

June 10, 2011

Nancy Robertson  
State Librarian of Michigan  
State Library of Michigan  
702 West Kalamazoo Street  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Ms. Robertson:

I would like to thank you for your letter of April 14, 2011 updating the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) on activities as related to regional services for the Federal Depository Libraries in Michigan. In addition, I note the email message, dated May 2, 2011, in which you advised one of the selective depository libraries, Delta College, that there will be no regional services as of October 1, 2011 if the agreement between the University of Minnesota and the Library of Michigan for regional services is not approved. This email was GPO's first notice of the October date for the cessation of regional library services.

The process of relinquishing Regional Designation and the plan to have the University of Minnesota act in the capacity to provide regional services for the Michigan selective depositories are separate actions. According to the *Guidance for Federal Depository Libraries Relinquishing Regional Designation*, once there is a decision to drop regional designation, there are several steps that must be taken before final approval is granted by my office. The regional library must:

- Submit a letter to the Superintendent of Documents requesting the changes in your designation from regional to selective;
- Provide GPO with a plan that includes a timeline for the change, the effective date, and any strategies for extensive weeding or change in collection focus;
- Notify all selective libraries currently serviced by your library of the intent to change designation and inform them of the associated timelines; and
- Notify the offices of your state's U.S. Senators of the final decision.

The *Guidance* also requests six months notice to GPO from when the regional services will no longer be available. At this point in time, my office has not yet received the Library of Michigan's official request to drop regional depository designation, the timeline for the change, or the weeding strategies to be used by the Library of Michigan. Please provide my office with this information as soon as possible.

Given the two separate actions—the changing of regional status to selective status by the Library of Michigan and the University of Minnesota assuming regional status for Michigan depository libraries—there will necessarily be a delay between the completion and approval of the two actions. This delay will impact the depository libraries in the state of Michigan, particularly in their ability to withdraw depository material from their collections.

According to 44 USC §1911, “Depository libraries not served by a regional depository, or that are regional depositories themselves, shall retain Government publications permanently...” This statute directly addresses the issue of discards in a library where there is no regional. Michigan Federal depository libraries will not be able to discard material until they are served by a regional library.

As you work to develop a comprehensive written agreement with an institution located outside of Michigan to provide regional services to Michigan selective depositories, please note that this type of agreement will need to be reviewed and approved by the Joint Committee on Printing.

For any proposed agreement for regional services for Michigan depository libraries, a complete package of the service agreement, implementation timeline, and point of contact will need to be reviewed by my office. The submission of the document, “Regional Depository Services by the University of Minnesota Libraries,” would be part of such an overall package. I have received, as you know, many questions and emails related to the regional collection of materials at the Library of Michigan and in the selective libraries across the state. Inclusion of specific details on your plans to meet FDLP requirements associated with the disposal of duplicative materials will also need to be included.

I appreciate the many years of service the Library of Michigan has provided as a regional depository library serving the people of Michigan and the regional network of depository libraries. You have been an important partner in Michigan, and I look forward to your continued leadership in the state as a selective library.

All materials for the two actions, relinquishing Regional depository library designation and requesting approval for an agreement with an institution outside the state of Michigan to provide regional services for Michigan Federal depository libraries, must be submitted to my office for review. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly at 202-512-1313.

Sincerely,

MARY ALICE BAISH  
Assistant Public Printer  
(Superintendent of Documents)

cc: The Honorable Carl Levin  
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
William Boarman, Public Printer of the United States