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Clearinghouse celebrates 10 years of service

Got a question about Oklahoma? Do you need information on the state of the state's bridges and highways? Curious about economic plans for Oklahoma? Then go directly to the source: Oklahoma Government Publications.

State publications contain a wealth of information for citizens according to Vicki Sullivan, librarian for the Oklahoma Publications Clearinghouse (OPC) in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Getting the word out about Oklahoma's publications and

their availability across the state is the focus of OPC's 10th anniversary celebration this October.

A reception commemorating OPC's ten years of service will be held at ODL on Monday, October 10th at 10:00 a.m. "Everyone's invited to the celebration," Sullivan says. "We'll blow out candles on a birthday cake and introduce people to their clearinghouse."

OPC acquires, classifies and distributes publications produced by state agencies in the form of pamphlets, magazines, annual reports, directories and maps. Paper and microfilm copies of the materials are placed at the OPC and 14 other depositories in the state, as well as the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago, and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Ten years ago, state legislation revamped ODL's Oklahoma Documents Division to create the Clearinghouse. Betty Mathis, now in charge of ODL's Oklahoma Collection, drafted a proposal which eventually led to the creation of the OPC.

On page 2: A map of depository libraries, information on finding aids, 10 useful state publications, and this month's Oklahoma Government Publications column.



Guaranteeing your right to know: Clearinghouse staff members Jan Hargis, Vicki Sullivan and Pam Aniebok processed over 2,000 state publication titles during the last fiscal year. The materials were distributed to 14 other state depository libraries.

Sullivan says the new legislation put "more bite" into the depository law, stressing compliance on the part of state agencies. "The clearinghouse wouldn't work without the cooperation of the publications officers at each of the state agencies. Their commitment to deposit publications with OPC guarantees that the materials will be available to Oklahomans."

Sullivan says the 1978 legislation made another important change when it "renamed" state materials "publications."

"The word 'document' really did scare people off," Sullivan says. "State materials are meant to be used by the people of Oklahoma."

So next time you have a question about the state, don't forget the source: Oklahoma Government Publications, available at your local depository library or through interlibrary loan.