

GIS Report to WLA Executive Board

September, 2005

GIS/GoPIG Joint Meeting

The WLA Government Information Section met jointly with the Colorado Government Publications Interest Group on June 2-3, 2005 at the Wyoming State Library in Cheyenne, WY. The June 2nd meeting featured presentations on using government data for business decisions, the Economic Census, FDLP Desktop tools, Wyoming State Documents, and CIA declassified documents. The June 3rd session included an update on the Spring Depository Library Council Meeting, acquiring free tangible copies of U.S. government publications, using Z 39.50 to acquire catalog records, FDLP “myths and monsters,” and a discard list creation demonstration using CU catalog records.

WLA/MPLA Annual Conference Plans

In addition to the WLA/MPLA business meeting, the GIS is sponsoring several government information related events at the joint WLA/MPLA Annual Conference in Jackson, WY on October 12-15, 2005. On October 13 Peter Kraus (University of Utah) will present “Ben’s Guide for Children,” the U.S. Government Printing Office guide to government information for children, K-12. On October 14th Dan Stanton (Arizona State University) will discuss “Local Government: How It Works, Where to Get Information. The bus tour of Yellowstone National Park and the YNP Library, Archives and Museum did not draw enough registrants and has been cancelled.

GIS Petitions WLA Executive Board to Dissolve the Section and Establish a Government Information Round Table

Based on discussions and the results of a special ballot (see below) sent to GIS members by Chair-Elect Venice Beske, the Section has voted, 14-2, to dissolve the section and create a Round Table. The membership petitions the WLA Executive Board to dissolve the Government Information Section and establish a Government Information Round Table.

GIS Ballot

The Government Information Section of the Wyoming Library Association was formed in 1996. The section was formed primarily as a result of a meeting of the Wyoming Federal Depository Libraries in January of 1996. At that time, our regional depository was Utah State University and there was considerable dissatisfaction with their service. The Wyoming Federal Depository Library Consortium had not been formed nor had our relationship with the University of Colorado Boulder as our regional. We felt a need for a formal group and the result was the WLA Government Information Section.

Since 1996, the Consortium has been formalized and at least annual meetings held. Also, the University of Colorado Boulder has been much more active as our regional and all government information folks in Wyoming are able to attend the monthly GoPIG meetings.

The WLA Government Information Section has ended up duplicating these efforts. All of the current members except 1 are from libraries that are either depositories or have selective housing agreements with their local depository. The section has not grown and in fact, is losing members. It currently has 18 members and two-thirds of them are from 3 libraries. This limits the number of individuals available to run for office.

We propose to dissolve the section and form the WLA Government Information Interest Group. Not having dues may actually increase the membership. Also, rather than spending time trying to find individuals to run for office, we can expend our energy planning a Government Information Interest Group "GIG" for the annual conference.

The WLA Government Information Section should be dissolved.

Yes _____

No _____

The WLA Government Information Interest Group should be formed.

Yes _____

No _____