



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

June 5, 2014

Mary Alice Baish, Superintendent of Documents
US Government Printing Office
732 North Capitol Street NW
Washington, DC 20401-0001

Dear Ms. Baish:

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries appreciates the opportunity to comment on the "National Plan for the Future of the FDLP" that you presented recently at the Depository Library Conference.

As you know, ASERL has a long and significant interest in improving the processes for managing legacy print collections held by our member libraries on behalf of the communities we serve. As such, we are intrigued by the concepts introduced by this proposal. We can see parallels between the "Centers of Excellence" found in our Guidelines and the "Assurance Partners" outlined in your proposed plan.

More detail is needed before we can comment substantively on the merits of this plan, particularly regarding the following matters:

- How would implementation of this plan impact the roles and responsibilities of current Regional Depository Libraries and the Selective Depositories within their purview?
- How would implementation of this plan enhance services to the students, faculty, and citizenry of our communities beyond those currently provided by ASERL libraries?
- As you know, our current efforts to collect, manage, and to provide access to FDLP content are not funded by the federal government. Many libraries are already facing significant funding challenges, and while the new roles outlined in your plan may prove interesting, they would also likely require additional resources to implement. Would the "National Plan for the Future of the FDLP" include incentives for libraries to take on these additional roles and activities?

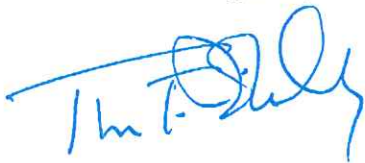
Last but not least, ensuring ready access to useful information resources is of

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES
c/o Georgia State University Library – Administration Suite, LS7
100 Decatur Street, SE
Atlanta, GA 30303-3202
Telephone: 404-413-2896 | Web: www.aserl.org

primary importance to the 38 research and state libraries that make up ASERL. To this end, the creation of a significant, digitized corpus of FDLP content is a critical missing component to this plan. Online access will ensure these important collections remain available for information consumers and will supplement print preservation efforts. We strongly urge GPO to take immediate, clear, and bold steps to support such an endeavor above all else.

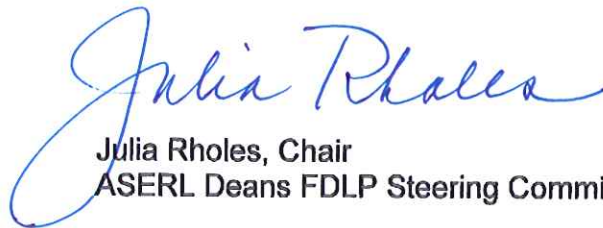
Moreover, ASERL members continue to seek improved flexibility to manage our legacy FDLP collections that we determine are necessary to retain in tangible formats. We believe the proposed National Plan can contribute toward these goals and look forward to learning more about your vision for the future of the program and the possible roles ASERL member libraries may undertake.

With kind regards,



Thomas F. McNally, President
ASERL Board of Directors

Dean of Libraries
University of South Carolina



Julia Rholes, Chair
ASERL Deans FDLP Steering Committee

Dean of Libraries
University of Mississippi

cc: Davita Vance-Cooks, Public Printer
ASERL Collaborative Federal Depository Program Steering Committee