

# DE NOVO

The Newsletter of  
The Law Library of Louisiana

Volume 1, Issue 5

Nov./December 2002



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## Happy New Year

### Early French Sources that Influenced Louisiana Law

By Carol Billings

In the last issue of *De Novo* we introduced our readers to several modern books that provide a good background for a study of sources that contributed to Louisiana's unique legal history. We promised that this issue would take up the subject of early French works that influenced our pre-statehood laws and legal traditions. Additionally we will point out some of our holdings that concentrate on the French colonial period. Our library is fortunate to own some of the rare works that we will describe, and we will also cite several scholarly books and articles that explain the significance of other seminal works.

Before approaching specific French sources, readers will find it helpful to familiarize themselves with accounts of eighteenth century Louisiana. Our first historian, Francois Xavier Martin, was also one of our foremost jurists. A native of Marseilles, who emigrated to New Bern, North Carolina at the age of 20 and became a printer and a lawyer, Martin in 1810 was appointed judge of the Superior Court of the Territory of Orleans. In addition to serving three years on the territorial court, he sat on the Supreme Court bench for 31 years, 10 as chief justice. His 2-

volume *The History of Louisiana, from the Earliest Period* (New Orleans: Lyman and Beardslee, 1827-1829) chronicles the years up to 1815. The first two volumes of Charles Étienne Arthur Gayarré's *History of Louisiana* (New York: Redfield, 1866) cover French domination. Next came Alcée Fortier's *A History of Louisiana* (New York: Goupil & Co. of Paris, 1904), whose first volume also treats that period. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century lawyer and gentleman-scholar Henry P. Dart penned "The Legal Institutions of Louisiana," covering French colonial rule, for 3 *Southern Law Quarterly* 247 (1918), reprinted the following year in 2 *Louisiana Historical Quarterly* 72. Dart accurately describes the Superior Council, which had jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters.

Turning to modern renditions of the colony's history, readers should consult Marcel Giraud's scholarly *A History of French Louisiana*, first published in France between 1953 and 1987. Fortunately the LSU Press has published three of the five volumes in translation: vol. 1 in 1974, vol. 2 in 1993, and vol. 5 in 1991. Most recently The

Center for Louisiana Studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette began publication of The Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Series in Louisiana History. The first volume, issued in 1995, is *The French Experience in Louisiana*, edited by Glenn R. Conrad. The hefty tome comprises dozens of scholarly articles by experts in a wide variety of aspects of French colonial life. Several sections treat matters of law and government, including courts, the legal status of women, marriage, and slavery.

To learn about the original French legal documents that provided the foundation for colonial Louisiana government for more than fifty years, a *continued on page 2*



Francois Xavier Martin

## Early French Sources that Influenced Louisiana Law continued from pg. 1

good starting point is *Bibliographical History of Louisiana Civil Law Sources, Roman, French and Spanish* by the late distinguished law librarian of LSU, Kate Wallach (Baton Rouge, La. State Law Institute, 1955).

*La Coutume de Paris*, done in 1510 as ordered by Charles VII, is a compilation of local customs that had acquired the force of law. The revision done in 1580, Wallach wrote, "consisted of 372 articles covering feudal law, property, possession, mortgages, servitudes, dower, marital community, guardianship, gifts, wills, and successions." An article by UNO Professor Jerah Johnson in the aforementioned *The French Experience in Louisiana* entitled "La Coutume de Paris: Louisiana's First Law," explains the origins of collections of customs encouraged by the French kings. The Crown's charter to Antoine Crozat, the new proprietor of Louisiana, in 1712 decreed that the Coutume de Paris was in effect in the colony and called for a Superior Council to administer it. Another relevant article, which has recently been cataloged by the library as a separate title, is John A. Dickinson's "New France: Law, Courts, and the Coutume de Paris, 1606-1760," which was published in 23 *Manitoba Law Journal* 32 in 1996. Although the library does not own a copy of *La Coutume de Paris*, among our treasures are rare 1684 and 1701 editions of *La Coutume Reformée du Pais et Duché de Normandie*. These compilations enable one to see good examples of the genre. The

website of the Fortress of Louisbourg, <<http://fortress.uccb.ns.ca/justiciae/CustomOfParis.html>>, currently under construction, should soon have a copy of the Coutume de Paris available for viewing.

