



Depository Library Council Meeting
Tampa, Florida
04/20/2009

Questions for Monday Afternoon Sessions:
New Birth of Freedom - Creating an Informed Citizenry
Through Depository Libraries in the 21st Century

At the Fall 2008 meeting of the Depository Library Council (DLC) the Public Printer asked the Council to focus their next meeting on regional depository library issues. Specifically Mr. Tapella asked that they examine: 1) how the partnership between depositories and GPO can thrive and 2) how the relationship between regionals and selectives can be strengthened. He stated:

“I believe that with the release of our final report [on conditions in regional depositories] and discussions with Congress and the beginning of a new administration and the beginning of a new Congress, the timing is right.”

In response to the Public Printer’s charge, the two afternoon plenary sessions have the theme “A New Birth of Freedom – Creating an Informed Citizenry through Depository Libraries in the 21st Century”. We believe this theme is appropriate as it extends the 2009 inaugural theme chosen by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, which celebrates President Abraham Lincoln, “A New Birth of Freedom”. There are common threads that run through President Abraham Lincoln, President Barack Obama, and the Federal Depository Library Program:

- ▶ Originating from humble roots;
- ▶ Serving the grass roots supporters, the general public in America; and
- ▶ Transparency in Government.

On January 21 President Obama issued two memoranda to the heads of executive departments and agencies, which are of particular interest to the depository community. In one he stated, “All agencies should use modern technology to inform citizens about what is known and done by their Government. Disclosure should be timely.” Further, he directed the Office of Management and Budget to provide guidance to agencies “to increase and improve information dissemination to the public ...”

In the other he called for an unprecedented level of Government openness to “strengthen our democracy and promote efficiency and effectiveness in Government”. To achieve this he directed agencies to take specific actions to implement the principles of a transparent, participatory, and collaborative Government.

GPO fully supports the open and transparent Government initiative and hopes to work more closely with the President's staff to implement it. It has, after all, been GPO's role since it was established in 1861. It also was the intent of Congress when the statutory antecedent of the FDLP was enacted in 1813 and it was reaffirmed with the Printing Act of 1895, which moved depository libraries from the Interior Department to GPO.

In the spirit of President Abraham Lincoln, the new Obama administration, and the long tradition of the Federal Depository Library Program, what we'd like to do today is mobilize you to help improve the FDLP from the grass roots, up. We want you to reach out to the Depository Library Council and to GPO; tell us the challenges you face as a Federal depository library today; convey your ideas for change or modification; let us know what GPO can do to help you manage your depository operation in a manner that will create an informed and engaged citizenry.

Discussions over the next three days, and particularly today's discussion, will provide GPO with an agenda for near, mid, and long-term actions. Much of what we hear will feed directly into the strategic plan for the FDLP. At the last Depository Library Council meeting in October 2008, three goals were agreed upon:

- ▶ Develop new models for Federal depository collections
- ▶ Develop new models for Federal depository services
- ▶ Develop new models of communication for the depository library community

There will be discussion of what is allowable under the current law in Title 44, *United States Code* that authorizes the FDLP. In your packet you will find copied pages from chapters 17, 19, and 41 that cover cataloging and indexing, the FDLP, and GPO Access respectively.

2-3:30

FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES AND GPO THRIVING TOGETHER AS PARTNERS

1. What are the major challenges your library is currently facing? Which most directly affect the library's continued participation in the FDLP?
2. What is needed to better support the needs of the Federal depository library community within current law? Any needs that will require change in the law? If you could suggest only 1 or 2 changes in Title 44, what would they be?
3. In what way(s) can GPO help depositories (or depositories help GPO) in sorting through priorities during economically challenging times? How can the partners effectively reconcile the needs of the local institution with the needs of the depository program?
4. What challenges are you encountering in providing service to remote users or to patrons who come into the library to use online resources? What can GPO do to help you?
5. What value does your entire institution receive from participation in the FDLP? [Note: "entire institution" can be defined either as (1) the entire library operation or (2) the entire community the library serves (e.g., an entire university, its curriculum, faculty, and students)]
6. Could you identify the costs, tangible and intangible, direct and indirect, of being a Regional Depository (or selective). How can the costs of participation in the current program be made

more transparent/apparent to both the depository and GPO in order to make rational economic decisions during periods of fiscal challenges?

7. Given your library's situation and the discussion thus far this afternoon, what are 1 or 2 things GPO can do that would most benefit your library?

4-5:30

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AND SELECTIVE RELATIONS

1. Are you communicating well with your regional/selective? What works for you? What innovative ways are you using to communicate and strengthen selective/regional relations? Are you using social networking space to communicate with each other? How can GPO and depository libraries effectively use social networking open source software to share information about the program? How can depositories more effectively communicate directly with each other across institutional and geographic boundaries?
2. To foster collaboration, and in the interest of resource sharing, are there service or collection activities at the institution or state level that can be extended across a region or the country (e.g., GIO: Ask a Librarian, increased use of OPAL, social networks) to produce a more robust service model?
3. What specific flexibilities would selectives like to see from regionals? And what flexibilities are regionals looking for from the selective they serve?
4. What can GPO do to support flexible management of depository operations?
5. For more than 15 years now, certain members of the library community and the Depository Library Council have discussed redundancy and the number of comprehensive collections of content needed to ensure permanent public access. Title 44 requires that regionals retain at least one copy of all Government publications either in printed or microfacsimile form (except those authorized to be discarded by the Superintendent of Documents). In order to consider future models that may be legally permissible as requested by the library community, should regional depository libraries be able to withdraw portions or all of their tangible collection if they have access to digital equivalents? What are the long-term implications for depository library collection responsibilities necessary to achieve the FDLP's primary goal of permanent public access to both print and digital materials?
6. What are the factors that support continued existence as Regional depository libraries? Why have strong regional libraries remained strong while others struggle to exist?
7. How does the local expertise of the depositories inform the national purpose of the program, and is there a way information technology could be used to reach out beyond the traditional community of a local depository?
8. What activities would you like GPO to focus on in the next 2 or 3 fiscal years? What should GPO's budget priorities be for funding requests?