



Dividing Our Tasks to Multiply the Successes:

ASERL Centers of Excellence as a Model for Developing Federal Government Documents Collections

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Introduction

- ◆ **Types of culturally valuable information**
 - **Artifacts**
 - **Works of arts**
 - **Historical records**
- ◆ **Preserving government information today**
- ◆ **Role of Federal depository libraries**



Association of Southeastern Research Libraries

- ◆ **Founded in 1956**
- ◆ **Largest regional academic library consortium in the U. S.**
- ◆ **40 members in 11 states in Southeast**
- ◆ **Mission and vision**



Current Issues

- ◆ **Large amounts of valuable records**
- ◆ **Space**
- ◆ **Limited resources**
- ◆ **Needs:**
 - **Improved preservation**
 - **Efficient intellectual control**
 - **Uninterrupted access**





Problem



ASERL Solution: Collaboration





Collaborative Federal Depository Program

- ◆ **Created in fall 2006 by ASERL**
- ◆ **Program objectives:**
 - **Improve public access to Federal documents**
 - **Build a model of collaboration among depository libraries**
 - **Preserve legacy collections**



Centers of Excellence (COE)

- ◆ **Defining ASERL COEs**
- ◆ **COE Memorandum of Understanding**
 - **Fill identified gaps in COE collections**
 - **Develop expertise for using COE collections**
 - **Facilitate cooperative training initiatives**
- ◆ **Goal: reliable and predictable access to Federal publications**



Three Pioneer COEs



USC COE

- ◆ **Focus on Department of Education**
 - **Background**
 - **History**
 - **Sub-agencies**
- ◆ **Collection composition**
 - **Paper, pamphlets, e-media, microfiche**
- ◆ **Inventory issues**



UK COE

- ◆ **Focus on Works Progress Administration**
 - 2,000 circulating and non-circulating items
 - History of WPA
 - Benefits of WPA program
- ◆ **Chronicle of Kentucky's involvement with WPA**
 - Goodman-Paxton inventory and images



UF COE

- ◆ **Focus on Panama Canal Commission**
 - 1,500 items
 - 33 linear feet of publications
 - Congressional hearings, committee reports, maps, and general documents
- ◆ **Collaborations:**
 - Panama Canal Museum
 - UF Digital Library Center



Questions to Explore

Question 1:

What specific steps do the pioneer COEs take to meet ASERL expectations outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding?



Questions to Explore

Question 2:

Can the COE experience be used as a model for providing improved access to culturally valuable materials for academic and community users?





Questions to Explore

Question 3:

What may be the potential impact of these efforts on the future of the Federal depository library collections?



Obtaining the Answers

- ◆ **Phone communication**
- ◆ **Email correspondence**
- ◆ **Survey: seven open-ended questions**
- ◆ **Interview with COE Librarian**





Common Themes

- ◆ Filling the gaps in collections
- ◆ Inventory / Cataloging
- ◆ Developing focused expertise
- ◆ Digitizing everything
- ◆ Publicizing
 - LibGuides
 - Local venues



Challenges

- ◆ Identifying and keeping track of all publications
- ◆ Time
- ◆ Technology
- ◆ Staffing





Strategies for Success

- ◆ **External collaboration**
- ◆ **Internal (library) collaboration**
- ◆ **Planning and documenting**
- ◆ **Secure funding**
- ◆ **Full administrative support**



COE Model and Library Collections

What COE model means:

- ◆ **Shared collections of materials and resources**
- ◆ **Relieved pressures of limited budgets, space, and resource needs**





Thank you!

