

Date: Mon, 4 Dec 2006 16:51:43 -0500 (EST)
From: Frederick W Stoss <fstoss@buffalo.edu>
To: ALA COL fed libraries <fedlib@ala.org>
Subject: [fedlib] OPPT Reports Missing?

FedLib Members,

I hope that I am wrong, but there appears to be some things going VERY, VERY wrong within the EPA that I would like to bring to your attention, or perhaps, prove me wrong. I am not going to forward this to the ALACOUN list, yet. But if this is true, EPA IS taking information down from its Websites.

I am working on the re-writes of chapters for the 4th Edition of Phil Wexler's book, Information Resources in Toxicology, and have been digging around A LOT of toxicology sites for the past couple of months. The EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics has been a persistent source of MUCH highly used information, including that used by stakeholders in a variety of community involvement settings. MUCH if not all of it appears to be gone, and it has gone away in recent days or weeks.

I am SO certain that on the OPPT site there WAS a link to the OPPT publications' archive <<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/library/>> pointing to the OPPT site, <<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/library/pubs/archive/cip/>>. The site now is opened with the following message:

QUOTE

File Not Found

As of October 18, 2006 the OPPTS Chemical Library will no longer be providing services. This includes all borrowing privileges through inter-library loan, reference services, and the use of the on site materials.

For service, please see the public access materials provided by the EPA Public Access Center.

Please use the button below to send us an error report, which will automatically include the page you were trying to find and the page you came from, so we can correct the problem.

After using the button, you will be taken to a page with suggestions for where to go next.

Thanks for helping us track down these errors.

CLOSED QUOTE

I was looking for the OPPT reports on lead, asbestos, and other chemical substances, and I do not find the links.

In an related twist to this access issue, is that the OPPT newsletter, "The Chemicals In Progress Bulletin" Has Been Moved...

QUOTE

"The EPA Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics publication, "Chemicals In Progress Bulletin", has ceased publication. The original issues are still available through the "Chemicals In Progress Bulletin" section of the OPPT archives page." See:

<<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/ChemLibCIP/>>

END QUOTE

But, as noted, the OPPT Archive Page appears to have disappeared.

As has, <<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/ChemLibCIP/archive/>>!

As best I can tell this MAY have been something that took place last Friday, December 1, 2006.

Does anyone have any information about this?

Since the OPPT Library closed its doors, this has been the tenor of the messages one now finds, where there was once a MAJOR gateway to Federal reports, newsletters, "white papers, and more all related to toxic impacts and effects of chemicals in the environment. Here is the OPPT Library page's statement d'jour:

QUOTE

Information Services Available to the Public Beginning October 1, 2006, EPA has transitioned to the new National Framework for the Headquarters and Regional Libraries (PDF)¹ (18pp, 92k, About PDF²). This document describes the new model EPA will implement to ensure that the public continues to receive quality library services. As of October 19, 2006, the OPPTS Chemical Library has transitioned to virtual services.

For information about access to services, please see the Frequent Questions³ provided by the EPA Public Access Center.

Pathfinders and Bibliographies⁴

Search the EPA's Online Library System (OLS)⁵ Catalog Hotlines & Clearinghouses⁶

Dockets⁷

Libraries⁸

For more information about this transition, contact Vicki Simons, (202) 564-8626.

Note the contact for Vicki Simons.

END QUOTE

In light of the problems facing the EPA over the libraries, doesn't this action run contrary to nearly ever assurance from EPA folks about providing public access to it vast repositories of information?

There is something that may be tragically flawed within the EPA.

Fred

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