



# FEDERAL

Federal and  
Armed Forces  
Libraries Roundtable

# LIBRARIAN

Vol. 24, No. 2, Winter 2007

## Greetings From the President:

First of all, I'd like to thank all of the FAFLRT officers, committee chairs, and liaisons—past and present—for your contributions to the Round Table. Some of you have served for many years to keep the organization a vital force in the professional lives of federal and armed forces librarians. You have presented fine programs, awarded excellence in the profession, and provided venues to meet to discuss problems and offer solutions.

In addition, you have provided opportunities for Round Table members to get to know each other and develop new friendships. This has taken energy and time and we are grateful for your commitment.

FAFLRT endeavors will continue at Midwinter in Seattle in January. Board meetings are scheduled for Sunday, Jan.

21, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm and (if needed) Monday, Jan. 22, 8 am – 10 am.

Preparations for the annual conference in Washington will be a big part of the agenda. You need not be a Board member to attend the meetings. If you're in-

terested in becoming more active in FAFLRT, or if you want to see what we are all about, or if you just want to bring your cappuccino in out of the rain, you're welcome to join us.



## Midwinter Schedule

**FAFLRT Board Meeting**

**Sunday, Jan 21, 2007**

**10:30am-12:30 pm Sheraton**

**Seattle, Capitol Hill Room**

**FAFLRT Board Meeting**

**Monday, Jan 22, 2007**

**8:00am-10:00am**

**Sheraton Seattle, Ballard Room**



*Benton Harbor Wins FDL of the Year Award*

## GPO Names Michigan Library Among Best in the Nation

The U.S. Government Printing Office has selected Michigan's Benton Harbor Library as the 2006 Federal Depository Library of the Year. Public Printer Bruce James presented the award to library officials Sunday at the annual Federal Depository Libraries fall conference. In presenting the award, James commended the library for providing the residents of its community with online access to authentic published Government information.

"I am honored to present this award to the Benton Harbor Public Library. Our partnership with the Federal Depository Library is an example of how GPO and local libraries can help communities across the country access authentic published Government information," said James. "I am especially glad to see the library using the far-reaching benefits of the Web to post Federal Government documents that residents can download electronically."

Benton Harbor Public Library is in an economically challenged area and used limited funds to ensure Federal Government resources are used to their full potential. Michigan's United States Senators are proud of what a library in their home state was able to accomplish.

"I commend the Benton Harbor Public Library staff not only for its commitment to providing citizens with access to a wide range of Government resources, but also for presenting these resources in a manner that so directly meets the needs of the community," said U.S. Senator Carl Levin.

"Great things are happening because of great people in Benton Harbor. I'm so proud to represent them," said U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow. "This award is very special and very well deserved. I want to congratulate Fred Kirby, our great director of the library, and his staff."

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#### GENERAL INFORMATION

The **Federal Librarian** newsletter, is the quarterly journal of the American Library Association's Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT). It presents recent developments and events of interest to the Federal and Armed Forces library community, including news and reports on international, federal, state, and local government issues. The **Federal Librarian** subscription base is approximately 600.

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Spring 2007	February 28, 2007
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### **Volume 1: POPULATION**

Population Characteristics  
Vital Statistics  
Internal Migration  
International Migration  
Family and Household Composition  
Cohorts  
American Indians

### **Volume 2: WORK AND WELFARE**

Labor  
Slavery  
Education  
Health  
Economic Inequality and Poverty  
Social Insurance and Public Assistance  
Nonprofit, Voluntary, and Religious Entities

### **Volume 3: ECONOMIC STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE**

National Income and Product  
Business Fluctuations and Cycles  
Prices  
Consumer Expenditures  
Saving, Capital, and Wealth  
Geography and the Environment  
Science, Technology, and Productivity  
Business Organization  
Financial Markets and Institutions

