U.S. Government Printing Office
Library Services and Content Management
Director Speech – Ric Davis
ALA Midwinter Meeting, January 12, 2008

*This speech was presented at the Federal Documents Task Force Meeting
during the ALA Midwinter Meeting on January 12, 2008 by
Ric Davis, Acting Superintendent of Documents, GPO.*

Good Afternoon,

First, I'd like to thank the Federal Documents Task Force for having me here today and say how pleased I am to be here with you. I am always excited to talk with you about the new initiatives underway at the GPO. Throughout the conference, let me encourage you to approach me or any member of the GPO staff and talk with us about any of the exciting initiatives you hear about today.

Before I begin addressing the new projects underway at the GPO, I'd like to speak on a few items of note concerning GPO operations.

Superintendent of Documents

As you know, I am proudly serving as the Acting Superintendent of Documents until a permanent candidate is appointed by the Public Printer, Mr. Bob Tapella. On December 18th, a group of key leaders from the library community met in Washington, D.C. with the Public Printer. They met to discuss qualities and characteristics of an ideal Superintendent of Documents. Through this collaboration, Mr. Tapella will use the knowledge gained in selecting the next Superintendent of Documents.

William Kurtz

For those of you who aren't aware, GPO has appointed William Kurtz as Director of GPO's Publications & Information Sales Unit. Mr. Kurtz will lead the team responsible for the sale of a broad range of Federal print and electronic information products to the

public. He is also responsible for GPO's Agency Distribution Services program, which delivers more than 25 million information products to individual customers on behalf of partner agencies. Bill recently served as Chief of Staff to Senator James M. Jeffords of Vermont. Prior to his service on Capitol Hill, Kurtz has more than 25 years experience in senior executive positions in a wide range of businesses focusing on sales and marketing.

Budget

In regard to GPO's Budget, in late December, H.R. 2764, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 was passed by the House. For expenses of the Office of Superintendent of Documents necessary to provide for the cataloging and indexing of Government publications and their distribution to the public, Members of Congress, other Government agencies, and designated depository and international exchange libraries as authorized by law, $35,000,000 was allocated. There is a possibility that the Senate will make further amendments to this bill before final passage (depending on the status of other legislation providing for the funding of military operations in Iraq).

Now, I'd like to speak to some of the exciting initiatives underway in Library Services and Content Management.

FDLP Desktop

First off, GPO has unveiled a beta redesign of the FDLP Desktop. The goal for the redesign is to balance the mission of the FDLP with the latest Web tools to enhance users' interaction with GPO and their fellow colleagues.

The redesigned FDLP Desktop provides a complete site search, new and improved forms, and options that allow users to create individual profiles.

Another feature of the new Desktop is FDLP Express, which allows registered members of the FDLP Desktop to sign up and receive email alerts based on various categories. At present, only a few categories are available, such as newsflash, library of the year,

partnerships news, GPO-sponsored events, and biennial survey news, but more categories will be added in the near future. Once you subscribe to a category or categories, the FDLP Desktop checks every hour for new content and pushes out alerts based on those categories.

Additionally, users will have access to a host of new features with the new Desktop:

- Individual user profiles
- Self-moderated Needs & Offers
- Online ordering of GPO promotional materials with order tracking
- Private messaging
- Moderated online chats
- Discussion forums

GPO is continuing to maintain the old FDLP Desktop while staff migrate information over to the new site. The new FDLP Desktop is available at: http://www.fdlp.gov.

Authentication

Next, in furthering GPO's mission to provide permanent public access to authentic U.S. Government publications, GPO is working to afford users further assurance that files electronically disseminated through *GPO Access* are unchanged since GPO authenticated them and provide security for and safeguard Federal Government publications that fall within scope of the FDLP.

In May 2007, GPO launched its beta release of Authenticated Public and Private Laws in PDF format, for the 110th Congress. Public and private laws within this application contain digitally signed and certified PDF files that contain GPO's Seal of Authenticity. GPO's Seal of Authenticity notifies users that a document has not been altered since it was authenticated and disseminated by GPO. GPO has also awarded a contract for the development of an Automated PDF Signing (APS) system for the application of digital signatures on PDF files. This will enable application of digital signatures in a more timely, efficient and cost-effective manner than can be achieved manually. Development

of the APS system is nearly complete, and GPO staff will begin its implementation into *GPO Access* workflow upon deployment of the system.

