Update from Ric Davis, Acting Superintendent of Documents and Director, Library Services and Content Management

Good Afternoon,

First I want to extend my gratitude to the Federal Documents Task Force for inviting me to speak to you today and say how happy I am to be here with you for another ALA Midwinter Meeting. Throughout the week, as always, I want to encourage you to approach me or any member of my staff and talk with us about any of the initiatives you hear about today. I am always available for questions or comments, and if you think of any after we return home, you can always e-mail me directly at rdavis@gpo.gov.

Today I am going to update you on many of our important initiatives within GPO's Library Services & Content Management, but first, one quick item of note to speak of. As of January 20th, the start of President Obama's administration, the Office of the Federal Register is no longer producing the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents as it has traditionally done. This has been replaced with a version that is updated continuously, as new documents are available. The Compilation of Presidential Documents is available within GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) and on *GPO Access. GPO Access* and FDsys will continue to provide access to the older, archived Weekly Compilations.

GPO'S FEDERAL DIGITAL SYSTEM (FDSYS)

On January 15, 2009, the public beta of GPO's FDsys was released to the public. The system may be accessed through <http://fdsys.gpo.gov>. The information on *GPO Access* is in the process of being migrated to FDsys, a process that will be complete in mid-2009. The migration is occurring on a collection-by-collection basis. The information on *GPO Access* will remain current and continue to be available until migration is complete. Users will continue to be able to access all *GPO Access* content as described in the A-Z Resource List.

Collections currently available for search in FDsys are:

- Congressional Bills
- Congressional Documents
- Congressional Hearings
- Congressional Record
- Congressional Reports
- Federal Register
- Public and Private Laws
- Compilation of Presidential Documents

GPO is requesting your feedback on the system. All questions and comments should be directed to pmo@gpo.gov.

At tomorrow's Government Information Technology Committee (*GITCO*) session, you will have the opportunity to hear from GPO's Program Management Office staff. They will be addressing FDsys. Staff at GPO have been working hard on this important system, and tomorrow, you will hear more about the status of FDsys and how it benefits GPO and the library community.

THE VALUE OF THE FDLP AND THE FUTURE OF THE FDLP

If you haven't yet seen it, I encourage you to visit a Web page on the FDLP Desktop, "The Value of the FDLP." This page offers a venue to highlight the value of being a Federal depository library including services GPO provides FDLP members, the expertise and services FDLP members provide one another as part of the larger network, and the local value individual libraries place on the FDLP within their institution.

The web page provides a mechanism for depositories to submit success stories to the FDLP Community Forum that GPO will use to build a repository for sharing across the FDLP. Submissions may include any manner of information that conveys how depository users, your institution, or your library finds value in the FDLP. Members of the FDLP can benefit from how you are discovering and growing the value of the FDLP in your community.

In August, I sent a letter to depository library directors, asking them to identify the value Federal depository designation creates at the local level for the library, its staff, and users. The letter also actively sought out success stories and anecdotes about the value of the depository. The response was overwhelming, and I was so pleased to read all of the glowing remarks about the FDLP. The collection of these responses is also posted on the Value of the FDLP Web page on the FDLP Desktop. The stories we received were helpful in our strategic planning process for the future.

FDLP STRATEGIC PLAN

Speaking of strategic planning for the future, we have also recently released a draft of our FDLP Strategic Plan.

At the Federal Depository Library Conference and Fall Depository Library Council meeting in 2007, GPO was advised by the Depository Library Council to plan strategically for the future. Initial discussions began at the Spring 2008 Meeting of the Depository Library Council in Kansas City on the vision, mission, and assumptions for the Plan. A SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis of the FDLP was also started at the Meeting.

Feedback was gathered throughout the following months via the FDLP Desktop, as well as at various library events throughout the year, about the future direction of the FDLP. Based on feedback from the depository community, the draft strategic plan was created.

The strategic plan will serve to be an essential component in guiding the future direction of the FDLP. It builds on the work that is being done for the FDLP now and looks forward to the year 2014.