### **Volume 4: ECONOMIC SECTORS**

Agriculture  
Natural Resource Industries  
Construction, Housing, and Mortgages  
Manufacturing  
Distribution  
Transportation  
Communications  
Services and Utilities

### **Volume 5: GOVERNANCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Government Finance and Employment  
Elections and Politics  
Crime, Law, Enforcement, and Justice  
National Defense, Wars, Armed Forces,  
and Veterans  
International Trade and Exchange Rates  
Outlying Areas  
Colonial Statistics  
Confederate States of America

### **APPENDICES**

Weights, Measures, and Monetary Values  
States and Census Regions  
Origin of **Historical Statistics of the United States**

### **INDEX**

# Fabulous Feds

**Jeffrey Conner**, formerly Director of Yokota, Japan AFB Library was appointed Director, Yokosuka, Japan Naval Support Activity Library in November 2006.

**J. Michael Morrison** recently transitioned from Technical Librarian, Warrior Preparation Center, Germany to Collection Development Librarian, National Defense University, Washington, DC.

**Mrs. Jung Ae Kim**, Supervisory Librarian at European Regional Library Service Center in Heidelberg, Germany transferred to the Army Corps of Engineer Library in St. Paul, MN.

**Paul Steere**, Library Director of Installation Management Army – Europe, Heidelberg, Germany has retired.

**Sherrie Floyd**, Director reports that Sayers Library at Fort Benning, GA has received the honor of an Army award for “Best Library Program 2006” for a large installation.

**Carol Bursik**, recipient of the 2004 FAFLRT Distinguished Service Award, will retire from government service on Jan 3, 2007. Carol currently serves as the Assistant Director for Access and Organization at the Justice Department Library. During her 32-year career as a federal librarian, Carol has worked for military and civilian agencies including the HQ US Army Europe; Natick Labs; the Pentagon Library; and the US Geological Survey. Carol has been active in many professional associations. For FLICC, she served as Chair of the Budget Working Group, as a member of the Fedlink Advisory Council, and as a delegate to the OCLC Members Council to name just a few of her FLICC activities. In her seventeen years of service with FLRT, AFLRT and FAFLRT, she has been Secretary/Treasurer (several times!), FLICC Liaison and liaison to ALA's Planning and Budget Assembly. She has also been an active member of DCLA serving as a board

member and membership chair. Carol, who hails from Duluth, Minnesota, received both her undergraduate and masters degree from the University of Kentucky.

*Submitted by Cynthia Shipley*

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## DTIC to Host 33rd Annual Conference

“Defense Information for All,” is the theme for DTIC's 33rd Annual Conference, which will take place March 26-28, 2007 at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia.

The conference will address DTIC's role as the Department of Defense (DoD) technical information broker. Those expected to attend the meeting include information professionals from the science, technology, research and development, and acquisition communities who create, disseminate and use DoD scientific, research, and engineering information. Speakers from government, private industry and DTIC will address evolving information technologies.

Maximizing research productivity, preventing unnecessary or redundant research, and networking among peers are just some of the conference objectives. The first two days of the meeting will feature a number of government and commercial exhibitors demonstrating and discussing the latest information services and technology.

For more information contact DTIC's conference coordinator at: 703-767-8236/DSN 427-8236, [confinfo@dtic.mil](mailto:confinfo@dtic.mil)

For conference updates bookmark: <http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/annualconf/>

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## New Committee on the Status of Federal Libraries Meets

The newly constituted Committee on Legislation's Subcommittee on the Status of Federal Libraries met in late October in Washington, DC. Members of the subcommittee chaired by Jane Sess, included current and included several FAFLRT members as well as representatives from GODORT and other ALA divisions. The subcommittee will draft a plan of action for dealing with the many threats facing federal libraries and will report to ALA Council in Seattle in January. ALA has established a discussion list for the members. From time to time we will be posting to the FAFLRT list, so stay tuned.