Another treasure belonging to our library is a 1765 French edition of *Le Code Noir*, the law introduced in Louisiana in 1724 for the purpose of regulating Negro slavery. For a later English version, one may turn to our copy of *Acts Passed at the First Session of the First Legislature of the Territory of Orleans* (New Orleans, Printed by Bradford and Anderson, 1806). The library also owns several other copies published in French in the 1760's and 70's.

Two important 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century writers of French legal doctrine have had a lasting effect on our civil law tradition. Jean Domat's *Les Lois Civiles dans leur Ordre Naturel*, published between 1689 and 1697, is considered the first treatise on French civil law. Once required reading for admission to the Louisiana bar, it was published in English translation by William Strahan in 1722. Our library has both a 1777 French edition and an 1850 English translation. The principal sources used by the redactors of the French *Code Civil* were the treatises of Robert Joseph Pothier, which began appearing in the middle of the eighteenth century. Our library is fortunate to own several editions of the complete works in French.

Kate Wallach recommended as best for research the *Oeuvres de Pothier* by Bugnet (Paris: Cosse et Marchal, 1845-48) in 10 volumes.

Its notes lead to corresponding *Code Civil* articles. We also have three English translations of the *Treatise on Obligations*, from which whole passages were borrowed for the *Louisiana Civil Code*. We especially prize the volume translated and printed by Francois Xavier Martin in New Bern in 1802. William David Evans's 1826 version includes an introduction, appendix and notes illustrative of English law on the subject. Our collection also includes a translation by L.S. Cushing of the *Treatise on the Contract of Sale* (Boston: Little & Brown, 1839).

Serious scholars interested in inspecting manuscript records from the French colonial period should visit The Louisiana State Museum Historical Center in the old U.S. Mint in the French Quarter. Housed there are the records of the French Superior Council, 1714 to 1769. Much of the case law involves creditors' attempts to collect debts, but there are many successions that provide entree to estate inventories, commercial transactions, family legal matters, and slave petitions for manumission. The Historical Center prizes the original letters patent granted to Antoine Crozat in 1712, the proclamation creating the Superior Council, and the 1724 *Code Noir*.

In the next issue of *De Novo* we will explore our library's rich Spanish resources.

### Your place or ours?

Is your court, firm or class interested in participating in a Law Library of Louisiana Orientation? For more information call:

Carol Billings @  
(504) 568-5706



Access the library's  
online catalog:

<http://207.67.203.47/L20013/index.asp>

## HOT LINKS, GET YOUR HOT LINKS HERE!!!!

The Law Library of Louisiana's online catalog now features HOT LINKS to the periodicals in its collection that are offered by Hein-On-Line. What does this mean? While using a

Supreme Court networked computer, you can search the online catalog, find the journal you are looking for, and if it has a Hot Link, you can click your way right in to the full

text of the article you need with out leaving the comfort of the computer terminal!

WWW.LASC.ORG

# STUMP THE LIBRARIAN!

Synonyms are always important on legal research. When we perform any research we try to use as many synonyms as possible. There's no way to predict what word was used in a statute or by a judge.

A recent phone inquiry want to know how to serve a petition from a Louisiana District Court on an individual located in England. I was certain that there was a treaty that provided a procedure. I looked in the Louisiana statutes via West's Premise product. I knew that looking for England or Great Britain or United Kingdom and service would not be likely to produce results. I

tried service and international or foreign without results. Hmmm, how about service and treaty? No good. I finally figured out that the proper term was convention, as in *Convention On The Service Abroad Of Judicial And Extrajudicial Documents In Civil Or Commercial Matters*.

Now that I knew the name, I could find the Convention in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, in the appendix following Rule 4, or in Martindale Hubbell. The next question was to determine the actual procedure. The Convention refers to a Central Authority

designated by each State to receive requests for service coming from other States. I went to the internet to *firstgov.gov*, the gateway to government information. As a search I put in Hague Convention on Service Abroad. The first document that I found on the site *travel.state.gov/hague\_service.html*, contained the information necessary to effect service. Obtain a USM-94 form from the US Marshal's office. The web page also has addresses of the Central Authority for all signatories to the Convention.

This issue's Stumper was contributed by:  
Cathy Lemman, Associate Dir.



