

November 18, 2013

MaryKay Dahlgreen  
State Librarian  
Oregon State Library  
250 Winter St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Ms. Dahlgreen:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Reorganization Plan for the Oregon State Library, State Archives, Oregon Historical Society, and State of Oregon Law Library. The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) is a cooperative system of regional and selective libraries nationwide that work together to ensure free public access to Federal information products and services. The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) has had very successful, longstanding partnerships with all of Oregon's Federal depository libraries. The GPO's partnership with the Oregon State Library is of particular value and importance.

The Oregon State Library was designated as a regional depository library in November 2007 by Senator Ron Wyden and Senator Gordon Smith, in accordance with 44 U.S.C. §1912. In addition to assuming responsibility as the state's regional library, the Oregon State Library developed a formal shared housing agreement with the Oregon State University, the Portland State University and the University of Oregon. Under the Memorandum of Understanding, each institution is responsible for housing and maintaining portions of the physical collection of Federal depository publications. GPO recognizes the current regional model in Oregon as an excellent example of collaboration and innovation for regional services.

Regional libraries play a crucial leadership role in the FDLP, and the proposed transfer of regional status from the Oregon State Library to the State Archives has important implications. The State Archives would assume regional responsibilities, as defined in 44 U.S.C. §1912 and the *Designation Handbook for Federal Depository Libraries* ([http://www.fdlp.gov/home/repository/doc\\_download/5-designation-handbook-for-federal-depository-libraries](http://www.fdlp.gov/home/repository/doc_download/5-designation-handbook-for-federal-depository-libraries)). In addition, because regional depository libraries are designated by their Senators, the proposed transfer would require agreement by Senator Wyden and Senator Jeff Merkley.

In accepting a regional library designation, libraries agree to:

- permanently retain and maintain one copy of all tangible publications distributed through the FDLP;

- provide no-fee public access to depository library materials;
- provide Interlibrary Loan and Reference Services;
- provide piece level records and finding aids for the tangible materials in the Federal depository collection;
- ensure an adequate number of public access workstations for FDLP materials available only online;
- provide knowledgeable staff who can assist the public in identifying and using Federal information resources, both tangible and online;
- provide assistance to the 19 selective depository libraries throughout the state for their discard process; and,
- serve as the coordinator and consultant for the other Federal depository libraries in Oregon, providing leadership and assistance.

The Oregon State Library's strong commitment to fulfilling its regional responsibilities has been outstanding. The Memorandum of Understanding for selective housing agreements between the Oregon State Library, the Oregon State University, the Portland State University and the University of Oregon ensures permanent public access to Federal government resources and related services for the people of Oregon.

The Reorganization Plan defines the division of functions for the Oregon State Library, State Archives, Oregon Historical Society and State of Oregon Law Library. The GPO supports Oregon's effort to reorganize, streamline and clarify functions among these institutions. The plan includes the transfer of the Federal documents collection to the State Archives. It is clear that this is being done to maximize the space and staff needed to support the collection. With the emphasis on the delivery of material in electronic format and available for online viewing, the development of an integrated online reference system is a very positive strategic initiative that will improve public access to all Federal publications in the regional collection.

The GPO expects that the Oregon State Library's strong commitment to regional responsibilities and service levels will be maintained under the proposed transfer to the State Archives. It is important to recognize that the access point for documents in a state archive is very different from a state library. The GPO encourages the workgroup responsible for implementing the Reorganization Plan to consider thoroughly the Oregon State Library's regional responsibilities during this transition period. Recognizing that the FDLP is a collaborative program, it is very important that the Reorganization Plan be discussed with the three institution participating in the shared housing agreement, as well as with the other Oregon selective depository libraries.



The proposed reorganization is a tremendous undertaking and I appreciate your sharing the Library Reorganization Report, dated October 25, 2013 with GPO. I look forward to a continuing discussion about the Oregon regional Federal depository collection as the reorganization plan moves forward. Please feel free to contact me directly at 202.512.1313 or [mabaish@gpo.gov](mailto:mabaish@gpo.gov) if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Alice Baish".

MARY ALICE BAISH  
Superintendent of Documents

cc: Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Oregon State Legislature  
Representative Nancy Nathanson, Oregon State Legislature  
Sarah Miller, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Oregon Department of Administrative Service  
Mary Beth Herkert, State Archivist, Oregon State Archives  
Kerry Tymchuk, Executive Director, Oregon Historical Society  
Cathryn Bowie, Director, State of Oregon Law Library  
Marilyn Moody, University Librarian, Portland State University Library – LIBW  
Deborah Carver, Dean of Libraries, University of Oregon Libraries  
Faye Chadwell, University Librarian and OSU Press Director, Oregon State University