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Information Dissemination
(Superintendent of Documents)

January 30, 2009

John Burger, Executive Director
Association of Southeastern Research Libraries
1438 West Peachtree Street, NW, #200
Atlanta, GA 30309-2955

Dear Mr. Burger,

As Acting Superintendent of Documents I am writing this letter to support the National Leadership Grant Program proposal that the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) is submitting to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) is administered by the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) and under the purview of the Superintendent of Documents. As such I am keenly interested in the outcome of your proposal and project.

The Federal Government's obligation to disseminate and provide broad public access to its published information and to preserve it information to be accessible for future generations is accomplished primarily through the FDLP. Regional depository libraries have chosen to serve their communities and the nation by building, preserving, and ensuring continued access to Federal Government publications collections. In the ever-changing technological environment, opportunities for collaboration abound like never before.

ASERL's proposed project, **The Collaborative Federal Depository Project**, is in alignment with the strategic goals of the FDLP. Our strategic planning process addresses the necessity to develop new models for collections, services, and communication in a flexible and collaborative environment. The "Centers of Excellence" concept is an interesting one that touches on each of these aspects.

While GPO recognizes that multiple models may be required in order to meet the diverse needs of the libraries in the FDLP and the public they serve, I commend the ASERL members for their creative thinking to design and test a model for the FDLP that not only increases access to Federal depository materials, it also improves service, and enriches collections – without having to make changes in the statutory authority of the FDLP. Further, the "Centers for Excellence" model ensures the creation and preservation of more complete collections of specified Federal agency publications.

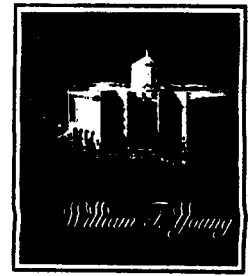
Also of importance, **The Collaborative Federal Depository Project** has the potential to impact and benefit Federal depository libraries beyond the Southeast. It will serve as a model for creating additional "Centers of Excellence" and it will increase the accessibility and availability of legacy print collections to the public served by other libraries.

I thank ASERL members for continuing to recognize the importance of being a regional depository library and for seeking funding for **The Collaborative Federal Depository Project**. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at rdavis@gpo.gov or by phone at (202) 512-1622.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard G. Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

RICHARD G. DAVIS
Acting Superintendent of Documents



January 23, 2009

John Burger, Executive Director
Association of Southeastern Research Libraries
1438 West Peachtree Street, NW, #200
Atlanta, GA 30309-2955

Dear John:

I commend the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) Board of Directors for taking the initiative to secure more support for ASERL's Collaborative Federal Depository Program (CFDP). The draft application for an IMLS Leadership Grant would enable us to move forward effectively. In preparing this letter, I have consulted with our Regional Depository Librarian, Sandra McAninch, one of the members of the Project Oversight Team described in the grant application.

The University of Kentucky Libraries are strongly committed to the activities you outline in the grant application as we believe their implementation will strengthen the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). This project proposes a new model for managing FDLP collections, providing valuable information about how FDLP libraries can work together to preserve and provide access to our legacy print collections and, in turn, help the Selective depositories that we support manage their own collections.

As the grant narrative indicates, we will use UK's collection of Works Project Administration (WPA) publications to become a "center of excellence" for FW and Y 3.W 89/2 documents. This will include inventorying and cataloging the relevant documents we currently have, developing a complete-as-possible master list of WPA publications, determining gaps in the collection, and developing a collaborative process for filling any collection gaps in conjunction with other Regional and Selective depositories in the Southeast. Additionally, Sandra McAninch will continue to provide leadership for the project as Chair of the Steering Committee and a member of the Oversight Committee.

see blue.

This will require sustained manpower over several years and other direct costs for goods and services. We will implement these activities using our own funds, contributing significantly to the project on an in-kind basis. A portion of UK's contribution is reflected in the budget as 15% of the Regional Depository Librarian's time to serve on the Project Oversight Team and Steering Committee and to provide overall coordination of UK's activities in support of this project.

This project will serve as an important new roadmap for other regions of the country. It will support cooperative efforts to create authoritative, complete collections of legacy federal publications and to provide improved access and ensure preservation. For this project to be successful, it will require a central project coordinator based at ASERL to assist us in completing the work described above, to create and manage online tools that will allow new forms of cooperative collection management, to document the new models created via this project, and to foster collaborative service activities among the 253 federal depositories in our 10-state region. With a history of more than 50 years of cooperation among research libraries, ASERL is a natural home to coordinate such an initiative. The University of Kentucky Libraries look forward to contributing to this important effort.

Please let us know if there is additional information or assistance that we can provide.

Kind regards,

Carol P. Diedrichs

Carol Pitts Diedrichs
Dean of Libraries
William T. Young Endowed Chair



INTERIM DEAN OF LIBRARIES

January 26, 2009

John Burger, Executive Director
Association of Southeastern Research Libraries
1438 West Peachtree Street, NW, #200
Atlanta, GA 30309-2955

Re: Letter of Support for IMLS Grant Project

Dear John:

The University Libraries of the University of South Carolina wholeheartedly supports this "Centers of Excellence" grant application. We feel that this project will enhance our libraries services in three important areas: our regional federal depository library collection, our collections and services to the education community of the university and the State of South Carolina, and the general partnership known as the Federal Depository Library Program.