Biennial Survey

Now for a word about the Biennial Survey:

By law, (44 USC §1909) Depository libraries are to report every two years on conditions in the Depository. GPO provides depositories the Biennial Survey to meet this mandate. The deadline to complete the 2007 Biennial Survey was October 31, 2007. To date, Library Services received complete submissions from 1,199 depository libraries. This represents over a 95% response rate. For those libraries who have not yet responded, GPO staff are in the process of reaching out to them and working toward a 100% response rate. Each library who submitted a biennial survey will be receiving a copy of its own results, sent directly to the Director of the library. Additionally, a data summary of all answers will soon be posted to the FDLP Desktop.

Integrated Library System

Regarding GPO's ILS, the release of the public interface of the new Federal Depository Library Directory is scheduled for February of this year and will be accessible via the Catalog of US Government Publications and linked from the FDLP Desktop. The FDLD will provide important information on every Depository library, such as mailing address, web site, Director, Depository number and more.

Additionally, some future enhancements on the horizon include:

- Enabling Z39.50 access, which allows libraries and the general public to access and extract bibliographic records from the CGP.
- Upgrading the ILS Aleph software upgrade to version 18.
- Implementing the MetaLib federated searching product (multi-database searching capability) available from the CGP.

Web Harvesting

Next, I'd like to speak on GPO's Web harvesting efforts. During 2006, GPO conducted a six-month pilot project to harvest online Environmental Protection Agency publications automatically. GPO staff processed a sample of 300 publications harvested during the EPA Pilot Project. The purpose of working through this sample was to determine workflow and staffing implications as well as to estimate the amount of time that would be required to process all of the publications acquired during the EPA Pilot Project.

LSCM is testing two mechanisms for making the publications found to be within scope of the FDLP accessible. The majority of publications in the sample will be made accessible through cataloging records in the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications. These records will be identifiable by the phrase "EPA Pilot Project" in the 590 field of the MARC record display. At the request of the Depository Library Council, LSCM is also trying to determine if there is a mechanism that enables public access to Web harvested content while these publications are in the queue for brief bibliographic records. LSCM has posted a small portion of the sample to *GPO Access* using a browse table. Publications made accessible through this mechanism will be cataloged in the CGP in the future.

LSCM would like to give the depository community the opportunity to review and comment on this sample of publications. Please submit any comments by January 21, 2008 via the FDLP Desktop.

Automated Metadata Extraction Project

GPO is also working on an initiative to create cataloging records for publications identified from the Web Harvesting Pilot Project with the EPA and other publications in the Library Technical Information Services workflow by using automated metadata extraction software tools and processes developed by the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) in collaboration with Old Dominion University (ODU).

At present, GPO has completed initial project and timeline planning and delivered well over 500 documents to ODU for analysis. Upon completion of the extensive analysis phase, GPO can then ultimately determine the feasibility of software developed through this project for use in LSCM operations.

Federal Depository Library Handbook

Library Services is also pleased to announce the publication of "Federal Depository Library Handbook." With its publication, "Instructions to Depository Libraries" and "Federal Depository Library Manual" (including its four supplements) are superseded. As of January 2, 2008 Depository staff now should refer to the Handbook for legal and Federal depository Library requirements as well as guidance on depository operations and practices. The Handbook is available online via the FDLP Desktop and will not be distributed to libraries in a tangible format.

The Handbook is being developed in two phases. Phase 1 is now complete with the consolidation of the Instructions and Manual into one online publication. LSCM will now begin Phase 2, which is to further update the publication, develop needed policies, and revise any policies that require it. Revisions to the Handbook will be made as new content is developed and old content is identified for removal. Changes will be announced via the FDLP-L listserv.

I would like to thank all the volunteers from the depository community who initially drafted the chapters, who reviewed them, and who offered comments. It is not too late to provide us your thoughts. LSCM will continue to take comments about and suggestions for the Handbook. Comments can be submitted by our askGPO service. Please select Federal depository Libraries, sub-category Federal Depository Library Handbook to make the comments.

Digitization

Concerning GPO's digitization efforts, the main objective and the driving factor in GPO digitization, is to ensure that materials remain available, and in the public domain, for no-fee permanent public access through the FDLP.

