SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT
202X-X
EFFECTIVE: XX/XX/202X

SUBJECT: *Regional Depository Libraries Online Selections*

PURPOSE

To allow regional depository libraries flexibility in building and providing service to their Federal depository collections.

BACKGROUND

The statutory authority for regional depository libraries requires that they receive copies of all new and revised Government publications and they must also retain at least one copy either in printed or microfacsimile form, except those authorized to be discarded by the Superintendent of Documents (44 U.S.C. §1912).

The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) has been moving in an online direction since 1996 when the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1996, Public Law 104-53 required the then Government Printing Office to undertake a study and produce a report: *Study to Identify Measures Necessary for a Successful Transition to a More Electronic Federal Depository Library Program*. This same year Library Programs Services — the former name of Library Services and Content Management's (LSCM) — cataloged its first online publication for which there was no tangible product distributed to depository libraries. Access to the title was through a link in the cataloging record. Ten years later, in 2006, the Superintendent of Documents issued a policy that made online versions of titles the preferred method of dissemination to depository libraries, i.e., making accessible, online versions of publications to depository libraries through links in the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP) or through the Government Publishing Office's (GPO) system of online access, rather than distributing tangible copies.

In more recent years there have been further developments that help enable having online as an available format for selection, without having to select a corresponding tangible format, for regional depository libraries. The first of these was the issuance of OMB Open Government Directive in December 2009, which requires agencies to post information products online to increase access to it. Since this time there has been a big decline in the number of tangible titles distributed to depository libraries. Second was in 2015 when the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) approved GPO's proposal to allow regional depository libraries to withdraw materials from their collections under certain specified conditions.

Regional depository libraries are providing access to Federal publications in a variety of formats to match patron needs, and they no longer are receiving all new and revised tangible versions for all titles through the FDLP. Nor are regional depository libraries necessarily retaining a printed or microfacsimile version of what they receive. GPO, through digitization and preservation of materials, and working with libraries to catalog and inventory their collections, will ensure that the comprehensiveness of the nation-wide depository collection is not impaired. Having online as a selection format on par with paper and microfiche is one such alternative for the digital age that will benefit regional depository libraries, their patrons, and GPO.

POLICY

Regional depository libraries may select "online" as a format, without having to make a corresponding tangible selection, for titles or series accessible through GPO's system of online access, a trusted digital repository, or from official digital preservation steward partners.

DEFINITIONS

Digital Preservation Steward	An official partner who makes a commitment to retain and make publicly accessible at no fee, digital resources within scope of the FDLP. They also take on the additional responsibilities for preserving those resources.
Trusted Digital Repository	A trustworthy digital repository that has a mission to provide reliable, long-term access to digital resources to its Designated Community, now, and into the future. To fulfill this mission, a trustworthy digital repository is committed to the continuous monitoring of risks to its systems and responsibilities, ongoing strategic action and technology implementation to meet the needs of its Designated Community, and regularly ensure the transparency of its preservation and assessment activities to the public.

APPLICATION

This policy is to be implemented by Library Services and Content Management (LSCM). Working with the regional libraries, the Superintendent of Documents is responsible for ensuring the comprehensiveness of the nation-wide depository collection is not impaired by this policy.

APPROVED:

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Superintendent of Documents   Date