Much of the initial focus of the subcommittee has been on the pressing situation of the closing and downsizing of many of the EPA regional libraries. There has been much attention paid to the sad state of the EPA library system in the press and Congress has begun to weigh in. Recently, four members of Congress sent a letter to the EPA administrator expressing their concern. The letter appears elsewhere in this issue. In Seattle, the subcommittee will meet Sunday morning at 10:30. Check the schedule for the location.



Kermit Lowery, assistant general counsel, LexisNexis

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

November 30, 2006

The Honorable Stephen Johnson  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Johnson:

We are writing to express our serious concerns over the current implementation of your plan to reorganize the library system of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We understand that EPA is in the process of closing libraries and dispersing and destroying materials. Additionally, the General Services Administration is auctioning off library equipment. These actions are being undertaken in accordance with the budget request the President submitted for fiscal year 2007. Congress, however, has approved neither the President's 2007 budget request nor the library closure. We request that you maintain the status quo of the libraries and their materials while this issue is under investigation and review by Congress.

We also request that EPA brief our staffs and provide a written plan to Congress that includes the schedule and procedures that EPA intends to use to govern the disposition of documents, the consolidation of library services, and the transfer of paper and microfiche documents to electronic forms that will be publicly available. We further request that you ensure that Agency staff compile and maintain records of the location and content of all library material, including materials that have already been dispersed, to ensure it can be retrieved and used by Agency personnel and the public.

Over the past 36 years, EPA's libraries have accumulated a vast and invaluable trove of public health and environmental information, including at least 504,000 books and reports, 3,500 journal titles, 25,000 maps, and 3.6 million information objects on microfilm, according to the report issued in 2004: *Business Case for Information Services: EPA's Regional Libraries and Centers* prepared for the Agency by Stratus Consulting. Each one of EPA's libraries also had information experts who helped EPA staff and the public access and use the Agency's library collection and information held in other library collections outside of the Agency. It now appears that EPA officials are dismantling what is likely one of our country's most comprehensive and accessible collections of environmental materials.

The press has reported on the concerns over the library reorganization plan voiced by EPA professional staff of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), 16 local union Presidents representing EPA employees, and the American Library Association. In response to our request of September 19, 2006, (attached), the Government Accountability Office has initiated an investigation of EPA's plan to close its libraries. Eighteen Senators sent a letter on November 3, 2006, to leaders of the Senate Appropriations Committee asking them to direct EPA "to restore and maintain public access and onsite library collections and services at EPA's headquarters, regional, laboratory and specialized program libraries while the Agency solicits and considers public input on its plan to drastically cut its library budget and services" (attached). Yet, despite the lack of Congressional approval and the concerns expressed over this plan, your Agency continues to move forward with dismantling the EPA libraries.

It is imperative that the valuable government information maintained by EPA's libraries be preserved. We ask that you please confirm in writing by no later than Monday, December 4, 2006, that the destruction or disposition of all library holdings immediately ceased upon the Agency's receipt of this letter and that all records of library holdings and dispersed materials are being maintained.

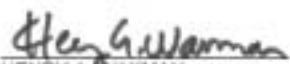
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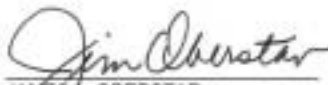
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Enclosures

# Nominations for 2007 FAFLRT Awards

Who should FAFLRT recognize for outstanding achievement in the promotion of library and information service and the information profession in the Federal community? Nominations are now open for the FAFLRT Achievement Award. The person selected for the FAFLRT Achievement Award will be honored at the ALA annual conference at the FAFLRT membership meeting.

Honorees have included James King, Pam Andre, and Jeanne Hurley Simon.

Nominations are also open for the Distinguished Service Award. The nominee must be a FAFLRT member who has provided significant contributions to FAFLRT over a number of years.

Honorees have included Jewel Player, James King, and Andrea Gruhl.