GPO is in the process of seeking a mutually beneficial relationship with a private or public sector participant that can digitize GPO's entire legacy collection and, in doing so, is in the process of issuing a Request for Information (RFI) in order to obtain such a partner, pending approval by the Joint Committee on Printing.

GPO has set standards for the digitization process. While GPO envisions a relationship where a private or public sector participant provides the actual digitization services for most publications of standard size and structure, GPO may digitize a number of documents in-house (or collaborate with other Federal agencies or Federal Depository Libraries), which may include rare or fragile documents requiring special handling, oversized documents requiring a planetary scanner, or any document requiring 'rush' processing. As progress occurs with the issuance of the RFI, we will certainly keep the community informed via listserv and Web updates.

Shared Regionals

Next, the shared regional proposal of Kansas and Nebraska was submitted to the Joint Committee on Printing for approval in September. GPO is awaiting JCP's response.

The JCP did call on the Congressional Research Service to review Title 44, Chapter 19 regarding the shared regional proposal. They delivered a memorandum with an interpretation that the proposal violates Title 44. There are differing interpretations, including GPO's. GPO believes that Section 1914 allows for this shared regional arrangement with JCP's approval. And so we are waiting to see which direction the JCP will take.

The Kansas/Nebraska proposal is in accordance with the recently-developed "Guidelines for Establishing Shared Regional Depository Libraries," which is available on the FDLP Desktop. GPO looks forward to receiving more creative proposals for depositories to provide access and services to Government information products.

PACER

GPO is also collaborating with the Administrative Office of the US Courts in a pilot project to provide Federal depository libraries access to PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records), a service of the AOUSC. 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. 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.

The PACER pilot provides new Government content to participating depository libraries. Seventeen depositories were selected to take part in the pilot. Selections represent different sizes and types of libraries and geographic diversity. The pilot will last for two years, and we hope that during this time we will be able to expand the number of participating libraries.

We will know more about PACER usage the first part of February when the depositories submit the first of their bi-monthly reports.

CD-ROM Migration

Library Services staff is also embarking on a CD-ROM migration effort. GPO is concerned about ensuring access to content of CD-ROMs and other tangible electronic products that have been distributed to Federal depository libraries. As technology advances, government information content on discs created with older technology may become inaccessible without a comprehensive strategy to ensure future access. GPO is supporting efforts in the depository community to begin to address the issue and is

reaching out to content originating agencies regarding potential collaboration. In addition, work is underway on requirements for a statement of work for a consultant to provide GPO with expert advice on issues and options for tackling the issue.

Handles

In early 1999, GPO initiated the use of PURLs to provide a persistent URL for cataloging records of depository items available on line. A review of existing technologies available at the time pointed to OCLC's PURLs – Persistent Uniform Resource Locators – as the most appropriate software available to provide this service.

In the intervening years since GPO first adopted PURLs, problems have emerged in their use including, but not limited to, scalability issues intrinsic to the PURL software which was developed with the expectation that the software would be used for local products and that far fewer PURLs would be needed than GPO subsequently required. In addition, security concerns associated with PURL technology suggest the need for migration.

FDsys requirements provide for intelligent and non-intelligent persistent identifiers, and Handles has been deemed the persistent identifier of choice. The open-source nature of the CNRI handles software means it will be easier to make any special modifications GPO might require; and CNRI also actively upgrades the handles software as needs arise. Library Services staff conducted tests as a proof of concept for FDsys and to help determine Handles requirements. In a test environment, GPO successfully created Handles that resolved. GPO was also successful at getting Handles to resolve PURLs, also in a limited testing environment.

The transition from using PURLs to using handles will be a gradual one, involving a series of tests. Ultimately, the plan includes not only the implementation of new procedures for handles, but also the migration of current PURLs to handles.

FDLP Marketing Plan

Another new item of note: Staff in Library Services are working on a comprehensive marketing plan with three main goals:

1. To communicate innovative ideas and suggestions for Depository libraries to market themselves to non-FDLs.
2. To communicate innovative ideas and suggestions for Depository libraries to market themselves to the general public.
3. To provide information on how GPO can market the FDLP to the general public on behalf of the FDLs.

This marketing plan will also include an appendix that highlights marketing ideas for services and partnerships. As this plan develops, we will keep the community informed via FDLP Express and FDLP-L.

