

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jim Bradley, Acting Director, U.S. GPO
FROM: James Shaw, for the Depository Library Council
DATE: December 6, 2017
SUBJECT: DLC Recommendations and Commendations, Fall 2017

The Depository Library Council thanks you and all your colleagues at GPO who helped to make the recent DLC Meeting and FDLP Conference such a success, and we look forward to continuing consultation and deliberation as efforts to modernize Title 44 proceed.

The FDLP community provided us with several ideas to improve aspects of the program, which we have distilled into three recommendations below. This memo also conveys six commendations which acknowledge the work and goodwill that contribute to the GPO and FDLP's success in Keeping America Informed.

Recommendations

1: Council recommends that the Library Services and Content Management division explore using MARC field 542 to define the copyright status of government publications.

Justification: By adding this note field to cataloging records created by GPO and made widely available through the Catalog of Government Publications (CGP), the Cataloging Records Distribution Program, commercial vendors, and OCLC, the copyright status of federal government publications will be clearly defined for library users. Use of this field to identify "public domain material" should promote more active use of government documents by the public, particularly in teaching and research materials. Council believes that this small cataloging enhancement will assist GPO in becoming a more active agent in advancing open access to government information.

2: Council recommends that the Government Publishing Office explore options for making Preservation Steward Agreements available to the public.

Justification: It is the consensus of Council that making Preservation Steward Agreements available for review would accomplish several shared goals. First, the ability to review PSAs would market to the public the

commitment to access and preservation that the steward libraries embrace. Second, the ability to review active PSAs would encourage more institutions to consider becoming stewards themselves. Third, awareness of the scope of the agreements would help federal documents librarians and government information service providers identify critical areas of need and opportunities to contribute. In sum, having all of the agreements in one, publicly accessible, digital location would promote transparency in this important program and encourage more libraries to become a part of the cooperative movement for permanent access to government information.

3: Council recommends that GPO explore new or additional methods to enhance retrieval and access of archived FDLP Academy Webinars and Webcasts.

Justification: The extremely successful program known as the FDLP Academy has produced several hundred excellent instructional programs exploring multiple facets of government information and depository library administration. Currently, the programs are arranged on the web in a long list broken into four general categories by date. The categories are: Depository Library Community Webinars, Federal Agency Webinars, FDLP and C&I Webinars, and GPO's Federal Digital System (FDSys) and *govinfo* Webinars. This arrangement was sufficient when there were only a few programs, but now the launch page for selecting programs is lengthy and unwieldy for users. Additional options for identifying appropriate content such as subject, title, creator, presenter, agency, etc., would increase the flexibility of locating webinars and make them more accessible for users.

Commendations

1: Davita Vance-Cooks, Former Director, Government Publishing Office.

Council wishes to express its extreme gratitude to Director Davita Vance-Cooks for the support she provided the Government Publishing Office and the Federal Depository Program during her tenure at the GPO. Having served in senior positions at GPO beginning in 2004, she was confirmed as the 27th Public Printer of the United States in 2013. She embraced her role as leader of the GPO, and pushed for the recognition that GPO is a modern publishing operation by proposing legislation changing its name to Government Publishing Office. She continued the transition to a digital publishing program, and her title reflected the push when she became known as the Director of the Government Publishing Office.

She actively supported the Federal Depository Library Program, reaching out to depository libraries through a robust program of nationwide library visits that have been highly praised by depository librarians.

During her last year as Director, Ms. Vance-Cooks testified in Congress on behalf of the GPO and the FDLP. To that end, in June 2017 she asked the Depository Library Council to advise her about potential changes that could improve the FDLP and access to federal government information. Well over one hundred individuals and organizations responded to DLC's call for comments and suggestions. During this period, Ms. Vance-Cooks invited the DLC to a working session in Washington, D.C. where Council members and GPO staff were able to work thoughtfully and efficiently to reach consensus on a recommended path to change. She graciously met with Council during that working session, as well as following the successful fall Depository Library Council Meeting and Conference in Arlington, VA. Her sincere interest in the FDLP was evident throughout this time.

We, the Depository Library Council, on behalf of ourselves and the Federal Depository Library Community, commend Ms. Vance-Cooks for her service and wish her the best in her new endeavors.

2: The Library Community.

Council wishes to thank the depository library community, national library associations, and every director and leader who submitted thoughts and comments on the modernization of Chapter 19, Title 44 of the United State Code. Through the online comment form created by GPO, you provided thoughtful, insightful and helpful guidance to Council as it worked to meet the request of Director Vance-Cooks to provide recommendations for the revision and modernization of the guiding legislation for the Federal Depository Program.

3: House Committee on Administration.

Council wishes to thank Rep. Gregg Harper, Chair, and all members of the House Committee on Administration and its staff for their interest in the revision of Title 44, United State Code. We especially thank them for the opportunity for several members of the Depository Library Community to testify on behalf of the Federal Depository Program on September 26, 2017.

4: Keynote Speakers, Fall Federal Depository Council Meeting and Conference, October 16-18, 2017.

Council commends each of our distinguished keynote speakers, Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, James LaRue, ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, and Jane Sanchez, Law Librarian of Congress for their outstanding presentations.

5: Laurie B. Hall, Superintendent of Documents

Council wishes to congratulate Laurie B. Hall on her permanent appointment as Superintendent of Documents. Council looks forward to her continued leadership.

6: James Shaw, Acting Chair of Depository Library Council

Council commends fellow Council Member James Shaw, Government Documents Librarian and Professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, for stepping in on short notice and under challenging circumstances to become Acting Chair of Depository Library Council. Jim did a wonderful job leading the Fall 2017 DLC Meeting and FDLP Conference and Council is grateful for his leadership.

Cc/Laurie B. Hall, Superintendent of Documents, U.S. GPO