I'd like to share with you the major conclusions in the report:

- The Principles for Government Information will still be the FDLP's core ideology.

- Federal depository libraries will continue to facilitate access to the American public through traditional services as well as through enhanced or new services made possible by the digital age.

- GPO, working actively with depositories, will ensure accessibility, findability, and usability of government information dissemination products.

- The options for building Federal depository collections will increase.

- Regional depositories will continue to have the responsibility for permanent public access for tangible publications that remain in their collections.

- GPO will ensure permanent public access to, provide version control of, and authenticate Federal digital content.

- Communication will exist, and improve, between and among GPO, depository libraries, other Federal agencies, and the public and communities served by depository libraries.

- Consumers of Federal information will be able to access it from where ever they are and when ever they need it.

The Plan is now available online from the FDLP Desktop.

REGIONAL STUDY

I want to take a moment to speak on the Study on the Conditions of Regional Depository Libraries. As we all know, The FDLP operates under the authority and mandates of Title 44, U.S. Code. The existing structure of selective and regional depository libraries dates back to the Depository Library Act of 1962, which established regional depository libraries. Over the years, there have been attempts to revise Chapter 19, and variations within the regional/selective model have been implemented.

GPO's September 2007 request of the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) to approve a proposed shared regional designation across state lines highlighted the growing challenges confronting regional depositories in maintaining and supporting effective public access through the FDLP.

GPO was subsequently directed by the JCP to conduct a study on the conditions of regional depository libraries. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the extent to which public access to Federal depository resources may be impaired by current or projected organizational, financial, technological, or other conditions affecting regional libraries.

After consultation with and input from depository libraries, in June 2008, GPO released a draft report and made it available for depository comment. All comments were reviewed, and a final report of findings was created. This report, entitled "Regional Depository Libraries in the 21st Century: A Preliminary Assessment," was submitted it to the JCP earlier this month. The report is available directly from the homepage of the FDLP Desktop.
Out of the report came three major recommendations for the JCP:

1. Support continued appropriations for GPO's initiative to create machine-readable bibliographic records for the tangible collection of pre-1976 depository publications to ensure its completion in a timelier manner;

2. Undertake a more in-depth look at the organizational, financial, and technological issues affecting the FDLP in its entirety, regionals and selectives alike, and analyze the results to develop recommendations for policy and/or statutory revision that will provide for effective operation of the FDLP in the 21st century; and

3. Continue to support GPO's initiatives to authenticate the Government's digital information dissemination products.

Once we hear of next steps or instructions from JCP, we will alert the library community immediately.

AUTHENTICATION

Progress is continuing in regard to our authentication initiative.

As you know by now, GPO is implementing digital signatures to certain electronic documents on *GPO Access* that not only establish GPO as the trusted information disseminator, but also provide the assurance that an electronic document has not been altered since GPO disseminated it. A digital signature, viewed through the GPO Seal of Authenticity, verifies document integrity and authenticity on GPO online Federal documents, at no cost to the end user.

Last year alone, we have:

- Implemented an Automated PDF Signing System, which allows documents to be authenticated in bulk,
- Digitally signed and certified the FY 2009 Budget of the U.S. Government, and
- Launched authenticated Public and Private Laws as a permanent application on *GPO Access.*

Just days ago, after successful beta testing, we launched authenticated Congressional Bills on *GPO Access.* Digitally signed PDF files are now available for the entire collection of Congressional Bills from the 110th Congress, and Bills from the 111th Congress are being digitally signed as they are published. Of course, GPO Access users can still search and browse unsigned Bills from the 103rd Congress forward. Digitally signed Congressional Bills are also available on GPO's FDsys.

ILS

The overall goal of the implementation of GPO's Integrated Library System (ILS) is the provision of access to depositories and the public to bibliographic records of Federal government publications, many containing links to the electronic version of the publication, and the use of the system's power and capabilities to provide services to depository libraries and to the public. The goal is also to streamline workflow and internal activities in support of the FDLP, and to reduce use of and dependency on legacy systems. A lot of new and exciting things have been happening in regard to the ILS.

