

Association of College & Research Libraries
50 E. Huron St. Chicago, IL 60611
800-545-2433, ext. 2523
acrl@ala.org, <http://www.acrl.org>



June 26, 2007

Mr. Richard G. Davis
Acting Superintendent of Documents
Director, Library Services & Content Management
Government Printing Office
Washington, DC 20401
VIA EMAIL rdavis@gpo.gov

Ms. Cynthia Etkin
Program Planning Specialist
Office of the Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
732 North Capitol Street, NW (Mail Stop: IDSD)
Washington, D.C. 20401
VIA EMAIL cetkin@gpo.gov

Dear Mr. Davis and Ms. Etkin:

On behalf of our 13,500 members, I am writing to express the strong support of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) for the May 2007 draft *Guidelines for Establishing Shared Regional Depository Libraries*.

ACRL is a division of the American Library Association (ALA), representing more than 13,500 academic and research librarians and interested individuals. Of the 52 regional Federal Depository Libraries, two thirds are affiliated with academic institutions. As such, ACRL has a great interest in this issue. Some of ACRL's leaders were active in the discussion and development of the Memorandum of Understanding between the regional Federal Depository Libraries in Kansas and Nebraska. As you know, ALA and other library associations were very supportive of the Kansas/Nebraska MOU.

We appreciate the intention to frame the document as "guidelines" rather than "requirements." Flexibility and simplicity are critical to the success of rethinking models for housing and delivering government information to our various constituents. We believe these guidelines facilitate future collaborations for shared regional Federal Depository Libraries without stifling innovations in collections or services. Recognizing arrangements will differ based on the unique characteristics of the participating institutions, we feel these guidelines offer the kind of flexibility libraries seek.

Thank you for offering these guidelines and for giving us the opportunity to provide comment. ACRL strongly supports the guidelines as promulgated and feels they offer the type of direction libraries need to develop appropriate models for cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela Snelson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

Pamela Snelson
ACRL President, 2006-2007