

**Oral History Interview**  
**with**  
**Francis J. Buckley, Jr.**

Interview Conducted by  
Bernadine Abbott Hoduski  
July 12, 2009

Government Information Living Indexes  
Oral History Project

# *Government Information Living Indexes*

## *Oral History Project*

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### **Interview History**

Interviewer: Bernadine Abbott Hoduski  
Transcriber: Natalie Nielson  
Editor: Tanya Finchum

The recording and transcript of this interview were processed at the Oklahoma State University Library in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

### **Project Detail**

The oral histories collected as a result of this project will preserve the voices and experiences of government information workers who have invested a good portion of their careers to providing and insuring access to government information.

This project was approved by the Oklahoma State University Institutional Review Board on February 15, 2007.

### **Legal Status**

Scholarly use of the recordings and transcripts of the interview with Fran Buckley is unrestricted. The interview agreement was signed on July 12, 2009.

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### **About Francis J. Buckley, Jr. ...**

Francis J. Buckley, Jr., Superintendent of Documents 1997-2002, grew up in Marblehead, Massachusetts and as a teenager resided in Hendersonville, North Carolina. His interest in libraries began as a young child and he would go on to earn a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in library science from the University of Michigan. After graduating from college, in 1966 he began working at the Detroit Public Library. Soon he was drafted for a tour of duty in the U.S. Army, including a year in Vietnam. Returning to the Detroit Public Library, he worked his way up in the ranks from reference librarian to associate director of public services, leaving in 1994 to become the Director of the Shaker Heights Public Library in Shaker Heights, Ohio. After serving as the Superintendent of Documents, Buckley was appointed the Interim Director of the D.C. Public Library 2004-2005.

From the beginning of Buckley library career he was interested in government documents and soon became active in the Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) within the American Library Association (ALA). He has served several terms on the ALA Council and a term on the ALA Executive Board, has been chair of GODORT, and has been a member and chair of the Federal Depository Council. He has also been active in other library associations. For over 20 years he has championed the importance of public access to government information, appearing before Congress in support of legislative changes impacting the depository program.

Although Buckley is retired he continues to participate in ALA, GODORT, and continues his lifelong commitment to ensuring public access to federal government information.

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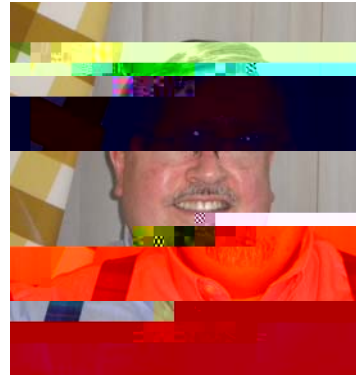
## *Oral History Project*

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### **Francis Buckley, Jr.**

Oral History Interview

Interviewed by  
Bernadine Abbott Hoduski  
July 12, 2009  
Chicago, Illinois



**Abbott Hoduski** *Welcome Francis Buckley. My name is Bernadine Abbott Hoduski and today is July 12, 2009. We're in Chicago attending the American Library Association Conference and this is part of the Government Documents Roundtable Oral History Project.*

**Buckley** Yes, thank you.

**Abbott Hoduski** *Let's start out with when you were a little kid, your childhood and where you grew up and the library you went to as a child. I know you have some interesting stories about your first library.*

**Buckley** I grew up in Marblehead, Massachusetts, as a young boy and my first library was the town hall library in Marblehead. As a child, it was truly impressive because the children's room had a large fireplace and over the fireplace was a copy of the Spirit of '76, one of the original paintings with the drummer boy and the fife and the flag carrier and so forth. So this was quite awe inspiring. It was huge, of course. So that was great. When I was in middle school, the town built a new library and I wasn't aware of this at the time, but later I was at a program and I learned that Tom Galvan who I had later come to know as Executive director of ALA and President of ALA and was the first librarian there. So I twitted him, I'm afraid, about the fact that I was a little boy in his library.

Years later, I went back to the library and I was going to send him something about the library figuring they might have a current brochure. Well, they didn't have anything in print that I could take but they had a whole cabinet file of newspaper [clippings] about when the building was built and pictures of Tom and his wife at the opening of the new library. He apparently was there for [several] years before he moved on. So I photocopied those and sent them to him about a year before he passed away. He was very appreciative because he said of course he had not

kept those clippings. So I was glad I had done that and it was sort of fun as a connection with ALA.

