November 4, 2011

Ms. Judith Russell
Chairperson, ASERL FDLP Steering Committee
Dean of University Libraries
George A. Smathers Libraries
University of Florida
535 Library West
PO Box 117000
Gainesville FL 32611-7000

Dear Ms. Russell:

This responds to your recent concerns regarding ASERL's "Southeast Region Guidelines
for Management and Disposition of Federal Depository Library Collections" and the
disposition tool.

GPO commends ASERL for its efforts in developing an innovative approach to the
management of Federal Depository Library collections in the southeastern United States.
At this time, we believe the remaining obstacles to completion are certain features of
ASERL's proposed disposition tool for the weeding and relocation of Federal
publications for many depository libraries, which we understand was developed at the
University of Florida Libraries under your direction. As we have previously stated, the
disposition tool is not in compliance with the Legal Requirements & Program
Regulations of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

Regional depository libraries are designated by Senators to ensure the
comprehensiveness and integrity of their state or region's Federal depository
resources. As part of their duties, regional depository libraries are tasked with
managing the process by which selective depository libraries under their
jurisdiction dispose of Government publications. According to 44 USC 1912, "[t]he
libraries designated as regional depositories may permit depository libraries, within the
areas served by them, to dispose of Government publications which they have retained
for five years after first offering them to other depository libraries within their area, then
to other libraries."

Our recommendation is that ASERL's disposition tool be revised so that each regional depository library has the first opportunity to select materials offered within its state, followed by the selectives within its state, before libraries located outside of the state are allowed the opportunity to select the materials. This change would bring ASERL's Guidelines into conformance with Title 44 and the goals of the FDLP.

We recently learned that the ASERL tool has been modified slightly to allow regionals to review/evaluate materials at the same time as Center of Excellence libraries outside of their states. While still short of the FDLP requirements, this is a step in the right direction. We are confident that further changes to ASERL's proposed disposition tool can be made that will ensure compliance with program requirements without undermining the purpose or effect of ASERL's approach to the management of depository resources in the southeastern United States.

While Center of Excellence libraries are not within the scope of the FDLP, we are pleased that many depository libraries within ASERL are in the process of developing these comprehensive collections. GPO has, in fact, been consistent in its policy of comprehensive collection development for the regional depository library collection in the states for more than 20 years, including during the time you served as Superintendent of Documents. I welcome the Association's assistance in taking the steps necessary to clarify and amend the ASERL Guidelines to make them consistent with the current FDLP Legal Requirements & Program Regulations.

Sincerely,

Mary Alice Baish

MARY ALICE BAISH
Assistant Public Printer
(Superintendent of Documents)

cc: The Honorable Gregg Harper, Chairman, Joint Committee on Printing
       The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Vice Chairman, Joint Committee on Printing
       The Honorable Bill Nelson, U.S. Senate
       The Honorable William J. Boarman, United States Public Printer
       Terry Birdwhistell, Dean of Libraries, University of Kentucky
       Larry Boyer, Dean of Libraries, East Carolina University
       Sylverna Ford, Dean of Libraries, University of Memphis
       Lance Query, Dean of Libraries and Academic Information Resources, Tulane University
       Julia Rholes, Dean of Libraries, University of Mississippi
       Kay Wall, Dean of Libraries, Clemson University
       Regional and Selective Depository Libraries within the ASERL States