

U.S. Government Printing Office

Library Services and Content Management

Director Speech – Monday, October 15, 2007



Good Morning,

I want to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the Federal Depository Library Conference and Fall Depository Library Council meeting and say how happy I am to be here with you. Throughout the conference, let me encourage you to approach me or any member of GPO's staff and talk with us about any of the initiatives you hear about today. My best advice as always for everyone attending these conferences is to not only take time to participate in conference sessions, but Network! Network! Network! (with your colleagues who are here from the library community and also with GPO and other Federal staff who will make themselves available after sessions and on breaks to talk with you). As Bob just mentioned, I have decided not to pursue the appointed position of Superintendent of Documents, but will remain in my permanent position as Director of the Library Services and Content Management business unit, and look forward to continuing to serve you in that role. We will begin a search for a Superintendent of Documents, now that we have a Public Printer. Before I begin with some of our current initiatives, there are several important items of note to speak about.

Tributes and Thank You's

I want to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. Carl A. LaBarre, former Superintendent of Documents at GPO, who was laid to rest on October 4th in Arlington National Cemetery. From his post as the Superintendent of Documents, Mr. LaBarre directed a nationwide network involving warehouse-based mail order operations, 25 bookstores in major metropolitan areas, and depository libraries in virtually every State and congressional district. He made the Depository Library

Council an effective advisory body for the Public Printer and, as you well know, it remains so to this day. Mr. LaBarre will be remembered with honor and respect, and we remain thankful for all he did for GPO and the FDLP.

Next, I want to recognize another very sad loss for the community, Mr. Robert Oakley, Professor and Law Librarian at Georgetown University Law Center, who passed away recently. He served on the executive board of the American Association of Law Libraries and served as its president in 2000 and 2001. He performed work and showed unfaltering dedication to the association in Washington for 18 years, often delivering testimony and providing expertise on Capitol Hill. For his endless dedication to the field and for his kindhearted ways in life, he will be sincerely missed.

Finally, I want to offer an immense “thank you” to Mr. Tad Downing, who will be retiring from GPO in November after 31 years of service. His entire tenure at GPO has been devoted to working for the Superintendent of Documents, both in Sales and Library service. Tad led the Sales bibliographic operation, as well as Acquisitions and the Cataloging Branch. As leader of the Cataloging Branch, Tad was known by most as the “father” of the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications on CD-ROM, the first electronic iteration of the MoCat. Tad will be missed at GPO, and we wish him well in the future.

New Council Members

As you know, recently, former Acting Public Printer William H. Turri announced the appointment of six new members to the Depository Library Council. The new Council members’ term started October 1, 2007, and I would like to formally welcome them and take this opportunity to thank them for their commitment to service. Our esteemed new members are:

- Ms. Gwen Sinclair, Head of Government Documents & Maps at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Library

- Ms. Victoria K. Trotta, Associate Dean for Information Technology and Ross-Blakley Law Library, Arizona State University
- Dr. Christopher Greer, Senior Advisor for Digital Data, National Science Foundation
- Ms. Kathryn S. Lawhun, Chief of the Main San Francisco Public Library
- Mr. John A. Shuler, Associate Professor and Bibliographer for Government Information and Urban Planning/ Documents Librarian Collections Development of the South Morgan Richard J. Daley Library at University of Illinois at Chicago
- Mr. Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian at the Connecticut State Library

Please join me in giving them a warm round of applause.

New Library in the Program

I would also like to welcome our newest Depository library into the program, the Appalachian School of Law Library in Grundy, Virginia. Ms. Barbie Selby, the Virginia Regional Librarian, was instrumental in making this happen, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her as well.

Anniversaries

2007 has been a significant year in the history of the Federal Depository Library Program in that it marked the 100th anniversary of the largest group of libraries ever to enter the program in a single year. On March 1, 1907, under the provisions of the Nelson Amendment to the First and Second Morrill Acts, 43 land-grant colleges entered the FDLP.