**Abbott Hoduski** *Well tell me about any librarians that stood out in your mind during the time when you were a young person.*

**Buckley** Well when I was a teenager, my family moved to North Carolina, Hendersonville, North Carolina where we had a small library, too. The woman who was in charge at that library, Mrs. Seagle, was very, very nice and very professional. I used to go and volunteer shelving books and so forth in this small library. Later, when I was in library school we had to do a project writing a management assessment of a library. So I, of course, picked the small library in Hendersonville and went back and by this time was able to interview her as a library school student with more understanding of how a library ran and what was involved in it. She told me several things. First, that that library was perhaps the first Carnegie library because it was built when a person who came to Hendersonville for retirement was involved in trying to build a library there and personally knew Andrew Carnegie and hit him up for a contribution to build this library before he set up the program of donations to libraries.

**Abbott Hoduski** *semeoa92 93*

**Buckley**

**Abbott Hoduski**

**Buckley**

**Abbott Hoduski**

**Buckley**

**Abbott Hoduski** *That's a great story. If someone had told you in high school that one day you would work with government documents, what would you have thought?*

**Buckley** (Laughter) I would have been completely baffled because both the Marblehead library and the Hendersonville Library were small general libraries with circulating collections of popular reading materials and some reference materials, but not many. I mean a small non-fiction collection. So they were really just—I felt wonderful places. They were very people oriented places. They were friendly with all these things to read. In high school I worked in my high school library then I worked in the town library. I was just used to a very general kind of library service, a very publicly oriented, friendly kind of service. I never really envisioned working with documents so that, in fact, in library school, I never took the government documents class.

**Abbott Hoduski** *You didn't? Former Superintendent of Documents and you never took a government documents course?*

**Buckley** Well, I even taught government documents later at Wayne State University.

**Abbott Hoduski** *Well that kind of leads us into your career in government documents. So how long have you actually been in government documents? Did you do that right out of library school?*

**Buckley** No, no. I went to work for the Detroit Public Library after graduating at the University of Michigan. And I was first in the General Information section and the main bibliographic center and providing general information to people coming into the library and directing people within the library to answer their more in-depth questions. And so daily, I would have people with questions on statistics or law or government information and many of them would be sent to the Sociology and Economics department of the library. The library divided the government documents into subject departments so there were a lot in Science and Technology, a lot in Sociology, and some scattered in other departments of the library. But I thought to myself, 'Oh the librarians down in S & E [Sociology and Economics],’ as we called it, get all these awful questions.

Then one day the head of the department came to see me and said they had decided to transfer me because they often had people work in General Information for a little while and then they would work in a subject department. They were going to send me to Sociology and Economics. I thought, "Oh, I'm going to be at the receiving end of these people with these hard, hard questions." So I was on the receiving end of

all of these questions. Certainly, we had a large collection of other materials too, but a large collection of documents and law books and so forth.

The challenge of working with government information and the ways and reasons people needed it and what they were going to use it for [inspired me]. I really was [impressed] by the fact that we were helping people with information they needed for real purposes. I mean, it's fine that people just like to read and I like to read. But here we were helping people with their ordinary needs. Whether it was an autoworker coming in who wanted to find out about the *Consumer Price Index* because his wages were going to be [increased] or whatever. We actually did a lot of work with the companies in the Detroit area. All the major auto companies and other companies would call us regularly for government documents because we were their regional. So, you know, we had auto questions, in-depth questions from the special libraries that were connected with the auto companies and then other libraries. It was just a challenging situation that I found enjoyable and that was my introduction, on-the-job, to working with government information.

