Review

Public Documents Masterfile. Paratext. pubdocs.odyssi.com. Contact vendor (www.paratext.com) for trial and pricing information.

The opening screen on Paratext's *Public Documents Masterfile* (*PDM*) bills the database as a "comprehensive electronic guide to federal, state, local, and international public documents, spanning over 200 years of publications in a searchable database." PDM offers a single federated search interface to locate citations to United States federal, state, international, and non-U.S. public documents. However, *PDM* is not a full-text answer to all of our historic government documents needs, hopes, and prayers. According to Paratext's promotional materials, librarians can use *PDM* to "locate SuDoc numbers for pre-1976 GPO documents, locate and download cataloging records for government documents from multiple sources, link to your library OPAC to determine local holdings, enable research utilizing non-GPO government documents, promote broader multi-disciplinary use of government documents, [and] provide users electronic access to current and archival government documents." There is also a *PDM* widget that can be added to library webpages or LibGuides for further linkage and use of the product's content.

The database is available to purchasing libraries and their patrons via IP authentication. Upon logging in, users encounter a welcome screen with basic information about the database. A click on Begin Searching takes the user to the basic search screen, which shows a pretty sparse (dare I say, almost Google-like?) screen with a single search box and radio buttons to choose between Singular and

Plural Forms, Exact Phrase or Exact Words, and between All of the Words (And) or Any of the Words (Or). There is also a question mark icon next to the search box that leads to a useful help screen, and a Quick Guide link in the upper right-hand corner that leads to a single-page PDF that labels each of the key features. The help screen indicates that *PDM* supports Boolean, wild card (* for multiple endings; ? for a single character) and date range options. The search run from this basic screen appears to be keyword.

The search screen also has tabs to perform an advanced search or a browse. The advanced search screen provides three boxes with drop-down menus with options to search by keyword, title of work, author (agency), or government document number, and to make And/Or connections between terms. Users can also limit by data range on this screen. The browse index allows the user to type in the beginning of a SuDoc number, author or agency, title, Library of Congress subject heading, or Library of Congress classification number.

Executing a search brings up an intermediate display screen with a list of indexes, each with a clickable number representing the number of hits. Mousing over an index name reveals a short summary of the index's contents. Clicking on the results number brings up a list of records from that particular index; clicking the checkboxes to the left of the index titles and then clicking the Select button leads to results from all of the chosen indexes displayed in a single list, ranked by relevance.

The results list view provides brief records with information such as title, call number(s), index source, etc. Users

can sort by year of publication, author, title, language, classification, or government document number; download brief records or records tagged for RefWorks or EndNote; or e-mail or save the records. Items marked with a blue "e-source" icon conveniently link to the free online full-text version of the publication. There is also a Show More Search Options link that allows for search refinement by date, and for choosing how many records (e.g., twenty or thirty) to display on a page. The content of individual records varies index by index, but generally they include the title, author or agency, and source information, as well as some combination of subject headings, call numbers, or standard numbers (e.g., LCCN, ISBN/ISSN).

Each record also has a MARC view. Most of the basic elements are there, though I noticed that OCLC numbers are not included. Currently, only record-by-record downloading is available. It appears the user simply copies the MARC records from the screen. That's not optimal for the large library embarking on a retrospective cataloging project, but potentially very useful for "on-the-fly" situations. Paratext is considering offering batch downloads for cataloging.

As one might expect, there is a little overlap in the results returned from the multiple indexes. The "GPO Monthly Catalog Indexes 1895–1976 with Page/Entry Numbers and Depository Status" and "Cumulative Title Index 1789–1976 with SuDocs Numbers" are digital versions of the government information librarian's old friends, the *Monthly Catalog of the United States Government Publications* and the *Cumulative Title Index to United States Public Documents,*

1789–1976. The "Pre-1900 United States Public Document" indexes are, according to the database description in the mouse-over, an "aggregation of the three earliest indexes to U.S. government documents, by the editors Benjamin Poore; John Ames; and John Hickox, respectively." Note that, for now, the *Cumulative Title Index* includes SuDoc numbers by the *Monthly Catalog* index and most of the pre-1900 indexes do not. Paratexts' latest e-mail update assures subscribers that SuDoc numbers are coming to the *Monthly Catalog* index soon—which will be a huge improvement because, as it stands now, one still needs to take the entry number to the print *Monthly Catalog* to find the SuDoc number for items not indexed in the other indexes in the database.

It is unclear where the database's producer got the content for other indexes: Post-1976 GPO Documents; Department of Energy Records, 1930–present; Non-U.S. and International Agency Public Documents; State and Provincial Public Documents; ERIC Documents; and Non-GPO Public Documents Held by the Library of Congress. Paratext indicates that they work with a variety governmental and non-governmental sources, but they do not reveal how much original indexing is done by the company itself, and how many records they acquire elsewhere and enhance.

All in all, *PDM* is probably most useful to libraries with large, uncataloged historic collections. There is a lot of really neat information in here, and I don't know of any other project that widely indexes state, foreign, or international documents. On the other hand, it is the sort of resource that may confuse the average self-service patron due to the lack of complete full text, many clickable numbers and check boxes, and somewhat minimal help screens. In other words, be prepared to instruct users on this product.

PDM does have a neat feature whereby it links to the OPAC when it can match a citation by SuDoc number, and that can clearly be beneficial. However, as some libraries do not index the SuDoc field in their OPACs, this feature turns out to be more useful to some libraries than others. For these others, its main purpose would be basic citation verification.

This is a niche product that will never be among a library's most heavily-used online resources, no matter how many widgets we insert into library resource guides. I like it better and better the more I play with it, but I will wait for a better budget year to move it from my "would like to have" list to my "must-have" list.—*Annelise Sklar, Librarian for Political Science, Law & Society, and State, Local, & International Government Documents, University of California, San Diego, asklar@ucsd.edu.*

Review

Military Doctrine: A Reference Handbook. Bert Chapman. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2009. $44.95. ISBN: 978-0-313-35233-1.

Military Doctrine documents the framework for desirable strategic practices intended to guide the military in achieving its objectives. While often written for internal or political use, military doctrinal literature provides a public window into the security priorities of the nation and the operational needs and goals of the military itself.

Formal military doctrine considers factors such as contextual information about threats to national security and prestige, the organizational structure of the military, operational considerations including technological capabilities and the chain of command, political priorities, and lessons learned from previous engagements. Sources of military doctrine include strategy documents, manuals, regulations, and white papers.

Military Doctrine: A Reference Handbook starts by providing an historical overview of post-World War II U.S. military doctrine as it has shifted to accommodate changes in perceived threats, political realities, and resources available to the military. This informative overview includes major doctrinal developments for each branch of the armed forces, and focuses on the documented sources of doctrine.

The handbook then describes resources for researching current and historical doctrine as it is presented in publicly available primary sources, and in secondary literature such as research concerning the ongoing development of doctrine. A significant portion of the handbook is devoted to resources for researching U.S. military doctrine, with subsequent sections providing an overview of English-language materials for other major military powers, and for international governmental