

Spring 2009 FDL Regional Meeting
Tampa – April 20, 2009

Dan Barkley, Chair of REGIL, called the meeting to order and welcomed library directors. He remarked that the meeting presented a unique opportunity for regional librarians, directors and GPO staff to participate in discussions in an open exchange of ideas regarding future directions of the FDLP.

1. It was announced that Ann Sanders will soon transfer the regional web pages from the State Library of Michigan's server to the FDLP Community site. The move will allow individuals to post and maintain their documents without an intermediary. When the transfer is complete an announcement will be posted on Regional-L.
2. Minutes of the Fall '08 Regional Meeting were approved with one clarification to more clearly define terms ending in 2011 for REGIL members David Cismowski and Marianne Mason.
3. Brief introductions were made round robin-style of all in attendance.
4. Impact of the Economy on Regionals:
D. Barkley invited a discussion surveying conditions in regional libraries as the negative economic situation continues. Nancy Baker (Ulowa) commented that the infusion of stimulus money directed at education may lessen the impact of reduced funding for the coming year, but only buys time for larger cuts and resized organizations in the future. Carol Diedrichs (UKentucky) described possible scenarios of budget cuts in terms of percentages, internal gaps apart from tuition caps. Ann Sanders (State Library of Michigan) indicated that Michigan's budget shortfall may result in significant organization changes. GladysAnn Wells (AZ State Library) is optimistic about the potential opportunity presented by economic challenges which help refocus priorities and prompts questions "what do we want to do" and "how can constituents be better served." Ken Wiggin (CT State Library) described possible staff losses in relation to union issues. Scenarios of possible budget cuts at UGeorgia may be between 8% and 11%. On the positive side, UGA is building new library. Rick Clement (UT State) described a planned five day furlough resulting from budget cuts. Charlie Bernholz (UNebraska) remarked on drawbacks associated with a furlough proposal which resulted in reversal of decisions at Nebraska. Lorraine Haricombe (UKansas) indicated that specifics of budget cut implementation is unknown, however, planned abandonment of projects (what to stop; what to move forward) will soon be determined. Comments from others echoed these conditions.
5. GPO [Report on Regional Libraries](#):
Wide ranging discussion followed confirmation that all had read the Report. Sandee McAninch (UKY) asked, "What can be done to move forward?" Joan Giesecke (UNebraska) recommended making a comparison of situations among regional organizations and to document these differences (one size does not fit all) in a group statement submitted to GPO. When asked if the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) had responded to the Report, Ric Davis (GPO) indicated that no comment had been received. It was recommended not to wait for a reply. If there are actionable

items in the report, it was suggested that a task force be formed to implement changes. Several recommended targeting “low hanging fruit” action items. It was acknowledged that there won’t be 100% consensus on the method of moving forward prompting the question, “what margin of agreement will be enough to act?” Judy Russell (FL) emphasized the need to make an overwhelming case to overcome possible roadblocks created by those resistant to specific changes. Others stressed the need to make improvements both in the short-term and the need to determine a desirable future model. It was stated that major changes require a whole new model and the task at hand is how to accomplish that. A. Sanders asked if it was possible for a pilot project to be established by GPO for cross-border sharing? R. Davis indicated it was within GPOs authority to initiate pilot projects such as this. He also urged resolving disagreements before they progress to JCP. Since there are many eager to participate in a planning partnership with GPO for this pilot, a volunteer committee outside the REGIL group was recommended. The GPO Strategic Plan identified issues that could be folded into a new model. Jim Williams (UColorado-Boulder) and others recommended contracting with a professional consultant to revision the FDLP then have the community to react. It was suggested that a consultant would make recommendations without self interest, be unbiased, have no agenda and have no vested interest in the outcome. Pros and cons of a task force vs. consultant were discussed. The need to re-imagine the program was acknowledged, but so far, studies have yielded no results. Ken Wiggin (CT State Lib) remarked that some repair work is required in the current program regardless of the future model. Beth Harper (UWisc.- Madison) stressed the need to go beyond depository libraries in order to bring information to people as a principle within a new model. David Cismowski (CA State Library) asked the directors how many of the deficiencies of the FDLP are related to regional problems or something else? The general response was that regionals are the focus of the impact of deficiencies among selectives and FDLP problems. A fundamental problem still exists of print advocates and collections vs. digital developments and wants of users. A remedy to the problem may be to agree on number of tangible copies and get the legacy collection digitized. Peggy Jobe (UColorado-Boulder) emphasized the need for an improved claims process and to identify cataloging projects that have been completed with GPO acting as the centralized project manager. Cindy Etkin (GPO) asked how many comprehensive collections are needed? D. Cismowski reminded the group of the unintended consequences of the 1962 Act which was meant to increase the number of depository libraries and to allow selectives to withdraw/weed publications, not to establish regionals. The law resulted in immediate discontent, so he urged caution in initiating legislative action. In conclusion, R. Davis will establish the Task Force and report on results at the Fall meeting. The complete list of those interested in serving on the Task Force is appended to the minutes.

6. Report from Subcommittee on Substituting Electronic for Tangible:

Valerie Glenn (UAlabama) reported for the Committee that the revised draft “Substituting Online for Tangible Versions of Depository Publications by Selectives” was distributed on Regional-L for comment and few comments were received. B. Sudduth emphasized the regional library’s role to ensure that a complete archival copy exists and the need to approve a selective’s move to an all electronic collection. Kathy Brazee (GPO) and others affirmed the regionals’ responsibility to inform selectives about the deselection process noting that policies/guidelines should be written for the

majority, not the exceptions. She also emphasized the need to consider community needs in decision-making. V. Glenn remarked that deselecting item numbers prevents waste that may occur by selectives' mishandling print material received, particularly when publications are received, then immediately discarded. Jan Swanbeck (UFlorida) noted that libraries making electronic substitution should be reminded that without adding records with embedded URLs to the online catalog, the library fails to provide user access for electronic resources. General Counsel will look at the completed Substitution Policy after a consensus of regionals and GPO staff has been reached. A ruling will be issued within approximately 6 months. C. Etkin recommended clarifying what is meant by "local decision" in the final draft. The final draft will be posted on regional-I for a one week comment period.

7. Report from Subcommittee on Retention of Superseded Material by Regionals:

D. Barkley reported for the Committee and asked if the original retention agreement/list should be continued? Stephanie Braunstein (LSU) and others indicated a need to retain a stem range in support of research interests. It was recommended to establish digitization priorities before discarding superseded materials. Transparency of the process was urged regardless of number of regionals who agree to retain superseded materials. Geoff Swindells (IL-Northwestern) cautioned against policy makers using superseded material to establish policy. S. McAninch recommended that GPO establish supersede status as item numbers are created. D. Cismowski pointed out that currently two lists need to be consulted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marianne Mason
University of Iowa Libraries'

Interested FDLP Changes Task Force Members:

Barkley, Dan (NM)
Braunstein, Stephanie (LA)
Clark, Kirsten (MN)
Fisher, Janet (AZ)
Glenn, Valerie (AL)
Kraus, Peter (UT)
O'Mahony, Daniel (RI)
Pritchett, Hallie (GA)
Ragains, Pat (NV)
Rowe, Beth (NC)
Ryan, Marianne (IL)
Sanders, Ann (MI)
Shuler, John (IL)
Sudduth, Bill (SC)
Swanbeck, Jan (FL)

Directors:
Clement, Rick (UT State)
Director from a CIC Institution
(put forward by Mark Sandler, MI-CIC)
Russell, Judy (FL)
Wells, GladysAnn (AZ)