☙EPA INFO ACCESS

Library Network Communications

Databases in the EPA Library Network

by Jonda Byrd, IMSD

The EPA Network Libraries are aggressive in their pursuit of information that serves the mission and activities of EPA staff. Each of the Network Libraries and Information Centers have access to a number of databases that allow them to search for current information and trends on a wide variety of subjects. For example, these databases may be commercial (CIS), or EPA (TRI) and are accessed online (LEXIS/NEXIS), as Stand-alone systems (IRIS II), or on CD-ROM (Risk Assessment Library).

EPA's library community remains current on trends and developments in database services, especially CD-ROM technology. The list of available databases will change as new and better services become available. Although all staff members use the databases at their libraries and participate in prototype testing, some of the larger libraries dedicate a **single** staff member to coordinate electronic **services.**

The Library Network uses over 300 different databases to retrieve information in support of all EPA program offices providing a depth and breadth of information resources that cover scientific, bibliographic, business, administrative, policy, legislative, legal and current news items. Some services, such as DIALOG and BRS, are vendors of databases. By subscribing to those services the libraries expand their access to large numbers of related databases.

Although many of the libraries search the same databases, they search them in different ways suited to their individual client needs. In

other instances, a library may be the sole source for a particular database. The Legislative Library, for instance, is the only one to use the Legislate database.

Commercial and EPA databases are often produced in more than one medium providing broader use of their databases. The Toxic Release Inventory is available online both through EPA mainframe, as a CD-ROM product, in magnetic tape, diskettes, and as a stand-alone system called TRIS.

This issue of INFO ACCESS outlines many of the electronic services available through the Library Network. A regular feature of this and upcoming issues will highlight database services at two of EPA's libraries, a Regional or Headquarters Library and a Laboratory Library. The Headquarters Library in Washington, DC and the Andrew W. Briedenbach Research Center (AWBERC) Library in Cincinnati are featured in this November issue. An insert to this issue provides a brief description of the current databases in use Network-wide, and the EPA libraries that currently use those databases. ●

White House News Bulletin Board

The Headquarters Library is making it easy to get access to releases from the White House press office. We receive daily feeds from the press office, and upload the text of speeches, official statements and executive orders, and transcripts of press conferences and radio broadcasts to the bulletin board section of All-in-One. It's easy to browse through the index of additions, read messages and download them to your PC.

To read the items posted to the White House bulletin board, you must first add the bulletin board to your All-in-One index. Instructions for accessing the bulletin board appear in the September/October issue of the Headquarters Library's Catalyst, which was distributed to network libraries, and is also posted to the View Text portion of All in-One.

◆

INFO ACCESS

INFOACCESS, a forum to provide information and report on progress in information management across the Agency, is produced by the Information Access Branch (IAB) of the Information Management and Services Division (IMSD), Washington, DC, under the direction of Jonda Byrd, National Library Network Program Manager. Please send comments and suggestions to: Ann Dugan (contractor), Network Coordinator, 3404, EPA Public Information Center, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. Telephone: (202) 260-7762. Electronic mail: Dugan. Ann.

Headquarters Library Database Update

by Lois Ramponi, (contractor) Head Librarian Coordinator

The Headquarters Library uses a variety of online, CD-ROM and PC-based databases in providing information to library users, in addition to the Online Library System. Staff conduct on average 110 online searches from commercial sources each month, and client evaluations are overwhelmingly positive, stating that what is provided is useful and timely.

Agency Requests

The Headquarters Library librarians utilize DIALOG and Lexis/Nexis heavily in responding to online search requests from Agency requestors. Staff generally share the search requests; there are no subject specialists except for the Water Librarian, who provides research assistance for Office of Water requestors. In addition, staff make use of the variety of CD-ROM databases available to augment the online access, which cuts online costs considerably. (A complete list of CD-ROMs available is in the brochure "Searching for Answers: Accessing the Headquarters Library CD-ROM Collection.") Librarians conduct the online searches directly; the system

Client Evaluations Are Overwhelmingly Positive

passwords are not given out to Agency staff to do their own searching. Agency staff, and any library visitor can, however, utilize the CD-ROM databases, and if Agency staff wish to be present during an online search, arrangements will be made to accommodate this.