To commemorate this significant milestone, GPO sent these libraries crystal plaques to honor their century-long participation in this important public service program. It is my pleasure, along with all the staff at GPO, to heartily congratulate these libraries for their long-term commitment to making Federal Government information available to the public through the FDLP.

A complete listing is in your folders. Congratulations, and please join me in a round of applause for these fine institutions.

Difference between FDsys and the FDLP

Over the last few months I have heard discussions and received many questions regarding GPO's Future Digital System (FDsys) and the FDLP. Questions and comments have been along the lines of, "What will happen to the FDLP when FDsys is implemented?" and "The FDLP may be taken over by FDsys."

The Federal Depository Library Program is a congressionally authorized program. In reality, FDsys is being built, in part, to serve the digital content management needs of the FDLP, but it is also a key component of information/enterprise architecture for the agency. The FDLP remains an integral program for GPO, and the FDsys is an information management tool that will greatly benefit our program. Some of the specific benefits to the program that it will provide once implemented include: improved search functionality, more authentication, version tracking, and online personalization options. We are looking forward to the future releases of these technologies that you will hear much more about later today.

Budget

I want to update you on GPO's FY08 budget request, specifically as it relates to the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation. House Report 2771 and Senate Report 89 are both available on *GPO Access*, both titled the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2008.

For 2008, GPO requested \$45,613,000 for the Salaries and Expenses appropriation. Special projects for the FDLP fall under this category, including: data migration and processing new digitized and harvested content for *GPO Access*, FDLP outreach and assessments, an expansion of our cataloging and

indexing program for Web harvesting, and other initiatives. The House recommendation is that we receive \$35,434,000.

While this is significantly less than requested, it is an increase of \$2,338,000 from what we are currently receiving. The Senate recommendation is that we receive \$38,231,000. While this too is significantly less than we requested, it is an increase of \$5,135,000. We are currently waiting on the Final Appropriations and working under the Continuing Resolution until that time.

Distribution Backlog

I also want to inform you that we are currently taking steps to improve our Depository shipment service. After a thorough review of depository shipment operations, GPO has identified several areas of the operation where we are actively working to improve shipments of depository materials to our library partners, under the leadership of Robin Haun-Mohamed and Janet McCaskill.

- By the end of this week when you return back home, the new FDLP Desktop will have a new Depository Distribution Web page to assist in keeping the community informed of distribution issues. This Web page will be updated weekly to reflect the box numbers and shipping lists distributed to depository libraries. Information on Depository Distribution operations, timelines to expect for shipment delivery and response to claims, and contact information will also be available from this Web page.
- We have added seven additional staff members to the Distribution workforce to improve operational efficiencies.
- We have reviewed procedures and processes associated with customer inquiries and contacts with all staff. The askGPO service has been completely tackled. As an additional assignment, I have personally taken over daily review of our incoming CRM inquiries to make sure they get properly assigned within the Library unit and responded to.

If you experience any problems with your shipments, please contact GPO, and we will work to resolve your issues as quickly as possible. This can be done through our customer relationship management tools on GPO Access, or as always, you are welcome to email me directly at <rdavis@gpo.gov> on any issues or problems you are having.

Biennial Survey

The 2007 Biennial Survey of Federal Depository Libraries is now available from fdlp.gov. The survey will be available through October 31, 2007, and all Federal Depository libraries have a legal obligation to participate in the survey. FDLP Desktop login accounts are required in order to take the survey, and they have been generated for all depository library coordinators. If you are a coordinator and have not received your username and password, please complete the appropriate form on fdlp.gov.

Public Access Assessments

Public Access Assessments will emphasize how each depository library serves the Federal Government information needs of the general public by reviewing how they provide access to and services for their Federal depository resources. It is designed to fulfill legal requirements "to make firsthand investigation of conditions for which need is indicated" (44 USC §1909), but this also serves as an opportunity for each library and GPO to share information in order to maximize the effectiveness of the FDLP. Kathy Brazee of the Library unit is leading this effort for GPO.

