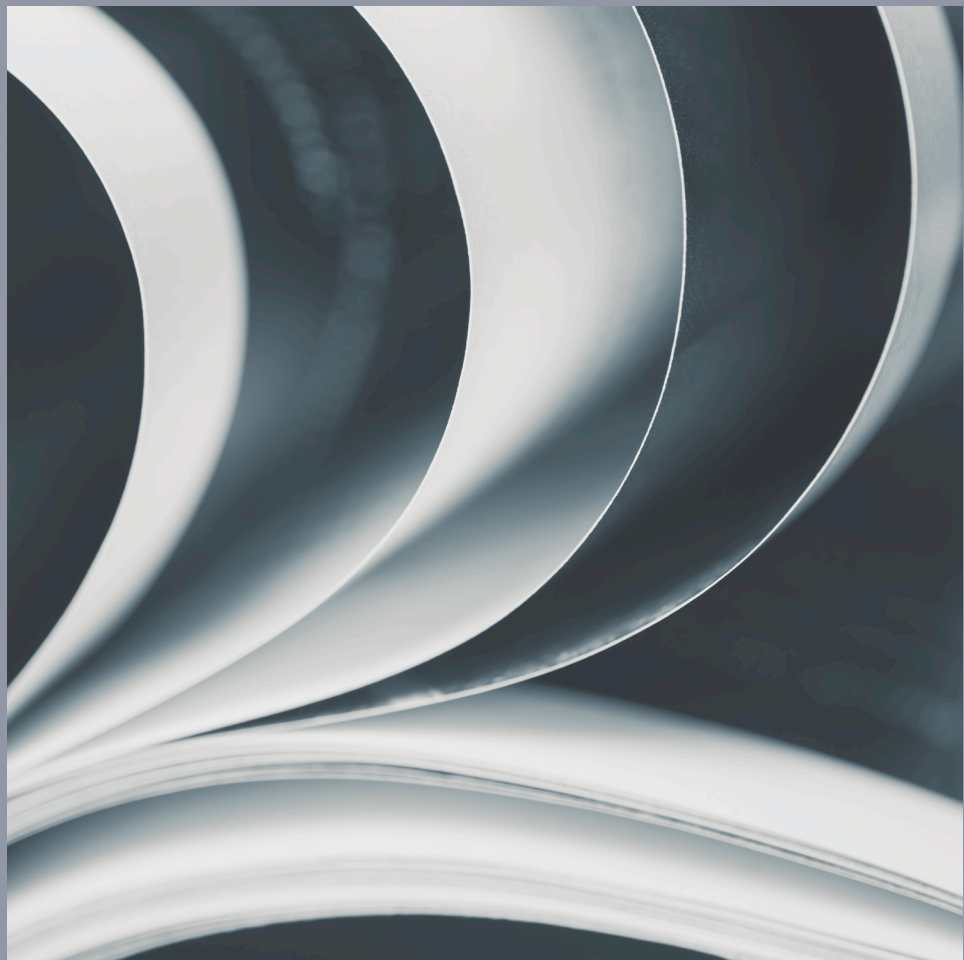


Commendation & Recommendations
of the Depository Library Council to the
Director, Government Publishing Office
Fall 2019



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM

<http://www.fdlp.gov>

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the commendation and recommendations of the Depository Library Council (DLC) from the fall 2019 Federal Depository Library Conference. GPO is developing responses and will make those available in the near future.

COMMENDATION & RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPOSITORY LIBRARY COUNCIL TO THE DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE, FALL 2019

COMMENDATION

Commendation: Cataloging and Making Available Congressional Research Service Reports and Other Information Products

In the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, Congress directed the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to make its reports available publicly via a website established and maintained by the Library of Congress. Up to this point, CRS reports were only distributed to members of Congress, and reports that reached the public were only those that individual members chose to share. Now that these reports are freely available on crsreports.congress.gov, the public has access to an excellent research resource and an invaluable document of the legislative process.

The Depository Library Council commends GPO for its collaboration with the Library of Congress to catalog Congressional Research Service products and distributing that cataloging so that these vital government information products are discoverable on a variety of platforms. GPO is cataloging four distinct CRS products that are “in scope” for the FDLP:

- Reports: Comprehensive research and analysis on the range of issues before Congress
- In Focus: Short, two-page documents providing a quick overview or primer on a topic
- Legal Sidebars: Brief examinations of recent developments in the law
- Testimony: Written statements of CRS experts

The dissemination of these vital documents is an undeniable public good. It is praiseworthy that GPO is collaborating with the Library of Congress on this project and lending its valuable expertise in cataloging, thus meeting their mission to “Keep America Informed.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation #1: Special Opportunities to Select Tangible Publications

The Depository Library Council recommends the Government Publishing Office (GPO) continue offering depositories special opportunities to select certain tangible documents

that do not fall into their item selection profile and that GPO continue to explore options for selection outside the item selection profile. Council further recommends that GPO solicit feedback from the FDLP community about ways to continue expanding flexibility in tangible collection development.

Justification:

The special opportunities to select tangible publications has been a pilot for GPO and anecdotal evidence has shown that depositories find value in this program. This initiative allows depository libraries--including all-digital and mostly digital depositories--to enrich their collections with high-profile, timely government publications that could otherwise be costly and challenging to acquire in print. Finding more ways to allow flexible selection of tangible items allows depositories to more easily manage and develop their collections to match the changing information needs of their users.

Recommendation #2: Recommendation to Adopt Federal Advisory Committee Act Provisions for the Conduct of the Depository Library Council to the Director, Government Publishing Office

Recognizing that the Government Publishing Office (GPO) is a legislative branch agency not obligated to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) provisions, but in the spirit of the law, Council supports the Government Publishing Office in implementing, as much as practicable, the Government Services Administration's FACA guidance as best practices for the management and operation of the Depository Library Council, and recommends implementation as soon as possible.

Justification:

In 2017, Congress introduced legislation to reform the Government Publishing Office and the Federal Depository Library Program. One of the earliest drafts included provisions requiring the Depository Library Council to the Director, Government Publishing Office to follow the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA) while conducting business. The FACA law applies specifically to Executive Branch agencies of the United States government, and as such, does not apply directly to the Government Publishing Office. However, the staff of GPO was interested in using the General Service Administration's guidelines for FACA. Council then formed a Working Group to 1) study the provisions of the law and 2) present Council with a report for their consideration. Following a report of the Working Group's findings at the Fall Depository Library Conference on 21 October 2019, and a presentation of this recommendation to Council during a conference call 21 November 2019, Council is endorsing this recommendation.