## Microform Consortium Goes Digital

For 25 years the Law Library Microform Consortium, a non-profit library cooperative, has been, as its letterhead proclaims, "fulfilling its members' requirements for preservation, collection development and space recovery." Now the consortium is about to launch a new initiative to digitize its entire holdings to create an online service called LLMC--Digital. The product will be licensed to libraries for an annual fee. The University of Michigan's Digital Library Extension Service, which has previously undertaken a number of other major digitization projects, will work in cooperation with a private Chicago technology company to develop the new product. The work is expected to take several years.

Led throughout its history by executive director Jerry Dupont, former head of the law libraries at the University of Michigan and the University of Hawaii, the consortium has borrowed from member libraries and

microfilmed over 80,000 volumes of legal materials. Included are public domain federal, state, territorial and foreign law reports and statutes as well as legal periodicals and treatises--especially older materials not found in newer institutions and firms.

Particularly for the library with limited space and funds, LLMC's microfiche collections of foreign and international law, civil law, canon law, military law, and Native American law have provided a practical way to provide access to more exotic resources. The printed catalogs of titles in the various parts of the LLMC collection are themselves extremely valuable bibliographic tools. For instance, David Combe, Director of the Tulane Law School Library and a long-time member of the the LLMC board and advisory council, teamed with University of California at Berkeley's Thomas Reynolds as bibliographer of the French Civil Law material.

The new LLMC--Digital format will be an even greater boon to libraries because it not only renders the materials searchable, but requires only the space needed for a computer. A pricing schedule is being devised whereby large law school libraries that anticipate a great deal of use will pay a higher price for the annual license than a state, county or firm library where use is expected to be more moderate. The licensing arrangement will permit use of the product by anyone using the library collection--in our case, court staff, the entire state judiciary, the bar, and the general public. The LLMC collection includes large numbers of 19<sup>th</sup> century federal case reporters as well as British and Canadian materials. These older volumes currently take up considerable space in our stacks. Having the digital product will enable us to replace the duplicated titles as space limitations dictate.

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## PATRIOT ACT Teleconference December 11, 2002

By: Cathy Lemann

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 ★ email them to: ★  
 ★ Cathleen Furlong ★  
 ★ crichard@lasc.org ★  
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The satellite teleconference, Safeguarding our Patrons' Privacy: What every librarian needs to know about the USA Patriot Act and related anti-terrorism measures, was an opportunity for me to hear how other librarians are coping with the provisions of this act. The excellent panel included two librarians and two attorneys.

The program began with a review of the provisions of the Act (see De Novo, Vol.1, No. 4, page 5 for Cathleen Furlong's overview.) At this point, librarians are concerned because the limits, if any, on some of the provisions of the act are unclear. For instance, internet service providers may invite law enforcement to monitor communications to trap hackers. There is no reporting requirement

or time limitation on this activity. This makes it impossible to determine if the FBI is exceeding its authority or if it uses information obtained thereby in a related investigation, which is not permitted.

Under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, a secret FISA court may issue an order for seizure of any records which could include library records. The specifics of the court order and the institution's compliance will also remain a secret. One of the topics of discussion was whether a librarian could even tell coworkers about such an order.

This computer trespasser exception and the business records under FISA provisions will sunset in 2005. The panel suggested that librarians, and

others, keep track of any such activities to be able to use the information should the statutes come up for re-authorization.

One of the primary messages of this conference is that librarians need to prepare policies and procedures to deal with possible situations. Working with our larger community and legal counsel, we need to anticipate various possible scenarios. How should staff react to presentation of a subpoena or a search warrant? One presenter also suggested that we remind library users that their privacy may be limited. All in all, the conference provided few concrete solutions but much information and suggestions for action.

## Out and About with the Library Staff

Associate Director **Catherine Lemann** attended the fall executive board meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries near Chicago. She serves the 5000-member national organization as secretary.

In late October Director **Carol Billings** traveled to Ann Arbor, Michigan for a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Law Library Microform Consortium. Board members from around the country and England conferred with staff of the University of Michigan's Digital Library Extension Service about launching the new LLMC-Digital product described elsewhere in this issue.

Collection Development/ Documents Librarian **Georgia Chadwick** and **Carol Billings**

were among the hundreds of Louisiana librarians and library supporters who volunteered to make the first annual Louisiana Book Festival in Baton Rouge a big success in early November. Dozens of nationally-known authors, poets, and storytellers from Louisiana and beyond presented informal lectures and readings and signed their books for enthusiastic fans. Thousands of members of the public attended. Georgia was on hand to assist at sessions featuring the state poet and a romance writer, while Carol was fortunate to be assigned the job as official escort to mystery novelist James Lee Burke, who received the festival's highest honor, the Louisiana Writer Award. **Georgia** enjoyed meeting journalist/commentator Juan Williams, and **Carol** talked

with sports writer/novelist Frank DeFord. Plans are already underway for the 2003 festival.

