



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

Public Comment Meeting Notes

ASERL Collaborative Federal Depository Program

October 19, 2008

Doubletree Crystal City Hotel

Arlington, Virginia

4:00 pm ET

Participants:

John Burger (ASERL)
Valerie Glenn (University of Alabama)
Sande McAninch (University of Kentucky)
Marian Parker (Wake Forest University Law School)
Judith Russell (University of Florida)
Claudene Sproles (University of Louisville)
Bill Sudduth (University of South Carolina)
David Vidor (Emory University)

One selective depository librarian attended the meeting. She was asked about her perspective as selective in a state that will house a center of excellence, and requested more information on the reason behind the 'centers of excellence.'

The purpose of 'centers of excellence' is to create comprehensive collections based upon SuDoc stems, for example, the University of Kentucky (UK) will be the center of excellence for FW items. A key element of this is to make everyone aware of where centers of excellence are located – so that everyone knows that the most complete collection of FWs is at UK.

Q: How were the agencies picked?

A: The agencies were chosen somewhat randomly; we wanted to choose one defunct agency, which was no longer producing material, and one active agency, which would continue to add to the collection and the catalog. Education is still a 'manageable' agency, unlike larger agencies such as Agriculture, Commerce, or Defense.

We are anticipating that the people working with the collection will be resource people, but also understand that subject experts might not be with collection. The Indiana light archive model was given as an example – the collection is kept at Indiana University, but Purdue serves as a subject expert for agriculture, environmental sciences, etc. Experts will probably be associated with a

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curriculum, not necessarily a collection. This could serve as a way to market each library's strengths within the region, instead of focusing on a Regional depository in each state.

Q: How are you planning to find comprehensive collections?

A: Part of this pilot project is to determine that. We are trying to identify titles from the Monthly Catalog and other sources. The two pilot centers will be conducting an inventory of their collections, and the other Regional depositories will follow. This way we can see where there is duplication, and identify any unique titles.

Q: Are Regionals supposed to give these (missing items) to the centers of excellence?

A: Regionals can't at this point. After the inventory we would create a needs list that would go out to Regionals and Selectives to see if anyone wants to give them up. We may also utilize the National Needs and Offers List. Failing finding another copy, the Regional holding the unique item would be asked to make a surrogate. If it's not in good condition, theirs would be a 'remote center of excellence copy.' The National Archives is another possibility for obtaining a surrogate copy.

Q: Does the plan include every ED doc, no matter if it's a depository item?

A: Sort of. The center of excellence will try to identify fugitives and report to GPO. Fugitive items could also be digitized & incorporated into the program.

SM: end result is to help the user know where they can find these documents

Q: What is the part-time project assistant?

A: The primary responsibility of the project assistant is to handle the logistics of managing the project. JB needs help to manage this and other ASERL projects in order to see them move forward. We're asking for contributions from ASERL Selectives (\$750/year) and Regionals (\$1000/year).

It was noted that overall, this is good idea and one that's needed. It's a bit too early to figure out a role for Selectives, which may be why there aren't many comments.