



**Demystifying  
Digital Deposit**

**What It Is and What It Could Do  
for the Future of the FDLP**



**Don't  
PANIC!**

"Deposit" is real, not "virtual"



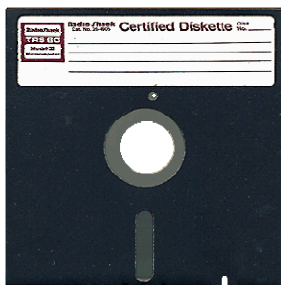
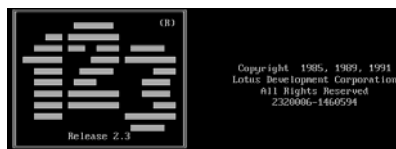
"tangible" vs "online" or "electronic"



“tangible” vs “online” or “electronic”

“Information conveyed on a physical medium.”

“tangible” vs “online” or “electronic”



## “tangible” vs “online” or “electronic”

So: “Tangible” is not a useful, practical, or effective criterion for determining whether any given content should or should not be deposited.

## “tangible” vs “online” or “electronic”

What should or should not be available for deposit?

What matters is not the medium, but:

- Integrity of the Content
- Preservability
- Usability

Digital Deposit ≠ “backup”



A "backup" is just a copy of data intended to be used to restore the original after loss or corruption of the original.

## Digital Deposit ≠ “mirror”

The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of the FDsys website interface. Each screenshot features the FDsys logo, a search bar, and a 'beta' label. Below the search bar, there is a paragraph of text: "GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) provides public access to Government information submitted by Congress and Federal agencies and preserved as technology changes." The two screenshots are identical, demonstrating the digital deposit of content.

## Digital Depository

A library that accepts digital files distributed by the GPO and builds its own unique digital collections that, in conjunction with its own physical and other digital collections, meet the needs of its users.

## Digital Depository

- Service
- Access
- Collections
- A Designated user community

## Why we need a digital depository system

### I. FDLP Content

## I. Digital Deposit FDLP Content

- ① A digital depository system that provided *replication and redundancy of content* would create additional assurance of long-term, free public access that no single system can provide alone.



## I. Digital Deposit FDLP Content

- ② A digital depository *system* would provide protection against *financial risks* that no single system can provide alone.





## I. Digital Deposit FDLP Content

- ③ A digital depository system that relies on a wide *variety of technical solutions* will reduce the risk of technological failure that no single system solution can provide.



## I. Digital Deposit FDLP Content

- ④ A digital depository system will include many libraries – each with its own mission, its own designated user community, its own collection (and weeding) policies, its own services and policies. No single library can provide such variety and abundance.



# Why we need a digital depository system

## II. Rich Collections, Rich Services

## II. Rich Collections, Rich Services

- ① Digital Deposit will enable libraries to combine FDLP content with non-FDLP content.

These collections will be user-centered rather than based on provenance.



## II. Rich Collections, Rich Services

- ② Digital Deposit will enable libraries to create new services, interfaces, indexes, and views of information.

Services based on user-interest not producer-mission.



[BJS home page](#)

[Data for analysis - Crime & Justice Electronic Data Abstracts](#)