Business, News and Policy

Search requests mainly fall into the business, news and policy categories. Hard science questions remain in the minority, and the selection of CD-ROM databases and the DIALOG and Lexis/Nexis databases used most frequently reflect this. We have recommended adding DataTimes to the line-up of commercial services.

DataTimes provides exceptional coverage of local and regional newspapers, local business journals and the Dow Jones service. It is the only online service carrying the full-text of the Wall Street Journal.

Headquarters Library Local Area Network (LAN)

In the summer of 1993, the Headquarters Library Local Area Network (LAN) and CD-ROM tower became operational. An opening menu for the CD-ROM tower lists all databases accessible. In addition, this same menu lists other PC-based databases loaded on the LAN server, which provides seamless access from one type of database to the other. These databases include the Information Systems Inventory (ISI), the Environmental Methods Monitoring Inventory (EMMI) and the Register of Lists (RoL). To the user, the difference is transparent.

The LAN server and CD-ROM tower reside in the Headquarters Library, and maintenance and updating are

provided by onsite Martin Marietta satellite personnel, with back-up from library staff. A reference librarian has the responsibility of ensuring that all documentation for online and CD-ROM databases are kept up-to-date and keeping the CD-ROM "cheat sheets" current.

Congressional Quarterly (CQ) Washington Alert

HQ Library also has access to Congressional Quarterly (CQ) Washington Alert, an interactive online service that provides tracking and full-text of current legislation, archived files from past Congresses, and indexing of the CQ Weekly Report. New additions to the service include tracking of state legislation.

Access is provided via an annual flat-rate subscription, which allows unlimited access to most portions of the database. Other sections, like CQ's Federal Register, require a separate subscription. Staff use this system to download full-text of proposed or passed legislation, or to track the status of a particular piece of legislation. The Water Librarian is currently tracking reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act, using CQ Washington Alert.

EnviroText Retrieval System (ETRS) Pilot

HQ also has access to the EnviroText Retrieval System (ETRS). ETRS is in a pilot year, and is jointly sponsored by EPA, the Departments of Justice, Energy, Defense and Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers. The system provides full-text access to all environmental and occupational safety and health parts of the Code of Federal Regulations, the entire U.S. Code and presidential executive orders. It also includes abstracts of state environmental regulations and 75 U.S. statutes. EPA sources on the system include the catalog of Compendium Superfund Program Publications and the Records of Decision System (RODS). The system is still developing, and more sources are planned to be added, including the texts of states' regulations, the Federal Register and the Congressional Record. Headquarters Library staff has used ETRS to locate specific CFR cites using keyword searching, entries from the National Register of Historic Places, and texts of executive orders.
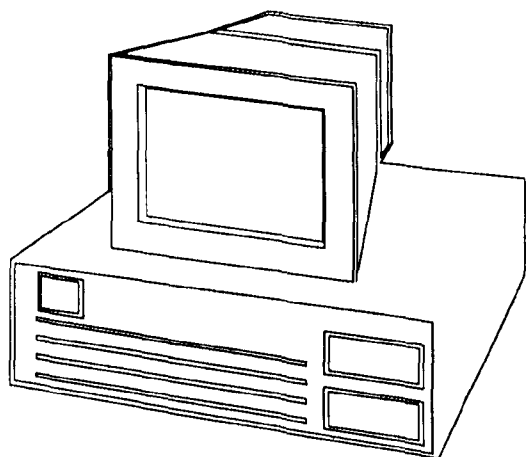
During the pilot period, only sponsoring agencies have access to the system. EPA libraries can easily obtain a password by calling 1-800-NET-ETRS. Be sure to identify yourself as an EPA library. A password and a user's manual will be sent out to you. There is no charge for access. For further information, contact Rhea Cohen, OSWER/OERR at 703-603-8878. ●

EFIN NEWS

The U.S. EPA's Environmental Finance Program manages and operates the Environmental Financing Information Network (EFIN), an electronic multi-media environmental finance database, which provides state and local officials and other interested parties with information and case studies on funding methods. EFIN services include an online database consisting of abstracts and contacts, a hotline, and distribution of publications pertaining to environmental financing alternatives.

The EFIN database is accessible to the public through the EPA's Online Library System (OLS), which resides on the EPA mainframe computer. For more information on EFIN or for an access and searching guide, please contact the EFIN Hotline at (202) 260-0420.