Library Services staff have developed a draft policy on individual library assessments as well as a description of Access, Collections, and Service as they relate to free public access and this information. These documents, along with situational examples outlining free public access issues, will be disseminated to the depository community and will be discussed in the Assessment Council

session tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. I encourage you to attend and share your thoughts with us.

FDLP Desktop Session

I would also like to remind you to attend the FDLP.GOV session, being held tomorrow, from 10:30am – 12:00pm. This will be an interactive session and a demo of FDLP.GOV. Karen Sieger and her staff in our Web content section have done a wonderful job redesigning this site for the library community and we thank you for the positive comments you have been sending in both from council and from the broader library community. You will have the opportunity to learn about the new FDLP.GOV functionality and what's to come as we expand that service. To help commemorate the launch of the new and innovative FDLP Desktop, GPO is presenting conference attendees with 512mb flash drives with the new fdlp.gov URL on them as a promotional item. One of these complementary flash drives, along with one of our newly re-designed FDLP pins, are included in the FDLP Council bag you received at registration.

Spring Conference

I also wanted to inform you that the Spring Depository Library Council meeting will be held in Kansas City, Missouri from March 31, 2008 – April 2, 2008. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Now I want to take the opportunity to talk about some of our other operational initiatives within Library Services and Content Management.

FDLP Express

I am also pleased to tell you about a new service called FDLP Express. With this new service, users can register to have the latest news and updates from the new Desktop captured and sent right to their e-mail inbox. This new service

makes it convenient and easy for you to stay current with the timeliest FDL P updates. FDL P Express will ensure that you receive news and updates as quickly as possible without having to constantly check the Web site for new information. This went public over the weekend, and you probably saw the announcement on Sunday.

Digitization

In March 2006, a six-month digitization demonstration project was authorized by JCP. The project began in July 2006 and provided GPO the opportunity to test equipment capabilities; develop workflow processes; analyze costs; and evaluate methods for ingest, storage, and access to the digitized files. From the demonstration project, it was learned that GPO's specifications for preservation-level scanning produced high quality acceptable derivatives that support access and search. The project also revealed that GPO should not undertake, in-house, mass digitization projects. With this in mind, GPO proposes to achieve the goal of a digitized legacy collection by taking a path which:

- Establishes partnerships between GPO and Federal agencies, depository libraries, and other organizations that efficiently utilize available resources and reduce duplication of effort;
- Involves GPO digitizing, in-house, those types of materials generally not digitized by others, e.g., maps, fragile materials, microfiche;
- Permits GPO to determine specifications for and manage issues relating to quality control of legacy collection digitization;
- Specifies GPO as the leader in authenticating the digitized legacy collection;
- Results in the legacy collection ultimately being digitized at preservation level specifications; and
- Includes coordination of digitization priorities with partners, and particularly with the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and other Federal agencies.

More information and the proposed path forward for digitizing the legacy collection of Federal publications are included in the Summary Report: Digitization Demonstration Project, which is now online that Bob mentioned earlier. We look forward to receiving your comments to share with JCP.

Federal Depository Library Handbook Final Draft Released

Next I'd like to speak a bit about the Federal Depository Library Handbook. Our Library unit under the leadership of Janet Scheitle and volunteers from the Federal depository community worked together to consolidate and update the Instructions to Depository Libraries and the Federal Depository Library Manual, including its supplements, into one online publication. All the chapters were reviewed by key stakeholders, including the Depository Library Council and professional library associations. Each chapter was also posted for public comment. Staff reviewed comments, integrated them as appropriate, and served as final editors.

The final draft version of the Federal Depository Library Handbook is available on the FDLP Desktop. Work on the publication was divided into two phases. The goal of phase one, creating one source for depository requirements and guidance, was achieved.

