



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

Steering Committee Conference Call Summary

ASERL Collaborative Federal Depository Program

July 12, 2007

ATTENDING

David Vidor, Emory University

John Burger, ASERL

Judith Russell, University of Florida

James Staub, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Laura Harper, University of Mississippi

Sandee McAninch, University of Kentucky

Valerie Glenn, University of Alabama

ACRONYMS

AALL: American Association of Law Libraries

ALA: American Library Association

GODORT: ALA Government Documents Round Table

SLA: Special Libraries Association

Steering Committee welcomes new member

James Staub from the Tennessee State Library joined the Steering Committee as a representative of a Selective depository in a non-academic institution.

Steering Committee invitation to Law Librarian

The law library community has specific concerns, especially the possible disappearance of multiple copies of authentic, tangible law documents. Marian Parker, Professor of Law and Librarian at Wake Forest University and former Depository Library Council member, will be invited to serve on this steering committee.

News/Updates from ALA

The ALA Government Documents Round Table, the Special Libraries Association, and the American Association of Law Libraries submitted a letter of comment this summer <<http://www.aallnet.org/aallwash/lt05172007.pdf>> regarding GPO's May 2007 Draft Guidelines for Establishing Shared Regional Depository Libraries <http://www.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/mgt/shared-regional.pdf>.

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The letter expressed serious reservations about GPO's draft guidelines, and requested significant changes. AALL is concerned about maintaining access to printed original documents for use in legal proceedings; many courts are leery of accepting electronic versions of documents unless they pass a lengthy verification process. The AALL/SLA/ALA-GODORT comment was not forwarded as ALA policy because not all ALA groups agreed with the position of the letter.

A compromise letter was drafted out of the ALA Committee on Legislation. When the item came up for vote at ALA Council, several Council members were concerned because the GODORT councilor could not speak for ALA in the letter. ALA Council members who work with government documents remain concerned about multi-state Regional Depository agreements and preferred the GODORT/AALL/SLA letter instead of the 'compromise' letter. The compromise letter was never submitted to GPO.

GPO will be posting the final guidelines for shared Regionals soon. The Steering Committee agreed that there should be ongoing review of the GPO guidelines' effectiveness as our projects evolve.

Review of Program Background

Several proposed additions that were sent out to the Steering Committee were discussed. A final draft will be distributed for approval and then distributed on various discussion lists.

Miscellaneous items

Steering Committee will send out instructions for subscribing to the ASERL Selectives discussion list, and ask Regionals to promote the list as well.

The committee discussed several discussion list messages and letters, both pro and con, from the depository and law library communities regarding GPO's shared Regional guidelines and concluded that our letter of support was still appropriate.

First step in test-bed projects

During our previous call, the Steering Committee tentatively agreed to begin drafting processes for creating "centers of excellence" for two agencies: Army Corps of Engineers (active agency) and the Works Projects Administration (defunct agency). Steering Committee agreed that the Army Corps documents are too diverse and might be a difficult proving ground for our first effort. Therefore, the committee agreed to substitute the cabinet level Dept. of Education for the Army Corps, making ED and FW the test-bed SuDoc classes. This is a good, strategic choice for our "proof of concept" project. The committee wants to test our concept both on collections that are not widely available and well-described yet (FW), and those that are (ED).

Date for DC meeting

Steering committee will examine logistics for meeting on Saturday, October 13th.

Need for committee chair

It was agreed that the group needed a chair who could speak for the group and work with the ASERL Executive Director as needed in between meetings/calls. Sandra McAninch, University of Kentucky, will serve as Steering Committee Chair.

DATE FOR NEXT CONFERENCE CALL

Monday, August 20, 2007, 2PM Eastern