



Council on
Library and
Information
Resources

May 10, 2005

The Honorable Wayne Allard
Chairman
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
Room S-128, Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), we write in support of the FY 2006 appropriations request for the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO). We request your support for GPO's FY 2006 budget request of \$131,120,000 and in particular the request of \$33,837,000 for the Salaries and Expenses (S&E) Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents. This appropriation supports the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), the cataloging and indexing of government publications, the distribution of government publications to the International Exchange Program and more. We commend GPO for investing in technologies and systems to support enhanced access to electronic government information and in programs to ensure the authenticity and preservation of this information.

The FDLP is a long-standing partnership between the Federal Government, the library community and the public. The FDLP provides the American public with access to a wide array of Federal information. GPO Access provides the public with access to information in an increasingly electronic environment. In addition to Congress, the White House, approximately 130 Federal departments and agencies, and the courts rely on GPO's services to create and disseminate government information through the World Wide Web.

The GPO and the participating Federal Depository Libraries (FDLs) are undergoing an exciting transformation. This transformation is a result of the new capabilities and opportunities that are possible with the adoption of digital technologies and the explosive growth of the Internet. Researchers, students and members of the public can engage in sophisticated searching and manipulation of information and data including ready access to data, image files and more. Increasingly, the data and information available is both current and historical as

many libraries and others digitize special collections that are rich in the cultural and political history of our Nation.

As noted by the Pew Internet and American Life Project, "the Internet has reached into, and in some cases, reshaped just about every realm of modern life." This shift to the adoption and use of electronic information resources reflects the interests and activities of the public. According to a recent Nielsen/NR survey (March 2005), there are 200,933,147 Internet users in the United States or 67.8% of the population. This represents an increase in usage of the Internet of 104.9% between 2000-2005. These statistics demonstrate how the American public is now engaging in online activities – education, e-commerce, politics and a wide range of other activities. The findings of the Electronic Publishing Initiative (EPIC) at Columbia University are illustrative of this change. EPIC found that electronic resources have become the most used tool for information gathering by students. In particular, undergraduate students rely upon the World Wide Web and graduate students are more dependent upon library electronic services. *The GPO Strategic Vision for the 21st Century* clearly recognizes how the American public depends upon E-services and how they use information.

Research libraries, indeed all libraries, are experiencing an explosive growth in the acquisition and use of electronic resources. As a result, there is a dramatic rise in digital services in libraries and in teaching, learning and research applications. The acceleration to electronic services is due in large part to the new opportunities to provide access to information more effectively. Data collected by ARL members over the past decade indicate that the portion of the library materials budget that is spent on electronic resources is growing rapidly. The percentage of the average library budget that is spent on electronic materials has increased more than eightfold, from an estimated 3.6% in 1992-93 to 25% in 2002-03.

Since the early 1990's, the library community has actively advocated for the inclusion of electronic government information in the FDLP. Congress, with guidance from this Committee, has supported this move to an increasingly electronic FDLP. This direction recognized the enhanced capabilities that electronic services provide to users of government information.

Most recently, the move to electronic delivery of information in the FDLP has increased at a fast pace. By October-November 2004, 95% of the titles in the FDLP were available electronically (even if tangible forms were also available) and only 5% had no electronic counterpart.

The shift to a predominantly electronic FDLP signals a change in nature of the Program. The FDLP is moving from a collection-based program to a service-based program and from print-based to electronic. The focus of the Program is on expertise and access to the information resources, not on the physical collection. In addition, the future of the FDLP will be in building shared collections where resources are managed and interoperated. These may also include print collections that are digitized. It is expected that different models of

shared repositories are likely to emerge and diversity is desirable and encouraged.

Participating libraries make significant local contributions to ensure effective public access to government information. For example, as a participating regional federal depository library (since 1879), the University of Colorado-Boulder Library spends approximately \$675,000 for staff, material purchases, equipment and a variety of projects that enhance public access to government information. In addition, the Colorado State University selects approximately 60% of materials available via the FDLP and spends \$ 200,000 on staff. The average yearly cost for 6 academic FDL's in Illinois is \$348,107 and all select over 78% of the government information available via the Program.

One hundred and eight ARL members are federal depository libraries located in congressional districts throughout the United States. Of the 108 participating ARL libraries, 22 are regional depositories that collect and maintain all information available via the FDLP. As of the fall of 2003, the average annual investment in the Program by ARL selective FDLs was \$352,680 and was \$386,251 for ARL regional FDLs. Moreover, a recent survey of ARL FDLs and non-ARL regional libraries reports a jump in the reliance upon no-fee government E-resources as well as an increase in the licensing of commercial E-resources. Finally, 99% of ARL selective FDLs report links to electronic government information in their online catalogs and 100% of all regional FDLs link to government E-resources. Clearly, many participating FDLs have embraced the use of electronic products and services.

The GPO FY 2006 funding request, including that for Salaries and Expenses, includes key initiatives that focus on ensuring that GPO is well positioned to provide needed information services in the evolving networked environment. GPO is investing in new strategic initiatives that define its and the FDLP's future. For example, GPO is supporting the development of authentication services, preservation planning and implementation, improvements to GPO Access, web harvesting, and reallocation of resources to manage the electronic collection. The Salaries and Expenses request of \$33,837,000 supports several critically important programs such as the FDLP, the Cataloging and Indexing Program, and the International Exchange Program. This amount includes necessary increases to support the continued operation of the FDLP, and the increased demands upon *GPO Access*. In particular, we strongly support the request of \$1 million in support of digitization of government information. We urge you to approve the full Salaries and Expenses appropriations request for FY 2006.

ARL recently released a paper, "Recognizing Digitization as a Preservation Reformatting Method," (http://www.arl.org/preserv/digit_final.html) that supports digitization as a viable preservation reformatting strategy. CLIR and the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) endorsed this paper and approach. This paper is but a first step in building community support and facilitating the development of policies, standards, guidelines, and best practices. It is recognized that there are many methods available to preserve paper-based

materials with digitization becoming more widely accepted by many communities.

In closing Mr. Chairman, we very much appreciate your and the Subcommittee's support of GPO and the FDLP over the course of many years. The continuing investment in systems and services to provide the public with effective access to government information will ensure that valuable electronic government information will be available and preserved for future generations. We respectfully ask for your continued support by approving the Government Printing Office's FY 2006 appropriations request in its entirety. We also ask that this statement be included as part of the hearing record.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Prudence S. Adler
Associate Executive Director
Association of Research Libraries

Nancy Davenport
President
Council on Library and Information Resources

***The Association of Research Libraries (ARL)** is a nonprofit organization of 123 research libraries in North America. ARL's members include university libraries, public libraries, government and national libraries. Its mission is to influence the changing environment of scholarly communication and the public policies that affect research libraries and the communities they serve. ARL programs and services promote barrier-free access to and effective uses of recorded knowledge in support of teaching, learning, research, and community service.*

***The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR)** is an independent, not-for-profit organization working to maintain and improve access to information for generations to come. In partnership with other organizations, CLIR helps create services that expand the concept of "library" and supports the providers and preservers of information. CLIR is supported by fees from sponsoring institutions, grants from public and private foundations, contracts with federal agencies and contributions from individuals.*