



June 22, 2004

Daniel Barkley
Chair, Depository Library Council
Regional Government Information Librarian
Government Information Department
General library – MSC05 3020
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Dear Dan:

I want to thank you and the other Council members for the Depository Library Council's response to the draft documents that we presented to you at the Spring 2004 meeting. Your thoughtful and incisive comments are most welcome. Your feedback has already been extremely helpful to GPO in the revision of these documents.

I share your view that preservation of at-risk print documents and the proper setting of a digital preservation master standard are crucial to the success of the GPO digitization effort. To this end, we are actively engaged in determining best practices as they relate to digital preservation and metadata standards. I know that the GPO project to create a fully digital database of all past, present and future U.S. Government documents will significantly improve public access. It will also serve as a model for future digitization projects.

GPO remains committed to no-fee permanent public access to government information through the Federal Depository Library Program. As you know, we are seeking to formulate a new model for the GPO Sales Program that continues to complement public access through the FDLP, as the Sales Program has always done. It was apparent in both the meeting and the subsequent comments that it was difficult to provide general advice about the Sales Program in the absence of specific examples of new products and services that might be offered. However, GPO will take the advice that was received into consideration in planning for future products and services and then provide additional opportunities for Council and others to react to the specific initiatives that GPO pursues.

I can assure you that GPO will continue to seek questions and comments from the Council, the library community and other stakeholders and to incorporate that feedback into our planning process.

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On a personal note, I want to thank you for all of your efforts as Chair of the Depository Library Council. The extraordinary breadth and depth of the comments I've received from Council on this and other occasions is clearly a collective product of the combined knowledge and abilities of every member. I would be remiss, however, if I did not compliment you personally for your leadership. I look forward to an equally productive relationship with John Phillips and the new and returning members of Council as we continue to work together to improve permanent public access to government information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce", written in a cursive style.

BRUCE R. JAMES
Public Printer