The Instructions to Depository Libraries and the Federal Depository Library Manual with its supplements remain in effect until GPO completes an overall review to ensure consistency throughout the entire publication. Once GPO releases the final version of the Handbook, it will supersede the current Instructions to Depository Libraries and Federal Depository Library Manual.

Shared Regionals

Regarding Shared Regionals, in May, GPO issued draft Guidelines for Establishing Shared Regional Depository Libraries for public comment. The comment period ended June 29, 2007, and GPO thanks all who took the time to send e-mails and letters with suggestions and comments.

All submissions were thoroughly reviewed, and the Guidelines were revised based upon your feedback to us. Suggestions were incorporated that were consistent with GPO's Strategic Vision and the Depository Library Council's Vision Statement, both of which express the need for a more flexible model for the Federal Depository Library Program. You can find the final version of Guidelines for Establishing Shared Regional Depository Libraries on the FDLP Desktop. I would like to personally thank Cindy Etkin for her hard work on this.

GPO is currently awaiting JCP approval on the Kansas/Nebraska shared regional proposal. In the meantime, GPO looks forward to receiving more creative proposals for depositories to provide access and services to Government information products.

PACER

At its September 18, 2007 meeting, the Judicial Conference approved the pilot project to provide Federal depository libraries access to PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records), a service of the Administrative Office of the U. S. Courts. GPO is pleased to be working with the AOUSC to implement the pilot to expand access to PACER.

The PACER system can provide remote access to case and docket information from the Federal Courts via the Internet.

Records include information from the Appellate, District and Bankruptcy Courts. Users of PACER are able to access information about a case including the names of all the parties, judges and attorneys involved in the case, case history

and status, as well as many of the documents submitted by the parties to the court.

- The PACER pilot will provide new Government content to participating depository libraries. The goal of the pilot project is to determine if Federal depository library access to PACER expands usage to those who currently do not have it available to them or would be inhibited by going to a court house to use the service.

PACER pilot participants have now been chosen, and selections represent a variety of types and sizes of depositories as well as geographic diversity. The selections will be finalized once the libraries return a signed validation form agreeing to the terms of the pilot. When the final determination is made, there will be an announcement to the community so other depositories can make referrals to the pilot libraries.

ILS

Regarding the Integrated Library System, currently GPO is working with Ex Libris and PTFS to upgrade the Aleph software from version 16.02 to 18. Version 18 has a number of enhancements and will allow us to provide an increased level of service to Depositories. Completion of configuration and testing on the test server, then configuration of the production server is estimated for February 2008.

In reference to Z39.50, we are close to release in a phased approach. GPO has proposed to the Z39.50 Maintenance Agency the creation of the item number as an attribute to facilitate searching by item number. Testing has been done by a group of Depository volunteers, and a number of testers expressed the desire for this capability.

Additionally, development of the new Federal Depository Library Directory as a service of the Catalog of U.S. Government Publication is complete, and we are completing final actions prior to release to the depository community. This will replace the Library Directory on *GPO Access*.

Another item of note is that the MetaLib server has been upgraded to version 4. Release of MetaLib has been moved to late phase 2, once Aleph 18 is up and in production. I would like to recognize Linda Resler, Patricia Duplantis and An Liu in particular for their work on this.

Metadata Extraction

I am also pleased to inform those of you who don't know that GPO has signed an interagency agreement with the Defense Technical Information Service and Old Dominion University in Virginia to begin a two year project to use automated metadata extraction software tools to create metadata for groups of electronic documents in GPO's electronic collection.

We expect to leverage the knowledge acquired through the automated metadata extraction project to:

- Evaluate alternative methods of creating metadata for U.S. Government documents;
- Investigate cost and staffing implications for using automated tools vs. manual metadata creation methods and to;
- Develop detailed requirements and specifications for long-term use of automated metadata extraction tools for Web-harvested content that will provide information to staff working on the Future Digital System project.