**Abbott Hoduski** *When did you start getting involved in professional organizations and what were the first issues that you dealt with in a professional association? When did you get involved in the ALA?*

**Buckley** After working in the reference department there with government documents and other subjects, after several years, the woman who was in charge of the receipt of government documents for the Detroit Public Library retired, Mary Neffler. The way the library had things organized, she was the government documents specialist and received all the documents and then would send them to the appropriate departments within the library. At that time, initially, the library wasn't using SuDocs classification. They were cataloging individual documents and assigning unique numbers that were used in the library. But when she retired, I applied for this position as a promotion and because at that time I was quite interested in documents. I was selected and became the government document specialist. After that, a year or two later, the Depository Library Council had begun to be organized. No, I'll back up. In 1974, the GPO [Government Printing Office] sponsored one of the first meetings of all regional depositories, in New York City.

**Abbott Hoduski** *I remember that.*

**Buckley** Yes. Well, the director of the library came to me and said she had received this notice about this meeting and we had been invited to send a representative and would I like to go because here I was the specialist in the library. So I went. And from that I started going to ALA and getting

involved in GODORT [Government Documents Roundtable] because that was at the same period GODORT was being organized.

I should mention this as a little aside, when I walked into that room in New York City, the hotel room where this meeting was held, and looked around I was quite surprised to see Ridley Kessler who was the regional librarian from North Carolina who had gone to high school with me. His mother had been our high school librarian. So I had worked for Mrs. Kessler and knew Ridley. He was a year or two ahead of me. I thought it was truly amazing that two people from a very small town in North Carolina would both have become regional, not just depository librarians, but regional depository librarians and come together in that meeting. So that was a nice human interest kind of thing.

But from that meeting, I then became more interested in looking outside the library in terms of what we could do to improve our depository program. And maybe as an answer to that question too, one of the things I had to do as a depository librarian there, was every month go through the *Monthly Catalog* and look at all the things we were not sent. As a regional we were getting a complete set of documents. However, in the *Monthly Catalog*, every month, there were all of these documents with these little black bullets that were not sent to libraries. So one of the things the Detroit Public Library had done consistently for quite a number of years was to try to get all of those things that were listed that were not sent to the library.

So we would write letters to the agencies and some agencies would send them anyway, if they had a supply of them or we were early members of the Documents Expediting Project at the library of Congress. They were a source, also, for some of those documents. They sent some of them automatically. But if we ordered them through them, they would try to get copies to send to us.

**Abbott Hoduski** *Now the black dot indicated that supposedly they'd been sent to depository libraries, if it had a black dot.*

**Buckley** Then I've gotten it confused. Maybe it was a little dagger.

**Abbott Hoduski** *There was some kind of a symbol that indicated it had not gone to depository libraries.*

**Buckley** Right

**Abbott Hoduski** *Those were the ones you were going after?*

**Buckley** That's right, sorry.



- Abbott Hoduski** *I was asking because, maybe even though they said they had sent it to you, you weren't getting it and that's another problem.*
- Buckley** Very rarely, very rarely. We received 99.9% of....
- Abbott Hoduski** *So you didn't have that problem?*
- Buckley** I really didn't have that problem that we had not received the things they said they were sending. But it was all the things they indicated they had gotten copies of, they had cataloged them, but not gotten copies for distribution. So we would request them directly. I used to also have to go through some of the other bibliographies such as the *Government Reports Announcements* for technical reports and so forth. I would order things that were not sent on deposit. One of our big issues was having as complete a collection as possible but also covering the waterfront of topics that we would be asked for in the library given the fact that we were not only serving just the citizens of Detroit but industry, a lot. So we would try to collect a lot of technical reports, too, that might not have been sent to us automatically.
- Abbott Hoduski** *So those documents would be merged into your regular depository collection?*
- Buckley** Right.
- Abbott Hoduski** *So it would be difficult now for somebody to look and say which ones you went out and got individually and which ones came as part of the program.*
- Buckley** Yes, although we stamped the things that came through as depository with a stamp that indicated they were depository. So the other things would not have had that stamp on them, but we would have classified them in our collection of government documents.
- Abbott Hoduski** *But if somebody was just looking at a listing or bibliography online or something, there wouldn't be an indication of how it came in?*
- Buckley** No, no. In fact years later, after I had moved up the hierarchy in the library and was no longer the document specialist, Paul Thurston, who had succeeded me, did a project with CIS when they were working on their Committee Print collections and Hearing collections. He found we had hundreds of committee prints and so forth that they had not found either in the sources they had checked. They'd checked the Senate library and the House library and so forth. We had a number of historical committee prints and hearings that my predecessors had collected often that were not readily available in the other libraries in Washington.