The ongoing development of the Aleph 500 integrated library system at GPO enhances GPO's ability to perform statutorily authorized functions of the FDLP and the Cataloging and Indexing Program. Several ILS features and functions have been recently developed and released:

1. Desktop access was granted to all staff in GPO's Library Technical Information Services to the Aleph staff client through Citrix;
2. The new Federal Depository Library Directory administrative module was released, enabling depository libraries to edit their own directory information;
3. The public interface to the new Federal Depository Library Directory launched;
4. Access to the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP) via the Z39.50 communications protocol for search, retrieval, and download of bibliographic records was granted to depository libraries;
5. Acquisitions, phase 1: monographic materials workflow changes/brief records was implemented;
6. The Aleph software was upgraded from version 16.02 to version 18;
7. A requirements document was created, vendor selection was made, and a contract was awarded for authorities cleanup and ongoing authority control;
8. CGP Web interface enhancements were made to improve functionality and ease of use.
9. For ease of navigation between the Federal Depository Library Directory and the FDLP Desktop, the depository eagle symbol in both the FDLD administrative module and the public interface links to the FDLP Desktop and opens a new browser window. The FDLD public interface in the left navigation menu also has a text link to the FDLP Desktop.

Coming later this year, we have several enhancements planned:

1. Implementation of a login page specifically for depository libraries to take advantage of authenticated services in the CGP. This will include configuration of the circulation module and the creation of depositories as patrons. An example of an authenticated service will be the ability for FDLP libraries to set up their own search criteria for email notification from the CGP when records meeting those criteria are added to the catalog;
2. Ability of the CGP to display authorities cross-references;
3. Page design and configuration of resources for federated searching (MetaLib);
4. Serials control (check-in of individual serials issues). All active serials are the ultimate goal. We will start with a subset and work forward;
5. The addition to CGP records of searchable serial issue-level Superintendent of Documents classification numbers and shipping list numbers for distributed titles and issues; and
6. Enhancements to the Federal Depository Library Directory.

DIGITIZATION
As most of you know by now, GPO has been working with the library community, other Federal agencies, and the public on a national digitization project with the goal of digitizing all retrospective federal publications back to the earliest days of the Federal Government.

The project includes the digitization of the complete legacy collection of tangible U.S. Government publications most of which are held in libraries participating in the FDLP. The objective is to ensure that the digital collection is available, in the public domain, for no-fee

permanent public access through the FDLP. The goal of the project will ensure that the collection is digitally reformatted for both preservation and access purposes.

GPO envisions a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship with a private or public sector participant(s) where the uncompressed, unaltered files created as a result of the conversion process are delivered to GPO at no cost to the Government. These files will serve as the digital master copies that will be preserved and used for the creation of access derivatives within FDsys. In exchange, the contractor or contractors shall be able to maintain a collection of files produced in the process for inclusion in their collections (e.g., search indices, book search sites). This content will be made available online, free of charge from GPO.

To help meet this challenge, A Statement of Work was created, and a Request For Proposal was posted to Federal Business Opportunities. The review of the proposals is almost complete. Once GPO makes a decision for award, JCP must then approve that potential selection before work can begin.

We are also continuing down additional paths in regard to digitization. This past year, we worked with other Federal agencies on the National Digital Standards Advisory Board, Federal Still Image Digitization Working Group. The goal of this project is to establish common standards, methods, practices, and guidelines for the digitization of visual material (excluding motion picture images). Common digitization standards will enhance the exchange of research results and developments, encourage collaborative digitization practices among Federal agencies and institutions, provide the public with a product of uniform quality, and set a common benchmark for digitization service providers.

The Web site for the Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative is available at <http://www.digitizationguidelines.gov>. The initiative represents a collaborative effort to establish a common set of guidelines for digitizing historical materials.

