

The 50th Anniversary of the Depository Library Council

May 2023

The 2022-2023 Depository Library Council celebrates 50 years of the Depository Library Council (DLC) at this year's virtual spring meeting (<https://fdlp.gov/about/events-and-conferences/2023-depository-library-council-virtual-meeting>). Through outreach to former council members, current Council leadership solicited information about their experiences, their memories of beloved colleagues, and their thoughts about the evolution of the DLC over the past fifty years. Those contributions, as submitted, are shared below. ¹ Responses are arranged in chronological order from date of first DLC term.

Former Council members are encouraged to reach out to Council members throughout 2023 to share their experiences. 2023-2024 Chair, Jen Kirk, can be reached at jen.kirk@usu.edu.

We thank all past members of the DLC for their service and look forward to a bright future continuing to represent the Depository Community.

<i>Bernadine Abbott Hoduski</i>	<i>DLC Term Dates: 1973 and 1974</i>
Role(s) served as part of Council (committees, chair, etc.)	
<p>Chaired bibliographic and served on instructions to depositories committee.</p> <p>Maryellen Trautman persuaded Robert Kling, Superintendent of Documents to revive DLC. We brought GODORT's report urging many reforms of the depository, cataloging, and sales programs to DLC. Many of those reforms were implemented.</p> <p>I persuaded Public Printer to open meetings and comply with advisory committee act. Thomas McCormick told congress at appropriations hearing in March 1975 that he valued DLC advice.</p> <p>I persuaded JCP staff director to attend DLC meetings to hear first hand our many complaints about poor service. JCP continued to send staff to meetings, including the year that Chair Charlie Rose challenged GODORT to propose ways to improve depository program and save money. DLC, GODORT, and the Dupont Circle group all made proposals, which Charlie, other members, and staff used to write legislation, including the GPO Access Act of 1993.</p>	
Recollections and notes for the community	
<p>At my first meeting in Feb 1973, I was seated next to Former Superintendent of Documents and he asked me if their seating him next to me made him a revolutionary. I answered that I doubted that. I told him that as a depository librarian, I thought of him as god, because like god, he never answered my requests for missing documents.</p>	

¹ Those who submitted comments were aware they would be made publicly available.

<i>Nancy M. Cline</i>	<i>DLC Term Dates: 1976-79</i>
Role(s) served as part of Council (committees, chair, etc.)	
<p>Liaison to GPO's Micropublishing Advisory Council</p> <p>Helped present ALA's testimony to the National Commission on Records and Documents of Public Officials, 1977.</p>	
Recollections and notes for the community	
<p>Advocating for public access to federal government information through ALA, GODORT, and other channels presented many challenges but thankfully, many of those efforts eventually resulted in access to Presidential Records/Papers and in general, improved Federal regulations relating to the management and preservation of federal records. I could never have envisioned the haphazard handling of the documents that surfaced in recent years at Mar-a-Lago!</p>	

<i>Jeanne Isacco</i>	<i>DLC Term Dates: 1981-3?</i>
Role(s) served as part of Council (committees, chair, etc.)	
Chair	
Recollections and notes for the community	
<p>This was a tumultuous time of great change. Both the Public Printer and the Superintendent of Documents positions had changed hands in a new presidential administration. It was a time of figuring out who the "bad guys" and who the "good guys" were. There were many hidden agendas, and it was a real challenge to figure out how to move forward productively. The government documents world was becoming far more political than it ever had been. For decades no one had much cared about government documents and now it seemed like everyone cared!</p> <p>Converting documents to microfiche was still a big issue as was privatization of government information. The Information Industry Association had just emerged as a major lobby group, and we were all trying to figure out how to work with that group. The Monthly Catalog conversion to the MARC format was still new and retrospective conversion of past records was a hot topic. The topic of Electronic access to government information was still years away but was thought about by visionaries. We certainly did live in interesting times!</p>	

<i>Sandra McAninch</i>	<i>DLC Term Dates: 1984-87</i>
Role(s) served as part of Council (committees, chair, etc.)	
Recollections and notes for the community	
It was a great honor to be asked to serve the depository community as a member of Council.	

<i>Sarah (Sally) Holterhoff</i>	<i>DLC Term Dates: 1987-1990, 2008-2011</i>
Role(s) served as part of Council (committees, chair, etc.)	
Secretary 1989-1990	
Recollections and notes for the community	
<p>I regard my two terms on the DLC as highlights of my career as a law librarian. The experience of being a Council member was an opportunity to meet colleagues beyond the legal information field in which I worked and to learn about the wide range of government information sources and the need to advocate for public access to these essential resources in all available formats. My first term on Council led me to take on roles in connection with government resources in my state and in my national professional association and its regional chapters. Friendships I made among my fellow Council members have lasted into my retirement years. I am grateful for everything that the DLC has meant to me.</p>	

<i>Dan Barkley</i>	<i>DLC Term Dates: 2001-2004</i>
Role(s) served as part of Council (committees, chair, etc.)	
<p>Chair, 2003-2004. Subcommittee member on various DLC committees during my tenure</p>	
Recollections and notes for the community	
<p>As a Council member and Chair we continued to work on previous issues facing council including shared Regionals, development talking points for selectives to use with their administrations in remaining in the FDLP, as well as proposed transitions of federal government information to the private sector. During my year as Chair there were a number of behind the scene issues of conflict which had to be addressed between Council and the Public Printer.</p>	