**Abbott Hoduski** *Because of you and other librarians like Arnie Richards, out in Kansas in Manhattan, were doing the same thing, getting the committee prints, and then GODORT pushed for committee prints to be part of the program. I remember when I was hired at the Joint Committee on Printing my very first project was to visit all 55 committees to persuade them to send committee prints to the depository libraries. So you, then, had been doing all that work to identify them...*

**Buckley** We'd been doing it independently, yes. So one of the things that I took on as an issue, personally, was to try and push GPO to be more comprehensive in what they collected and what they sent out to libraries. I wasn't a committee staffer like you were.

**Abbott Hoduski** *But you were the customer...*

**Buckley** But we were doing this individually and we were the customer, yes. Just the fact that we were pestering the committees individually would have helped GPO to eventually get them into the program because the committees were having to respond to a number of librarians, like myself, to supply them individually when they should have been [distributed] by GPO as part of the printing process.

**Abbott Hoduski** *Yes, some of those committees thought that the Library of Congress would then send them out free to all these libraries, these committee prints. So they thought they were doing the right thing. They didn't understand what was going on until it was explained to them. I think, probably, between you and Arnie and others that were putting pressure on the Government Printing Office to expand their distribution system that you really were helping to formulate policy. One reason I was hired was because there were so many letters of complaint coming in to GPO and the Joint committee on Printing that the Chairman said we have to hire somebody to deal with all these complaints and find out what was going on. So you were out there making trouble and getting results.*

**Buckley** Yes. Yes.

**Abbott Hoduski** *In your career, what do you think was one of the major challenges that you faced?*

**Buckley** Even though I moved up to administrative positions within the library, Detroit Library and so forth, I maintained a professional interest and concern about government information. I had been appointed to the



and certain non-profit organizations too. So that spread the word and got people more involved in pushing for this and helped achieve a recognition that there was a pressure point and they needed to do something about it.

Even though the law didn't get changed perhaps in most cases, there were things that were done to try and amend the program. I think over the years, we achieved a great deal in terms of greater recognition of the importance of government information. We certainly achieved greater dissemination and access to government information. And certainly moving into the electronic arena, there's even broader dissemination but there are new questions, maybe even old questions. There's still question of completeness of the material collected. There are still problems. Now there are problems of preservation and so forth. And problems of libraries who are the outpost of access being able to have the information and have the training and be able to really service the needs of the public. But I think the strength of the depository program has been the decentralization of access points and having selective depositories all across the county, not in every community but a broad array of them. So it's been a very important program.

**Abbott Hoduski** *I want to talk about when you served on the Joint Committee on Printing, Ad hoc committee to revise Title 44. You served on that with Lois Mills who was also from ALA and people from all different kinds of organizations, congressional staff. And at that time Michael DiMario was a General Council at the Government Printing Office. And you got to know Michael when he was General Council and later he became Superintendent of Documents and then became Public Printer and then*

**Buckley**

So during that period I was chairing that organization and again working with Mike DiMario who at that point was the Public Printer and working with Congressional Staff and so forth and lobbying for changes and developing a proposal for legislative change.

When Wayne Kelley resigned unexpectedly, and over an unfortunate incident really, Mike DiMario was in the position of needing to fill the position of Superintendent of Documents. When he called out of the blue, I was the library director in Shaker Heights, Ohio, a non-depository library. But here I was chairing this committee that was involved with legislative change and there was talk on the Hill of change. He wanted someone who could step in as Superintendent of Documents who had a background in the legislative proposals that were going on, someone who had a background as a documents librarian who had an understanding of the way in which the information was used, the documents were used and how libraries were organized and what they did with the documents and somebody who had some management experience. Since I'd been the associate director of the Detroit Public Library, over a staff of 300-400, I was used to larger systems. He tapped me out of the blue—called me out of the blue to ask whether I would be interested in the position.