The project kickoff meeting is scheduled for October 18th, and we will keep you informed of our progress as developments unfold.

Partnerships

It has been a busy summer in the way of partnerships. We have renewed two of our partnerships, Browse Topics and the List of Federal Agency Internet Sites. Browse Topics, which is a partnership with Oklahoma State University, employs volunteer contributors from libraries in the FDLP to create and maintain Web-based bibliographies of Federal government information in specified topical areas. Recently Browse Topics was given its own domain, and can now be accessed at <www.browsetopics.gov>. I invite you to attend the LSCM Online Services Open Forum, tomorrow at 1:30pm to see a demo and site overview of Browse Topics. I encourage you to get involved and become a contributor. You can learn more at tomorrow's session.

Our other renewed partnership was the List of Federal Agency Internet Sites. Our partner for the List is Louisiana State University. Based on the U.S. Government Manual, the List directs users to the Web sites of active Federal agencies, and is searchable.

We have also almost completed the renewal of our partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago for the Dept. of State Foreign Affairs Network (DOSFAN). This partnership provides for permanent public access to a digital library of electronically archived information products produced by the U.S. Department of State from 1990 through 1997 and includes archived Web sites of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the U.S. Information Agency.

We are also very close to completing a new partnership with the Naval Postgraduate School for the Homeland Security Digital Library. HSDL is a database containing U.S. policy documents, Presidential directives, and national strategy documents as well as specialized resources such as theses and reports from various universities, organizations, and local and state agencies. The database was created and is maintained by the Naval Postgraduate School. As part of this agreement, all depository libraries will be given the option of adding

HSDL to their item selection profiles. For those depositories that select HSDL access, it will be provided either via a password or IP authentication. The Naval Postgraduate School has also agreed to transfer material within scope of the FDLP to GPO if they are no longer able to provide depository access. In return, GPO will agree to create a cataloging record for HSDL and provide them with a monthly list of homeland security-related publications that we have cataloged.

Finally, the partnership Web pages have been migrated to the new FDLP Desktop. As part of that migration, the pages were revised and additional information was added. The pages now include sample Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), on topics such as how to propose a partnership. I want to thank Suzanne Ebanues for her critical work on facilitating our partnerships with the library community.

Outreach

Outreach is integral to the success of GPO's initiatives. We value the collaboration we have with the community, and we will continue to expand our outreach efforts moving forward.

Regarding online training sessions, GPO will continue to provide training sessions on subjects pertaining to the FDLP, using OPAL or similar online applications as we have already been doing the past 6 months. Some of the upcoming sessions as online interactive demos you will see this fall include Authentication, E-Gov, and the Federal Depository Library Directory. These online sessions will all be collected and archived. We welcome suggestions on topics to be covered. You may submit suggestions via askGPO. Library Services staff are developing guidelines and evaluation criteria to enable the library community to also present training sessions via OPAL. Training session submissions from the community will be accepted starting in January 2008.

Finally, we have also taken to the road as much as we can operating under our continuing budgetary resolution to help celebrate anniversaries and to provide educational programs at state association meetings. GPO recognizes the importance of these visits, and while we would like to be able to fill all speaker requests, limited travel funds may prevent us from doing so. But we will certainly do what we can. Recent visits were made to Maryland, Virginia, and Louisiana. Upcoming visits include Massachusetts, Mississippi, Tennessee, Michigan, Illinois, and Kentucky.

In closing, I want to thank Lance Cummins, along with his staff members Bridget Govan, Marian MacGilvray, Nick Ellis, Yvonne Ellis, and Michelle Hawkins who helped put this conference together for GPO. They have done their usual outstanding job!

I also want to thank each and every one of you again for your time and your continued dedication to Government documents. Your efforts make a difference each day, and GPO staff look forward to continuing our partnership with you to improve free public access to Government information.