Database Access at the AWBERC Library

by Stephena E. Harmony (contractor), Head Librarian/Coordinator
AWBERC Library, Cincinnati

Overview

The AWBERC Library, being the largest scientific and technical library within the EPA Library Network, has been in the forefront in providing access to electronic databases, first through online search services and then through CD-ROM databases. When online searching services such as DIALOG and MEDLARS were initially made available in the 1970s, the AWBERC Library provided these search services to both AWBERC EPA scientists and to personnel at other EPA laboratories that did not have online services at that time. In 1989 the AWBERC Library installed an 11 drive CD-ROM tower on a Local Area Network (LAN) making it possible for AWBERC researchers to access the MEDLINE, NTIS and TOXLINE databases from their office computers.

Lan via VAB's

Currently, the AWBERC Library offers 17 databases through the LAN (via the Value-Added Backbone Server) in addition to 12 databases on the two stand-alone public workstations located in the reference area of the library. The number of CD-ROM drives on the LAN has increased from 11 to 39 and will soon increase to 67 drives with the addition of a fourth tower just received as this article is being written. This fourth tower will make it possible to install the remaining back file disks of MEDLINE and the Federal Register, as well as providing additional drives to install new titles. Because of the costly licensing agreements for some of the 12 databases offered on the stand-alone workstations, it is unlikely that they will be installed on the LAN at this time.

Even with the breadth and depth of information available through the 29 databases installed locally at the AWBERC Library, there is still the need to access other types of information. Consequently, the AWBERC Library subscribes to several online searching services to supplement these databases. Currently, the Library subscribes to: DIALOG, BRS, STN, and MEDLARS.

Technical and Searching Support

To ensure the operation, maintenance and accessibility of the 29 locally installed databases, there is one library staff member whose primary responsibility is to oversee these databases. This includes installing the updates, upgrading the system software, maintaining the equipment, and troubleshooting when technical problems arise. This staff person participates on the AWBERC LAN Administrators and the

Around the Library Network

RSKERL Library, Ada, Oklahoma

Cindi Wolff (contractor) is the new Head Librarian at the RSKERL Library in Ada, Oklahoma. Cindi, an alumna of the University of North Carolina, was the head of the Government Documents collection at the University of Oklahoma before joining the staff at the Kerr Library. Cindi has been in her new position since October 1, 1993. She can be reached at (405) 436-8505.

Subsurface Remediation Information Center (SRIC), ADA, Oklahoma

SRIC is a component of the Superfund/RCRA Corrective Action Technology Center. Publications from the Robert S. Kerr Environment Research Laboratory as well as information packets are distributed to EPA, government contractors, businesses and the public. Kay Cooper, Library Technician (contractor) will manage the Center. The new phone number is 405-436-8651 and the fax is (405) 436-8503. If you'd like more information about SRIC contact Kay or Cindi. Welcome to you both!

Headquarters, Washington DC

WELCOME! and CONGRATULATIONS!

The Headquarters Library has a new Water Librarian, Ann Walsh (contractor). Ann, who received her MLS from Catholic University in Washington, DC, comes to us from one of the Capitol's law firms and is originally from Colorado. If you would like to contact Ann, her number is (202) 260-8670. Welcome Ann!

Ann replaces Anne Bolin (contractor) who has moved to the position of Lead Reference Librarian. You can contact her at (202) 260-3214. Congratulations Anne!

The Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (PPIC) has a full complement of new staff. Greta Ober-Beauchesne has taken on new duties as PPIC Manager. Greta worked at Columbia Hospital for Women in the Toxicological Research Department. Before coming to Washington, Greta and her husband moved from Quebec, Canada where she worked as a Public Librarian. Two new information specialists, Antonio Baskerville, and Marisa Urgo (contractors), will provide technical support for the Clearinghouse. PPIC is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Staff can be reached at (202) 260-1963 or by Fax at (202) 260-5133. Welcome! Greta, Tony, and Marisa.

INFO EXPO: DESKTOP INFORMATION TOOLS FOR THE 90's
USEPA Region 4, Atlanta

Approximately one hundred and fifty personnel attended the Region 4 Library's INFO EXPO: DESKTOP INFORMATION TOOLS FOR THE 90's held in the Library November 3, 1993. The EXPO presented a series of database demonstrations emphasizing the library's Electronic Services via the LAN or through the library's Online Retrieval Services.