For either award, use the nomination form on our website and submit it by March 1, 2007

<http://archive.ala.org/alaorg/rtables/fafLrt/awards.html>. For questions, contact Awards Committee Co-chairs Shirley Loo ([sloo@crs.loc.gov](mailto:sloo@crs.loc.gov)) or Maria Pisa ([mpisa@usda.nal.gov](mailto:mpisa@usda.nal.gov))

If you know a library school student who is interested in Federal librarianship, encourage the student to apply for the Adelaide del Frate Conference Sponsorship Award. Pertinent information is on our website and the deadline is also March 1, 2007.

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# AIR FORCE LIBRARY UPDATE

Reorganizations, realignments, and system changes are ongoing challenges for the Air Force Library Program! The Presidents Budget Decision (PBD) 720, BRAC Joint Basing initiatives, NSPS, and many other reorganizations will impact Air Force library services. Funding has been realigned to meet the Air Force's major goals which include modernization of aircraft, meeting the requirements of the Government War on Terror (GWOT), and providing quality of life support for Airmen and their families. To accommodate these funding requirements, Air Force plans to reduce personnel (primarily military) as well as many base operating support contracts. This has significantly impacted contract and non-appropriated fund libraries; many have reduced the number of staff, materials budgets, and hours of operation.

The Elmendorf Base Library was recently approved for closure as part of the Joint Basing initiative (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson). The Ft. Richardson Library is a new facility collocated with education and will provide responsive service to Air Force personnel and their families. One small special library, the Air Force Logistics



*Library Learning Resource Center, Kirkuk AB*

Management Agency Library at Gunter Annex, Maxwell AFB Alabama, was also identified for closure by Dec 06.

Despite these challenges, Air Force libraries continued to offer many programs and services to their military communities. Libraries have conducted special programs for families of deployed troops, such as "Operation Kudo" – setting up a mock tent-city for families to get the feel of a contingency environment. To support the Air Force Chief of Staff initiatives to expand lan-

guage abilities and cultural awareness for Airmen, several major commands and libraries purchased Rosetta Stone, a web-based language tutorial database. Offutt AFB library provided support to the new Language Learning Center (LLC), a centralized training area for language classes and the multimedia resources necessary to maintain their skill-level. The LLC brings all that and more to help Airmen maintain and enhance