The Web site currently features two documents developed by the Still Image Digitization Working Group that are open for comment until mid-November. The first proposes a minimal set of embedded TIFF metadata for use in historical and cultural heritage digital imaging. The second two-part document presents a taxonomy of digital image characteristics and provides corresponding metrics and criteria to describe and validate imaging performance and quality. The Web site also provides a glossary of digitization terms and concepts, and presents digitization-related news and events on the subject from the participating agencies.

I'd also encourage you to visit our Digitization and Preservation Initiatives Web page on *GPO Access* and review our list of priorities for digitization. If you have any materials we can utilize in coordination with that list, please contact Robin Haun-Mohamed or James Mauldin through the LSCM Contact Form on the FDLP Desktop.

Finally, I want to encourage you to share with us any collaborative efforts in regard to digitization. In the last few months, we launched an enhanced version of the Registry of U.S. Government Publication Digitization Projects at <http://registry.fdlp.gov>. Some notable features of the new Registry include the ability to:

- Browse digitization projects by category or alphabetically by title.
- Search the entire Registry or filter searches by category or fields.
- Quickly access new and recently updated listings.
- Utilize RSS feeds to keep informed of new and updated projects.
- View listings by contributor.
- Contact fellow digitization participants.
- Recommend listings to others.
- Report broken links.

Project listings derive from voluntary and solicited contributions from Federal depository and other libraries, Federal and other government agencies, and other non-profit institutions.

BEN'S GUIDE

Ben's Guide to U.S. Government, which was created in 1999 as the educational component of GPO Access, will soon be getting a new look.

We are currently soliciting feedback from the Ben's Guide user community in the form of two web site usability surveys. One survey is geared toward kids and students, and the other toward parents, educators, and others. The goal of the surveys is to capture user feedback about Ben's Guide. This includes asking users specific questions regarding what features they like about Ben's Guide as it is now, and also what they would like to see in light of a redesigned Ben's Guide. Also as a result, we hope to learn more about the Ben's Guide user base, and use that information for future considerations for the site. Some examples of the information we are looking for include: how the user came across the site, what information sections they use on the site, technical/navigational/interactive features they would (or would NOT) like to see on Ben's Guide, other suggested improvements, and various other questions.

The survey will be available until February 2, 2009. We already have over 3,500 respondents. The survey is open to any who wishes to participate, and it can be accessed from the Ben's Guide homepage, the FDLP Desktop, and the *GPO Access* homepage.

After survey results are compiled, planning will continue to determine the next steps for Ben's Guide. We are very interested in obtaining beta testers for the next version of Ben's Guide. If you would like to be a beta tester after a new design has been developed, please see Kelly Seifert, and she will obtain the necessary contact information from you. You may also contact me at rdavis@gpo.gov if you are interesting in beta testing.

FDLP MARKETING PLAN

Last summer, LSCM disseminated the FDLP Marketing Plan and launched the "Easy as FDL" marketing campaign. Our main goal in this initiative is to assist FDLs in marketing their unique and valuable services to the widest audience possible, as well as to provide FDLs with the tools necessary to market their own services to both the general public and non-Federal depository libraries.

If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to visit the FDLP Desktop, review the Plan, order the new "Easy as FDL" promotional products, and use the tips and strategies provided to promote your library.

Additionally, we debuted our first FDLP promotional video in October. You will can view and download that video from the FDLP Desktop. In the coming months, you will see the release of Phase II of the FDLP Marketing Plan. Phase II will provide more tips and strategies on how to market your library and more tips on how to utilize the Easy as FDL promotional products.

FDLP DESKTOP
The FDLP Desktop is continuing to evolve with the latest Web technologies and your input. As part of the evolution of the FDLP Desktop, the site has been divided into fdlp.gov and community.fdlp.gov.

I am pleased to announce that the final redesign of fdlp.gov has been launched. Since its launch on January 5, 2009, the Desktop has seen over 19,000 article views.

