/Senate bill 208) has passed through hearings in the House Committee on Public Libraries and the Senate Committee on State Government and has been sent to the Appropriations Committee, where it is awaiting final action, along with other bills requiring appropriations. In this case, the bill includes a request for \$36,000 a year for the next two years for additional staff to obtain and catalog state documents (See "N.C.L.A. endorsement of state-wide legislative appropriations requests for 1979-81," *North Carolina Libraries*, Spring, 1979, p. 49, for the budget justification). The State Librarian, David McKay, has been assured by the House leadership that the bill will be acted upon in this session, which should end about May 30.

In its present form, the bill would amend the present depository law, in *General statutes* 147-50, by directing every State official and every head of a State agency issuing any document (with certain exceptions) to deposit five copies with the Division of State Library. "The State Library shall publish a checklist of publications received from State agencies and shall distribute the checklist without charge to all requesting libraries" and shall forward two of the five copies it has received from State agencies to the Library of Congress. The act will be effective from July 1, 1979. As indicated in his letter in the March, 1979, issue of *The Docket*, David McKay hopes that this bill will be the basis of establishing at least one complete depository library in the state and that a comprehensive checklist can be produced. He also suggested that a small task force of documents librarians meet with him to evaluate the need for and feasibility of establishing a state-wide depository and distribution system. As reported in the March issue of *The Docket*, the task force did meet on February 15.

By the time this issue of *NCL* is published, we should know the fate of the depository bill. We hope to report on it in the July/August issue of *Tar Heel Libraries*.

State Data Center Program

The State Data Center is a joint statistical project of the U. S. Bureau of the Census and three agencies of North Carolina State Government (although, at this writing, it was not certain that one of these agencies—the Institute for Research in Social Sciences (IRSS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—will continue to participate). The aims of the project are, generally to increase the dissemination and use of Census Bureau data, particularly machine-readable products, computer software, and maps which are not distributed to GPO depository libraries. As census data is becoming

increasingly voluminous, moreover, relatively less of it is available in published form in comparison to the amount that is in machine readable form. The Division of State Budget will be the Data Center coordinating agency and will receive machine readable products free of charge from the Census Bureau. It will in turn make available this information to state or private agencies which need statistics that are not in printed reports. (At an early stage of the plans, it was expected that IRSS would handle requests for tape data from colleges and universities; the present status of this aspect has not been decided.)

The State Library, through selected public libraries, will provide assistance to the public in the use of printed Census reports, most of which are also provided to GPO depository libraries. The Census Bureau will furnish ten libraries, or Affiliate Centers, with a basic set of printed reports and train the librarians in using the reports. In the case of requests that cannot be answered from printed reports, the Affiliates will call the State Library for assistance, such as is the practice at present.

The Affiliate Centers are Pack Memorial Library, Asheville; Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County; Durham County Library; Cumberland County Public Library, Fayetteville; Greensboro Public Library; Sheppard Memorial Library, Greenville; Onslow County Public Library, Jacksonville; Wake County Public Library; New Hanover County Public Library, Wilmington; and Forsyth County Public Library, Winston-Salem.

The program is only a year old—the "Joint Statistical Agreement between Bureau of the Census and the State of North Carolina" which established the formal roles of the respective agencies was signed in June, 1978—but it builds upon roles which the three state agencies have already been taking. As the program takes shape, we should hear more about it. The State Data Center Advisory Council met as this column was going to press. According to Nathaniel Boykin, of the State Library, the Council planned to issue a newsletter and make some decisions on future development of the program.

Workshop on State Documents

The State Library sponsored a workshop on state documents on March 23, which was attended by about 60 librarians from state agencies. Speakers were Francine Ewing, of the State Demographer's office (speaking on budget development statistics); Charles Rothwell, Head of Public Health Statistics Branch and Head of Health Services System Branch (public health statistics); B. E. Dail, Asst. Director for Tax Research Division (review statistics); Mike Rakouskas, Research Chief for Industrial Development Division (economic statistics); Frances Hall, Supreme Court Library (*North Carolina reports and indexes*); and Rebecca Ballantine, Librarian, Institute of Government (North Carolina law). Marjorie Lindsay, of the State Library, led a discussion with librarians from the agencies. The meeting ended with a tour of the Legislative Library, Vivian Halpern, librarian.

Revision of Title 44, United States Code

The following information was taken from the minutes of the meeting of the NELINET Government Documents Task Group, March 20: The Joint Committee on Printing is writing a report on revising Title 44 and is finding it very difficult. The report would address issues such as defining "printing" in the light of new information technologies; centralization of government printing and publishing; the cost of printing government documents and who

should bear the cost; the role of the Depository Library System in the dissemination of public information; the proper role of private enterprise in the foregoing; and the need for standards to guide the future direction of the application of the law as publishing patterns change. The Information Industry Association has submitted a position paper, "Statement of issues involved in revision of Title 44." Anyone who is interested in this question may write to their congressional representatives, members of the JCP, or to Fay Padgett (JCP deputy staff director) or Gordon Andrew McKay (general counsel of the JCP). Hearings might be scheduled for Fall, 1979.

The Docket

Elaine Lengle, editor of *The Docket* for the past year, is leaving Western Carolina University and the academic library field for school librarianship. Her last issue of *The Docket* will appear in June. We wish her well and look forward to working with John Erlandson, of the BA/SS Division of the Wilson Library at UNC-CH, who is the new editor.

Fry Report on Government Publications

The following report has just come to our attention: Bernard M. Fry, *Government publications: their role in the national program for library and information services* (Wash., National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, Dec. 1978, 128 p. SuDocs no.: Y 3.L 61:2 P 96 Shipping list no. 12186). The table of contents covers such topics as: Government publications: an underutilized national information resource; Printing and publishing responsibilities of the federal government; The federal depository system: implications for change; Special requirements of state and local government publications; Role of private enterprise in publishing and providing access; Proposed national center for government publications; and Summary of findings and recommendations. Dr. Fry recommends the establishment of a National Commission to Study Public Access to Government Publications and Information; a Federal program of research and development to investigate major problems of access by the public to government publications and information at all levels; and a revised structure for the federal depository library program.

We have not been able to read the complete report as yet, and would welcome articles from people who would like to contribute.

Michael Cotter

NCLA

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