I had to take a deep breath because this was a surprise and I said, 'Oh what's involved in this position?' I did the standard library questions, you know, was there a job description for this? And you know what's involved in it? He said, "You know what's involved in it. It's just what it says in Title 44. That's the job." And I said, 'Well I know what it says in Title 44 but nothing more. No, no, no. There's politics involved and there's management involved and all of that.' He said, "You know all that stuff." He said, "Just send me your resume." So I went home and told my wife I'd gotten this call and I said I'd send a resume.

So I sent a resume in and the next week I happened to be in Washington for a meeting of this coalition of library organizations working on legislative change and we were having several staff members from GPO there to talk to us including Andy Sherman who was head of Congressional Relations and Public Affairs for GPO. After our large group broke up, Andy went out in the hall and apparently called Mike and said, "Well Fran's here now." And so, Andy comes in and says, "Mike would like to talk to you." So out in the hall having this group of librarians—20 librarians around and so forth, "Mike says your resume looked good. When can you start?" And I'm saying "What? Isn't there a process? I'd thought you'd be collecting"—I thought he was going to

He

**Abbott Hoduski**

**Buckley**

something.

There was even more concern on the part of some depository librarians about having collections of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reports and other things that were in their collections already and were these things that terrorist might use. Now, I was in consultation with the people at NRC to say should we withdraw things. I'm getting concerns from depository librarians. Amusingly enough in a sense, they said, "Oh no, our microfiche are so hard to use and to find, no one will ever find anything that would be hazardous." But we did have to withdraw one USGS CD-ROM that showed the location of water resources everywhere [which] they determined should be classified.

**Abbott Hoduski**

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**Abbott Hoduski** *So that was a very important decision that you and Michael made during that period.*

**Buckley** Extremely important to say, “No, we didn’t need to charge.” In fact part of the rationale was it would cost us more to try and charge than it would because if you were charging incrementally for access to documents, it could cost more to administer that than you could ever collect in revenue. But much more important policy in that was the documents were much more accessible to people not just in depository libraries, but in libraries or anywhere people would have access to a computer to access that.

My concern also though in the whole electronic process was that it shouldn’t be whole hog. I tried to argue for a mixed media program, that some documents needed to stay in print. Libraries needed some documents in print that might be available electronically but for public use they would be easier if they were in print. We did set up a small number of documents that we said would always be available in print. It was never as broad a cross section of documents as I felt I would like to see as a public librarian who serviced a public which most of them didn’t have and to this day don’t have computers.

One of the annoying things I felt within government was the many officials who would say, “Oh we can put it up electronically and everyone will have access.” Well everyone doesn’t have access. And they would say, “Oh well they can get it in a library, whether it’s a depository library or another library.” And I would say, ‘And exactly

**Abbott Hoduski**



**Buckley**

Well, I actually come from a long line of ministers. (laughter). In fact, one of my ancestors was a missionary to the Indians in western Massachusetts. So I don't know whether it's a heritage of concern for public service and concern for other individuals, but I see in the people who are dedicated to working with government information and so forth, a real concern. It's not just a librarian's concern because I think most librarians are very concerned about public service. But documents librarians have seen that niche and the challenges of doing that and the importance of that and really become passionate about carrying that forward. I think it's not born and bred in individuals, but I think everyone has seen the value, the importance, and recognized the challenge of providing that access but seen the need to do so and, sort of, adopted that concern.

**Abbott Hoduski**

*What is one of your favorite memories involving working with government information or with government information people? Some unique memory or experience?*

**Buckley**

Well, maybe a couple of things. Certainly I've been very pleased and proud when I've been asked by ALA to testify at Congressional Hearings as a representative of the association. You've worked for congress, so maybe it's not such a big thing for you but for individuals who are librarians from Detroit or wherever, and you're suddenly going to be at a congressional hearing and testifying at a hearing is a big step. Certainly the ALA office has helped prepare your testimony and so forth, but then you're the point person at this hearing.

One of the things I discovered through experience is congressman don't always follow the script. They are told in advance—they are given a copy of what you're going to say. It's your official testimony. And their staff has often helped them develop some questions for you. And sometimes, you're even told what those questions are going to be the night before you're going to appear. So you think you're prepared. But if a congressman is thinking about something else, and this happened to me one time, he was thinking about revenue sharing and the money that was sent out to communities across the country and here I am someone from Detroit and he says to me "and exactly how's the money that goes out to Detroit through revenue sharin

**Abbott Hoduski**

**Buckley**

[I was scheduled to testify before a congressman from the Boston area.]