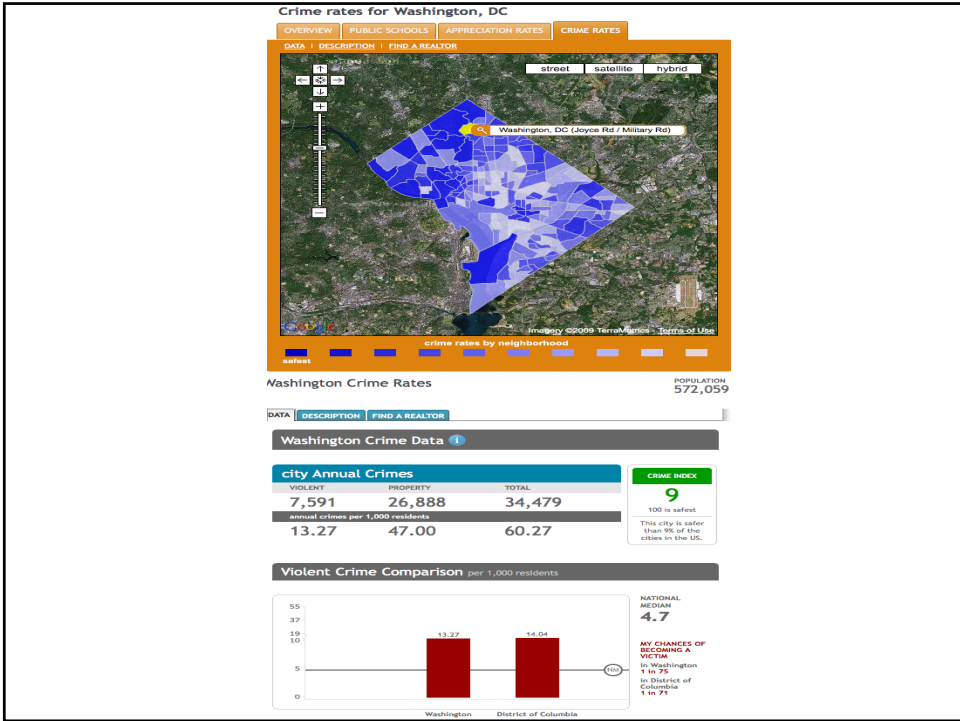
### Spreadsheets

On this page: [Index of available files](#) | [Additional data files](#) | [Related sites](#)

These Crime & Justice Electronic Data Abstract spreadsheets are:

- aggregated data from a wide variety of published sources
- intended for analytic use
- include crime, justice and sociodemographic variables
- often contain data over time and by jurisdiction

Most of these files are in .csv format which can be easily read by most spreadsheet and statistical programs, and many word processors. A few of the holdings are a collection of files which are archived into one .zip file to facilitate transfer from the Internet. For more information about how to access these files, see [Help for using BJS products](#).



A project of **Sunlight Foundation** (Who is the Sunlight Foundation?) Join Our Mailing List

# LOUISdb

Library of Unified Information Services

All Categories

[Bills & Resolutions](#)
[Congressional Reports](#)
[Congressional Record](#)
[Congressional Hearings](#)
[Federal Register](#)
[Presidential Documents](#)

**About LOUISdb**

Welcome to [LOUIS](#) - the Library Of Unified Information Sources, a project of the [Sunlight Foundation](#) and [Sunlight Labs](#), and an effort, to paraphrase Justice Louis Brandeis, to illuminate the workings of the federal government.

This site employs the [LOUISdb API](#) which delivers results in an XML syndication format.

**About Sunlight**

- [Our Blog](#)
- [Mission Statement](#)
- [Board and Advisory Board](#)
- [Press Releases](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)

**Useful Sunlight Resources**

- [OpenCongress.org](#)
- [Political PartyTime](#)
- [Real Time Investigations](#)
- [Sunlight Labs](#)
- [Transparency Corps](#)

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Receive our top stories daily

E-mail:

Zip Code:

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Sections ▾ Hot Topics: [Gas Drilling](#) [Bailout Guide](#) [Stimulus](#) [Detention Dilemma](#) [Calif. Nurses](#)

## Eye on the Stimulus

### We Made Recovery.gov's New Stimulus Data Easier to Download

by Michael Grabell and Jennifer LaFleur, ProPublica - October 16, 2009 12:31 pm EDT

Print
Email
Comment (1)
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Department	Contract ID	Year	Amount
Department of the Air Force	1792	Department 13 2009	2,338,000,000
Department of the Air Force	1793	Department 13 2009	3,139,000,000
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Update 3:30 P.M. We left out the New Jersey data in the contractors file. That's been fixed.

Yesterday, Recovery.gov, the government's stimulus clearinghouse, released its first hard data on stimulus jobs.

Want to see the data? Recovery.gov has posted it in 183 separate files by state and territory. It's a bit of a burden to download it all — and hard to get a sense of the national picture. So we cleaned up the formatting a bit and compiled them into two big, handy datasets, one for contractors and one for subcontractors. Take a look and let us know what you find.

- [Recovery.gov Contractor Data](#) (6.7MB Microsoft Excel file)
- [Recovery.gov Subcontractor Data](#) (2.1MB Microsoft Excel file)

(Fair warning: This isn't a fancy interactive database like we usually do — just the raw data. We put together the files for ourselves and thought you might find it useful as well. We've asked the folks who run Recovery.gov for a glossary to decode the column headings but haven't received it yet. We'll post it if we get it.)

