

**From:** Sherman, Andrew M.

**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2012 6:01 PM

**To:** Patricia Steele; Wendy Lougee; Judith Russell

**Cc:** Baish, Mary A.; Vance-Cooks, Davita E.; Nancy Robertson

**Subject:** Response to your letter of January 20

Ms. Patricia A. Steele  
Dean of Libraries  
University of Maryland

Ms. Wendy Lougee  
University Librarian  
University of Minnesota

Ms. Judith Russell  
Dean of Libraries  
University of Florida

Dear Ms. Steele, Ms. Lougee, and Ms. Russell:

Thanks very much for your letter of January 20. I note you have cc'd Superintendent of Documents Mary Alice Baish, Acting Public Printer Davita Vance-Cooks, and State Librarian of Michigan Nancy Robertson, so I'm including them as cc's on this message. If Senator Cardin requests a response from the GPO I'll of course respond promptly.

It was good to see Judy recently when she was here with leaders and other members of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) to meet with GPO and a member of the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) staff on the ASERL-related matter discussed in my letter to Senator Cardin. The view here is that we had a good discussion in which both ASERL and GPO were able to make our respective positions clear. Hopefully that will provide the basis for making the necessary adjustment to the ASERL's regional plan.

I appreciate the information about the Michigan/Minnesota proposal you've provided in your letter. The statements about this matter in my response to Senator Cardin's inquiry were drawn from Ms. Baish's September 15, 2011, letter to Ms. Robertson, on the same subject. As you know, both Ms. Robertson and Ms. Lougee sent responses to Ms. Baish later in September. I'm sure that she will provide all due consideration to the information included in your letter.

Regarding retrospective collecting, the GPO hasn't changed its position. Our

administration of the FDLP is consistent with the language of Title 44, and we neither make it a requirement to collect retrospectively nor receive appropriations for that purpose. On your concerns about the collaborative research project to ensure a robust future of the FDLP, which was introduced at last October's FDLP conference, I'm sure Ms. Baish will also provide them all due consideration. I understand this project is being discussed at the ALA Midwinter Conference, and I hope you've had the opportunity to share your concerns in that venue.

All of us at the GPO agree with your statement that participants in the 1,200+ member FDLP community "offer enormous potential in ideas, investments, and partnerships that could advance access to and preservation of government information." At the same time, as we said in our meeting with ASERL leaders and as I'm sure you can understand, we at the GPO have an obligation to ensure the FDLP is managed consistent with the applicable governing statutes (until they're changed), as well as the requirements of the appropriated funding that the GPO receives for the program. Within that framework, we wholeheartedly support a "more forward-thinking FDLP program," and we look forward to continued communication and engagement with you and all members of the FDLP community towards that end.

Thanks again for your letter.

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