

Depository Library Council

Advisory body to the Director of the U.S. Government Publishing Office

December 10, 2021

Hugh Nathaniel Halpern, Director
U.S. Government Publishing Office
732 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20401

Dear Director Halpern,

As Chair of the Depository Library Council (DLC), I am honored to transmit to you the recommendation and commendation resulting from the Fall 2021 meeting of the DLC. While we are in the second year of a global pandemic, the Federal Depository Library (FDL) community continues to thrive in assisting the Government Publishing Office (GPO) with their mission of *Keeping America Informed* by providing cost-free access to Federal information. Over the course of the 2021 Fall Depository Library Conference and DLC meeting, FDL professionals exemplified what I refer to as the “FDL professional standard” of doing the right thing with all of one’s might as evidenced by the high-quality programs, rich discussions, and building of lifelong professional relationships.

In its advisory role, DLC offers the following recommendation for consideration regarding continuing the inclusion of the FDL community in the development of the U.S. Catalog of Government Publications (CGP) of the future:

RECOMMENDATION: GPO continue to involve the FDL community in development of the new CGP

Council recommends GPO continue to involve the Federal Depository Library (FDL) community in the development of the new Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP). We recommend that Library Services and Content Management (LSCM) pursue multiple avenues of community involvement, which may include conducting beta testing with the FDL community and soliciting community feedback and input through various mechanisms including conducting open forums, surveys, focus groups, and other measures.

JUSTIFICATION:

Council believes that community involvement is critical to developing a new CGP that meets the needs of its users to the fullest extent possible. Depository coordinators, other library staff, and end users at all types of FDLs use the CGP for a variety of purposes; we

believe input from these groups, through testing, focus groups, surveys, and other measures, will ultimately help create a more functional resource. The 2021 Federal Depository Library Conference open forum on "The CGP of the Future " garnered an extensive amount of information and recommendations from FDL community participants. Council received additional valuable feedback from multiple participants in the "2021 Federal Depository Library Conference Evaluation." Survey respondents expressed appreciation that they were being listened to by GPO and articulated a need for further community input ahead of a new CGP.

Council offers the following commendation to recognize GPO and the Law Library of Congress in their collaborative efforts to digitize and make available the U.S. Congressional Serial Set on govinfo.gov:

COMMENDATION:

The Depository Library Council (DLC) commends the Government Publishing Office (GPO), led by the Library Services and Content Management (LSCM) and Program, Strategy and Technology (PST) units and the Law Library of Congress in their collaborative efforts to digitize volumes of the United States Congressional Serial Set, create metadata, and provide online free public access to them on govinfo.gov.

Please feel free to contact me by email (will.stringfellow@vanderbilt.edu) with any questions or concerns regarding this recommendation or commendation.

Sincerely,



Will Stringfellow
Chair, Depository Library Council

Cc: Laurie B. Hall, Superintendent of Documents
Lisa Pritchard, Chair-Elect, Depository Library Council