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Documents and Maps Association of Pennsylvania:  
The History of a Documents Network

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**Abstract:** DOMA-



by the State Library, which is the regional library for Pennsylvania and oversees

[Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania] and he feels that we would be better off to persue (sic) a proposal dealing with professional development.”<sup>19</sup> In response, at the second formal DOMA-14 meeting, which occurred in November 1988, the group

libraries. DOMA-14 members had been encouraged to bring additional staff members from their libraries, and the presence of several cataloging librarians meant that they could address specific issues related to implementation.<sup>25</sup>

This conference paid off. By 1995, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania and Millersville University of Pennsylvania both added documents records to their catalogs using Marcive, and both reported “a tremendous increase” in the number of documents being used. West Chester University of Pennsylvania had plans to add Marcive records starting in 1996, and Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania (which joined the FDLP in 1995) would also begin adding Marcive records to its catalog.<sup>26</sup>

By 1998, the discussion among the DOMA-14 members concerned the implementation of a new online catalog system, Voyager from Endeavor, and the new system-wide online



differences in their records. If these institutions could develop a common template, the other libraries might adapt it more easily. Documents librarians, cataloging librarians, and technical services staff from Bloomsburg University, Indiana University, and West Chester University met with Tom Briggs in Harrisburg on July 17, 2000 to attempt to agree on such a template (previous commitments did not allow representatives from





The 2005 meeting at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania would be Geraldine Benson and Mary Anne Burns Duffy's final meeting. Both retired that year. Unfortunately, Benson was unable to attend. Duffy did attend, and as was fitting for the woman who steered DOMA-14 through its early years, at this meeting she presided over the creation of the DOMA-14 Legacy Collection. At this meeting, each library decided

and DOMA-14 observed its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009 – the group has lacked dedicated leadership. A few of the retiring librarian and technician positions have not been filled, and the remaining members wear more hats than ever before. Decreased travel funding for members meant that the 2010 DOMA-14 meeting occurred not as a separate two-day meeting but as a one-hour special interest focus group during the annual Pennsylvania state system library conference. While none of the libraries have withdrawn from the FDLP, Millersville University of Pennsylvania ceased being a state depository in 2010. There are bright spots, however. A 2009 trial resulted in the digitization of eight government documents of special interest to Pennsylvania, which had not previously been digitized. At the same time, the old DOMA-14 directory has evolved to include a union list of documents-related databases held at each university, which allows librarians with thorny reference questions to locate which colleague at which institution might have the resource necessary to assist.<sup>47</sup> In these ways, DOMA-14 has responded in its own way to the changing face of documents librarianship.

### **Conclusion**

While it's unclear what direction DOMA-14 will take in the upcoming years, the group remains committed to collegiality and cooperation among its members and to access to government documents for its patrons. From its inception during the early days of PASSHE, DOMA-14 has grown to become a proven network of library professionals that work together to provide the best collections, services, and access to both state and federal government documents. At a time when the future of the FDLP is under discussion, it's important to acknowledge the many such networks that exist across the country, filled with librarians and documents staff who shepherded their departments through transitions in the past, and who look forward to doing so in the future.

**Author biography:** Kathryn Yelinek is Reference Librarian/Coordinator of Government Documents at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. She currently serves as the Webmaster and archivist for DOMA-14. Her research interests include the role of depository librarians, and she co-authored the article “The Accidental Government Documents Librarian,” which was published in the January 2009 issue of “The Journal of Academic Librarianship.” She earned her MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh and her MSIT from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania.

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**Notes and References**

All minutes, correspondence, and other unpublished documentation are held in the DOMA-14 archives, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. Some meeting minutes are available on the DOMA-14 website at <http://webpace.ship.edu/doma/index.html>.

<sup>1</sup>GPO, "FDLP Modeling: Looking at Existing Library Networks," FDLP Desktop, <http://www.fdlp.gov/cc2> (, " ) 2 (, TJ ET Q q 0.06 0 0 0.06 20535 cm (.f) -0.5 (dl) 0.2 (p.205) ] TJ ET3(c) (

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<sup>17</sup> Robert S. Bravard, Chairman SSHELCO. Letter to SSHELCO members, November 12, 1985.

<sup>18</sup> Katherine Warkentin. Newsletter distributed to DOMA-14 members, October 13, 1986.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> DOMA-14. Minutes of a Meeting, November 1-2, 1988.

<sup>21</sup> DOMA-14. Minutes of a Meeting, October 4