Staff members attended a recent meeting of the New Orleans Association of Law Librarians (NOALL) where Loyola history professor Mark Fernandez discussed his forthcoming book on Edward Livingston.

### Memorial Books

If you are interested in memorializing a family member, friend, or colleague by purchasing a book for the library's collection please contact  
 Carol Billings at  
 504-568-5706.

## The Dart Collection at the Law Library of Louisiana

By: Janice Shull

A visitor to the second floor lobby of the Supreme Court building may observe a small bronze bust inscribed "Henry Plauché Dart". A student of Louisiana law or history will recognize the name but for others it is an unfamiliar one. Who was Henry Plauché Dart and what was his connection with our library?

Marie Windell, author of Dart's biography in the *Dictionary of Louisiana Biography* (Louisiana Historical Association, 1988, vol. 1, p. 211-212) described him as "attorney, historian, archivist, editor, preservationist." A giant of his era in each of those fields, Dart earned recognition for his leadership

Library acquired the firm's papers and collection of books. Books in the subject area of law were donated to the Law Library of Louisiana. If it is true that a person's soul may be glimpsed in the books they collect, Henry Dart lives up to his reputation as a learned person.

Dart acquired all of the tools useful to the practice of law 100 years ago: rules of various courts, reports and digests, scholarly treatises. His clients included railroads, banks, and corporations, and he bought books to stay abreast of those subject areas. Dart also read about social issues of the day: prison reform, quarantine laws and

Forty-four unique titles were added to the library collection. The easiest way to identify these books, which have been fully integrated into the collection, is to search in the online catalog, WebOPAC. Select PowerSearch, select the "Notes" field to search, and type **Dart collection**. The displayed list may be sorted as desired and printed. The addition of these titles to the library benefits our own users and the library community at large. Historians and legal researchers now have access to several scarce and unusual items. Dart's legacy to Louisiana should not be forgotten.

*"The true university of these days is a collection of books"* (Thomas Carlyle, *Heroes and Hero-Worship*, v, 1840)

in the Louisiana Bar Association, the Louisiana Historical Association, and many other civic, cultural and legal endeavors. Lacking the means as a young man to acquire a formal education, he educated himself by reading and studying throughout his life, and it has been said that "his sole extravagance was his library" ("Henry Plauche Dart In Memoriam, October 23, 1934," *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, vol. 18, 1935, p. 255-266.)

When the Dart & Dart law firm, successor to Henry Dart's firm, was dissolved in 1981, the University of New Orleans' Earl K. Long

regulations, levees and drainage systems, the remedy for plutocracy, and the Spanish rule in Cuba. He was a scholar of Roman law and collected Latin and French civil law sources. One curious book, and apparently very rare, is *Dei Llivelli di Mano Morta* by Gregorio Fierli, published in Florence in 1798. The title translates to "Of the levels of mortmain".

For amusement, Dart acquired *Legal Laughs*, a *Joke for Every Jury* and *The Comic Blackstone*, and even *Sängerbote*, a Lutheran song magazine (which was not cataloged for the library).



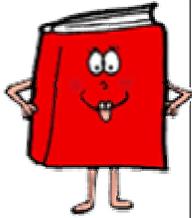
CALLING  
ALL  
COLLECTORS!

**What do you  
collect?  
Let us know!**

Georgia Chadwick:  
Pelicans and Paper-  
weights

Carol Billings:  
British Royal Family  
Memorabilia

Janice Shull:  
Books on the culture  
and history of India

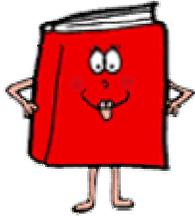


## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

For a few fortunate authors, a name inevitably associated with the subject on which they write. Here are a few gems we have encountered recently:

- Billings, Prepaid legal services.
- Champion, Sports law in a nutshell.
- Drinker, Legal ethics.
- Drone on Copyright.
- High on Injunctions.
- Loss, Fundamentals of securities regulation.
- Nordstrom on Sales.
- Page on Wills (many pages!)
- Sell on Agency.
- Shoemaker, Trademarks.
- Wood on Fire insurance.