FDLP.gov provides dissemination of Program related content, services and news. Community.fdlp.gov provides social networking tools which enable registered individual members to communicate and network with others in the community. There are current almost 150 FDLP Community members.

While content is the first and foremost focus of the new Desktop, we also want to provide you with the latest and greatest social networking technologies to help everyone in the community collaborate together.

I want to encourage you to visit the new fdlp.gov and to join FDLP Community. If you are interested in more information, Kelly Seifert has an informational handout on the features of the new fdlp.gov and the Community Forum.

AUTOMATED METADATA EXTRACTION
In late 2007, GPO entered into an Interagency Agreement with the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) in collaboration with Old Dominion University (ODU) to create cataloging records using automated metadata extraction software tools and processes currently being used by DTIC.

ODU will determine if the engine component developed for the DTIC and NASA projects can be used for GPO collections, including a sample of the GPO EPA harvested collection. However, GPO collections differ significantly from the DTIC and NASA collections and therefore, the scope of the work will be expanded to take the domain into account and answer questions as to what metadata can be extracted.

ODU will also conduct a feasibility study and exploratory prototyping of major types of documents from GPO's collections to determine if automated metadata extraction is a viable method for creating metadata for these materials.

The Automated Metadata Extraction agreement is being conducted in two phases over two years, with project completion expected in October 2009. The first phase of the agreement, which focuses on GPO EPA harvested documents, is almost completed. During the first phase:

- GPO identified and provided FDLP, in-scope, harvested EPA PDF files to ODU for analysis.
- Directly working with GPO, ODU analyzed the documents to identify major classes of documents in the collection, metadata elements present in each class, and issues with existing template language for extracting metadata.
- ODU provided GPO with a report on the findings of this analysis and made enhancements to the automated metadata extraction software.
- ODU made several refinements to the templates, software, and engine.
- GPO has received an initial batch of extracted metadata and is conducting an internal review of this data.
- Final testing and evaluation of the phase one extracted metadata produced through this tool is expected to be completed in early 2009.

 As part of the second phase of the agreement, GPO has identified and provided 1,000 FDLP in-scope Congressional PDF files to ODU for analysis. ODU has analyzed the documents and provided GPO with a characterization and feasibility report. Next steps include GPO evaluating and testing metadata extraction records.

CD-ROM ASSESSMENT
I wanted to take a moment to speak on the CD-ROM assessment project.

Last fall, GPO sent out a call for volunteers to participate in a project to assess depository CD-ROMs and identify discs at risk for content loss.

The project involves reviewing CD-ROMs in depository library collections for system requirements, file formats, proprietary software, and other factors that could jeopardize access to the content.

GPO is working on an initial assessment based on GPO catalog records, and through volunteers, is getting assistance from Federal depository libraries that have the discs in their collections in order to get a complete assessment and categorization of at-risk content. We had a brainstorming session to collaborate with libraries in order to get a thorough assessment of CD-ROM collections and identify first, those at the highest risk.

We have also identified a potential partner who has made some discs available online for evaluation. We are working to examine the list and to finalize the members of our working group with depository partners and will use this information to approach content originating agencies to discuss how the content of these discs can be made available for permanent public access. GPO will coordinate with Federal agencies to assure permanent public access to the content.

DARTS
I wanted to give you a brief update in regard to DARTS - Access to Reports, Technical and Scientific.

The FDLP DARTS experiment was a success in giving the Federal Depository Library community access to a portion of the NTIS technical reports collection. In early 2009 the National Technical Information Services (NTIS) will be launching the National Technical

Reports Library (NTRL) to even further enhance accessibility to the NTIS technical reports collection.

While NTIS does not have plans to discontinue or upgrade DARTS output, the purpose for introducing the NTRL is to provide a more sophisticated platform to disseminate federally funded full-text technical reports to the widest possible audience.

The NTRL operates on a system interface that allows users to do queries on the large NTIS bibliographic database. The intent is to broadly expand and improve access to over 2.5 million bibliographic records (pre-1960 to present) and 500k full- text documents in PDF format that are directly linked to that bibliographic database. Documents not in digital format will continue to be available for ordering on the NTIS Webstore in microfiche and print formats.

