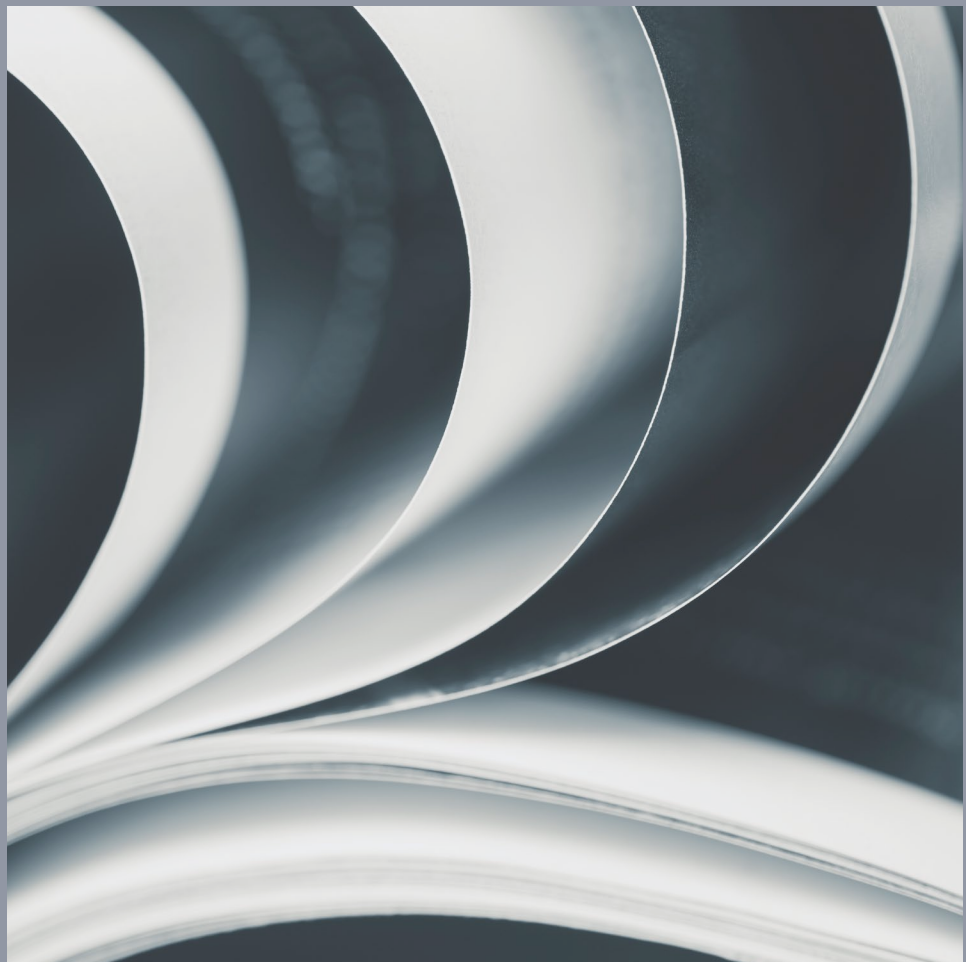


Commendation & Recommendations
of the Depository Library Council to the
Director, Government Publishing Office,
& GPO Responses, Fall 2019



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 and the U.S. Government Publishing Office's responses.

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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 (DLC) 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.”

GPO’s Response:

GPO thanks the DLC for this complimentary commendation. GPO staff realizes the importance of CRS reports and will continue to collaborate with the Library of Congress on this critical project. GPO is proud to continue to provide expertise in making CRS reports accessible to the FDLP and the American public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation #1: Special Opportunities to Select Tangible Publications

The DLC 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. DLC further recommends that GPO solicit feedback from the FDLP community about ways to continue expanding flexibility in tangible collection development.

GPO's Response:

GPO appreciates DLC's support for the Special Selection Offers pilot program and shares the DLC's belief in the necessity to provide more flexibility in the selection of tangible items.

GPO will collect and analyze data on the Special Selection Offers made over the course of at least one year and evaluate the responses to the program in order to refine it and make it as useful and efficient as possible.

GPO will also continue to explore other options for depository libraries to use methods beyond depository item number selection to develop their Government information collections and will continue to work in conjunction with the DLC and the FDLP community to determine the best options.

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, the DLC 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 DLC, and recommends implementation as soon as possible.

GPO's Response:

GPO thanks the DLC for its support for applying the General Services Administration's (GSA) Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) advice and guidance to managing the DLC. GPO has adopted GSA's provisions where practicable and will treat them as "Best Practices."

[“Charter for the Depository Library Council”](#) was drafted in accordance with GSA best practices, and became effective March 5, 2020 upon the review and signature of GPO Director Hugh N. Halpern. [“Depository Library Council Bylaws and Operating Procedures”](#) were drafted similarly, reviewed, and became effective March 9, 2020. The Charter and the Bylaws were shared with DLC members and posted to the [DLC web page](#) on FDLP.gov. The [spring 2020 DLC Virtual Meeting](#) will be the first DLC meeting to be held under the auspices of FACA best practices.