The GPO Interagency conference was a week-long seminar which introduced a large group of librarians to
many government agencies and the information they gather and disseminate. The seminar was held at the
government printing office building. Most days we sat in the room from 8:30 a.m. till 5 p.m. learning about the
many ways data is gathered and stored by the government. There is a major focus on providing web access to
government data and as such most speakers showed us their websites or gave powerpoint presentations showing
the workings of each agency.

The tour of the government printing office was fascinating. There is still quite a bit of paper being published
daily. The systems and machinery they use to print documents is state of the art. We also were introduced to
the man who makes fancy leather covers for all documents for the president and senate library.
The tour of the Library of Congress was impressive and included time spent in the basement seeing how they
store and access old newspapers and documents. The tour of the Patent office was too short and a
disappointment.

This seminar week is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see and hear about the inner workings of information
gathering of the United States Government. I met two librarians from New York state and many others from all
over. Learning about the Economic Census and where that data is stored was the highlight of the week for me.

Program for the week:
Day 1 – Monday August 1, 2006
U.S. Bureau of the Census

Census Website
American community Survey
American FactFinder
Census Geography
2002 U.S. Economic census

Day 2 – Tuesday August 2, 2006
Tour of GPO

Congressional Publications
History of Serials Set
Keeping track of Serial Set

Cataloging U.S. govt. docs: GPO Policy and practice
The new catalog of the USGPO (CGP)
AskGPO

Day 3 – Wednesday August 2
Tour of Library of Congress
Homeland Security – CBP website (U.S. Customs and Border protection)
Tour of Patent Office

Day 4 – Thursday August 3, 2006
Federal Register
List of Agencies and Websites Presented During the Seminar

Federal Depository Library Program
http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fdlp.html

American Fact Finder
http://www.factfinder.census.gov
- Electronic system for access and dissemination of Census data
- Thematic maps
- Can move back without hitting the back button
- This website changes frequently!

NEW! American Community Survey
A large continuous demographic survey that produces characteristics, not a population count like the census.
http://www.census.gov/acs/www/
Also available through Fact Finder
http://www.factfinder.census.gov

Economic Census
Census every 5 years on the 7 or 2 of each decade. There are 3 ways to access economic census.
   This is the “raw” data

2. American Fact Finder
   http://www.factfinder.census.gov
   More user-friendly

3. Stat-USA
   http://www.stat-usa.gov
   A subscription based web interface to the Economic Census, an added attempt at making the census more user-friendly. Government depository libraries have access Stat-USA.
   Our username 90394
   Our password HOTPEPPER

FirstGov.gov
http://www.firstgov.gov
U.S. government’s official web portal. Link to government websites with a “robust” search engine. Has won several best web site awards.
Especially for Government Documents Librarians

- New Federal Depository Library Handbook: One stop shop where manual and instructions are merged into a “living” document
- GPO Congressional Serial Set: No longer published in paper on a large scale. So LTIS – Library Technical Information Staff catalogs them using PURLS and a 440 field added entry.
- Federal Register system
  http://www.archives.gov/federal-register
  http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr