Comments by Dr. Terry Birdwhistell at UK’s Federal Depository Centennial Celebration

Cynthia, thank you for coming today to help us celebrate this important milestone. We have had a great working relationship with your office over the years and we very much appreciate all of the support we have received.

Dean Carol Diedrichs is very disappointed that, because of a family illness, she cannot be with us today. She asked me to extend her greetings to our colleagues from around Kentucky who have joined us today.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize Dr. Charles Wethington, UK’s President Emeritus. President Wethington is largely responsible for this wonderful William T. Young Library building. I also want to give special recognition to Jim Nelson, former Commissioner and State Librarian who served many years as a good colleague and library leader in Kentucky.

We have another very special guest with us today. Paul Willis served as Director of the UK Libraries from 1973 to 2003. Those of us who worked with him appreciate his dedication to the library and to the
University of Kentucky. During his tenure as Director, Paul was a great supporter of UK’s role as a Repository Library.

Coming together to celebrate a centennial anniversary for a program that has meant so much to the citizens of Kentucky makes this a memorable day. Also, we all know that any successful program relies on the hard work and dedication of the people who run that program.

I want to recognize Associate Dean Mary Beth Thomson and everyone in her organization who work to keep Government Documents a key part of the UK Libraries.

One person here today has earned our special thanks. Sandee McAnich has dedicated her career to government documents. She has worked hard to assure that we meet our obligations to this important program and that the citizens who need information are served. Sandee developed an outstanding relationship with Senator Wendell Ford while he served in the US Senate. She continues to work at the national level to promote government documents. Thank you, Sandee.

I want to take just a moment to thank everyone, in addition to Sandee, who helped plan today’s program. First, Esther Edward who coordinated this event has put together seven major events for the UK Libraries in the past six weeks. Thank you, Esther. Others on the
planning committee for this event include Dee Wood, Rob Aken, and Gordon Hogg. Volunteers helping today are Toni Greider, Gwen Curtis, and Lewis Warden, and Kate Seago.

It is my great pleasure today to introduce our keynote speaker. Dr. Tracy Campbell, a Kentucky native and UK graduate, earned his Ph.D. in history at Duke University. He is somewhat conflicted over his basketball loyalties but not his dedication to the academic and research mission of UK. His is one of Kentucky’s success stories in that we were able to attract home one of the Commonwealth’s best and brightest.

Dr. Campbell is Professor of History and serves as Co-Director of the UK Libraries’ Wendell H. Ford Public Policy Research Center. In his role in the Ford Center, Dr. Campbell has brought to campus this past year former Vice-President and Presidential nominee Walter Mondale and former US Senator and Presidential nominee George McGovern. He is committed to making the Ford Center a catalyst for the debate of current public policy issues we face as a nation in a historical context.

Dr. Campbell specializes in the social and political history of the United States and is the author of numerous article and books including *Short of the Glory: The Fall and Redemption of Edward F. Prichard, Jr.*

Professor Campbell.