As required by Federal Law, the NTRL will operate on a cost-recovery subscription business model. The goal is for NTRL to be available to subscribers beginning April 1, 2009. Subscription rates will be based on Full-Time-Equivalent (FTE) at the customer's site with subscription costs starting at $4,500 per year for small institutions.

Some Federal Depository Libraries are already accessing information as beta-testers of the NTRL. As a DARTS subscriber, NTIS is willing to open your IP range access through March 31, 2009 to the NTRL on a complimentary, trial basis.

A VISITING SCHOLAR

I'd also like to tell you about a special guest we have with us at the GPO. Professor Nobuhiro Igawa is an Associate Professor from The International University of Kagoshima in Japan. In conjunction with the Library of Congress and GPO, Professor Igawa is studying how the United States Government distributes Government information to its citizenry through the FDLP. Professor Igawa is researching the organizational structure, governing bodies, legal, and program requirements of the FDLP. He is looking at how a similar model may be applied in Japan.

Recently, I participated in an interview with Federal News Radio on this endeavor. That is now available on the FDLP Desktop for download.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Finally, there are several facets of community outreach that I would like to touch on today.
- Outreach Travels of GPO Staff;
- Public Access Assessments;
- Partnerships;
- Online Training; and
- GPO's Upcoming Meeting.

TRAVELING

Recently, many GPO staff members have been on the move, participating in outreach events around the country. Locations include Phoenix, Arizona; Seattle, Washington; Anaheim, California; Rapid City, South Dakota; Portland, Oregon; Iowa City, Iowa; Boston, Massachusetts; Gainesville, Florida; Trenton, New Jersey; and Ottawa, Ontario to name a few. We also participated in a depository anniversary celebration for the first time via a

presentation on DVD to the University of Louisiana Monroe, University Library. If you would like to request GPO participation at your library, for special events such as anniversaries, or perhaps if you need assistance from GPO with an assessment of your library's adherence to the FDLP, there is a form available on the Desktop to request GPO personnel to visit your institution.

PUBLIC ACCESS ASSESSMENTS

Public Access Assessments have started. The Public Access Assessment program, also known as PAA, is GPO's individual depository library operation assessment and consultation program. It focuses on free, public access to depository resources and also the services and cooperative efforts that support the visibility and use of the depository resources at the library. 14 different sizes and types of volunteer libraries participated in a test of the PAA processes last fall. We are currently preparing our full schedule. We anticipate most Public Access Assessments will be conducted by state or region. Depositories will be notified before these start. If you wish to have current depository management activities documented by GPO now and your state or region is not part of an upcoming round of PAA, you may request one at any time through the Request for GPO Participation Form on the FDLP Desktop.

To assist in the development of successful depository operations, GPO continues its ongoing efforts to share information about FDLP legal and program requirements and related guidance and best practices. We continue to contact the five remaining 2007 Biennial Survey of Depository Libraries non-responders in D.C., Florida, Texas, and Missouri in an effort to obtain submissions of this legally required survey from the libraries. We are also continuing our review of the 2007 Biennial Survey by groups of major areas of concern noted. In some cases, we are highlighting these concerns through direct contacts with depository personnel and through consultation with regional depository personnel. Please keep in mind that depositories continue to determine locally all of the procedures developed to apply the legal requirements and the requirements and other guidance in the Federal Depository Library Handbook. We strongly encourage you to contact us anytime you have a question about depository management so that we may discuss the issues and various options or best practices you may consider. This is just one way we continue to partner together for a more efficient and effective FDLP. Lastly, we are very excited by a new educational resource in development that updates the Self-Study of a Federal Depository Library. This will be for voluntary self-educational or strategic planning use. We believe you may use some or all of the Self-Study to review how your library applies FDLP legal and program requirements and related guidance. We anticipate rolling out modules of the new Self-Study as they become available in the very near future.

