



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

October 17, 2011

ASERL Strongly Supports ARL's Position on Recent GPO Decisions

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) joins the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and others in advocating for the reversal of several recent decisions regarding the future of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

ASERL members support free and open public access to information contained in FDLP collections. ASERL believes that the future of the FDLP lies in collaborative projects, including shared and multi-state Regionals and new models for digitization and preservation, such as our *Southeast Region Guidelines for Management and Disposition of Federal Depository Library Collections* (<http://bit.ly/qWqg10>). The ASERL plan is to establish two fully cataloged, distributed comprehensive-as-possible print collections, in addition to the 12 collections already maintained by regional depository libraries in the southeast. ASERL members support and will contribute to efforts launched by the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) and HathiTrust to establish a parallel digital collection for no-fee public access. ASERL firmly believes that all of these models are in compliance with *44 USC Chapter 19*, and that FDLP libraries should be free to develop additional innovative models to manage and improve print and digital access to these critical collections.

ASERL believes the recent decisions by the Superintendent of Documents and GPO are incongruous with the future direction of libraries and the demands of the communities they serve. We ask that these decisions be reversed immediately.

Founded in 1956, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries is the largest regional academic library cooperative in the country, with 38 members in ten states. ASERL operates numerous projects designed to foster a high standard of library excellence through inter-institutional resource sharing and other collaborative efforts. By working together, ASERL members provide and maintain top quality resources and services for the students, faculty, and citizens of their respective communities.

Ten ASERL member institutions hold Regional status within the FDLP program; an additional 27 are Selectives. Twenty-one ASERL libraries are also members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL).

More information about ASERL can be found at www.aserl.org.

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