Outreach

Finally, I'd like to speak a bit about GPO's outreach efforts. We have really taken on a three-tiered approach to community outreach: 1) we've begun initiating advancements in online training, 2) we are constantly working to develop new partnerships with Federal depository libraries and other Federal agencies to increase access to electronic Federal information and 3) we are working to increase face-to-face dialogue and collaboration with the library community, which includes GPO's participation in in-person events and re-instating the Public Access Assessment program.

Online Training

First, GPO has begun to provide web-based training sessions on subjects pertaining to the FDLP, and we are currently using Online Programming for all Libraries (OPAL). GPO has conducted online training sessions on some of the new initiatives underway at the agency, such as the Federal Depository Library Directory, Authentication, and more. These online sessions have been collected and archived. Library Services staff are also developing guidelines and evaluation criteria to allow the community to present training sessions via OPAL and a submission form to allow the library community to request

such sessions. This form will be available soon from the FDLP Desktop. The OPAL web site archives all of GPO's presentations, and the FDLP Desktop links to that site.

FDLP Partnerships

GPO currently has 15 partnerships with Federal depository libraries and Federal agencies. GPO is working to increase the number of partnerships to guarantee permanent public access to digitized content and material contained within databases.

During FY 2007, GPO entered a partnership with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the University of Maryland Thurgood Marshall Law Library for Historic Publications of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Also in FY 2007, GPO entered a partnership with Southern Methodist University for Historic Publications from World War II.

Virtual Reference

Library Services is also in the process of signing a memorandum of understanding with the University of Illinois at Chicago's Daley Library, in partnership with the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, to provide online reference service at no cost to the user. "Government Information Online: Ask a Librarian" evolved from the GIO (Government Information Online) pilot, which began in the fall of 2004. Under the terms of the MOU, questions of a reference nature received through askGPO will be referred to Government information Online. Additionally GPO will assist with promoting this service, as we did for the pilot. GIO is scheduled to go live January 28th. At the same time, GPO will make a Web page available that links to GIO as well as to other "help and reference tools" such as Browse Topics, Federal Depository Library Directory, and the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications. Watch for more information about this to be posted to FDLP-L.

Public Access Assessments

Public Access Assessments, a revitalized individual library assessment program, are projected to be implemented in 2008 or 2009 and will emphasize how each depository library serves the Federal Government information needs of the general public by

reviewing how each library provides access to and services for their Federal depository resources. The program is designed to fulfill legal requirements "to make firsthand investigation of conditions for which need is indicated" (44 USC §1909), but it also continues to serve as an opportunity for each library and GPO to share information in order to maximize the effectiveness of the FDLP.

GPO staff created and solicited comments on the document entitled "Public Access Assessments: Focus on Access, Collections, and Service," last November. We received 23 comments, a summary of which will soon be available from the FDLP Desktop.

GPO Participation in Community Events

GPO staff have had a busy Fall season in regard to community outreach events.

1. In October 2007:

- A Senior Librarian presented at the Michigan Council of Federal Depository Libraries & GODORT of Michigan.

- Senior staff attended the Government Publications librarians of New England meeting to celebrate the 100th anniversary for six of their members as Land-Grant institutions.

- Senior staff participated in the Mississippi Library Association / GODORT meeting in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

- The Federal Depository Library Conference and Depository Library Council Meeting took place in Arlington, Virginia.

- LSCM Staff spoke on technical services at GPO to the New England Library Association annual conference in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

2. In November 2007:

- Senior staff attended 100th Depository Anniversary celebration at the University of Kentucky Libraries.

- Senior staff attended the 75th anniversary celebration for the Morris Library at Southern Illinois University.

- Senior staff visited the FDLP Library of the Year in O'Fallon, MO.

- Senior staff attended the fall conference of the Tennessee Library Association's Government Documents Round Table.

GPO staff also have a variety of upcoming outreach events and conferences in West Virginia, New York, Utah, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Iowa, and Alabama, to name a few. If your library would like to submit a request for GPO participation, please fill out and submit the form on the FDLP Desktop, and a member of our staff will get back to you as soon as possible regarding your request. We will do our best to attend requested events, barring staffing and budgetary constraints.

I 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 to improve access to Government information.