There were ten sessions lasting from thirty to sixty minutes giving an overview of a variety of databases such as Prophone (National Business Directory), 40 CFR and Federal Register, Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS), Census Information, Hazardous Waste Collection, Information America Database, Records of Decision Database (RODS), and the electronic version of the Official Airline Guide.

The EXPO began with a well attended Introduction to Library Resources and Services presented by the Head Librarian (contractor) followed by a number of guests and library staff database demonstrations.

Handouts were distributed and included CD-ROM Search Strategy Sheets which gave a description of each database, how to access, search, output options, and how to exit. A Guide To Library Resources and Services was also distributed and a Database Search Sample Exhibit was on display in the library.

A CD-ROM Search Contest was held prior to the INFO EXPO. Eighteen EPA personnel participated in the contest. The winner was Nestor Young, a Remedial Project Manager in Hazardous Waste. (A special certificate was given to ADOPO Jim Wittington for his participation.)

As an incentive to fill out evaluation forms, a basket of candy was placed near a Feedback Box. The comments on the forms and verbal feedback indicated this was a very well received outreach activity.

(Contributed by Priscilla Pride, Head Librarian (contractor) Region 4 Library, Atlanta)

Public Information Center, Washington DC

The Public Information Center (PIC) is being reorganized to reflect the growing emphasis on public access. There will be three components at PIC coordinated by Ann Dugan (contractor), Network Coordinator. Ann will be dividing her time as Network Coordinator between the Libraries and PICs. PIC operations will continue to be managed by Alison Cook (contractor), Head Librarian. Alison will also be involved in the expanding PIC Network and the PIC Visitor Center. The ACCESS EPA project will have a new manager, Laura Rounds (contractor), Public Access Librarian. Laura's challenge will be to find innovative ways to market ACCESS EPA and to keep abreast of developments involving the electronic dissemination of government information. The newest addition to PIC services will be a Public Access Reference Service for EPA staff. This is an on-demand service which will locate and coordinate information on current Public Access issues. The Network Coordinator will oversee the development of this service.
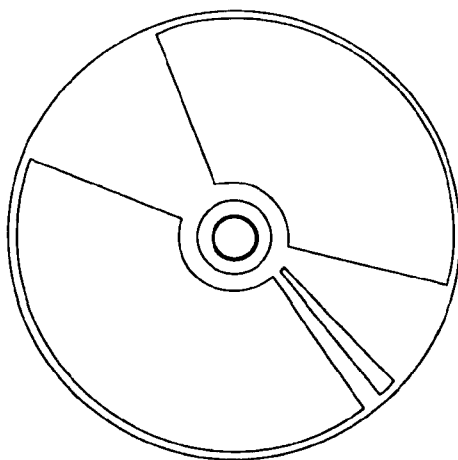
Information Resources Management Division Operations committees to share technical information and concerns in maintaining and developing the CD-NET system. She also assists EPA staff with technical questions concerning accessing and downloading information from the databases.

The Reference Librarian and the three other professional librarians who provide reference assistance share the responsibility of conducting CD-ROM searches and providing one-on-one searching assistance to library patrons. The Reference Librarian also coordinates the development and presentation of briefings and demonstrations to EPA staff on specific databases and searching techniques. In addition, she conducts the online searches for EPA staff upon request.

Clientele and Databases

Most of the clientele that access the databases offered by the AWBERC Library or for whom library staff conduct online searches are the scientists at the Cincinnati EPA laboratories. The databases used most frequently are: Current Contents; Biosis; MEDLINE; TOXLINE; and Material Safety Data Sheets. A unique database offered through the LAN and accessible only to those laboratories that have purchased a user license is DNAStar which includes comprehensive information in molecular biology. For chemical and engineering information not covered by the CD-ROM databases, the Reference Librarian accesses a variety of online databases through DIALOG, STN, BRS, or MEDLARS.

The library also supports the information needs of administrative and computer technical support staff by offering the business database, ABI/INFORM Express and computer related databases such as Computer Select and Support On Site. In addition, the AWBERC Library subscribes to several databases covering regulatory information including the Federal Register, the Code of Regulations Title 40, Environmental/Safety Library, and Enflex.

Although many of the databases offered by the AWBERC Library are commercially produced, the library also provides a number of EPA produced databases including: Toxic Release Inventory; EPADOC; Exposure Models Library and Integrated Model Evaluation System; ECLIPS; and EMMI.

