

Making the Biennial Survey Data Count – Audio transcript

[Please standby for realtime captions]

Hello. We will review in just under five minutes. I welcome back, everyone will continue session, making the biennial survey data account. More mind you that if you have questions or comments please put those into the chat box will collect those and the presenters will address is at the end of the session. An ulcer reminder that we are recording the entire conference and all participants will receive a copy of the recording. With that, it is my pleasure to reprimand our speakers today. Kate Pitcher is the chief of federal depository support services and Cynthia Etkin of course is the office of superintendent of documents. Take it away. In the afternoon to those of you in the east and late morning those in points for the West. I'm glad to be here today with Kate Pitcher and we are going to talk about the biennial survey. You have heard that this is a biennial survey year. Will be launching in January 2022. We have a lot of information about the biennial survey and why it is important. What we can do with the data and how it is used and what both of you are looking forward to is a preview of the questions. All of this would be covered and our session. Thanks, Kate, for being part of this program as we talk about the biennial survey.

Cindy, we are not seeing you.

I see me.

Now we see you.

Okay. For those of you who are new to the depository very program. We're going to start out with what is the biennial survey. We have been producing the biennial survey says -- got it basics in the statute title 44 and chapter 19 of nine residents designated some depository libraries shall report to the Superintendent of documents at least every two years concerning their condition of their library. Rather than having 1100+ library submit something every two years and not knowing what they might submit or how they might submit it or what they choose to put in their report to the Superintendent of documents, but we have been using the biennial survey as a tool to provide to the libraries the means of which they can meet their statutory obligations and to report their conditions. There are a lot of advantages to having one set of data for all of the libraries. It really is so important because, number one, it is the law. We don't want any of us breaking the law. That is first and foremost. Also as a government program, we need to have some accountability. The biennial survey allows us to capture the same data from all of the libraries and provides some accountability of what is going on. All depository libraries are required to respond, and that makes the data set really important. Now in 2017 and 2019, there were about 50 libraries, a little more or less, that did not respond to the survey. We make best efforts to reach out to those libraries and get everyone to respond to the survey we haven't been so lucky, but we have gotten the response rates up to 90% in 2017 and 98% in 2019. If you look at the standard rate of responses to surveys in general, our response rate is really excellent, but I'm not 100%. We can do so much with the data. And because of that terrific response rate, it is meaningful. A great survey sample. So the biennial survey is an opportunity. It is an opportunity for us to collect data needed at a certain point in time. There are a lot of questions on there every year. Occasionally we will have things in there that we just need to know something right now. Just to give you an example, go

back to 1956 here and the survey sought opinions. This one was what you favor in your state the adoption of a practice which is underway in certain states whereby a central permanent depository collection is maintained with other depositories being permitted to turn over to the central depository old and little used publications which they could then secure by interlibrary loan from a central collection as necessary? That awfully wordy. But take a look at this, this is about the time Congress was looking at revisions to title 44. Oh, my. This question was asked. A few years later, in 1962, these depository library act was passed and came into effect. How many of you recognize this as kind of a definition of a depository library that came about in 1962 act? Some of these answers that you will provide us help really to determine what we are going to do in the future, and it is not just for us, it is for dust again, we have to be accountable. We collect data for the oversight committee. We show the data we get with them. It is important. By the way, down there at the answer, 422 libraries said that, yeah, they would favor that. 82, no, 38, other, 10 did not answer the question. There is your trivia for the day.

We are using it as an opportunity again with the 2021 biennial survey, this question in which areas, if any, has your institution implemented new policies and/or procedural changes as a result of cover 19. Select all that apply. This was being added for the new depository library counsel who is going to be looking at the long-term effects of COVID on library services and access to materials. The biennial survey is very helpful for this kind of information. Actually there are a total of four questions in the 2021 survey that is going to support depository library counsel.

How are biennial survey data used to? Again report on conditions of depository libraries. We have to take a look at what is in the statute that is required of depository libraries. Looking at the regulations that come out of the Superintendent of documents and library services and content management for the management of our operations, first of all, we absolutely have to ask if there is no fee access to materials for anyone. There is always a question about that. We need to find out about the maintenance of your depository collections and the disposition of materials and the peace level accounting. Again, it is government property for which we have to be accountable. This required now that you have cataloging for new tangible receipts. And that there are many others. But we have to take a look at what is required of libraries so they can address those different things. All of this information that we collect, whether it is for determining the conditions of the deposit is in library or anything else we may have, provides a baseline for when we do public access assessment and we visit libraries. We go back and we look at this information and we know what we are stepping into when we visit a depository library or talk with them on the phone