### Stimulus Progress Bar

\$111 billion Spent
\$146 billion In process
\$324 billion Left to spend
\$63 billion Tax cuts issued
\$150 billion Tax cuts remaining

Track the progress of the stimulus with our interactive tools:

- ▶ **Notices to Proceed**  
Who's getting stimulus projects off the ground fastest?
- ▶ **Recovery Tracker**  
Find stimulus projects happening near you.
- ▶ **Agency Progress**  
How quickly are the federal agencies spending stimulus money?

PROPUBLICA REPORTING NETWORK

Sign up to be notified of reporting opportunities.

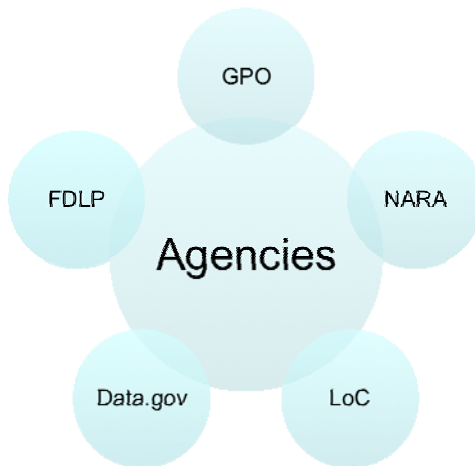
E-mail:

ZIP code:

**Coverage Highlights**

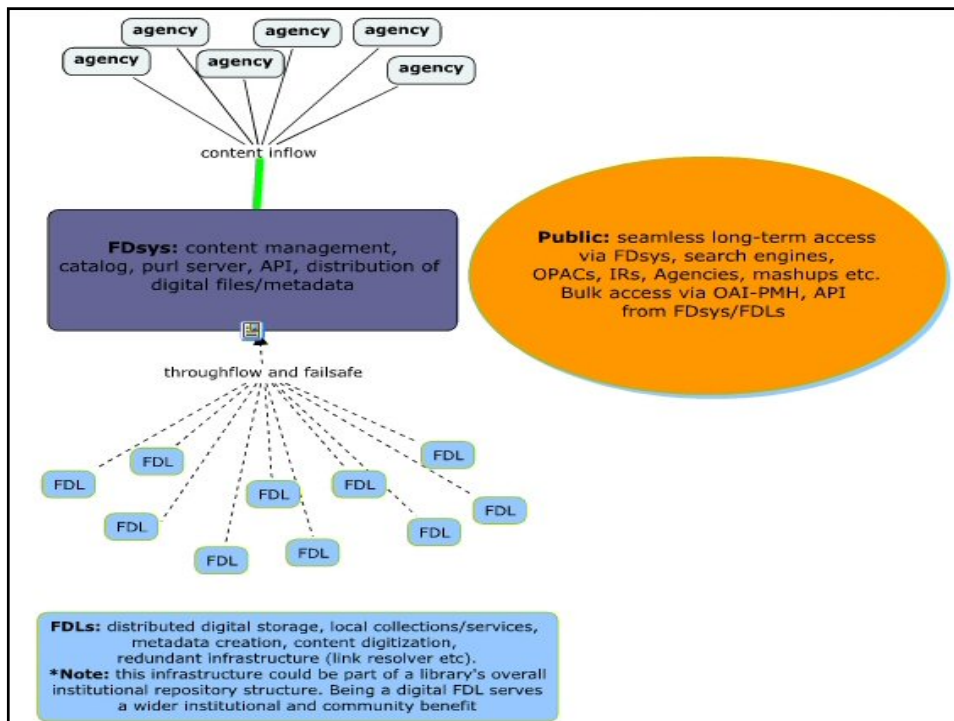
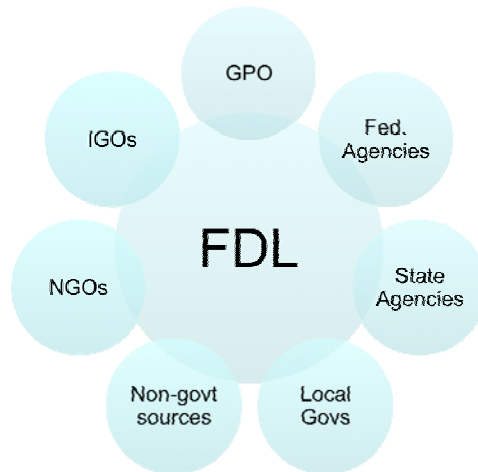
**Charts & Maps**