Share your favorite author-title match-ups for the next issue of De Novo.



## Court Corner

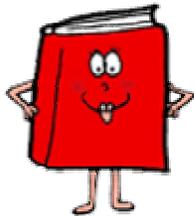
Three new books on “hot button” topics have been added to the Judicial Administrator’s Collection:

Berman, Greg and John Feinblatt. *Judges and problem-solving courts*. New York: Center for Court Innovation, 2002. **KF 8759 .B47 2002**

Gray, Cynthia. *A study of state judicial discipline sanctions*. Chicago: American Judicature Society, 2002. **KF 8779 .G738 2002**

*The use of technology in the jury room to enhance deliberations*. Williamsburg, VA: Courtroom 21 Project, 2002. **KF 8972 .U8 2002**

Any judge or court employee in Louisiana may request to borrow these books or other titles in the JA Collection and SJI Collection. Just give us a call at 504-568-5705 or 800-828-3038.



## What Are You Reading?

Looking for a good book to curl up with on cold January night, or wondering what to give that book worm in your life....Check out these Law Library staff members favorite picks. Send us your favorite literary pick! Crichard@lasc.org

Cathy Lemman, Associate Director suggests:

Ella Minnow Pea: A Novel in Letters by Mark Dunn (ISBN 0385722435 )

A letter falls off the statue honoring the creator of the sentence that uses all the letters of the alphabet. The town council decrees that the citizens eliminate that letter from their speech or risk banishment. Is there a shorter alternative to "the quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog?" This is a delightful quick read. See how resourceful Ella becomes in order to communicate.

Cathleen Furlong is currently re-reading John Kennedy Toole’s A Confederacy of Dunces. She states: “Every now and then I enjoy picking up an old favorite or a classic that I haven’t read in a few years. It’s like visiting an old friend, everything is the same, but I always notice something different, or realize something I hadn’t before.”

Carol Billings, Director, highly recommends James Lee Burke’s new novel *White Doves at Morning* (New York, Simon & Schuster). A departure from the New Iberia resident’s mystery novels featuring detective Dave

Robicheaux and lawyer Billy Bob Holland, this book is historical fiction set in the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. Burke has drawn upon his own ancestors to create the leading characters, the poor and wonderfully-irreverent Willie Burke and the privileged Robert Perry, who both join the Confederate Army although they are smitten by the same abolitionist woman. The battle scenes are particularly memorable.



## Another Louisiana Purchase Learning Opportunity

The Louisiana Historical Association and the Historic New Orleans Collection are collaborating to present an impressive array of scholars at the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Conference scheduled from January 22-25 at the Omni Royal Orleans Hotel in the French Quarter. The public is invited to register for either the entire conference for \$100 (\$75 for students) or after January 6 for individual days as space

permits. The rate for Wednesday or Saturday is \$30 per day (students \$25), and for Thursday and Friday, \$50 per day (students \$40). Further information about registration may be obtained by calling (504) 598-7171.

Joseph Ellis, author of *Founding Brothers*, as well as National Book Award winner for his biography of Thomas Jefferson, *American Sphinx*, will deliver the

keynote address "Thomas Jefferson and the Louisiana Purchase." Other sessions will feature such topics as the international perspective on the purchase, Native Americans, African Americans, religion and legal traditions. Receptions at the Cabildo and the Historic New Orleans Collection and a concert of 18<sup>th</sup> century music at St. Louis Cathedral are included in the price of registration.



*At your service...* An informative column highlighting one of our library's many services. By: Ruth Mahoney

### Law for the Layman

The Law Library of Louisiana serves a very diverse group of people including judges, lawyers, lay people, and scholars, and our collection has to reflect this. On a daily basis we answer questions for people from all walks of life who have very interesting legal problems and legal issues to research. While we cannot give legal advice, we can suggest titles of books or articles which might help people with their research. You or your clients may be interested in the following books, many of which are kept in the reserve section of the library.

The publications of the National Consumer Law Center are invaluable to today's consumers and their advocates. The NCLC is a non-profit corporation that seeks to help low-income people, their advocates, and public policy makers better understand our complex consumer laws. Our library has their 16-volume Consumer Credit and Sales Legal Practice Series. The 16 titles are arranged into four "libraries": (1) Debtor Rights Library, (2) The Credit and Banking Library, (3) The Consumer Litigation Library, and (4) The Deception and Warranties Library. Examples of titles are: Consumer Bankruptcy Law and Practice, Consumer Banking and Payment Law, Consumer Law Pleadings on

CD-Rom, and Consumer Warranty Law. These manuals are intended to serve as a basic resource for lawyers, paralegals, novices, and experts. All books are kept current by supplements and also come with CD-ROMS. You may visit the NCLC'S w e b s i t e at [www.consumerlaw.org](http://www.consumerlaw.org) for more information, or visit our library to review the books.