The data is an official source for use by the library Trinity and by GPO . Regional provided reports for survey responses from all of the's electives that they serve. It helps them to understand the situations of their selective's, whether it is about services they provide, about the collections, about what their plans are or their change challenges have been. It also allows the Trinity to do some benchmarking. We make all of this data available in the file repository. You can download it and slice and dice it anyway you choose to use information. We are often asked questions we have to go back to find the answers to those questions. There are times will we put questions into the survey to have answers the next time we are asked for something we were asked before. And the level can also identify common needs among, libraries and we look for that information for strategic planning and looking at trend data and what is going on and helping us to help you better. The last three bullet points on both of those for the community and GPO to detect potential coal collaborations, identify trends, and assist with training development. We have one huge set of data, same data, same uses, but different geographies. I just love this map. One of danger what to look this is about the map that Cindy likes. It shows how we can use things differently, while at the same time, it is the same data. We are going to be looking at it at a

program leaded and training. You can do the same thing point we just heard from the earlier Kinect speaker that he said librarians should be local. You can take the data for your state, for your region and mix and match and slice and dice and come up with data set that you can use to help in planning, as we do with the program overall. In how is the survey administered? It has been administered many ways over time. The first one I mentioned was in 1947 it was called the investigation of condition of depository libraries. The investigations were tied very closely to the inspections and the visits to depository libraries. 35 surveys issued since that time. Although there was no survey in 1949. Assay showed, there has been an opportunity for comments regarding the depository library program and some years, one of those fill in the boxes that all survey has. There were some of those opportunities in the early surveys. In 1982 survey, how many of you were around for that? I was. 135 questions. Aren't you all going to be question because there are only 25 in the 2021 survey. Nothing on the scale of 135 questions. The 1997 was the first survey to be conducted on the web. If you take a look at the slide and blow it up, you can see that this one is called the investigations. Over here, biennial survey comes with this in 1971. It is been used in a number ways including the Scantron, the fill in the blank forms , and all sorts of things.

I am going to turn it over to you now to go over the goals of the biennial survey and the specific questions.

Kate, are on mute.

Okay. There I am. Hello , everyone. I am Kate Pitcher, chief of federal depart services. The unit works on the survey and works with the community on outreach and along with other members of a CM and the library counsel we have come up with the questions for this your survey. Let me talk a little bit at the higher level about some of our goals for the 2021 survey. As Cindy mentioned, there are going to be 25 questions this year. Several of them are multipart questions. In reality, several of them have multiple parts to them, so it will be a little bit more than 25. And then four questions in particular that will support the work of the DLC and a couple of working groups this year. Especially for those of you that this may be your first time filling out a biennial survey, it is much like other institutional surveys. Some of you probably work in academic at institutions, you are familiar with these type of service. I came from an academic library background and was very familiar with filling out those surveys. We are hoping this year to prepare a set of instructions and the glossary for those who are unfamiliar or first time working with some of the GPO terminology and concepts behind the survey to kind of help those new people through the survey. Also this year's survey will be delayed by a couple of months. We are working on delivering the survey through a new tool using our SGL platform. This is required a lot of extra development and testing time. External testing is going to be happening over the next month or so, and then our anticipated survey launch will be an January of 2022. You will be given time. Were going to give you a preview today, and you are also going to be given a set of the questions, preview questions, approximately a month or so before the actual launch so that you have plenty of time to collect your data, work with your administration, talk with other members of your staff, ask questions of GPO the need arises. In

A couple of things about that glossary and instruction I want to go over as Cindy related , over time, some of the questions remain the same. There are obviously questions we have to answer about public access that do not change from survey to survey. But there are questions that have been fine-tuned, change a little here and there over the years. What we have tried to do with this 2021 survey is look at questions and think about intentionality, try to stop tweaking here and there. Going forward, and we do have a set of core questions and then fine-tuning so that the questions can be asked again and again

over the next several years. We would like to be able to make it easier to use, but also to clearly anticipate trends and new services for the community. In so let me take you through a preview of this year survey. I apologize if the screenshots -- I know what I am looking at here, it is a little tiny. My apologies in advance. I will read through some of them. This first screenshot is of the first three questions that will be released on the survey. And these are generally questions that are probably familiar to you that have taken the survey in the past. Again, the first question is just certifying that you feel the legal requirements of program regulations of the LRA PR. Can and also about your access. These are asking questions about public access, program retention, and legal requirements. A second to the questions over the next several slides, I have tried to highlight the questions that are new or have enough substantial changes to them that they are new questions for the survey or haven't been asked before in this way. Question format that you see on the slide has been asked. I believe the question was tweaked a little bit, but it is asking about discoverability of government resources and depository obligations in your library. Question number 5 is a new even though it has been asked in similar ways on previous surveys. It is asking -- it is really a way for GPO to get a sense of the staffing and support for the library. It is asking for full-time equivalency staffing in your library. We categorize these cash again, there are very broad levels. We do realize that there could be other categorizations, but these were the ones that we came up with to get a sense of what the staffing is for your FDLP operations. Question 6 is a two-parter. This asking specifically for information about how COVID 19 has impacted your library and your services. Respondents are going to be encouraged to answer any or all of the choices here we have also allowed for a text box that will allow I responded to expound upon the answers. If there is some context surrounding that that you would like to share with GPO to give us some context around the changes that have been made, this is your opportunity to expand upon your answer and give us a bit of detail surrounding that. And then the second part is asking if any of these changes are ones that you believe will probably be changes that are going to remain part of your operation in the future. This question is going to be used and analyzed by the working group on the long-term impacts of COVID 19. Most likely in the neck survey, we will have another follow-up question that is going to ask a similar question to see what happened over time.

