

November 3, 2014

Dear Regional Depository Library Director,

In accordance with the findings and recommendations from the 2012 [Federal Depository Library Program \(FDLP\) Forecast Study](#), the Government Printing Office (GPO) is considering a draft policy proposal that would allow Federal regional depository libraries to discard certain depository materials in tangible format if a suitable digital version is available from GPO. If approved by the Joint Committee on Printing and implemented, this regional discard policy could provide flexibility for regional libraries to build and manage their collections in a manner consistent with the strategic direction used for other library collections.

The draft policy proposal, which is attached, has been shared with national library associations, regional depository librarians, and the Depository Library Council for their review and comment. While the proposal has been generally received positively, two issues were raised that require further analysis:

- The actual number of tangible copies to be retained to ensure access and preservation.
- Geographic distribution of the tangible copies.

In order to provide GPO with the necessary data to address these issues, we are asking that you complete the online [Regional Depository Library Discard Intent form](#), a copy of which is attached. Your responses will indicate the likely impact of the policy among regional depository libraries. **Please submit the form no later than November 10, 2014.** The data will be compiled and shared at the December 2014 Depository Library Council Virtual Meeting.

The information to be provided on this form is for analysis only. The responses you submit are not binding and nothing in the draft policy would require depository resources be discarded. I also encourage you to consult with your regional depository coordinator in this effort and consider the needs of the area served by your depository library. **Filling out this form of intent does not indicate GPO's approval to begin discarding.**

We look forward to your response. Your input will be an important factor in helping to move this draft policy proposal forward for submission to the Joint Committee on Printing for approval. Thank you for your continued support of the FDLP and your participation in this initiative to modernize the Program.

Best regards,

MARY ALICE BAISH
Superintendent of Documents

cc: Regional Depository Coordinator