



Funny things happen when you notice book dust and red rot under your fingernails as you sit down to write an essay about digital government documents. You start thinking about where we really are as a government documents com-

munity. Lots of federal depository libraries are shoring up, if not drastically downsizing, their tangible collections. To their credit, most comply fully with their regional federal depository library (FDL) and with GPO guidelines, and are also retaining unique items from state and local governments. Larger libraries, frequently in the same geographic area as the smaller selectives in question, tend to take these discards, as is the case with my library. This means that many of us in large selectives or regional depositories are in the position of checking thousands of discarded items against local holdings, and it is dirty work. So as I inhale gov docs dust while I try to follow the latest Web 2.0 trends, my thoughts have wandered a bit. Here are some of the things I see, and I need someone else to tell me if I am on track.

First, it is interesting to see libraries adopt next generation online catalog systems such as WorldCat Local to provide a new interface to their holdings (basically using a local version of OCLC WorldCat to provide access to your own materials). This has happened at our shop, and it opened up all our collections, including government resources, in ways we could not have foreseen. If your institution takes such a step, be forewarned: librarians and veteran library users may be reluctant to embrace this platform. But a vast majority of users will take to it right away and love it. Google Books is interoperable with WorldCat.org through Google's "Find this book in a library" feature, and then WorldCat.org in turn is a direct connection to most libraries' online catalogs and user-initiated request/interlibrary loan (ILL) operations. All of a sudden, the digital can become the tangible. People identify a book they want via the Internet (WorldCat or Google or GPO or anywhere else), and there are now fewer and fewer clicks required to obtain the book from a library or download, print, or purchase it. Isn't this the moment we've been waiting for with government information? Have you checked your library's ILL statistics lately? Many ILL departments are booming—some need to add more staff to keep up with the demand for service. Books and journals and