Outreach at AWBERC

In addition to supporting the information needs of EPA scientists and administrators, AWBERC Library staff assist individuals from other federal agencies, educational institutions, regulated industries, and the public in utilizing the locally accessible databases. Visitors may search the CD-ROM databases through one of the two public computer workstations. In response to telephone inquiries from non-EPA requestors, the reference staff also produce and distribute CD-ROM generated bibliographies.

As CD-ROM and other electronic information technologies evolve, the AWBERC Library staff will continue to assist EPA scientists, administrators and support staff in identifying and evaluating these new developments to provide information in the most accessible and timely manner possible.

JURIS—WHAT NEXT?

by Dottie Biggs, National Enforcement Investigations Center Library

Background

JURIS, the Department of Justice Retrieval and Inquiry System provides computerized access to statutory and case law as well as administrative law, legislative histories, manuals and briefs. The statutory and case law have been provided through a contract with West Publishing Company, one of the leading commercial providers of legal information.

EPA materials on JURIS include OGC Opinions and NEIC's Consent Decree and State Environmental Statute databases.

NEIC has funded access to JURIS for the Regions since 1987. OE and OGC use of JURIS has been funded through NEIC in FY93. For many years, OGC has funded agencywide access to LEXIS, the commercial legal database competing with WestLaw. LEXIS funding shortfalls in past years have impacted the use of JURIS. JURIS has become a valued source for legal research by EPA librarians as well as attorneys in the Offices of Regional Counsel. Access has been provided through the NCC telecommunications gateway.

Current Crisis

The Taxpayer Assets Project, a Nader group, sued for access to JURIS to "conduct research" on a "wide range of public policy issues" and planned to make the databases publicly available. Under that threat, WestLaw declined to submit a final bid to provide federal statutory and case law to JURIS when the current contract ends with the calendar year. The West materials account for 80% of JURIS usage. LEXIS has indicated no interest in bidding to supply the databases.

Projects are underway to make the Consent Decree Library and legislative histories available on CD-ROM. EPA attorneys and their colleagues in DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division can share case files on DOJ's AMICUS system.

The JURIS office has indicated that effective with the end of the calendar year, they will no longer be providing services due to the abolishment of the office. Since JURIS was a working capital fund organization and the vast majority of the material offered to users is no longer available to JURIS, the program office is no longer economically viable.

Impact for EPA

• Without JURIS, EPA attorneys must turn to LEXIS or WestLaw at twice the cost. EPA Librarians will need alternative resources.

• OGC is developing a plan to provide EPA attorneys adequate access to automated legal research by funding a contract with one of the commercial vendors.

• NEIC plans to continue to provide JURIS access through this fiscal year or until DOJ brings the system down.

• JURIS will remain on the NCC mainframe menu as long as it is viable.

This is an impetus to test the EnviroText Retrieval System during this year-long pilot.

EnviroText—A Working Solution

Virtually all of the Information that was available on Juris can now be found through EnviroText.

EnviroText (or ETRS), an interagency, automated environmental knowledge base, has been developed during the past two years by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with funding and data from the Department of Energy (DOE), Army, Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Defense (DOD), and the Bureau of Mines of Department of the Interior (DOI). Beginning in August 1993, pilot testers will log onto the system in the field and headquarters offices of EPA and the other sponsor agencies.

Through FY 1994, ETRS will continue as a pilot system, and, in fall 1994, will be opened to the public as a national not-for-profit environmental knowledge base. The U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratories (CERL) is building the system as an expansion of, and successor to, their own Computer-aided Environmental Legislative Data System (CELDS). Like CELDS, EnviroText will be run on the UNIX mainframe of the University of Illinois. The User's Manual, online as of September 1993, can be downloaded, as can all other ETRS information.

User fees will be low for the system, consistent with the at-cost expenses of operating and maintaining the system for an expected large user population from Federal, State, and local governmental and non-governmental agencies, businesses, and the general public.

