



## Alliance Depository Librarians

April 25, 2008

James F. Williams, III  
Dean of Libraries  
University of Colorado-Boulder  
184 UCB  
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0184

Dear Dean Williams:

We, as members of the selective federal depository community of Colorado, believe that it is the responsibility of all depository libraries in the state of Colorado to ensure, to the best of their abilities, that Colorado citizens continue to have access to US government information now and in the future. A strong Regional Depository Library (RDL) is crucial to this task.

The RDL at the University of Colorado at Boulder is one of the strongest RDLs in the nation, providing excellent support for selective depository librarians on an ongoing basis as well as through special initiatives such as the IMLS grant "Government Information for the 21st Century." The selective depository community of Colorado desires that these strengths continue. The Report to the Congressional Joint Committee on Printing on the current state of regional depository libraries, due in June 2008, provides an opportunity for assessment of RDL activities and selective depository librarians encourage a thoughtful discussion of the responses to the report. A positive outcome can only benefit the future mission of Colorado depository libraries and the Federal Depository Library Program as a whole.

Among the services provided by the RDL to the selectives, several deserve highlighting:

**Community of Experts:** In many ways the RDL serves as the local voice of the Government Printing Office (GPO), providing interpretations, explanations, and updates of policies and regulations. Under the RDL's leadership, the Government Publications Interest Group (GoPIG) presents opportunities for depository librarians and staff to exchange ideas, share best practices and knowledge about collection strengths and areas of expertise.

**Training:** For many years the RDL has coordinated training on important resources and issues through forums such as the monthly GoPIG meetings, the COGOPUB-L listserv, and the above mentioned "Government Information for the 21st Century" grant, which extends training opportunities to non-documents librarians. Selective depository librarians have been encouraged

to offer training themselves to their colleagues, a two-way process that both sharpens skills and creates a sense of community among Colorado documents librarians.

Catalog Records: Depository Libraries need to have every tangible item cataloged at the piece-level, an activity that benefits library users and documents librarians alike for referrals to the RDL collection, collaborative collection management, interlibrary loan, and verification of the existence and holding of government publications. The resulting detailed awareness of individual documents is an obvious enhancement for their access and use by Colorado citizens and students. Of particular importance in this regard is the continuing effort by the CU-Boulder RDL to catalog and item convert its holdings to provide greater access to the legacy depository collection.

Access: The RDL has an important role to play with its provision of document delivery services including request and delivery via Prospector and duplication of materials (fax, scan, microform and CD-ROM reproduction).

Discard Process: Selectives need to have an expedited discard process; we are already well on the way to seeing this happen through a collaboratively developed uniform state plan.

Smaller Selectives: All the selective depositories benefit from the activities of the RDL, but smaller selectives are special beneficiaries. Our questions and needs range from advice about managing the collection, to requesting items not owned locally, to assistance with reference inquiries for users. Historically the CU-Boulder RDL has been knowledgeable, helpful, and timely in its responses, often going beyond the usual norms in its guidance to others. These services are equally important for librarians new to documents or new to the state regardless of the size of their selective.

State Plan: The state plan, referenced above, will not only outline services by the RDL, it will also provide an opportunity for the selectives to reciprocate by indicating their own responsibilities. In particular, a discard process both thorough and expedited should enable selective depositories to catalog what they retain and also inventory their current collections to the mutual benefit of their users and to other depositories.

In conclusion, the selective depository librarians of Colorado wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of the strong leadership of the CU-Boulder RDL over many years past. It has truly exemplified the changing role of documents librarians from custodians of collections to trainers and educators of the worth of government publications. In so doing it has gained national recognition in the documents community. We, the selective depository librarians of Colorado, urge that the University of Colorado at Boulder Regional Depository Library continue its outstanding commitment to federal government information for the citizenry of Colorado.

Sincerely,  
Alliance Government Documents Librarians

(Signature sheet is appended.)



Mark Anderson  
University of Northern Colorado



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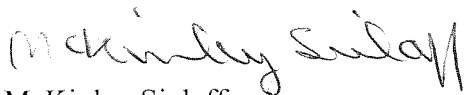
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