

# FLEXIBILITY

## of Federal Depository Collections



Federal depository libraries have the flexibility to:

- Provide access to tangible publications.
- Provide access to only digital materials.
- Provide access to any combination of the two.

Your library can craft your depository collection to meet your patrons needs.

### Digital Collection Benefits:

- Save in-demand shelf space.
- Save processing time.
- Allow staff to devote time to other priorities by reducing tangible collection management responsibilities.
- Collect current and historic tangible publications through depository publication exchange services.
- Easy in-text searching.
- 24/7 access from anywhere (even when library is closed).
- Ability to save and download.
- Increased scope of collections as more and more historic collections are being digitized.

### Tangible Collection Benefits:

- Some publications are preferred by users in paper format.
- Paper may offer more security for preservation and access.
- A core collection, with historical or current materials in tangible formats, may benefit the needs of many users.
- Through tools like the FDLP eXchange, libraries can enhance their collections and thus value in their communities.
- Some content is not online.
- Digital access features may not be user-friendly.
- Some digital resources are not official or complete like their print counterpart.
- Some agency websites only provide access to the current issue of online resources.

The FDLP's focus is on providing quality U.S. Government resources to your patrons, in whatever formats will be most beneficial to your library and its patrons.

# FORMATS for Your Library

While the primary consideration regarding the selection of a publication for the library collection is whether the information content falls within the library's subject scope, you should consider multiple factors when deciding upon format(s) to collect.

- Perform a community review to determine patron format preferences.
- Identify if patrons prefer any titles in particular formats based on available usage data, patron requests or surveys, importance of various titles, etc.
- Identify the long term needs for the titles, and whether one format is more suited for future patron access. Frequency of

publication, a library's previous holdings, or any difference in the content of different formats may be factors.

- For regional depositories, collaborate with your selective network on local needs in your region.
- For selective depositories, consult with the regional to determine if formal or informal cooperative collection development agreements are in place for libraries to select and retain certain publications. Any changes in your collection should be shared with other libraries, both FDLP and non-FDLP, that may rely on your library for patron referrals.

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**Assistance from GPO.** GPO Outreach Librarians are available to consult with you about your library's collection and format preferences.

Contact GPO's Office of Outreach and Support and learn more:  
FDLPOutreach@gpo.gov \* 202-512-1119.

For more information, visit: <http://www.fdlp.gov/requirements-guidance-2/guidance/2124-all-or-mostly-online-federal-depository-libraries>