**Abbott Hoduski**

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**Abbott Hoduski**

**Buckley**

get it out of here. Over time as we worked with the Public Printers with the Superintendents of Documents, many of them became very very library oriented, very concerned about libraries as Mike DiMario did over time. So it was great working with them.

And sadly just a couple of years ago, I went to Carl LaBarre's funeral. I was talking with one of his grandsons who said, "You know he always talked about you librarians and what he had done with you and how nice it had been and he just was very proud of working with libraries." I thought that was very nice. So many of the people with GPO particularly at that period had been ex-Navy people and Carl had been a Navy captain. He actually was a Pearl Harbor survivor.

**Abbott Hoduski** *He was a hero at Pearl Harbor. He saved the ship he was chief engineer for. He truly loved librarians and we would always talk after each day of the Depository Library Council. I would be there representing JCP and if the librarians hadn't asked enough difficult questions or raised enough trouble, he'd say to me "What's wrong with the librarians? They're not giving me any trouble? You mean everything is just fine." I said, "Well, no." He said, "Well, would you kind of encourage them to raise some more issues tomorrow because it's really boring if they don't bring up some issues and really tell GPO what we're doing wrong or what we're doing right."*

**Buckley** Right, right, yes. But they were really great. I should tell that story on myself. When I was chair of the Depository Council, we were having a meeting in New Orleans. One of the things we had done was to say to GPO, 'We need to meet other places than just Washington. We need to move the Council around so that more people have access to what we're doing and more input and things like this. This was new to them too.' So here we were having a meeting in New Orleans and I was a lot younger then. So I'm nervous about running this whole shebang and we're having a daylong meeting and I'm busy, busy, busy not eating lunch because I'm busy. Running around organizing things and what have you. And after it's all over, Jack Boyle and Carl [LaBarre] and a few others, I can't remember whether you were with us at the time or not, Bernadine, but we—he said "let's go for a drink." And we went to this revolving sky dome kind of thing.

**Abbott Hoduski** *Oh yes, I remember.*

**Buckley** So we're up there having a drink, and another drink, and another drink. And I haven't eaten all day and I'm sick: oh my. So I said to the waiter "Don't you have some food? Anything? Pretzels, potato chips, nuts, anything?" "No, no, we don't serve anything but drinks." "Okay." So we finally decide we're leaving and we're going out to dinner. And we go to

Commanders Palace, which is a wonderful restaurant in New Orleans. And the first thing Jack Boyle says is “Let’s have another drink.” I mean he was an old Irishmen who could really drink.

**Abbott Hoduski** *Yes.*

**Buckley** He and Carl.

**Abbott Hoduski** *I think Faye Padgett and I were with you.*

**Buckley** Yes, I think so too. I’m like ready to go under the table practically saying, “Oh, I’ll have one more” but hmm how am I going to handle this? It was a wonderful night but they were quite something. And you mentioned Faye Padgett who I should acknowledge to as someone else—another staff member of the Joint Committee on Printing who again, was not from a library background but became very very supportive of Bernadine and our whole program. I can’t remember at that time if she was the deputy staff director or?

**Abbott Hoduski** *She was the deputy. She was Congressman Frank Thompson Jr.’s person as the deputy.*

**Buckley** So she’s actually remained a friend—a personal friend and a friend of the program for 30 years.

**Abbott Hoduski** *Yes, she cares about the program and I still keep her informed about what’s going on. She still asks about all the librarians also. So you librarians have made a really big impact on congressional staff and on the people at the Government Printing Office. It was really almost like a big family of people supporting the program and supporting each other.*

**Buckley** Well I say this to other people too, you know as we’ve gone in to lobby congressman and do the things that we’ve done, we are going in not for personal gain. They see a lot of lobbyist from companies and so forth who are out for personal gain. We’re out for public service. We’re trying to improve public service. Now, maybe we want money to do that, but it’s not for personal gain. And so in a sense, I’ve always felt we wear the white hats as we’ve gone in and we very often get a reasonable reception. Congressman or their staffs are willing to listen to us. We have some impact and so forth. And I can tell you about one hearing I was testifying at when Representative Ford was on a tear. He had Sally Katzen from OMB...

