August 19, 2022
Hugh Nathanial Halpern, Director
U.S. Government Publishing Office
732 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20401

Dear Director Halpern,

As 2022-2023 Chair of the Depository Library Council, I am writing on behalf of the 2021-2022 Depository Library Council Chair Will Stringfellow. I am honored to transmit to you two recommendations and one commendation resulting from the Spring 2022 Depository Library Council Virtual Meeting.

Recommendation 1. Council recommends GPO formally adopt the definition of digital deposit as "The practices, services, and workflows for the collaborative acquisition of born-digital and digitized Federal Government information for the National Collection of U.S. Government Public Information"

Justification: Digital deposit is a concept for which there is a lack of clarity among government information professionals across the United States. Council believes the definition provided by the Digital Deposit working group accurately defines digital deposit within the context of the Federal Depository Library Program. Adopting a formal definition of digital deposit will help to minimize confusion among government information professionals, especially as more United States Federal government information is published and distributed in electronic and online formats.

Recommendation 2: Council recommends GPO offer the following FDLP Academy sessions: Introduction to Digital Deposit; Reporting unreported publications; APIs, FDLs, and collection development.

Justification: Council believes FDLP Academy sessions for the recommended topics would help address professional knowledge gaps related to digital deposit and the process for notifying GPO of unreported publications. The FDLP Academy sessions will offer skills which may allow government information professionals to better serve the American public as more United States government information is published and made available in electronic and digital formats.

Commendation: Council commends Superintendent of Documents Laurie Hall for her exceptional leadership serving in dual roles as both Superintendent of Documents and Managing Director of Library Services (LSCM) and Content Management at GPO since May 2016. During her time as Superintendent of Documents, Superintendent Hall created and implemented groundbreaking policies that addressed longstanding challenges within the Federal Depository Library Program, including the following highly important innovations:

- Adoption of SOD-PPS-2021, Regional Depository Libraries Online Selection
- Adoption of SOD-PPS- 2020-1, Government Publications Authorized for Discard by Regional Depository Libraries
- Cessation of Microfiche Distribution
- Digitization of FDLP individual library records, communications, and profiles
- Implementation of Salesforce and the shift to its survey tool for the Biennial Survey

These recent examples show the commitment of the LSCM, under Superintendent Hall's leadership, to greater access and transparency in a rapidly changing information environment. The digitized records tied to the Biennial Survey responses, the improved Federal Depository Library Directory, and the ability of Salesforce to connect askGPO questions to individual library accounts allow continuity within individual Federal Depository Library (FDL) operations and better management of services throughout the entire FDLP.

Finally, Superintendent Hall was instrumental in helping lead GPO and the FDLP through many of the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in 2020. The Federal Depository Library Program, Federal Depository Libraries, and the American public have all benefited from Superintendent Hall's leadership and service.

Will Stringfellow and I are available to answer questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Lisa Pritchard

Lisa Pritchard
Chair, Depository Library Council

Cc: Laurie B. Hall, Superintendent of Documents