# What would Digital Deposit look like? The big picture!




# What would Digital Deposit look like?

## The big picture!



# How Digital Deposit Would Work

From GPO's Point of View



FTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Push</li><li>• Pull</li></ul>
OAI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Metadata</li><li>• files</li></ul>
RSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Profiles</li><li>• Customized</li></ul>
Search	

# How Digital Deposit Would Work

From The Library's Point of View  
SELECTION

- Item numbers
- Sudocs numbers
- Agency
- Publication type / Frequency / etc.
- File type / format
- Subject
- Full Text keywords, names

# How Digital Deposit Would Work

## From The Library's Point of View ACQUISITION

- Get files that match your profile FTP'd by GPO to your FTP site or FTP files from GPO's FTP site.
- Use OAI-PMH to automatically select profile matches from everything at GPO's OAI site
- Set up one or more customized RSS feeds for different profiles. Have different subject selectors review them for acquisition
- Acquire individual titles directly from FDsys

Deposit every document?!







Yup, that's it.



## Methods of storing documents locally

- File system on PC
- Web site
- Institutional Repository (DSpace, Fedora)
- Outsourcing/partners (OCLC, IA)
- Other specialized software (LOCKSS)
- Expanding purview of existing archives (Portico, JSTOR, HathiTrust)



# How Might Digital Deposit Look

## The User's Point of View

Author [United States. Bureau of the Public Debt](#)  
Title Financial audit. Bureau of the Public Debt's fiscal years ... sc  
report to the Secretary of the Treasury  
Published Washington, D.C. : [U.S. General Accounting Office](#), [1999]-

**Link to online version below:**

[1998/1997-](#)

<http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS37972>

# How Might Digital Deposit Look

## The User's Point of View

Author [United States. Congress. House. Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Subcommittee on Health](#)  
Title Legislative [hearing](#) on H.R. 4089, H.R. 4463, H.R. 5888, H.R. 6114 and H.R. 6122 [electro  
resource] : [hearing](#) before the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Veterans' Affa  
House of Representatives, One Hundred Tenth Congress, second session, June 5, 2008  
Published Washington : U.S. G.P.O., 2009

**Link to online version below:**

[Text version:](#)

[PDF version:](#)

[Preliminary transcript: Copy on Committee web site](#)

[Original GPO copy](#)

[Local Library copy of GPO original](#)

## Digital Collections Are Inevitable

### 1. Information is increasingly digital only.

All Library collections will be increasingly digital.

## Digital Collections Are Inevitable

- Service
- Access
- Collections
- A Designated user community

## Digital Collections Are Inevitable

- FDLP content is easy to add (no copyright, not DRM).
- FDLP can enrich your digital collection.
- Digital collections and network access allow us to concentrate on new communities of interest (no geographic limits!)

## Digital Collections Are Inevitable

### 2. Digital information is in danger of being lost if we do not act now.

No one library or single institution can save everything.

The question we have to ask is: Who will decide what we keep and what we weed?

# Digital Collections Are Inevitable

Results from the 2005 & 2007 Biennial Survey show that a significant proportion of FDLs are interested in building digital collections.

2005: 163 libraries were “systematically downloading” files

2007: 37.78% said they “want to receive PDFs if GPO deposited them”.

## Kentucky Digital Deposit

The screenshot shows the website for the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. The page is titled "Kentucky Digital Deposit" and features a navigation menu with links to "Catalog", "Visitor Information", "Service Directory", and "Staff Directory". The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Archival Services**: Research Services, Collections Overview, Kentucky Talking Book Library.
- Information/Services for Library Staff**: Information/Services for Gov't Records Managers, KDLA Publications, About KDLA, Site Index.
- Records Retention Schedules**: Just for State Government Employees... (with a list of training sessions and pre-recorded sessions), 50 Ways KDLA Serves Kentucky's Need to Know, Twenty-First Annual Public Archives Symposium, Vital Statistics Records Available for Purchase on Microfilm or CD -- (with a list of records), Just for Librarians...
- Closures**: November 11: Veterans Day, November 26-27: Thanksgiving Day holiday, KDLA 2009 Calendar.
- Kentucky Archives Month October 2009**: A promotional banner for the month with a portrait of a man.

The footer of the page includes the Kentucky logo and contact information: "KDLA is part of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. 200 Coffee Tree Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Phone: (502) 564-8300. Toll Free (800) 928-7000."

