

FDLP Benefits



TOP TEN BENEFITS AFFORDED TO ALL FDLP LIBRARIES

- Free Federal information products in a variety of formats to supplement existing library material and to provide access to unique material
- Free cataloging records from the national authority on U.S. Federal publications
- Free, permanent public access to online content from GPO partners – often fee-based or restricted
- Educational opportunities – training the next generation of Government information specialists
- Collection development opportunities – important in an era of declining budgets
- Consulting and networking opportunities from GPO and with fellow Government information experts
- Free FDLP marketing and promotional material
- Opportunity to participate in pilot projects with GPO to test new processes and technologies
- Ensuring that dedicated Government information professionals remain on staff - critical in this time of hybrid collections where it is necessary to build and maintain collections of local interest and navigate the broad range of information resources.
- Enhancement of the status/prestige of an institution designated as an FDLP member

BENEFITS TO ALL FDLP LIBRARIES

- Free Federal information products in a variety of formats to supplement existing library material and to provide access to unique material:
 - Extends limited book budgets by providing valuable materials at no cost
 - Ability to select preferred formats
 - Access to a selection of resources not readily available from other sources or vendors
 - Availability of material that is not for sale
 - Significant cost savings compared to purchasing the same valuable resources
 - Access to materials that support a wide range of collection development subject areas
- Free cataloging records from the national authority on U.S. Federal publications:
 - 20 per e-mail via the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications
 - 10,000 per session via Z39.50
 - Project to distribute free catalog records tailored to individual library profiles
- Free Access to fee-based or restricted databases:
 - Homeland Security Digital Library (the nation's premier research collection of open-source resources related to homeland security policy, strategy and organizational management)
 - Depository Access to Reports, Technical & Scientific (National Technical Information Service) (the central information source for more than 150 subscriptions produced by U.S. Government agencies)
 - National Climatic Data Center Online Document Library (the world's largest active archive of weather data)
 - Public Health Reports (the official journal of the U.S. Public Health Service)
 - USA Trade Online (the official source for US export and import trade statistics)
- PURL referrals reporting
 - Free tool to libraries to measure usage of their online FDLP collections
- Free educational opportunities – training the next generation of FDLP librarians

- Online learning programs
- GPO-sponsored conferences
- Educational seminars
- Collection development opportunities
 - Collection development and management tools
 - Item Selection Profile, Item Lister, Needs & Offers, WEBTech Notes, Claims, FDLP partner content access, and more
 - Cooperative collection development
 - Ability to work with other depositories in the state to meet user needs
 - Allows streamlining of collections without reducing services
 - State plans localize collections and services.
 - Free reference materials which are often the basis of expensive commercial equivalents
 - Publications from all three branches of Government, both online and tangible
- Consulting opportunities from GPO assessment specialists to support improved services to library clientele, virtually or on-site
 - Access to depository collections
 - Support for service to the public
 - Collection visibility
 - Cooperative efforts
- Opportunity to participate in pilot projects with GPO to test new processes and technologies that increase access to Government information
 - Cataloging Record Distribution Project
 - Z39.50 Gateway
 - WEBTech Notes
- Free FDLP marketing and promotional material
 - Brochures and promotional items
 - FDLP Marketing Plan that provides depositories with marketing ideas and tools
 - Audio Public Service Announcements
 - Promotional videos
 - Monthly spotlight on exemplary libraries
- Networking opportunities with fellow Government information experts
 - Nationwide Government Documents E-mail Discussion Lists
 - A Program Web site (FDLP news and access to tools that help enhance public services)
 - Online collaborative workspace for FDLP members only (share knowledge, experiences, and resources while benefiting from the expertise of other library professionals from around the country)
 - E-mail distribution list geared exclusively for depositories from GPO (stay up-to-date with the latest Program news)
 - Partnership opportunities with GPO, Federal agencies, and fellow FDLP libraries to increase access to electronic Federal information (ensure permanent public access to electronic content and provide services to assist depositories in providing access to electronic material and in managing their depository collections)
 - Participation opportunity in an online collaborative reference service – Government Information Online: Ask a Librarian
- Digital dissemination of content packages via the Federal Digital System
 - Increasing access to U.S. Government content

- Access to authentic U.S. Government information
 - Commercial publications cannot always claim the same
- Access to historic, digitized U.S. Government information
 - GPO partnership content
 - Core documents of our democracy
- Being a member of the FDLP enhances the status/prestige of an institution because membership:
 - Enables the institution to provide greater service and become a resource for the entire community
 - Enhances the political goodwill of the institution's Congressional delegation
 - Enables the institution to maintain a publicly available collection of Government information and a staff of knowledgeable people to serve that collection
 - Makes the institution part of a historic, national program to Keep America Informed
 - Raises the level of visibility and status of the entire library locally, regionally, and nationally

BENEFITS TO REGIONALS

- Ability to strategically select multiple formats of certain publications to better meet the needs of their users and their region
- Ability to select bound volumes of certain titles that are not available to all FDLs
- Choice to have holdings set in OCLC for free
- Opportunity to provide a safety net for local access to Federal information for a given geographic region
- Opportunity to take a leadership role in working with GPO to develop services and tools that ensure permanent public access to U.S. Government information in all formats

BENEFITS TO SELECTIVES

- Ability to create a flexible Federal information collection
 - Tailored to users' needs and format preferences
- Availability of Government information reference assistance from a designated Regional library
- Guaranteed interlibrary loan of Federal documents from a designated Regional library
- Opportunity for Regional consultation and on-site visits for selective consultation.
 - Advice on running selective depositories
 - Assistance in the disposal of publications
 - Collaboration in serving a larger population

BENEFITS TO THE PUBLIC

- Free access to Federal information resources that cover a wide scope of topics, subjects, interests, and viewpoints
- Access to local data, statistics, and historic information
- Access to original source material, fostering critical thinking skills and research methodology in a neutral environment
- Access to library collections and services after the Federal Government's "normal operating hours"
- Public assistance in transacting business with the Government
 - How to obtain passports
 - How to apply for Medicare prescription drug benefits
 - How to patent an invention
 - How to find Congressional contact information
- Sharing of subject-based or technology/software expertise to other libraries in the FDLP network and wider library communities

- Access to Federal information products in other languages
- Librarian expertise from educational training opportunities such as online learning programs, conferences, seminars, training classes, and programs on Federal information products
- Increased access to Government information through GPO partnerships
- Opportunity to help GPO and the FDLP community test new tools or applications to improve upon the product before it is widely released
- Access to online reference help through Government Information Online: Ask a Librarian (GIO)
- Free online Federal resources
- Consistent service for and access to U.S. Government information resulting from guidelines and standards for collections and services
- Value-added services, such as:
 - Providing timely information
 - Providing context for current real-world issues
 - Digitization of depository material to:
 - Enable viewers to add content into their work or schoolwork,
 - Enabling online users to access Federal information outside of the library,
 - Applying digital content to software that enhances the original product
 - Enhancement of access to Federal information whose complex subject terminology, indexing and cataloging can make it difficult to track down publications