Depository Library Council Recommendations
Fall 2012

Recommendation 1:
Council recommends that GPO investigate and analyze the Creative Commons-licensed tool created by the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) in order to facilitate the disposition of depository materials. As part of the investigation, Council recommends that GPO identify any challenges or barriers that might preclude adoption of the tool as a possible solution for the FDLP and provide updates to Council on its findings.

Justification
All libraries within the FDLP are concerned with proper disposition of materials received through the program. However, current needs and offers mechanisms are not operating satisfactorily, neither in allowing depositories to quickly dispose of no-longer-needed depository items nor in improving the FDLP as a whole by connecting the offered items with the needs of other depositories. Current methods in widespread use—individual state listservs, GOVDOC-L, and the GPO Needs & Offers List—are not automated, are not consistent in format, do not have multiple access fields, are not easily processed in a timely manner, and require significant browsing time for those depositories trying to improve their collections. An automated tool like the ASERL disposition database provides a template that ensures consistent format, allows multiple fields of access, matches needs with offers automatically, and allows libraries outside an offering state to request items no longer needed within that offering state. The ASERL tool appears to provide a possible solution that could be modified and adopted without burdening GPO to create its own tool.

Recommendation 2:
Council recommends the development of a platform for education and training resources that is similar in function to the GPO digitization registry in that it provides annotations, metadata and links to educational resources that are already available from both GPO and the community.

The goals of the FDLP Digitization Projects Registry, "to provide a comprehensive listing" of all digitization efforts and to "become the authoritative directory listing" of all U. S. government publication digitization efforts, can be used as a framework for the development of a platform for education and training resources. Because this platform would address a long-standing need within the community, its development should be a priority, and regular updates on the development timeline would be beneficial.

Building upon the successful use of beta testing prior to the release of FDsys, Council further recommends that GPO invite a small group from the FDL community to test the new education resource prior to its release.

Justification
The community has expressed a desire for more education and training resources from GPO through several communication modes, most recently the library and state forecast study and the Biennial Survey. This need has also been expressed in a prior Council recommendation and recognized by GPO.

The platform proposed in this recommendation is based on the Digitization Projects Registry because it is an existing and successful model with data submitted and maintained by external users. By providing the technical infrastructure for this registry, GPO will make it possible for

depository libraries to represent their training resources in a centralized format.

As part of the development process, Council will work with GPO to create a guidelines document for the registry content.