

Depository Library Council

Advisory body to the Director of the U.S. Government Publishing Office

May 29, 2020

Hugh Nathaniel Halpern, Director
U.S. Government Publishing Office
732 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20401

Dear Director Halpern,

As Chair of the Depository Library Council, I am pleased to transmit to you the final report, *Depository Libraries in a Time of Stay-at-Home Orders — Report of Depository Library Council's Open Forum, April 22, 2020*.

As Council's spring meeting neared, we were in the midst of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. Council wanted to hear from the depository library community and to provide them an opportunity to share their stories of how they were working, facing challenges, and coping during this incomparable time. In an hour long open forum the depository library community willingly spoke up to address the five questions that were posed to them. This report is a summary of the open forum: *Depository Libraries in a Time of Stay-at-Home Orders*.

We learned from 400+ attendees that most of their libraries were closed, or open only to staff. Yet they are continuing to find ways to provide services to their users. They are leveraging technologies to provide reference, virtual programming services, and more. Work that is often behind the scenes in libraries is continuing. Staff are conducting data cleanup in their catalog, updating catalog records by adding links to digital content, and more. These efforts will result in improved search precision, increased discoverability, and greater access to Government information. Dedicated Federal depository library staff are indeed still *Keeping America Informed* during this unprecedented time. The last question of the open forum asked how GPO could better support depository libraries during this time. While there was much praise for what GPO is already doing and comments advocated for doing more of the same, there were some suggestions for what GPO might do to support libraries that should be considered.

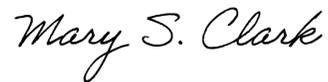
Council hopes to follow-up with another open forum this summer to discuss library reopening planning and what changes depository library staff may be facing. These open forums are invaluable for keeping current with what is happening in libraries during this time of fluidity, and for GPO's awareness in order to provide appropriate guidance and support for Federal depository libraries.

Director Hugh Nathaniel Halpern

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I want to acknowledge the Council's Digital Only Depository Libraries Working Group for the work they did, with a quick turnaround time, to produce this report. Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this report, please don't hesitate to contact [Alicia Kubas](#), Council's incoming chair, or [Yvonne D. Williams](#), Chair of the Digital Only Depository Libraries Working Group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary S. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MARY S. CLARK

Chair, Depository Library Council

Cc: Laurie B. Hall, Superintendent of Documents