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Biz of Acq — "Free" Access to Subscription Databases through the FDLP: Government Documents and Acquisitions

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L ibraries are suffering the stress of continued financial constraints. We have become creative in stretching budgets and forming partnerships. The **Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP)** provides free access to several federal databases that are otherwise subscription based. The potential cost saving for libraries is significant from hundreds to thousands of dollars.

The **FDLP** program was established by **Congress** to ensure that the American public has access to its Government's information. Government information is provided at no cost to the nearly 1,250 designated depository libraries throughout the United States and related territories. These depository libraries are charged with providing access to Government information in an open and free environment with professional assistance. *http://www.fdlp.gov/*

Databases that currently provide free accesses are: **STAT-USA/USA Trade Online**, **Homeland Security Digital Library**, **National Climatic Data Center Online** and the Document Library **DARTS: Depository Access to Reports, Technical and Scientific**.

The Homeland Security Digital Library (HSDL)
https://www.hsdl.org/

A collection of documents related to homeland security policy, strategy, and organizational management. The **HSDL** is sponsored by the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Preparedness Directorate**, **FEMA** and the **Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security**. The collection includes over 65,000 documents related to homeland security policy, strategy, and organizational management from a wide variety of sources including federal, state and local governments; international governments and institutions; nonprofit organizations and private entities. It includes speeches, theses, newsletters, presidential directives and executive orders; and federal and state policy documents.

Depository libraries that are academic or Federal agency libraries have the option of gaining access through IP authentication. Other depository libraries are eligible for access through a password. The registration process involves a validation form signed by the library director and faxed to the **Government Printing Office**.

National Climatic Data Center Online Document Library (NCDC)
https://ols.nndc.noaa.gov/sub-login.html

NCDC operates the **World Data Center for Meteorology** which is co-located at **NCDC** in Asheville, North Carolina, and the **World Data Center for Paleoclimatology** which is located in Boulder, Colorado. This is the world's largest active archive of weather data. **NCDC** produces numerous climate publications and responds to data requests from all over the world. Libraries with edu, gov, or mil extensions may access the database without a user ID or password.

Free depository access is available online for several otherwise fee-based titles from the **National Climatic Data Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (U.S. Department of Commerce)**. There is no limitation on the number of concurrent users able to access the database. Depository libraries can access two types of data: publications and form generated products. Publications must be accessed through the **NCDC Image and Publications System**. (*http://www7. ncdc.noaa.gov/IPS/*) Also, access is provided to several data products through the online store on the **NCDC** Webpage. The products include: **Unedited Local Climatological Data** (**ULCD** data available prior to Jan 2005), **Quality Controlled Local Climatological Data** (**QCLCD** data available Jan 2005 to present), **COOP/Record of Climatological Observation** (various date ranges available), **Annual Climatological Summary** (various date ranges available), and **Digital ASCII** files from the **Climate Data Online System (CDO**, various date ranges available).

STAT-USA/USA Trade Online
http://www.stat-usa.gov/stat-usa.html

STAT-USA/Internet and **USA Trade Online** are databases of **STAT-USA**, an office in the **Department of Commerce**. In 2001, **STAT-USA** and the **Government Printing Office** (**GPO**), under a written agreement, partnered to provide **Federal Depository Libraries** with complimentary access to **STAT-USA/Internet**. In 2003, access to **USA Trade Online** was included in the data offering. Access is provided for two single-designated workstations within each library using IP-authentication or passwords. Patrons cannot access the database remotely and must use workstations within the library. IP authentication is permitted but a depository library must have static IP addresses for the two designated computer workstations from which access will be provided. These IP addresses must be fixed and not randomly assigned. The workstations must be in the same **FDL** library building. Branch libraries or other campuses are not allowed to share the password.

STAT-USA/Internet are an extensive collection of U.S. economic and finance data, international trade statistics, and market research reports. It is divided into two main areas: **State of the Nation** and **GLOBUS & NTDB** (**Global Business & National Trade Data Bank**). **State of the Nation** tracks the direction of the U.S. economy with over 4,000 current statistical releases and reports, including: daily interest and foreign exchange rates, state and regional housing, employment, and personal income statistics, energy analyses and forecasts, current industrial reports and the *Statistical Abstract of the U.S.*

USA Trade Online is a collaboration between **STAT-USA** and the **Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division**. This database is the official source of current and cumulative U.S. export and import statistics. It provides more than 18,000 export commodities and 24,000 import commodities worldwide, using the **Harmonized System (HS)** and the **North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)** codes. (Passworded Databases, 2009)

Depository libraries may access **USA Trade Online** by using the same ID and password that is used for **STAT-USA/Internet**. The user must be in the library to access the database, and libraries must protect the user ID and password. **USA Trade Online** is only accessible from two workstations within the depository.

