

Statement to accompany the Depository Library Council's – "Knowledge Will Forever Govern: A Vision Statement for Federal Depository Libraries in the 21st Century"

The Depository Library Council has finalized its vision document, – "Knowledge Will Forever Govern: A Vision Statement for Federal Depository Libraries in the 21st Century". The document represents the collaborative efforts and talents of four Council classes (2006 through 2009) and the many volunteers that helped with the draft statement issued in April 2006.

It is the Council's hope that this vision statement will act as a catalyst to move the program into a 21st century information service that links the people of this country with the information resources available from and produced by its federal government. The public's need to access government information in an open, free, and easily accessible form must continue to be guaranteed. In addition, information from our government must also remain accurate, unmodified, official and authentic.

To these ends, the Council has identified eleven issues related to a more electronic depository library program and seven goals that the depository community, national library associations and federal information providers, including the Government Printing Office, can use to more effectively transition this key public program into the future.

These are exciting and challenging times in the information environment and when these challenges intersect with the public's ability to govern these issues become key to our democracy's ability to function.

This document should not be read alone but in conjunction with Public Printer Bruce James' statement on the future of GPO issued in December 2004. The Council would like to thank Mr. James for challenging both the Council and the community to step-up and face the issues of an FDLP in the electronic environment. The Council also wants to thank Judy Russell, Superintendent of Documents, for time and staff support not only during Council meetings, but throughout the process of producing this document.

Finally, the Council again challenges its colleagues, in both the Federal Depository Library Community and non-depository libraries and within the library associations to work with the federal community, including Congress, to incorporate this vision into a future of no-fee, permanent access to our nation's government information. We urge all of our colleagues to work with Council and their respective instructions to come up with *action plans* to help make the vision real!

Bill Sudduth
Chair, 2006-2007