

ALA American Library Association

August 23, 2017

Ms. Karen Russ
Chair, Depository Library Council

Re: Recommendations for Changes to Title 44 of the U.S. Code

Dear Ms. Russ,

On behalf of the American Library Association (ALA) and our more than 57,000 members, I am writing to respond to your request for comments on modernizing Title 44 of the U.S. Code, which is the statutory authority for the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) and the Government Publishing Office (GPO). ALA members manage FDLP activities in depository libraries and provide many other services relating to government information.

ALA welcomes the opportunity to consider ideas to strengthen Title 44. For decades, FDLP libraries and GPO have worked together to implement Title 44 and help the public find, use, and understand government information. The FDLP's purpose, to ensure that the American public has access to its government's information, remains vital. Since the major concepts of Title 44 were last revised, however, the information environment has evolved considerably: government publishing and information-seeking increasingly take place online, and libraries continue to update their services to meet patron needs. Revising Title 44 to account for these changes would keep the FDLP relevant for the next generations of information users.

ALA looks forward to working with the Depository Library Council and GPO to advance ideas that strengthen the federal government's partnership with libraries and expand the American public's long-term access to government information. Please contact me if you have any questions or we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Gavin R. Baker
Assistant Director, Office of Government Relations

cc: Davita Vance-Cooks, Director, Government Publishing Office