

Benefits of Being a Federal Depository Library

General responses

- Extends limited book budgets by providing valuable material at no cost
- Automatically receive publications that may be difficult to obtain otherwise, either due to price or availability
- Supplies materials that support various curriculum areas
- Provides primary source material that is invaluable to researchers
- Program is at the forefront of technology, and pushes member libraries to do the same
- Provides information & training for librarians, with programs such as the Interagency Seminar & Depository Library Conference
- Provides a centralized process for locating, acquiring, cataloging, and disseminating information produced by the various government entities
- Raises the service level of the library in order to comply with FDLP standards
- Not having to dismantle our Federal depository collection (which those libraries leaving the program are required to do)
- Libraries receive regular updates on government information issues from the GPO, other government agencies, and other entities
- Libraries have the ability to have input in the policies and procedures of the Federal Depository Library Program
- A community of government information professionals who understand governmental organizational structure, the information publishing practices of governmental agencies, and the multiple contexts in which these agencies produce this information
- Raises the level of visibility and status of the entire Library locally, regionally, and nationally
- “Recommended Specifications for Public Workstations” helps ensure that library workstations are always up-to-date
- Enhances status of institution:
 - Greater service to & resource for the entire community
 - Receive political good will of the Congressional delegation
 - Maintains a public collection of government information, and employs knowledgeable people to serve that collection

Compiled by Depository Library Council Operations Committee SOAR Subcommittee
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Benefits of Being a Depository – Public Library Perspective

- We support a democratic, informed citizenry; FDLP mission is the same as for other depository libraries (I won't elaborate, you know what these are EXCEPT to say that public libraries are in the trenches each and every day with these issues – this is a primary mission of public libraries, FDLP or not)
- We have access to government information, publications and resources: the FDLP helps us to identify, obtain and index materials and resources in all formats. Government information impacts all phases and areas of a person's life. This information is complicated for many members of the public. I like to say that the average person doesn't read a social security handbook for the fun of it – government information is need-based. The FDLP is a partner in helping meet these needs (many times under stressful conditions for the person seeking this information).
- A big advantage is the EASE by which patrons can access government information. With the help of the FDLP, we can offer the public many access points for figuring out what they need and how to find it – online catalogs, web pages, seamless-indexing, etc.
- Public Libraries reach out to and serve a large PRIMARY constituency, and patrons can check out tangible products (unlike most academic and special libraries).
- There is the PERCEPTION with legislators and the public that public libraries serve everyone in a community (as opposed to the central mission of a university being to serve students, staff, etc.). In our legislative district, we serve every single person who walks through the door with the same level of service (depository and non-depository materials) regardless of who they are. The public naturally thinks to call a public library. In turn, public libraries make referrals to the larger, comprehensive and historical collections of the university libraries.
- Public libraries serve the homebound and special populations (such as immigrants, small businesses). We ACTIVELY seek out ways to serve these populations with all our services including depository materials. We are amazingly service-oriented (at least I am constantly amazed by our services).

List created by Linda Fredericks

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