## States Are Active!

In a recent survey of best practices by those who are responsible for permanent public access to state documents, respondents said they were actively preserving documents using a variety of solutions:

- ArchivalWare
- Archive-It
- ContentDM
- DSpace
- digitool
- EPrints
- ex libris
- iRODS
- LOCKSS
- SendSpace
- Sirsi/Dynix & OCLC

## LOCKSS

[LOCKSS](#) [Publishers and Titles](#) [PLNs](#) [About Us](#) [Contact Us](#)

**HOME**


**What is the LOCKSS Program?**

LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe), based at Stanford University Libraries, is an international community initiative that provides libraries with digital preservation tools and support so that they can easily and inexpensively collect and preserve their own copies of authorized e-content. LOCKSS, in its eleventh year, provides libraries with the open-source software and support to preserve today's web-published materials for tomorrow's readers while building their own collections and acquiring a copy of the assets they pay for, instead of simply leasing them. LOCKSS provides 100% post cancellation access.

The ACM award-winning LOCKSS technology is an open source, peer-to-peer, decentralized digital preservation infrastructure. LOCKSS preserves all formats and genres of web-published content. The intellectual content, which includes the historical context (the look and feel), is preserved. LOCKSS is OAIS-compliant; the software migrates content forward in time [☞](#); and the bits and bytes are continually audited and repaired [🔗](#).

**NAVIGATION**

- [Home](#)
- [Participating Libraries](#)
- [How It Works](#)
- [Publishers and Titles](#)
- [For Libraries](#)
- [For Publishers](#)
- [LOCKSS Alliance](#)
- [News](#)
- [CLOCKSS](#)
- [Talks](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Installing LOCKSS](#)



GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS PLN

### U.S. Government Documents Private LOCKSS Network

Fifteen libraries, working with Carl Malamud's [public.resource.org](http://public.resource.org) site, are harvesting and preserving this critical content in a distributed digital preservation system. First to be preserved are the GPO documents hosted at <http://bulk.resource.org/> with other collections to follow.

The "USDocs" PLN replicates key aspects of the United States Federal Depository System. The content is held in geographically distributed sites and replicated many times. Citizens have oversight and responsibility for the long-term care and maintenance of the content. All these characteristics mean the content will be preserved so that any alteration of the content (either deliberate or accidental) will be detected and repaired. For all documents, preservation in a tamper-evident environment is important, but for government documents, this is essential.

**USDocs PLN Participating Institutions:**

- Alaska State Library
- Amherst College
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Library of Congress
- Michigan State University
- North Carolina State University
- Northeastern University
- Rice University
- Stanford University
- University of Alabama
- University of Illinois/Chicago
- University of Kentucky
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Virginia Tech
- Yale University

We welcome additional participants. For more information, please contact James Jacobs at [jjacobs@stanford.edu](mailto:jjacobs@stanford.edu).

NAVIGATION

- Home
- Participating Libraries
- How It Works
- Publishers and Titles
- For Libraries
- For Publishers
- LOCKSS Alliance
- News
- CLOCKSS
- Talks
- Publications
- Installing LOCKSS

“...let us save what remains: not by vaults and locks which fence them from the public eye and use in consigning them to the waste of time, but by such a multiplication of copies, as shall place them beyond the reach of accident.

— Thomas Jefferson, February 18, 1791

## Benefits of Digital Deposit

- For **GPO**: more partners; more visibility; better preservation; more leverage w/Congress.
- For **FDLP content**: better preservation with lots of copies with many curators.
- For **FDLP**: new incentives to stay in the program; revitalized community of libraries.
- For **individual FD Libraries**: better collections; more flexible services; new user communities.
- For **users**: Focused collections, better access, new and better services.





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Free Government Information Website  
<http://freegovinfo.info>



**Demystifying Digital Deposit**  
**What It Is and What It Could Do for the Future of the FDLP**  
Rebecca Blakeley and James A. Jacobs

**RESOURCES**

Presentation slides with notes are located at:

<http://www.slideshare.net/reblakeley/presentations>

LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe)

<http://www.lockss.org/>

U.S. Government Documents LOCKSS Network

[http://www.lockss.org/lockss/Government\\_Documents\\_PLN](http://www.lockss.org/lockss/Government_Documents_PLN)

**FGI Blog Posts:**

All FGI blog posts using the tag "Digital deposit": <http://freegovinfo.info/taxonomy/term/3>

Jacobs, James A. "Comment on article: Depository Library Program in 2023."

<http://freegovinfo.info/node/2706>

\_\_\_\_\_. "Selective-deposit and the technical requirements of a digital-deposit FDLP."

