Government Information Services  
Action Plan Meeting  
March 30, 2009  

This meeting was one of a series of open meetings the Library held to gather input for the final Action Plan report to the Provost. The following notes report on the general themes and concerns about the draft Action Plan expressed at the meeting.

General Comments:

This integration could provide a model for whole Library.

Developing a model for referrals and effective cross-training will be essential to making this work.

The proposed Coordinator position was seen as a good idea. There was general support for the idea of managing the government documents collection holistically across libraries and reducing duplicates; benefits will include making it easier to find government documents in all formats. The Coordinator will also have a much-needed library-wide role in training staff and instructing users.

Many advantages to mainstreaming government info were noted; more specialists learning new things while still doing specialties

Focus should be on rethinking services, creating a new model and not just patching together pieces of the units as they were.

Combining two units is just the first step. Then new services emerge.

Current Government Documents staff would like to have set hours in one place.

Access to Government Information / Technical Services:

Opportunity to enhance access by through integration with Tech Services, e.g., automate the process of adding URLs to analyzed serials – pilot with Geology technical reports.

Working more closely with Technical Services and their workflows may help make online government information resources more accessible.

User Services:

We need a robust model for making referrals to the government information specialists. How to know when to refer to each other? Is there a common level of difficulty at which a question should be referred? Need for training emphasized again.
What will be the role of specialists whose departmental libraries in Main have closed? Will the referral model be broader than just Gov Docs?

Proposal to combine Maps and Government Documents:

Synergies:
- current use materials-not special collections
- many maps issued by governments
- Need lots of hands-on help, specialized knowledge

Should current maps be brought into the new Ref/Gov Docs unit, as well?

Strong argument made that Gov Docs and Maps have different missions and that the long-term recommendation to combine the two, in whole or in part, was not sound.
- Only 5% of new printed maps from US government, more from non-US
- Most users don’t want to make own maps; they want to see an artifact
- Not sure there is a connection intellectually or collection-wise.

Kaufman agreed that this long-term recommendation had been neither requested nor explored and should be taken off the table.