

American Library Association  
Government Documents Round Table

Government Information Technology  
Committee (GITCO)

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GITCO Meeting

Sunday, February 16, 1997

2-5:30 p.m.

JW Marriot Salon A,B

Members present: Cynthia Jahns, Chair; Barbara Levergood; John Shuler; Daniel Blazek; Jocelyn Tipton; Chuck Eckman; Larry Schankman.

Welcome and announcements.

Barbara Levergood informed the group of an issue that was discussed at the Federal Documents Task Force meeting: Depository libraries should be encouraged to share documentation and other aids to the use of CD-ROM products.

Lee Morey asked GITCO members and others to submit comments for the new revision of the Recommended Minimum Specifications for Public Access Workstations in Federal Depository Libraries. She reminded the group that the specifications should describe more than a bare minimum configuration. Revising the specifications is necessary to keep up with changing hardware and software requirements.

Sandy Schwalb of GPO described the new Interagency Agreement between NCLIS and GPO which Peter Young discussed at the Fed Docs update on Saturday morning. Under this agreement, the creation of standards for electronic products will be investigated. They will be gathering information from various library groups, including GITCO. The project is still very much in the preliminary stages, and they are currently searching for a contractor. Some general discussion took place about the project's implications and the various roles that GPO, NCLIS, and the community involved could play. Chuck Eckman will coordinate the committee's responses to requests for information for the standards project.

Barbara Levergood led a discussion of the response to GITCO's charge to collect electronic documentation for CD-ROM products and make it available via the GODORT web site. The group discussed where the information would be hosted, and agreed that the database should be both searchable and browseable. Content of the documentation would be provided in a standard form, and the "look and feel" of the pages would be consistent with the GODORT web site. CD-ROM documentation available at other sites would be noted.

Eleven people volunteered to work on this project, including GITCO members Schankman, Levergood, Jahns, and Blazek. A listserv will be set up to promote communication. The group will articulate a set of principles for the web page related to control of the updates and content.

The group discussed making a template, or model, for a basic federal government information home page, which could be used or adapted by small libraries that lack the staff or technical expertise to undertake such projects on their own. There were two volunteers from the committee, and other volunteers from the committee's guests. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 to meet in a combined session with the

Education Committee to discuss the report of the Working Group on the Continuing Education Funds.