

# Building Better Relationships with ASERL's Collaborative Depository Program

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## Background

- Project Origins/IMLS Grant
- Primary Goal: Explore options for cooperative services and collection management for federal government publications across the Southeastern region of the United States (AL, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, & VA).

## Exploring Collaborative Services

- Goal: Provide enhanced outreach and training for all libraries in each state in the region
- Training subcommittee has been formed, comprised of librarians from regional and selective depository libraries
- Initial focus is on the depository community in the region

## Exploring Cooperative Collection Management

- Goal: Create “Centers of Excellence” for all federal agencies
- As-complete-as-possible, **cataloged** collections of federal publications
- Provide **expert** assistance to facilitate use of the collections
- Can be housed in a Regional or Selective Depository Library

# Exploring Cooperative Collection Management

- Three current “Centers of Excellence” are testing the concept:
- Works Progress Administration (Univ. of Kentucky)
- “Dead” agency, no GPO cataloging
- U.S. Dept. of Education (Univ. of South Carolina)
- “Living” agency, lots of GPO cataloging
- Panama Canal Commission (Univ. of Florida)
- “Dead” agency, relatively small.
- Digital component

## Panama Canal Commission

Government Documents Department  
George A. Smathers Libraries  
The University of Florida

## Let's Review:

### What is a Center of Excellence?

A collection and related services established by a depository library focused on a specific

- SuDoc stem,
- set of publications by a federal agency, or
- agency as subject area.

## The Process

- Identify publications
- Find and catalog (if needed) one's holdings
- Analyze the difference between one's holdings and GPO publications and seek to fill the gap
- Provide 'related services' for the collection
- *Digitize everything (optional)*

**Simple, right?**

## An Example

### Creating a COE for the Panama Canal Commission

## Identify Publications

W 73	1902-1905	Isthmian Canal Commission
W 79	1912-1945	Canal Zone
M 115	1947-1949	<i>(National Military Establishment)</i>
D 113	1949-1950	Panama Canal <i>(DoD)</i>
PaC 1	1950-1951	<i>(not apparently used)</i>
CZ 1	1950-1979	Panama Canal Zone Company
Y 3.P 19/2	1979-	Panama Canal Commission

## Catalog Holdings

- Some items inevitably needed to be cataloged
- Some catalog records needed additional information added to create valuable metadata.
- The CFDP committee is creating a union catalog and setting minimum requirements for records. Data will need to be regularized

## Lists and More Lists

A Master list of publications  
compared to a  
Master list of holdings  
provides a  
Master needs list

## Find Missing Titles

- Needs & Offers lists
- Appeals on document social network sites
- Gifts & Exchange
- Other collections

## Related Services

Expertise at the Center of Excellence (COE) will be created by the gathering of a complete collection, accessibility to that collection, and the service provided to the collection by the staff of the library.

- Catalog access
- Documentation
- Trainings

## Digitize Materials

- Create accurate lists
- Develop meta data protocol
- Pre-quality control
- Post quality control
- Add links to catalog records

Available at: [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)  
Search UFPANCAN

## Lessons Learned

- Nothing is as simple as it looks





The phrase Center of Excellence is used here as it is used within the U.S. FDLF to identify a library establishing a collection and related services focused on a specific Federal agency or subject area represented by Federal documents. This is distinct from, and unrelated to, the Florida program of the same name that is intended to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

## Definitions Can be Tricky

- “Condition” of items
- develop “Expertise”
- “Complete Collection”

## Lessons Learned

- Nothing is as simple as it looks
- Despite what the catalogers would have you believe--  
Librarians are not conformists

## Variety is the Spice of Life

- Not everybody handles their material the same way
- Not everybody is using the same cataloging scheme
- Not everybody uses the same software

## Lessons Learned

- Nothing is as simple as it looks
- Despite what the catalogers would have you believe-- Librarians are not conformists
- Even for a small agency, this is a BIG project

## It Takes a Library

Latin American Collection

Health Science Library

Marston Science Library

Law Library

Gifts and Exchange

Development

Documents

IT

Maps

Storage

Cataloging

Preservation

Digital Library Center

## Future Directions

- Proposed Southeast Region Guidelines for Management and Disposition of Federal Depository Library Collections (discussion draft, April 22, 2010)
  - Drafted by ASERL Deans' FDLP Task Force
  - Goal: Cooperatively build comprehensive FDLP collections in the Southeast Region, ultimately establishing “at least two complete cataloged sets of print publications and maps distributed as part of the FDLP”
  - Goal: Gain consensus on policies and best practices for the disposition of federal documents across the Region.
  - Summertime Summit: “Managing FDLP Collections Across the Region” (August 4, 2010)

## Future Directions

- Continued development of “Centers of Excellence”
- Continued development and exploration of training topics and methods for delivery
- Revision/adoption/implementation of Guidelines for Management and Disposition of Federal Depository Library Collections
- Proposal and related documents are available at [www.aserl.org](http://www.aserl.org)



**Thank you! Questions?**