Task Force on a Digital Federal Depository Library

Key Takeaways from the Report

- The Task Force was charged with determining the **feasibility** of going digital.

- It was the consensus of the Task Force that **the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) can and should move to a digital program.**

- In February 2023, Director Halpern accepted the bulk of the Task Force recommendations. **Implementation planning and stakeholder engagement has begun**. As the Task Force noted, implementation will need to be well planned and carefully executed as there are a number of significant societal, technical, and legislative matters that require further consideration.

- **The change process will take time to implement and require a major shift in operations.** GPO will need to allocate substantial resources to allow for the necessary training and other crucial transition activities.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the FDLP stop distributing print materials to libraries?
- No, some print materials will still be available for selection by libraries in the program as long as Federal agencies request that GPO print their publications.
- There is still a recognized need for print in some areas, particularly with legal materials and statutory requirements.

Do Depository Library Coordinators need to discard tangible items in a digital FDLP?
- No, tangible holdings in depository libraries remain an important part of the National Collection. Legacy collections will continue to be maintained by depository libraries, and GPO's Library Services and Content Management (LSCM) will provide preservation tools and services.

Will implementation of a digital FDLP allow flexibility for the unique needs of different libraries?
- Yes, the Task Force recommended flexibility for libraries to participate in ways that work for them and the users and communities that they serve.

How will GPO ensure that all digital materials are identified and become part of the FDLP?
- The Task Force recommended that GPO build and expand current collaborations with Federal agencies and other partners to get more digital content into GovInfo, the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP), and other finding tools. Additionally, the Task Force recommended increased digitization projects to enhance online access.

Why now?

- The COVID-19 pandemic created urgency for libraries to rapidly pivot to online engagement and delivery of services. As the need for digital information will only continue to grow, it was evident this exploration needed to take place.
- GPO Director Halpern appointed the Task Force as a response to a fall 2020 recommendation from the Depository Library Council.

Where can find a copy of the Task Force Report?

- The report, *Feasibility of a Digital Federal Depository Library Program: Report of the GPO Director's Task Force*, and additional Task Force information is available from FDLP.gov. If you have any questions, please submit them to askGPO.