Approval to Relinquish Depository Library Status

Library staff is recommending that Madison Public Library relinquish its partial Federal Depository Status, which the library has held since 1965.

The partial depository status was valuable to the library for decades until the advent of online government publications. Most documents are now available online. Current ones certainly are. Public libraries are withdrawing from the program as there are easier and faster ways to provide citizens with the information. There is also a space issue.

We began to investigate the option of leaving the program when the need to pack, move, and store the collection became clear. A depository library is required to keep documents for 5 years and go through a specific process before deleting them. We have been cutting back on what we are receiving as more and more is available online, but currently we still have approximately 10,556 paper publications and 156 CD/DVD-ROMS plus maps.

We need to request the status change in writing to the Federal Depository program and to our U.S. Rep Tammy Baldwin.

The Regional Depository Library (the UW and SHS) will allow us to keep some of the publications that we will list with them, including Wisconsin topographical maps and CIA maps.

As we are required to type lists of the items that we still have that the Library received since 1965 for the regional library to post on the web for other libraries to review, we need to start the process quickly. Fortunately, the librarian working with the collection has been weeding extensively these last few years.

We'd like Board approval to move forward so that the documents that we don't need can be removed before we move.

The actual process is given at the following link: "Termination or Relinquishment of Federal Depository Status": http://www.fdlp.gov/administration/handbook/115-chapter3?start=6