Enhanced interagency and intergovernmental cooperation in environmental programs is provided through quick full-text retrieval of:

* Statutes/regulations of U.S. including Federal, States, Territories, Possessions of the U.S., and the District of Columbia

* Indian Tribal codes and U.S. Indian policies

* National Register of Historic Places

* International treaties

* Executive orders

* ARARs guidance

* Online User's Manual and Tutorial

* Agencies' policies and guidance including EPA, Interior Executive Office of the President and Justice

If you would like more information please contact: Rhea Cohen, National EnviroText Coordinator, US EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, Office of Program Management, (703) 603-8878, or Jim Cliatt, (703) 603-8877.

Updated CD-ROM for Library Network

NEPA/BRAC93
National Environmental Policy Act
Compliance
for
Base Realignment and Closure

This disc was developed to assist Department of the Army in fulfilling its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) responsibilities while effecting Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). NEPA/BRAC93 has the material which primarily prompted the disc's publication—reports which were published in 1993 and accompanying support or reference materials which have become available since NEPA/BRAC91 was published.
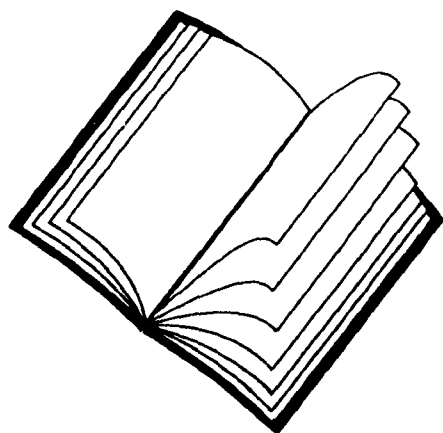
The disc contains the 1993 Report of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, and the report made to the Commission by the Government Accounting Office which analyzed the selection process. Also in BRAC is the National Performance Review Report. Accompanying these documents are a variety of materials helpful to those involved in environmental compliance and base closure actions.

- Guidance materials include a draft version of the EPA document Base Closure and Environmental Review Manual: Information to Aid in the NEPA review Process of BRAC Decisions, and the text of the National Environmental Policy Act.

- Data and information which may be useful to specific environmental impact studies such as a compendium of CD-ROMS; listing of Army produced EISs, as filed by EPA; the Guide to National Environmental Statistics produced by EPA; ACCESS EPA; and a listing of 407 state natural resources and environmental databases.

- Detailed biological information from various states in database form including a database for endangered and threatened species.

- General, educational material for use in fulfilling environmental tasks such as tutorials developed by EPA, a thesauri of environmental terms, and the 1991 & 1992 CEQ Annual Report.

A copy of the new NEPA/BRAC93 CD-ROM will be distributed to the EPA Network Libraries. If you would like additional information about NEPA/BRAC93 please contact Dr. John C. Belshe, EPA Office of Federal Activities at (202) 260-2407.

PIC LIST

❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖

A limited number of the following titles are available from the Public Information Center (PIC) this month. If you are interested in obtaining copies of any of the titles, call the Public Information Center at (202) 260-2080.

❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖

Issues Paper on Radiation Site Cleanup Regulations, September 1993, Air and Radiation, 402-R-93-084.

Guide to Selected National Environmental Statistics in the U.S. Government, August 1993, Policy, Planning, and Evaluation, [230]-R-93-003.

Guide to Federal Environmental Requirements for Small Governments, September 1993, Office of The Administrator, 270-K-93-003.

Serving a Diverse Society: EPA's Role in Environmental Equity/Justice, October 1993, Office of Environmental Equity, 200-F-93-003.

Environmental Equity/Justice Hotline 1-800-962-6215, October 1993, Office of Environmental Equity, 200-F-93-004.

Office of Radiation and Indoor Air: Program Description, June 1993, Air and Radiation, 402-K-93-002.

Getting at the Source: Strategies for Reducing Municipal Solid Waste, World Wildlife Fund & The Conservation Foundation.

Grant and Contract Output Directory, Fall 1993, Solid Waste and Emergency Response, 530-B-93-003.

Environmental Information Management: A State Resource Guide, April 1992, Office of Information Resources Management, 220-R-92-001.

Superfund at Work: Fulton Terminals Site Profile, Spring 1993, Solid Waste and Emergency Response, 520-F-93-008.

Superfund at Work: Harvey and Knott Drum Site Profile, Spring 1993, Solid Waste and Emergency Response, 520-F-93-007.

Superfund at Work: Triana/ Tennessee River Site Profile, Spring 1993, Solid Waste and Emergency Response, 520-F-93-001.