

Remarks by Cynthia Etkin  
Celebrating the University of Kentucky's Centennial Anniversary  
as a Land Grant Depository Library

November 9, 2007

Good afternoon. It is a pleasure to be back in Kentucky. I want to thank Sandee McAninch for inviting the U.S. Government Printing Office to participate in this event. I am honored to be representing the GPO at this centennial celebration of the University of Kentucky Libraries designation as a land grant Federal depository library.

Land grant institutions, like so many other institutions, have evolved. They began as colleges opened to all (not just to those from wealthy backgrounds) promoting liberal arts and practical applied education as well as the pursuit of general knowledge. Agricultural Experiment Stations were created to promote agricultural research and to diffuse research results and disseminate information about practical information related agriculture to the people of the United States.

With information dissemination as part of their mission, it was a natural progression to include the libraries of land grant institutions in the Federal Depository Library Program. The foundation of the depository program is to provide the public with no-fee access to its government's publications and information through the GPO's Office of the Superintendent of Documents.

In 1907 forty-three libraries from land grant institutions entered the Federal Depository Library Program. Among them was the library of the University of Kentucky. UK brought to the depository program a tradition of public service and information access and sharing, a tradition that is still practiced today.

While we are here today for a centennial celebration, this year also marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UK Libraries being designated a regional depository, a designation that brings with it additional obligations and responsibilities to service other depository libraries in Kentucky. UK

has met these more recent challenges with as much fervor as it did when designated a land grant depository library one hundred years ago.

Kentuckians, and other depositories in the state, are indeed fortunate to have the University of Kentucky Libraries as part of the Federal Depository Library Program. Congratulations on both anniversaries, for a job well done and may you continue to serve the public with its Government information needs for hundreds of years to come.

I'd like to now read a letter from the Richard Davis, the Director of Library Service & Content Management and the Acting Superintendent of Documents.