*continued on page 10*

## GET INVOLVED!

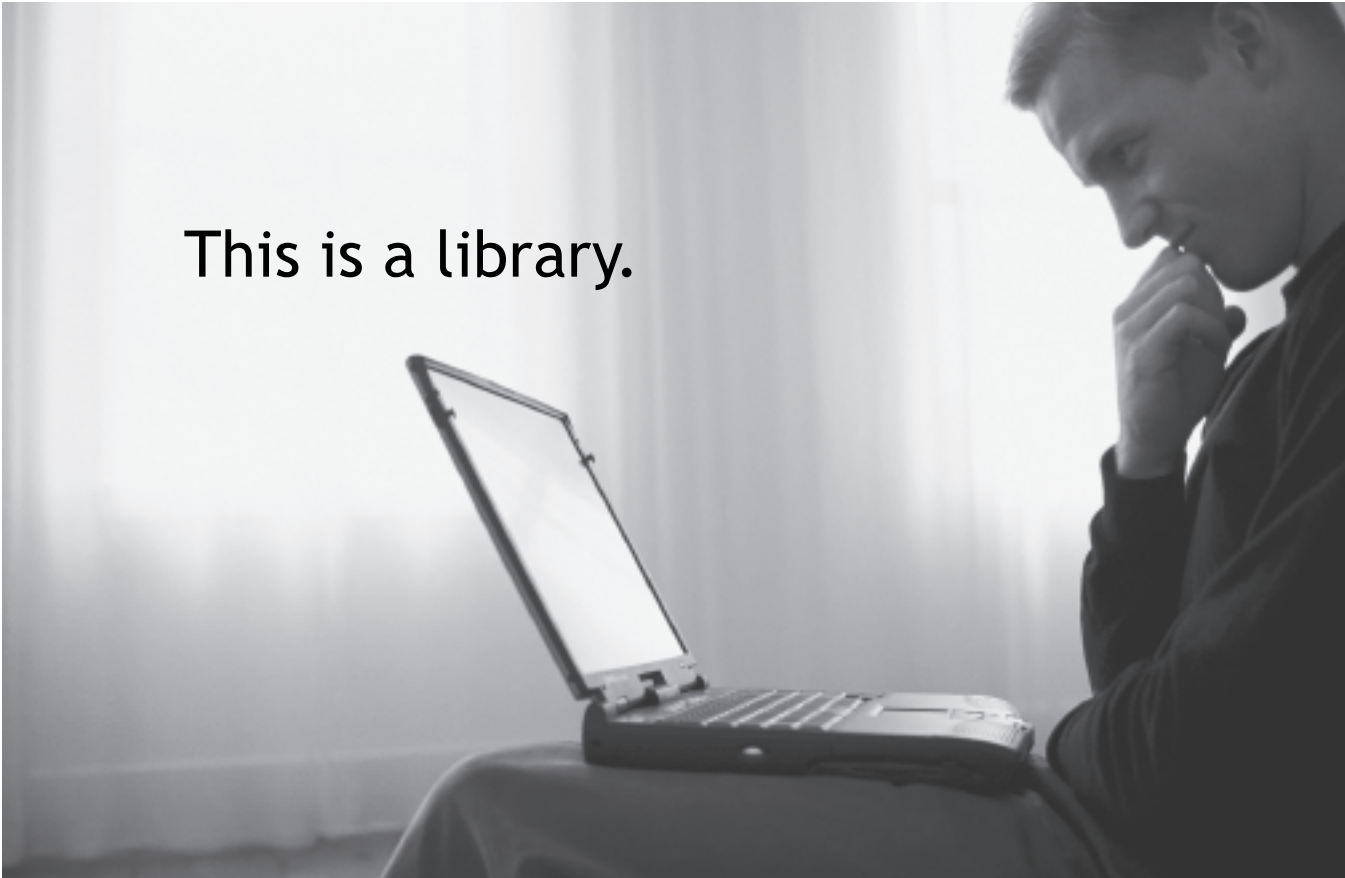


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## Airforce Library Update

continued from page 8

their skills. Many Air Force libraries have updated technologies to include wireless Internet — just click 'n go for customers. (see photos)

The Air Force library program continues to provide paperback and periodical kits for over 250 remote sites and contingency operations. The Library Service Center (LSC) at Ramstein AB Germany also supports short-term contingency operations for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, as well as 9 branch libraries at Air Force sites in Europe located at a distance from any other library support. The library at Langley AFB Virginia procures online resources and other materials for Learning Resource Centers in Southwest Asia. Providing support to troops at the various contingency locations continues to be the top priority of the Air Force library program.

**Margie Buchanan**  
*Librarian of the Air Force*

*Story hour (Scrooge), Base Library, Bolling AFB D.C.*



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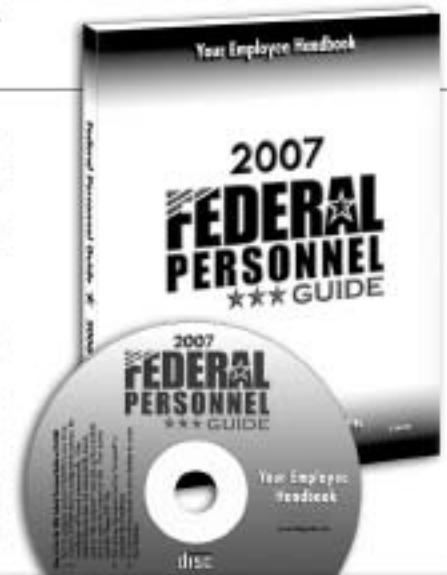
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