PARTNERSHIPS

GPO has been developing partnerships with Federal depository libraries and other Federal agencies to increase access to electronic Federal information since 1997. With an increasing amount of Federal information available electronically, partnerships ensure permanent public access to electronic content and provide services to assist depositories in providing access to electronic material and in managing their depository collections.

These partnerships also allow GPO to take advantage of the expertise of Federal depository librarians and the services they have developed. FDLP partnerships generally fall into three categories: Content Partnerships, Service Partnerships, and Hybrid Partnerships. Partnerships

are not limited to these categories, however, and GPO will consider partnership proposals that fall outside of these categories.

- **Content partnerships** assist with providing permanent public access to electronic U.S. Government information. Partners agree to provide storage capacity and user access without restrictions on re-dissemination. In the event the partner is no longer able to provide free, public access to this electronic information, the partnership requires the agency or library to transfer a copy of the content to GPO. GPO will then make the content available either through *GPO Access* or in cooperation with another partner.

- **Service partnerships** assist GPO to provide enhanced services to Federal depository libraries. These partnerships can focus on repurposing GPO-provided information or on providing other services to depository libraries and the public. These services may provide assistance to librarians with administering their depository collections.

- **Hybrid partnerships** are a mixture of content and service partnerships. For example, providing permanent public access to electronic U.S. Government information and also offering a service important to the administration of the FDLP collection.

In the past year, GPO developed three new partnerships. The first, with the Naval Postgraduate School, allows depository libraries to gain access to the Homeland Security Digital Library (HSDL).

In the second partnership for FY2008, GPO joined with the University of Illinois at Chicago and the other participating Federal depository libraries to promote the "Government Information Online: Ask a Librarian" (GIO) service.

In the third partnership with the U.S. Government Accountability Office, permanent public access is ensured for the GAO Reports and GAO Comptroller General Decisions databases that are available on the GAO Web site.

If you would like to propose a partnership with GPO, please submit a partnership inquiry form to us via the FDLP Desktop.

OPAL
I wanted to also take an opportunity to remind everyone that Online FDLP learning is available for Federal depository library participants via OPAL (Online Programming for All Libraries), an interactive Web-based meeting and conferencing service.

The educational sessions may be live or prerecorded. In addition, training events are archived to allow those unable to attend a live event to replay the event at their convenience.

Past presentations can be accessed through the OPAL site, which is linked from our Outreach link on the Desktop.

This past year GPO opened up its OPAL room to members of the depository library community who would like to present additional educational and training sessions for the benefit of the community. Proposals should focus on a specific aspect of U.S. Government information, FDLP issues, or depository library operations and management. I encourage you

to submit a proposal to participate by completing the Online Educational Program Proposal Form, found on the FDLP Desktop under Outreach. To date, two of our most popular OPAL sessions were presentations given by members of the FDLP community on preservation and creating successful OPAL presentations.

To learn more about OPAL, to obtain URLs to archived GPO OPAL presentations, or to learn how to provide feedback for GPO's OPAL presentations, please visit the FDLP Desktop.

UPCOMING MEETING

Finally, I'd like to remind you of GPO's next important event:

- The Spring 2009 Depository Library Council Meeting will be held April 20 – 22, 2009 in Tampa, Florida at the Hyatt Regency Tampa.

One of my goals for Tampa is to have every Federal depository library Director present for two very important discussions: a regional meeting and a meeting on the future of the FDLP in which I hope to engage the Depository Library Council, GPO staff, and all Federal depository library Directors.

You can now make your reservations online at the Hyatt's Web site, which can be accessed through the FDLP Desktop or by calling 1-800-233-1234. You must mention the GPO's Federal Depository Library Conference and Council meeting to receive the correct rate.

Reservations should be made before Saturday March 28th, 2009 to ensure receiving the prevailing Government rate. The Government rate will be honored beginning Thursday, April 16 through Saturday, April 25, 2009.

Finally, I want to thank each and every one of you for your time today and for your continued dedication to Government documents.