



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

June 13, 2008

Richard G. Davis, Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
Mail Stop: IDCC
732 N. Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20401

RE: ASERL Input on GPO's draft study, "Regional Depository Libraries in the 21st Century: A Time for Change?"

Dear Mr. Davis:

Congratulations to you and your team for the very fine work in the above-referenced draft report, especially given the short turnaround time for data gathering, analysis, and reporting. ASERL libraries share your commitment to ensuring that "regional depository libraries are able to provide unimpaired Government information dissemination products for future generations." This study highlights the urgent need for flexibility in managing federal documents collections which will be critical to the ongoing success of the FDLP program in the future. Additionally, while it appears to us that GPO already has the authority to offer this kind of flexibility under current statute, we gladly support any revisions to Title 44 that would re-affirm such authority.

As you know, Regional depository libraries within ASERL have been analyzing portions of our federal documents collections to determine if there are new service models that could combine our libraries' collection strengths to offer improved access and services to the public and also improve sustainability of their FDLP operations in the long term. We are somewhat concerned by the serious errors and misinformation recently promulgated by others regarding ASERL's effort. This misinformation persists despite our significant efforts to be transparent regarding our goals and activities, which is troubling indeed.

So to be clear -- regardless of what others may report about ASERL's efforts in this arena -- please be assured that we are fully committed to operating within the bounds of Title 44 and other GPO Guidelines. Moreover, ASERL's project is being led by a team of eight highly talented and experienced documents librarians -- including GPO's former Superintendent of Documents and three representatives

1438 WEST PEACHTREE STREET, N.W., SUITE 200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30309-2955

VOICE: 404.892.0943 TOLL-FREE: 800.999.8558 FAX: 404.892.7879
WEB: [HTTP://WWW.ASERL.ORG](http://www.aserl.org)

from Selective libraries in the regions, including a senior law librarian -- to ensure the needs of both Regionals and Selectives can be served under whatever model emerges from this investigation, assuming it is ever implemented. Should you ever have any concerns or questions about our intentions, please do not hesitate to contact me so we can resolve them as quickly as possible.

Again, our thanks for the exemplary work in drafting this report which offers strategies to ensure a strong future for the FDLP program. We fully support all the recommendations contained therein.

With our appreciation for your time and consideration of our input.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Burger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent than the last name "Burger".

John Burger
Executive Director