LSCM Director Remarks
October 2006

I want to first take the opportunity to welcome all of you to this year's Fall Depository Library Council Meeting. It is so great to see so many familiar faces, as well as some new ones.

I am Ric Davis, and I serve as the Director of Library Services and Content Management. I am entering my 15th year of Government service at GPO, and I am fortunate that most of that time has been spent working on issues related to the Federal Depository Library Program.

As you know, the Federal Depository Library Program is integral to keeping the American public informed about their Government, and I want to commend you all on your continued dedication and commitment to this critical service.

There are a lot of exciting initiatives underway in Library Services and Content Management, and today, I'd like to share some of them with you. I encourage you all to take this information home with you, and share it with your colleagues and patrons.

As many of you know, we recently went through an extensive reorganization, and I am pleased to say that we have now filled all 12 of our vacancies for Senior Managers within Library Services and Content Management. Many of these folks and others from the Library unit are here in the audience today, and I have asked them to sit on the front row so you may easily find them.

In addition to the reorganization, we have also taken on an innovative and disciplined approach to project management. We have spent a significant amount of time reviewing and analyzing all of our initiatives and applying the principles of project management to each of them.

Each project is now examined from the standpoint of stakeholders, objectives, goals, scope, and resources. For each new initiative, scope statements, project charters, risk management plans, and communication plans are carefully developed, and our staff members monitor the progress of these initiatives by following and modifying these plans closely.

The project management approach helps us to better monitor our progress with each initiative, discover potential problems, and stay on track with project goals. The approach is also integral in assisting us as we collaborate with library partners and other federal agencies, in addition to other business units within GPO.

Before I begin to address specific initiatives within Library Services and Content Management, I'd like to remind everyone about the GPO Operational Open Forums that will be held on

Tuesday, October 24th. The first one will be at 8:30 am, and the second will take place at 3:30 pm. These sessions will give you an opportunity to ask specific technical and operational questions related to the FDLP and our services. In the past we have typically done one of these sessions, but we want to give you every opportunity to ask operational questions through these two sessions.

In referring to another session of note, GPO is working to devise a data migration strategy to ensure that the content of the CD-ROMs that have been distributed to depository libraries remains accessible. There will be a session on CD-ROM data migration this afternoon at 3:30. A panel will present information on projects to ensure continued access to content of CD-ROMs underway in several depository libraries.

Now I'd like to take some time to mention key initiatives that are being addressed and worked on in Library Services and Content Management.

First, we have made some *GPO Access* upgrades of note. We are finalizing a server consolidation as an interim resolution as we are working to replace WAIS. This is not an ultimate solution, but it should provide improved search functionality while we are working toward a permanent *GPO Access* search solution through the Future Digital System.

During this process, we certainly value your input, thoughts, and opinions. Each day, we are actively engaged in testing the *GPO Access* Web site, so that we may identify current issues and resolve them promptly. If you come across problems, either with search functionality or with the data that is retrieved, we ask that you submit an inquiry to us.

We have also assembled a cross-agency team to collaborate on a re-design of the FDLP Desktop, *GPO Access*, and gpo.gov. This is part of a large-scale effort to improve the functionality and user-friendliness of all of GPO's online services. This team is working together to modify GPO's existing services so that they are as intuitive and useful as possible.

At tomorrow's GPO Online Services Open Forum at 10:30, an FDLP Desktop re-design will be demonstrated, as well as a re-design of the Browse Topics feature on *GPO Access*. The FDLP Desktop re-design was developed in an effort to improve the ease of use and functionality of the current site, and we really look forward to collecting your thoughts and impressions of the re-design. The Browse Topics re-design continues GPO's and Oklahoma State University's successful partnership to create topical pathfinders to electronic Federal Government information. The new and improved Browse Topics includes an updated list grouped by subject and allows users to search by keyword across all topics. The new site will also increase opportunities to contribute listings to topics by eliminating the need to code the entries in HTML.

Regarding our efforts to more fully develop a disaster recovery site, GPO has awarded a contract in the past two weeks to Creative Information Technology Inc. to forward *GPO Access* data to the disaster recovery solution. The functionality of the failover site will be continually enhanced during the term of the six-month contract as applications are parsed and transmitted to the failover site. The critical feature of this contract is that it will migrate applications to a consistent dataset building on our current disaster recovery options.

Not only are we working on various *GPO Access* upgrades, but we are also working to improve the way we collect and compile statistics to share with you. The Library unit uses performance metrics as a key part of project management.

A Working Group has been developed, and weekly meetings are held for the discussion of implementation issues and updates. Team members have been assigned defining terms and metrics calculations, and a reporting mechanism has been developed. Additionally, a database has also been developed to capture metrics, and statistical data is being captured from each office. Initial metrics reports have been produced and circulated, and currently, GPO staff are analyzing the feedback from the initial reports.

