

Depository Library Council

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

May 29, 2020

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, I am pleased to deliver to you recommendations resulting from Council's April 22, 2020 meeting. The meeting was productive, and discussion with the depository library community was enlightening.

Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Director of the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) on matters that relate to improving public access to our Government's information through the Public Information Programs of the Superintendent of Documents. It is in this role that Council offers two recommendations for consideration:

1. Council recommends that GPO work with the Council's Digital Deposit Working Group to implement the Digital Deposit pilot to explore a full ecosystem approach to reporting lost documents to GPO, as outlined in the document, "[Digital Deposit Working Group report to the Depository Library Council Proposed Pilot.](#)"

JUSTIFICATION:

Council believes that the work conducted by the Digital Deposit Working Group exhibits a need to explore current workflows around reporting lost or fugitive documents to the GPO. We also believe that this pilot will inform GPO of current workflows, and will help to inform future participation and potential requirements for libraries and other volunteers to enhance public access to and preservation of government information.

2. Council recommends that GPO convene a meeting this summer that includes a panel to discuss library reopening planning, and an open forum to allow attendees an opportunity to share what is happening in their libraries. One aspect of the discussion should be what permanent changes may take place in libraries as a result of experience gained from operating in an all or mostly virtual environment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

JUSTIFICATION:

Council learned from the April Open Forum that depository library staff very much appreciated the session, and they indicated an interest in more of these types of meetings. The topic of library reopening planning is an area in which there is much interest. Questions were expressed during the Open Forum but, at the time, answers were unknown. Council believes this session would be beneficial to the depository library community as well as to GPO.

On occasion, Council also gives commendations to recognize achievements of, and to show our support and appreciation for, GPO. This Council presents GPO with a commendation for GPO's response to COVID-19 and other emergency situations.

GPO RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND OTHER DISASTERS

The Depository Library Council (DLC) commends the staff of the U.S. Government Publishing Office, the Superintendent of Documents, and the staff of Library Services and Content Management for their timely responses to an unprecedented number of disasters effecting Federal Depository Libraries during the past three years. GPO has responded with compassion, concern, and expert advice to hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, and COVID-19.

In each instance, GPO has reached out to the individual libraries involved to offer help and guidance. GPO has also provided written guidance and protocols for each specific disaster situation. In particular, the rapid development and provision of the COVID-19 Toolkit for Federal depository libraries offers valuable advice to libraries in an uncertain situation. DLC thanks GPO for their continued efforts to support Federal depository libraries in these difficult situations.

As I am finishing my term on the Depository Library Council, if you should have any questions or require additional information regarding these recommendations, please don't hesitate to contact [Alicia Kubas](#), Council's incoming chair.

Sincerely,



MARY S. CLARK

Chair, Depository Library Council

Cc: Laurie B. Hall, Superintendent of Documents