For over thirty years Nolo of Berkeley, California, has been publishing legal self-help books in many important areas of the law such as patent and copyright, personal injury and music law. They are written in plain English and contain no legalese. The books give step-by-step instructions and have sample forms, letters, and agreements. They make the law lively, interesting, and easy to understand without diminishing any of the content. The layout of the books is appealing to the eye; they are like workbooks with illustrations. Most importantly, there are sections listing background resources and primary source materials, and many come with CD-ROMS. This library has 16 titles, some of which are: The Copyright Handbook: How to Protect and Use Written Works, Patent It Yourself, Music Law: How to Run Your Band's Business, Your Rights in the Workplace,

Mad At Your Lawyer?, Represent Yourself in Court: How to Prepare and Try a Winning Case, Chapter 13 Bankruptcy: Repay Your Debts. You can search for the other titles in our online catalog by doing a Simple Search under Nolo, or log onto their website at [www.nolo.com](http://www.nolo.com).

The Nutshell series by West is a popular set frequently used by people looking for a straightforward summary of the law on a particular subject. Nutshells are more than study aids or student texts. They serve as a good introduction to a legal subject by giving a simple exposition of a law or issue. Nutshells are written by authorities and experts and contain very few footnotes. These small paperback books cover general and specific areas of the law, and most contain research references and tables of cases. Our library owns over 125 titles covering subjects like AIDS law, art law, mass communication law, and NAFTA. Some of the most popular titles are Constitutional Civil Rights in a Nutshell, Section 1983 Litigation in a Nutshell, and White Collar Crime in a Nutshell. Nutshells are a good starting place for students, clients, and laymen who want a short summary of the law and the issues associated with it. The library keeps the most current editions of each title in the Reserve area of the library.

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For information on the National Consumer Law Center's publications.



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For information on Nolo's legal self-help publications.

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This public document was printed at a total cost of \$500. 1000 copies of this document were published by the Law Library of Louisiana, 301 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, LA, as the bi-monthly newsletter of the Law Library of Louisiana under the authority of the Judicial Budgetary Control Board.

**Federal Depository Library Highlights** by: Georgia Chadwick

I have recently started a collection of photographs and post cards of the United States Government Printing Office building in Washington, D.C. It is a building I remember well, growing up in the Washington area. Working for an attorney during my summer vacations in college, I often visited the main GPO Bookstore housed in that building. I was usually sent there to buy a volume of the Code of Federal Regulations but I could not resist looking through the wonderful selection of government publications from a wide variety of government agencies. My government publications course in library school was my favorite. The professor for the course was head of the large government documents department at Colorado State University. When he learned that my mother was a scientist at the Naval Research Laboratory, he couldn't wait to contact her so that CSU could arrange to receive their series of research papers. That was in the "old days" when government publications were almost exclusively published in...

and dedicated documents government documents, an librarians sought out ways to acquire publications which were not a part of the Federal Depository Library Program. While the GPO building looks the same on the outside, there have been some recent proposals by the Bush administration which may shake the foundations of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). important responsibility of the FDLP. The OMB proposal would also sever the link between the procurement of agency publications by GPO and their distribution to federal depository libraries through the FDLP. For over 150 years the FDLP has represented an effective partnership between Congress, agencies, and the public and has made government information in all formats permanently accessible at no fee through depository libraries.

On May 3, 2002, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a memorandum to executive agencies stating that agencies should no longer be required to use the Government Printing Office (GPO) for their printing and procurement needs as currently required by Title 44 of the *United States Code*. The OMB memorandum proposes that the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) be revised to allow agencies to solicit bids from private companies for their printing needs. The librarian community strongly urges that the FAR not be revised because this would weaken GPO's role in information. The deadline for comments on the proposed FAR revision was December 13, and the library community is anxiously awaiting the outcome. The publications of the federal government are an integral part of our library in both print and electronic format and I hope that the comments of librarians will be seriously considered as this proposed change will make it more difficult and more costly for citizens to access government information.