We plan to make these metrics reports publicly available, and hope to release them within the next couple of months.

You also may have noticed a larger number of boxes coming in lately from our Depository Distribution unit. We are pleased to say that we are now completely caught up on the backlog of what needed to be distributed. We are also in the process of bringing in four additional employees from our Laurel warehouse, to help with staffing and one additional vacancy is presently in the process of being backfilled.

We have also made some exciting progress in our Digitization Demonstration Project efforts. GPO is currently conducting a demonstration project for the digitization of legacy publications. Priorities for digitization include legislative and regulatory material that expands the coverage of the most popular *GPO Access* databases. We will conduct an evaluation of this work that is being done by our Digital Media Services group at GPO in December and subsequently share the results with the library community. The key objectives of this are to validate our digitization specifications and demonstrate quality, accessibility, and permanence of content based on the specifications.

Library Services and Content Management staff have participated in a number of outreach activities of note.

Recently, our Director of Collection Management and Preservation, Robin Haun-Mohamed, presented at the International Conference on the Preservation of Digital Objects, held at Cornell University. She, along with Gil Baldwin from the Chief Technical Officer's organization, spoke on the preservation of Federal digital publications.

Staff in our Planning and Development group attended the first meeting of the Great Western Librarian Association and the Center for Research Libraries Federal Technical Reports Taskforce in Chicago at the Center for Research Libraries. The taskforce is conducting a pilot project to digitize and provide access to Federal technical reports. GPO was asked to share information on our digitization demonstration project and cataloging efforts.

Library Technical Information Services staff have also given several presentations on the Catalog of Government Publications at the request of depository libraries.

In relation to outreach, a new, distance learning tool is also on the horizon. GPO recently conducted a test of a live, online training session using OPAL (Online Programming for All Libraries). OPAL is an international collaborative effort by libraries of all types to provide Web-based programs and training for library users and library staff members. 39 librarians participated in the test, and GPO staff are evaluating the group's comments and suggestions to engage in further collaboration with all of you and make decisions about the use of a Web-based training tool for the FDLP community. The value of such a tool would be in allowing depository staff and others to participate in educational events which they could not otherwise attend, either during the live session or later, using the training archives. Events under consideration include educational sessions at the Federal Depository Library Conference and the Interagency Seminar, as well as sessions on specific FDLP topics and issues.

Also relating to outreach, GPO extended its partnership with Case Western Reserve University and the Census Bureau through 2011. This partnership ensures that electronic information products from the 2000 Census of Population and Housing (Census 2000) are permanently accessible under the auspices of the Federal Depository Library Program.

Many of you have recently been inquiring about the new Federal Depository Library Handbook. Work is continuing, and chapters on GPO organization, public services, preservation, housing, staffing, partnerships, and disaster preparedness and recovery were posted for public comment on the FDLP Desktop. GPO staff are currently reviewing the comments, and these chapters will be finalized soon. Additional chapters, including regional services and federal libraries, will also be posted for comment in the near future.

Next, I wanted to update everyone on GPO's pilot project to automatically harvest online Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publications. This was a collaboration between the Chief Technical Officer's organization, Library Services and Content Management, EPA, and two vendors. Our goal for the pilot was to learn about available methodologies and technologies for automated Web discovery, assessment, and harvesting of U.S. Government publications.

The pilot recently concluded, and we are very pleased with the amount of knowledge and experience that was gained. Based on our explanation of the characteristics and parameters of online in-scope publications, the vendors wrote rules and instructions for the harvesting tools which first identified publications and then evaluated them to determine if they are EPA publications within scope of the FDLP. Accuracy in identifying in-scope publications improved greatly between the three crawls. We have numerous ideas on how to improve the accuracy rate, and we will continue to investigate automated harvesting in order to further develop requirements and specifications for the harvesting function to be implemented within FDsys. We are also currently investigating technical services workflow options to catalog and classify harvested EPA publications that have not already been cataloged. For a more in depth discussion on Harvesting, please attend the Council Session on Web Harvesting, being held today at 1:30 pm.

Regarding our Integrated Library System, we are near release on a significant enhancement. There are two parts to the enhancement, one for New Titles and one for New Electronic titles.

These both provide dynamic, pre-defined searches to retrieve newly cataloged titles by specific time periods.

The Library directory is under development, which is part of the Locate Libraries administrative module. This will allow libraries to input and edit their depository's library directory information. Libraries and the public will also be able to search directory information for all depository libraries. Phase 2 ILS planning is underway, to include implementation of MetaLib (federated searching capability).

I want to thank you for your time and attention today, and again encourage you to attend as many of our educational programs as you can.