As members of the Federal Depository Library program since 1884, the University of South Carolina has a long-standing commitment to permanent public access to government information. The university and its libraries also understand that access is improved by making our resources available through our online catalog and OCLC network partner such as SOLINET. The library is also committed to identifying and filling the gaps in our Department of Education materials received on deposit. With the support of the grant we feel that we can achieve a collection of excellence to support our mission.

The main desire of this grant is the creation of a "Center of Excellence" for United States Department of Education materials distributed through the Federal Depository Library program that can be used to enhance the teaching and learning of the university's education curriculum. The federal government produces and distributes a wide variety of valuable materials that assist the training and continuing education of teachers and administrators in the State of South Carolina. The desire to identify gaps and complete our collections will ensure that educators and education faculty have access to these materials and enhance outcomes on both the training and pedagogical levels.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA • COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29208 • 803/777-6212 • FAX 803/777-8057

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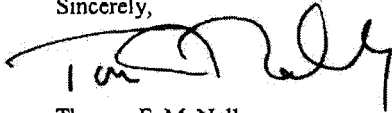
Strengthening the collections at the University of South Carolina serves the entire state including the nineteen other federal Depository Libraries in the state that can borrow materials through interlibrary loan. Access to these materials will be greatly enhanced if they are fully cataloged and identified in the library's online catalog and OCLC.

By creating a complete, lendable collection to libraries in South Carolina and the ASERL/SOLINET network valuable resources can be shared and made permanently available.

Finally, this project will serve as a model to study the feasibility of building additional "Centers of Excellence" at other Regional Depository Libraries in the southeast.

We look forward to this partnership with the University of Kentucky and SOLINET to plan, build, and implement the "Centers of Excellence" models in Federal depository library collections. With the support of the grant we feel that we can achieve a "collection of excellence" that supports our mission and makes the collection available to the broadest possible community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom McNally', written over a horizontal line.

Thomas F. McNally
Interim Dean

George A. Smathers Libraries
Office of the Dean of University Libraries

535 Library West
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January 30, 2009

John Burger, Executive Director
Association of Southeastern Research Libraries
1438 West Peachtree Street, NW, #200
Atlanta, GA 30309-2955

Dear John:

I am pleased that the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) is seeking for additional funding for its Collaborative Federal Depository Program (CFDP). If funded, the IMLS Leadership Grant would allow the project to proceed more rapidly and effectively.

Prior to preparing this letter, I have spoken with our Regional Depository Librarian here at the University of Florida, several other ASERL deans who manage regional depository libraries, and other depository librarians and directors of depository library, both regional and selective. All agree that this project will directly benefit the depository libraries in the Southeast and, if successful, it will provide a new model for collaboration among regional depository libraries that improves collection management and service to our users, while remaining in compliance with the current law governing regional depository libraries.

The George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida are strongly committed to the project and believe it is vital to the future success of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). This project will improve management of the Federal documents collections in the participating regional depository libraries, improve service to the selective depository libraries they support, and demonstrate an effective new way for other depository libraries to collaborate to improve access to the large legacy print collections. It will also ensure compilation and preservation of more complete print collections for various agencies and develop expert knowledge about those collections for the benefit of the depository library community and the public. Improved management of the regional collections will enable the selective depositories that the regional depository libraries support to better manage their own collections.

As the grant narrative indicates, the University of Kentucky will focus on Works Project Administration (WPA) publications to become a "Center of Excellence" while the

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John Burger, Executive Director

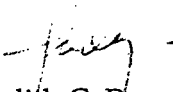
University of South Carolina will work with publication from the U.S. Department of Education. Their efforts will include inventorying and cataloging the documents they already have in their collections, as well as creating a definitive list of agency publications to the extent that is possible. Using this information, they will be able to determine gaps in their collections, and develop a collaborative process for filling those gaps. The Smathers Libraries will use the information they develop to evaluate our own holdings for these agencies and we will encourage our selective depository libraries to fill in the gaps in the Kentucky and South Carolina collections if they are prepared to discard needed items.

Both from my past experience as Superintendent of Documents at the U.S. Government Printing Office and from my present position as dean of university libraries for the regional federal depository library serving Florida, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, I believe that this is an important effort that will contribute significantly to the improved management of the print collections held by Federal depository libraries. I am personally committed to the project and will remain an active member of the Steering and Oversight Committees.

ASERL has facilitated cooperation among research libraries in the Southeast for more than 50 years, so it is an excellent choice to serve as the coordinator of a project of this type. Although not all of the 253 federal depository libraries in our 10-state region are ASERL members, those of us who are members are committed to keeping the others well informed about project and making sure the project addresses their needs and concerns. The University of Florida Libraries welcome the opportunity to participate in this important effort and look forward to building on the results of the project to establish our own Center of Excellence.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information or assistance.

Kind regards


Judith C. Russell
Dean of University Libraries