

WEEDING GOVERNMENT CD-ROMS AND DVDS

**Kay Collins
U.S. Government Information
Librarian
University of California, Irvine**

How UCI Collects and Weeds CD-ROMs and DVDs

- Item selections
- Try to judge content might need
- Data sets to be used with spreadsheets
- Pay particular attention to statistical agencies
- GIS format
- Pay attention to agencies who issue them such as USGS

Create a Spreadsheet

- Use DVDs in cabinet to create a title and SuDoc list
- Add columns for:
 - holdings information
 - URL
 - Monograph?
 - Cataloged
 - Linked from catalog
 - Comments

Staff

- Library assistant at Multimedia Desk created the spreadsheet list and found some links
- Temporary librarian verified monographs with URLs and serial holdings on the web
- Documents librarian supplied criteria and is working on finding more URLs

Main Categories

- Monographic material with an equivalent on the web
- Serials with some web presence.
- Titles with not a clear web presence and with a cataloging record. Either the title has changed or when on an agency web page it is not longer a “publication” but a source of information.

Weeding Criteria

- Adhere to GPO regulations for weeding (date, superseded, duplicate another format, etc.)
- DVD and web equivalency
- Software and hardware = do they work on existing systems
- Condition of DVD. Deterioration?
- Circulation record of use

More Difficult Criteria

- Research need
- Data sets and GIS required special consideration

Data Sets

- What format and software are provided on the DVD and possibly on the web?
- Is the data in PDF only? Can the data be downloaded in spreadsheets?
- Is there a data directory
 - If there is a web version, is it as complete and able to be manipulated via a spreadsheet?
Do you lose or gain any data or functionality?
How do you find out?

Data, cont.

- What dates and versions are available on DVD and web
- Are the data compatible with GIS programs

GIS

- GIS utilizes data if in the proper format to help create maps. There must be some geographic component to the data, e.g., state, county, latitude and longitude, etc. So in evaluating data sets, one should also be considering the possibility it could be used for GIS purposes

GIS, cont.

- Some of the DVDs have the mapping software on the disk. If comparing to a web site, one must see if the end results of any data manipulation are the same. Can they be downloaded?

Serials

- If the specific serial title is now on the web, does it include the years on the DVD?
- Are the issues comparable in content ?
- How stable has the web pages for this agency been?
- Are they both PDF only?
- Method for searching content on either DVD or web?
- A commercial version available?

Final Criteria

- Available at another UC or Regional Depository
- Available for borrowing or for referral
- Send to storage
- Will the medium last over time
- Consider suggesting a UC-wide stored collection
- Weed

Load onto a Server

- Project we tried in the past
- Purpose was to save staff time locating the title and helping user load onto a computer
- Increase the use of the CD/DVDs in Gov. Info. collection

Problems with Server Load

- Not all would load and function fully or at all
- Time consumptive for Systems staff
- Could not therefore add new titles to keep it current
- Systems did not wish to make them widely available outside the library
- Still required much of my time to help users

Server problems, cont.

- Cataloging Dept. did not include a location for these. Required staff referring people.
- It did not end up saving time

Cooperative Effort

- Huge job for GPO
- There is no consistency across titles and software.
- Our experience shows it would take time and expertise to accomplish
- What have others done?
- Any way we can pool our efforts and knowledge?