

# Depository Library Council

*Advisory body to the Director of the U.S. Government Publishing Office*

December 5, 2022

Hugh Nathaniel Halpern, Director  
U.S. Government Publishing Office  
732 North Capitol Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20401

Dear Director Halpern,

As Chair of the Depository Library Council (DLC) I am pleased to offer for your consideration a recommendation resulting from the Fall 2022 Depository Library Council Meeting. As is often the case during gatherings of depository librarians, topics that seem to spring from a few members gather support from the community and become issues of both importance and possibility. Our recommendation is the result of conversations and observations about the changing landscape of government information librarianship and its challenges. Thank you for taking the time to think about our recommendation and possible next steps.

**Recommendation:** Council recommends GPO investigate and report on models that connect professional support, networking, mentoring, and collaboration for government information professionals. DLC requests that GPO's report includes findings and their ideas about how those might be incorporated into an evolving and diverse Federal depository library community.

**Justification:** The last decade has presented many challenges for librarians and libraries participating in the Federal Depository Library Program. These challenges include, but are not limited to, a decreased level of training related to government information in graduate programs, a lack of succession planning and mentoring within institutions, fewer opportunities to informally connect and receive support, coordinators tasked with multiple responsibilities in addition to the FDLP, and coordinators receiving less time and resources for professional growth and development. These challenges have been expressed by librarians at all types of libraries, nationwide. Innovative ways of connecting the depository community will benefit those librarians, the communities they serve, and the entire FDLP.

Sincerely,

*Lisa Pritchard*

Lisa Pritchard  
Chair, Depository Library Council

Cc: Scott Matheson, Superintendent of Documents  
Cc: Laurie Hall, Managing Director of Library Services & Content Management  
Cc: Jen Kirk, Chair-Elect, Depository Library Council