

The ASERL Collaborative Federal Depository Project A Proposal to the IMLS National Leadership Grant Program

Abstract

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) proposes a 36-month demonstration project to create collaborative “centers of excellence” among federally-designated regional depository libraries, to improve access to federal government publications and create a model for improving depository library services and operations. Working within the current legal mandate and policies of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), ASERL will partner with the University of Kentucky and the University of South Carolina to implement the project and document the model. The project will create a comprehensive-as-possible collection of tangible, legacy federal documents in two subject areas, including cataloging and updated holdings records, creation of master lists of all document titles in the subject areas, filling of gaps in “center of excellence” collections, and provision of expert subject-based reference support services. The Collaborative Federal Depository Project (CFDP) seeks to provide workable solutions to address the increasing cost of managing, preserving, and providing access to large collections of federal government publications. It will document and test the feasibility of a model that could lead to the creation of subject-based centers of excellence among all depository libraries, relieving staff, cost, and collection management pressures among both regional and selective depository libraries and improving preservation, intellectual control, and access for legacy collections nation-wide. It also can provide a model for future development of shared collections and services for current and future federal depository collections. The CFDP will benefit depository libraries as well as individuals looking for complete federal documents collections based on subject. Information about the CFDP model will be freely available on the ASERL website (www.aserl.org).