<i>Barbie Selby</i>	<i>DLC Term Dates: 2003-2006</i>
Role(s) served as part of Council (committees, chair, etc.)	
Chair, DLC - 2005-2006	
Recollections and notes for the community	
<p>I think the visioning process we went through beginning in Reno in 2003 and culminating at the Fall 2005 conference is a good example of community engagement. Most of the Fall 2005 conference was attendees working with DLC members in small groups around various forward-looking themes identified by DLC and community input - a blog, comments at meetings, comment cards (for the shy), etc. It's my belief that participants left feeling pretty "empowered" about the value of government information in society and our role in providing and assisting with that information. The document that resulted - <i>Knowledge Will Forever Govern</i> - served as a blueprint for GPO and depository libraries for a number of years.</p> <p>I also remember the wonderful friendships formed throughout the years as a result of the amazing networking opportunities available through the in-person meetings. I always felt able to call on depository colleagues from around the country because I KNEW them and respected their expertise. I also freely admit to enjoying "the away game" (non-DC DLC meeting) as a way to visit other parts of the US.</p>	

<i>David Cismowski</i>	<i>DLC Term Dates: 2008-2011, 2014-2015</i>
Role(s) served as part of Council (committees, chair, etc.)	
Various committees	
Recollections and notes for the community	
<p>It was a privilege to serve on the Depository Library Council. I shall never forget the dedication and brilliance of my FDLP colleagues (especially my Regional Depository colleagues) and the GPO staff members who inspired and mentored me during my time on Council. The mission of the FDLP is crucial to the health of our republic: ensuring permanent public access to our government's proceedings, informational publications, statistical data, and scientific/social research.</p>	

<i>Mark Phillips</i>	<i>DLC Term Dates: 2011-2014</i>
Role(s) served as part of Council (committees, chair, etc.)	
Just a normal Council member.	
Recollections and notes for the community	
The time I served on Council was the transition to meetings being held at GPO itself. It was an interesting transition. I also enjoyed being on Council and following in the footsteps of both of my parents, Vicki Phillips and then John Phillips who both served on Council.	

<i>Arlene Weible</i>	<i>DLC Term Dates: 2012-2014</i>
Role(s) served as part of Council (committees, chair, etc.)	
Chair, 2013-2014	
Recollections and notes for the community	
We had to cancel the Fall 2013 conference due to the federal government shutdown. I remember a lot of angst about the decision to cancel the conference, given the uncertainty, but it would have been very difficult for GPO staff to handle the logistics during such uncertainty. Then the 2014 spring conference was held at the GPO building. I think a lot of librarians enjoyed having the conference there, although I'm fairly certain it was a logistical nightmare for GPO staff. I also remember some background conversations between sessions being caught on the live virtual feed... I think that was one of the early hybrid meetings and we were all learning.	

<i>James Shaw</i>	<i>DLC Term Dates: 2015-2018</i>
Role(s) served as part of Council (committees, chair, etc.)	
DLC Chair, 2017-2018. I was appointed Chair in late summer 2017 after our colleague Karen Russ was unable to continue due to health concerns.	
Recollections and notes for the community	
<p>We worked hard to refine and promote the FDLP Modernization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5305). The bill would have introduced considerable more flexibility to the FDLP, while the basic structures would have remained very recognizable. The House Committee on Administration voted unanimous support for the bill, but it basically got lost and time ran out during the tumult of that particular Congress.</p> <p>What I remember most are the DLC Sessions at the Fall 2017 conference, where I led the assembly through the proposed changes and asked for comments and feedback. We anticipated some push back on certain provisions, and indeed there were several thoughtful, well-informed demurrals; however, overall, it truly seemed that most colleagues were ready and even eager for change. I think that the failure of H.R. 5305 accelerated us down the path to an almost entirely digital FDLP. In retrospect, H.R. 5305 may well have been the final chance to improve existing structures as a tsunami of pressure to change was, and is, building.</p>	

<i>Gregory Curtis</i>	<i>DLC Term Dates: 2017-2020</i>
Role(s) served as part of Council (committees, chair, etc.)	
Council member, served on cataloging committee	
Recollections and notes for the community	
It was a privilege to serve on the Council with great colleagues.	

<i>Mary Clark</i>	<i>DLC Term Dates: 2017-2020</i>
Role(s) served as part of Council (committees, chair, etc.)	
<p>Chair, 2019/20</p> <p>Various working groups</p> <p>I believe I was the first pandemic chair with all digital meetings, both spring and fall conferences.</p>	
Recollections and notes for the community	
<p>As I joined council, we thought we had a good chance of revising Title 44, sadly it didn't happen. Also, my class suffered the tragic loss of Karen Russ, who passed away during her time as chair.</p>	

<i>Joseph C McClane</i>	<i>GPO employee (retired)</i>
Role(s) served as part of Council (committees, chair, etc.)	
GPO employee	
Recollections and notes for the community	
<p>As GPO's Chief, Inspection Team and later as Chief, Depository Services, I help plan and organize DLC arrangements and meetings. during the 1980s and part of the 1990s.</p>	

This document is dedicated to Council members who are no longer with us.