



**ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES**

February 13, 2012

Ms. Mary Alice Baish, Superintendent of Documents  
U.S. Government Printing Office  
742 North Capitol Street  
Washington, DC 20401

Dear Mary Alice:

Thank you again for meeting with us on January 11, 2012. It was helpful to have an explanation of the Government Printing Office interpretation of 44 U.S.C. Chapter 19, and we appreciated having the opportunity to explain our interpretation of the statute and the importance of the Centers of Excellence (COE) in the *ASERL Southeast Region Guidelines for Management and Disposition of Federal Depository Library Collections: Implementation Plan*.

The two Steering Committees within ASERL that guide this program have discussed and agreed to the two changes you requested:

- 1) That the *Implementation Plan* give precedence to the Regional Depository Library with primary responsibility for the library proposing to discard Federal documents. This would allow the primary Regional Depository Library to review, and if appropriate, select from the discards prior to these publications being offered to any other depository libraries.
- 2) That the Selective Depository Libraries under the jurisdiction of that primary Regional Depository Library also be given the opportunity to review and, if appropriate, select from the discards prior to these publications being offered to depository libraries in any other state or territory within the southeast region.
  - In the case of libraries served by multi-state Regional Depository Libraries, the Selective Depository Libraries in those states/territories would receive simultaneous access to discard lists from libraries within any of the jurisdictions served by the primary Regional. (For example, Selective libraries in Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands would receive access simultaneously to discard lists from those jurisdictions, which is served by the Regional Depository Library at the University of Florida. The same would apply for the Selectives in Delaware, the District of Columbia and Maryland, which are served by the Regional Depository Library at the University of Maryland.)
  - There are also two states within the southeast, Alabama and Louisiana, that each have two Regional Depository Libraries within the same state. Although it was not specifically discussed during our meeting, we are assuming that all Selective Depository Libraries in those states would receive simultaneous access to the discard lists emanating from Selectives in their state. This will be easier to administer and will provide the greatest opportunity for discarded Federal documents to remain in the state to which they were originally distributed.

It is our understanding that GPO generally supports the ASERL project aside from these two issues. We hope you agree that making these changes will bring the project into compliance with *44 U.S.C. Chapter 19*. As noted above, these changes have been approved by the Steering Committees that are guiding the development of this program. Before consulting more broadly with the ASERL members and the other depository libraries in the southeast, we would appreciate your prompt affirmation that the above is a correct statement of your requested changes in the *Implementation Plan*. If it is not, please clarify where there is a misinterpretation.

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Subject to your support, we intend to recommend to the depository libraries in the southeast region that the *Implementation Plan* and the ASERL Disposition Database be changed so that once a library is given access to a discard list, it continues to have access until the items on the list are claimed or the offer expires. The proposed order and duration of the access to discard lists are represented in the table below.

Elapsed Days	Libraries with Access	Comments
Day 1 - 45	Primary Regional	This is the Regional with responsibility for the discarding library. In the case of states with two Regionals (Louisiana and Alabama), both Regionals would be considered Primary.
Day 6 - 45	Selectives served by the Primary Regional	These are Selectives from the same state as the discarding library or served by the same multi-state Regional. It also includes all Selectives in a state with two Regionals.
Day 11 - 45	All COE Libraries	This applies only to discards within their areas of COE responsibility.
Day 26 - 45	All Regionals in the Southeast	Regionals will already have access to discards from their own states/territories and their individual areas of COE responsibilities. This will expand access to other discards.
Day 31 - 45	All Depository Libraries in the Southeast	In this final stage, all depository libraries in the southeast have access to the unclaimed discards.

In the ASERL disposition database, automatic matching for eligible items posted in a libraries' Needs List would occur at the time of first access to the Offers. Needs are automatically matched to eligible items when they are submitted, so a library adding items to its Needs List would be immediately matched with items it is eligible to request.

To accomplish this, we will recommend the changes to the participating depository libraries and seek consensus from library directors and document coordinators at depository libraries in the Southeast region. We will then revise the *Implementation Plan* and submit it for approval by ASERL at our Spring Membership Meeting in mid-April.

The software requirements are being developed and will be completed based on approval of the revised *Implementation Plan*. The University of Florida has determined that the programming necessary to make these changes in the ASERL Disposition Database will require approximately six weeks at a cost of approximately \$15,000. The University of Florida has agreed to assign a programmer to this work at its own expense. These programming changes cannot commence until all reviews have been accomplished, so we estimate completion by the end of July 2012. ASERL would test the database, update the documentation, and offer training sessions during August and September, in anticipation of full implementation by October 1, 2012.

Thank you again for meeting with us to provide your guidance and gain a more in-depth understanding to the purpose and design of the ASERL *Implementation Plan*. We believe these changes will resolve your concerns with this program. As noted above, we would appreciate your prompt affirmation that we have correctly interpreted your requested changes. If we have not correctly understood your requested changes, please clarify as soon as

possible. We are eager to move forward with this important initiative and would like to do so with GPO's full support and cooperation.

With our thanks for your careful consideration of these important matters,



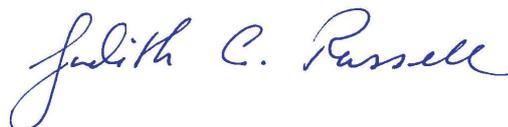
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