<http://freegovinfo.info/library/infrastructure>

Jacobs, James R. "Critical GPO systems and the FDLP cloud." <http://freegovinfo.info/node/2704>

\_\_\_\_\_. "Toward a definition of 'virtual depository'." [http://freegovinfo.info/library/virtual\\_depository](http://freegovinfo.info/library/virtual_depository)

**Articles:**

Conway, Paul. "Institutional Repositories: Is There Anything Left to Say?." 7 Oct 2004. 8 Oct 2009

<http://www.oclc.org/programsandresearch/dss/conway.htm>

Cornwall, Daniel and James R. Jacobs. "Distributed Globally, Collected Locally: LOCKSS for Digital Government

Information." *Against the Grain* vol. 21, no. 1 (February, 2009): 42-44.

<http://freegovinfo.info/system/files/ATG-lockss-p5-7.pdf>

Hockx-Yu, Helen. "Digital preservation in the context of institutional repositories." *Program: electronic library and information systems* vol. 40, no. 3 (2006): 232 - 243. 8 Oct 2009 <http://eprints.rclis.org/7351/>

Jacobs, James A., James R. Jacobs, and Shinjoung Yeo. "Government Information in the Digital Age: The Once and Future Federal Depository Library Program." *Journal of Academic Librarianship* vol. 31, no. 3 (May 2005): 198-208. <http://repositories.cdlib.org/postprints/657/>

**GLOSSARY**

Full Glossary is located at: <http://freegovinfo.info/library/glossary>

**API** - An Application Programming Interface (API) is a definition of how computer programs can interact with a particular dataset, database, web site, or other cache of information. Programmers can use an API to design ways of dynamically interacting with the target data. An API increases the flexibility of information provision because, rather than limiting users to a single interface provided by the information provider or publisher, the API allows others to program different interfaces customized for different communities or purposes. **Mashups** often use open APIs to combine data from different sources (e.g., census and crime and maps) to re-use and re-purpose what would otherwise be separate stove-pipes of information and static documents.

**Backup** - A copy of data intended to be used to restore the original after loss or corruption of the original.

**Digital Deposit** - U.S. government publications in digital format deposited in FDLP libraries. In other words, GPO sends (i.e., deposits) authentic digital files to depository libraries. A Digital Depository has a digital collection that it selects, acquires, organizes, and maintains. Note that, although a library may also maintain links to digital publications that are housed, organized, and maintained by someone else, and that this may be useful, this is not "digital deposit" because nothing is deposited.

**Mirror Site** - "On the Internet, a mirror site is an exact copy of another Internet site. Mirror sites are most commonly used to provide multiple sources of the same information."

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mirror\\_%28computing%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mirror_%28computing%29)

**OAIS** - OAIS - Open Archival Information System (OAIS) is a document that describes the essential functions and components of a digital archive. It is widely used (Library of Congress, National Archives, RLG, Harvard, UK Data Archive, British Library, etc.) in the design and evaluation of of digital archives. GPO used it in designing FDSys. OAIS goes beyond "bit preservation." An OAIS-compliant archive accepts the responsibility to ensure that information will be *usable* by a designated community.

**XML** - Extensible Markup Language (XML) is specification for creating custom markup languages intended for use on the Web. Like HTML, it allows text to be tagged or "marked up." Unlike HTML, which focuses on appearance, XML allows content to be tagged to denote *meaning*. XML is generally human-readable and therefore more easily preserved than proprietary, binary formats. It is also designed so that it can be easily parsed by computers and so is often called "machine-actionable" because it makes it possible to more easily re-use and re-purpose content. An example of a XML being used for government publications is the XML version of the *Federal Register*. This has already prompted new uses of the *FR* at [FedThread.org](http://FedThread.org). FedThread ("a new way of interacting with the Federal Register") uses the government-provided XML to create functionality that the government does not provide. This includes collaborative annotation, advanced search, customized feeds, and more.

**Virtual Depository** - This is a commonly used, but misleading term. Virtual depository is NOT digital deposit (See FGI post, "Toward a definition of 'virtual depository'": [http://freegovinfo.info/library/virtual\\_depository](http://freegovinfo.info/library/virtual_depository)). GPO has used the term to mean the substitution/negation of actual deposit of paper documents in a depository library's collections for links in a library's online catalog to digital documents housed on GPO servers. Virtual depository is then the antithesis of digital deposit.