

April 18, 2008

Dear Selective Depository Library Director,

This letter is to inform you that the Government Printing Office (GPO) was recently directed by its Congressional oversight committee, the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP), to conduct a thorough study of regional depository libraries, in consultation with the library community.

The directive for the study is a result of their recognition that proposals such as the Kansas/Nebraska shared regional may be a signal that "growing challenges confront regional depository libraries in maintaining and supporting effective public access" through the Federal Depository Library Program. Per their charge, GPO is to report on the current and projected conditions of regionals that inhibit access to Federal depository materials. The report is to include organizational, financial, and technological factors, as well as any other applicable facets. Findings and legislative recommendations for improvements to the Program are due to the JCP June 1, 2008.

While the results of the Biennial Survey of Federal Depository Libraries for 2003, 2005, and 2007 and other existing library surveys and data files are primary sources of data for this study, they do not provide all the information necessary for a comprehensive report on the state of regional depository libraries. A study of regional depository libraries would not be complete without the perspective of the selective depositories they serve.

GPO seeks your help in gathering the most current and accurate information available for this analysis. It will be beneficial for GPO to know about your library's relationship with your regional and if or how it has changed in recent years. Examples of topics for your comments might include whether you would consider seeking regional designation for your library or if your regional depository:

- ◆ Provides the level of support you expect from a regional depository;
- ◆ Eliminated any useful or offered new, services to the selectives in your region within the last 3 years; or
- ◆ Underwent organizational changes that positively or negatively affected the depository operation or processes in your library.

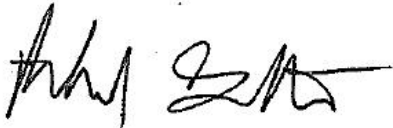
I encourage you to convey to GPO any comments or suggestions for the report that you have. A Web page about the study is on the FDLP Desktop (<http://www.fdlp.gov>) and submissions can be made by using the form on this page. Please use this form as your comments then will be incorporated automatically into a database for easy extraction in multiple formats. At present a draft outline of the study and related documentation are

available. Because of the tight turnaround time for the study, portions of the report will be posted as they are completed. So check the site regularly between now and June 1st. Projected Regional Study Timeline:

| | |
|----------|---|
| April 23 | Begin to see draft sections of the study appear on the FDLP Desktop for comment |
| April 30 | Biennial Survey, and other library surveys, analysis complete Data contributions from regional depository libraries due to GPO |
| May 13 | Deadline for comments |
| May 16 | Draft Report circulated for internal review |
| June 1 | Report transmitted to the Joint Committee on Printing Report posted to the FDLP Desktop |

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance with this important study of regional depository libraries and access to Government information. We look forward to reviewing your comments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at rdavis@gpo.gov or Cynthia Etkin at cetkin@gpo.gov.

With best regards,



RICHARD G. DAVIS
Superintendent of Documents and
Director, Library Services and Content Management

cc: Selective Depository Library Coordinators