Digitizing U.S. Hearings from the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s

FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL
BACKGROUND

The Earl K. Long Library (UNO) has been a depository since 1964. We are depository #0024A and have 91.38% selection rate.

This means we have A LOT of documents.
THE PROJECT

Our goal is to increase access to older documents that are not already available online. By available, we mean full-text, open access.

I chose to start with United States House and Senate Committee Hearings and Publications since that would be useful to pretty much all depositories.
MY ROLE

As the Head of Federal Documents, I choose which documents will be scanned and which will not.

In order to be scanned, an item must meet two criteria:

1. Must already have a record in our online catalog
2. Must not be available online already (full-text, open access)
WHAT METADATA IS INCLUDED?

In CONTENTdm, we include

- Title
- Agency
- Subject
- Notes
- Publisher
- Publication date
- SuDoc number
- GPO Item number
WHAT ABOUT PRESERVATION?

All hearings are uploaded to CONTENTdm servers in Dublin, Ohio, where OCLC actually backs up the data.

We also have the hearings backed up on an external hard drive and on CDs, which are stored in Tyvek envelopes in an archival CD box.
WHY PICK ITEMS FROM THE SHELF?

Since our catalog is not perfect (whose is?), it is easier to pull items from the shelf and fix any errors (i.e. being listed as microfiche when it is not) than to go through the catalog.

Plus, near the project’s end, we’ll be able to better account for items that should be on the shelves and are not.
WHY SKIP ITEMS NOT YET CATALOGED?

We are skipping items that have not yet been cataloged online with the hope that they will be cataloged by the time we come back to them.

Once we finish the Y 4s, the plan is to start back at the beginning. Items that are still not cataloged will be cataloged by us.
THE FUTURE OF THE PROJECT

This project will take a long time, so I can not predict where it will ultimately go...

- May move on to find Needs and Offers for digitizing future hearings.
- May move on to digitize other parts of the EKL collection.
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