The registration processes involves a form signed by the library director and depository coordinator and faxed to the **Government Printing Office**. It is necessary to complete this form every two years. Access options are password or IP authentication. However, the IP authentication is limited to two designated computer workstations located within the depository library and these IP addresses must be fixed (not dynamically assigned) and may not be shared by other computer workstations. More information about the access specifics can be found in the frequently asked questions about passworded databases in the **FDLP's Desktop**.

DARTS: Depository Access to Reports, Technical and Scientific:

http://fdlp.ntis.gov/

The **National Technical Information Service (NTIS)** acquires, indexes, abstracts, and archives the largest collection of U.S. government-sponsored technical reports in existence. Federal depository libraries have access to these online technical reports from the **NTIS** through **DARTS: Depository Access to Reports, Technical & Scientific**. Depository libraries are able to download at no charge the full-text electronic documents for which links are available. **DARTS** provides access to bibliographic records for approximately 240,000 publications from 1964-2000 and links to online content. Access requirements include a validation form that has been signed by the library director and faxed to the **GPO**. A password that is controlled by the library and not given to patrons is also one of the

requirements. Access by simultaneous users is supported but limited to a maximum of 30 workstations. **DARTS** can be accessed from outside the library through an institution's network if limited to the library's primary patrons and if the login is scripted so it remains unknown to the user.

In conclusion, free access to useful and needed resources is an opportunity for libraries with limited fiscal resources but this must be balanced with the potential use of the database. For example, **STAT-USA/USA Trade Online's** condition of requiring patrons to come to the library can limit patron's access when they are not able to physically visit the library. This onsite requirement is clearly and firmly stipulated by **STAT-USA** and access through proxy servers is not permitted, even if the library user is authenticated. A meticulous review of each agency's frequently asked questions about database access conditions and provisions is warranted. However, the **Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP)** is an option for free database access that many libraries have not fully utilized. For libraries struggling to stay

afloat and meet the needs of their patrons, all options should be explored.

Works Consulted

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@Brunning: People & Technology

At the only Edge that Means Anything / How We Understand What We Do

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Carpe Librum

The summer of the eBook has ended. How is it that summer brings out the "book" in everyone? Was this summer just a summer love of soft news, wishful thinking? Or was it more?

By conference time, *ATG* readers will know, well more, about what the courts say about **Google** and the settlement with the **Authors Guild Inc.** (the **Writer's Guild** and **Association of American Publishers**).

In case you were elsewhere for this drama, we are at the seventh inning stretch of a publishing world series. At stake: whether **Google** will be the distributor of scanned out of copyright, out of print but in copyright, and in copyright, in print books.

Working with publishers and a dozen or so major libraries, **Google** has scanned, some say, at least seven million books into the search engine. Depending on who holds the rights, these scanned works can be viewed, previewed, or glanced at (**Google** calls these views "snippets"). There is also a "no preview" category which amounts to a bibliographic record, a maybe we'll digitize.

Early in the project, **Author's Guild Inc.**, took **Google** to court about appropriating their intellectual

property. Pre-trial stuff promised to take years to complete, so all parties hammered out an agreement that would define the rules of engagement among the authors, publishers, and **Google**.

News coverage would have that interested parties like libraries and the public were factored into the settlement. **Google**, ever the do no evil and organize all knowledge public interest at heart company cooked up an agreement with the **Authors Guild** to liberate books from library shelves, dusty out of print booksellers, **Salvation Army** two for the price of one bins, and, one can only imagine, books **Google** twins, **Brin** or **Page** had seen, imagined, or wanted when they were young but couldn't access.

Google rolls with energy, resources, and conquer-the-digital-world élan we've never experienced but are now playing outfield to. **Google** has revolutionized "search" and now they are defining "Book."

As librarians, how might we think about all of this?

We need to get our roles right. Any librarian, a minute or two into **Google Book**, can see the value added and the value subtracted to "book" as we understand it. It is really cool to go to **Google Books** and see a random selection of our

world before us. Even the book items appear shelf-aged to perfection.

It is not cool, though, to encounter what is bad — the lousy cataloging, the less-than-helpful search. Worse is the easy to assume but wrong in so many ways that **this is it**.

And it isn't too cool, at least for librarians, to ponder how **Google** got there. They vacuumed up books from partner libraries and all the nooks and crannies of the book world (the copy of **Ferlinghetti's** *Coney Island of the Mind, New Directions*, 1963 looks familiar — swear the first ex-wife has it now and gave it to **Google**…). Along their way, some cried foul, and **Google** went to court and out of court was settled an agreement that promised incredible access to the printed record in library books.

And it is library books whose access is assured, especially library books in the public domain. Really out of the discussion are in copyright books supplied by libraries and publishers. Yeah, they allow one **Google Book** Access license — one user, one computer — for every library to view the public domain books. There is also an institutional subscriptions model for a library to access public domain and rights cleared titles. Seems very old school licensing at best. At worst, it belies the public good argument **Google** and settlement supporters tout.

Librarians need to be at the negotiations, especially for **Google** as library. All libraries deserve extensive access to more than the