**Abbott Hoduski** *He was Senator Ford.*

**Buckley** Senator Ford rather. Ahead of me, and he chewed that woman up about

some things she had promised they would do and not do about information and I'm going to be the next witness. And he is attacking this woman. He will not even give her a chance to respond. "You said you'd do this, and you didn't do this and blah blah blah and blah blah blah." And she is turning red. She's getting real upset and so forth. And I'm thinking, I'm the next person up. This is going to be awful! Well, she leaves in a huff and I go up to the chair and it's, "Oh Mr. Buckley, how nice of you to come. I'm always so glad to see someone from ALA." And we have this great discussion and what have you, and he had turned it off like that. And I was like, "Oh, thank goodness."

**Abbott Hoduski** *Senator Ford really did love the American Library Association and the state librarian. Jim Nelson had worked for him before he went to be a state librarian. So Jim Nelson really had him educated about librarians and how wonderful librarians are and all of Senator Ford's staff really liked librarians. So there is a real difference and you were saying earlier that it might not be a big deal to me about a witness as congressional staffer but it is, because we would very carefully try to select witnesses that will impress our chairman and will get the message across that we're trying to get across.*

*We soon figure out who's a good witness and who's a bad witness and so we worked with the American Library Association, law librarians and everybody to try and get them to send their best people to impress the members because we have such a short time in which to convey this message to them and to get them to support this legislation.*

*You were always a very effective witness. And I think the fact that you were so good impressed Joint Committee on Printing staff and Senate Rules and House Administration. So I know from behind the scenes, when Mike wanted you to be Superintendent of Documents, he got support from the professional staff of those committees because they knew you, they had worked with you. So we were happy—I mean I was no long with the Joint Committee on Printing.*

**Buckley** Yes.

**Abbott Hoduski** *But staff were telling me what was going on.*

**Buckley** Right, right.

**Abbott Hoduski** *And that you weren't going to have any problem being confirmed into that job.*

**Buckley** One of the things that I always tell myself about being a witness at a congressional hearing and about the legislative process, there's a lot that

I almost consider the 'dance of gove

**Abbott Hoduski**

**Buckley**

aggregation of effort on the part of people, many good people from across the United States.

At this conference we gave an award to Eleanor Chase and she, for years, was the dependable person out in Washington who would write a letter on an issue when you needed letters of support or commentary on something. Involved and concerned and would follow through with things. And that was true all across the country in terms of librarians who would coalesce to work on things. I think one of the surprising—pleasantly surprising things is the hundreds of people who turn out at Depository Library Council meetings as they move around the country to show their interest in documents, to learn, to meet from GPO, to answer questions and so forth. And to try to influence what's happening so it's not just the Depository Council members, it's a couple of hundred of people who show and are concerned.

I don't think it's so much a personal achievement. I've been chair of GODORT and been active in ALA and on Council on a number of times, on the Legislation Committee a number of times, and more recently on the ALA Executive Board and so forth. So I've been pleased to lend my shoulder to efforts within the association and within the group and the community and provided some leadership but I don't think of myself as the sole leader.

I don't know whether I want a tombstone or not. In fact, I know I don't want a tombstone. My wife and I have these little niches already with our names on them, and that's it. One of the things that I have done is leave a legacy gift to GODORT in our wills because I would like to see and enable the continuation of the concern for government information within GODORT and I know a number of times GODORT, in my years, had to pass the hat to try and collect some money for something and to keep *DttP* going or something like that.

There's an ongoing effort that will just continue in terms of government information access whether it's the migration that we saw from paper to microfiche to CD-ROM to electronic digital information. Who knows what will come in the future. I think there always need to be an advocate force such as GODORT to try and keep everyone honest, if you will, to maintain that concern for public access that, often, I found government officials may not be thinking of that to the extent that they should. It wasn't that many agencies that wanted to keep their information secret or not. Some of them would say to me, "Well, I've already sent out my report to the 50 people across the country who I know are really interested in this." But I said, "You know, that's not necessarily all the distribution that should be. Maybe there are more people than those 50 that you are thinking of." But often they are thinking of researchers and