Question seven has been as previously. It is a question about what significant projects or events have affected your FDLP operation in the last couple of years. Obviously COVID has affected all of us. In this question, we asked that this is not the place to report COVID impacts, that is in the previous question. This is really trying to get projects , facility changes, natural disasters, anything that is impacted your operations outside of COVID in the last two years.

And then of course question 8 has also been asked. This is look into the future. Listen to what major plans you have coming for your depository operations. We are going to be renovating our facilities, which may have an impact on where are collections reside in the building point we could be doing a major catalog and project that is going to impact. This gives you a chance to look forward and give us some context surrounding what is happening in your library.

Questions 9 and 10 are absolutely new. Question 9 is, rather. Question 9 is looking is there any activity in in your library around diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. Were trying to get an idea of these impacts. This is your chance to explain that here. Question 10, I do believe it is asking for respondents to describe your depository collections. It has been asked in prior surveys, but not in the last 2019 survey. It is really looking at whether you are mostly testable -- digital, et cetera.

And then question 11 is also looking at collections, and it is asking for whether or not your library actually has government information resources and the collected of those resources as part of whether

it is an overall collection development plan for the library or its own collection policy or plan just for the FDLP collection.

The next two questions, question 12 and 13, are new for this year. They were requested from the working group on dissolvable project -- digital deposit. Is your institution interested in receiving these. The second question asked about institutional repositories. Does your library have a repository that is available to the project cash public? Is there an institutional capacity at your library for digital resources?

Question 14. The slide and then the next slide or previews of question 14, which is a multipart question. For those of you that have filled out the survey before, it probably looks pretty familiar. We have asked this many times before. And this is specifically looking at tangible depository materials. We are really looking at -- what we are trying to ask here is to get some collection statistics around what your tangible depository materials takes up at your collection. If you are currently selecting, collecting, and maintaining tangible materials, you would answer yes to this question. Guide is here, you can see on the screen there is guidance here for how to answer this particular question. But it is going to be asking about -- I will go to the next slide to show you. Then next question, they are specifically asking about the extent of your collection if your your collection of microfiche and electronic media collections. Not everyone will see this, depending on how they answered the first part of the question. If you answered no, this would take you onto the next set. But if you did answered yes to tangible materials, you would then go through this series of questions to answer what you have in your collection. The extent of that collection.

Question 15 is related to that tangible collection, but it is a new multi-for question. Specifically asks about the use and collection of electronic media in your depository. It is more importantly -- the second part of the question, it says, do you have electronic media that you can no longer use? Specifically looking at if you still have the materials in your collection, and can they be used? And if they can't, we would move on to question 15 a, why can it be accessed? The third part ask if you have developed local solutions to provide access to that material . The answers to this question are going to be analyzed and used by a GPO working group looking at preservation and access of these types of media.

So far I have tagged all of the new questions in the slides. We will have a few more coming up. For instance, this question, question 16 a and B. I'm sorry had to put my reading glasses on. I was having trouble with the slide. These two questions have been asked in the past and actually the question has not changed, but some of the choices have been reworded a bit to make it a little more clearer to respondents what exactly, wherever there tangible material is located in the library. We are asking primarily where is your FDLP located , is it in your main building or off-site storage, et cetera. The second part of the question asked or are there additional locations for housing your tangible collection. Trying to get to the heart of where the main collection is and if there is a secondary location.

Okay. 17 and 18, they are both new. 18 B has been asked him questions in the past? Some of the responses to 18 B have been added or tweaked to specifically look at how libraries build their retrospective historic collections. Some of the responses or choices in question have changed. We have added -- anyone that we added this year would be the Acer Roll document disposition database. We added the FDLP exchange, and looking at ways those of you that are building your collections, your retrospective collections, how you were doing that .

Questions 19 and 20 are new. They are asking specific questions about disposition and the weeding of your collection. And also it asked specifically about billion -- bibliographic control of these materials.

Question 21. This is actually not a new question. I highlighted here just to indicate that in 2019, the question was asked and respondents were given a range. I know it is been asked on several past surveys. Usually the selection is for, we, likes 0 to 25%, 26 to 50% and et cetera. This year, we are working with our developers and our new survey tool to allow for you, as the respondent, to actually give a more granular estimate of your catalog collection. So what we are complete asking for this year is to please give us an estimate of the percentage catalogued in your collection. And really the reason for change as we would really like to try to get at the heart -- we really would like some more granularity if we can get to that with regards to how much of the collection is actually catalogued and assessable. And we are hoping that by asking it this way, we will be able to get some of that granularity.

Russian 22 asks about your libraries depository cataloging activities, whether you're only cataloguing new tangible deposit receipts, that your cataloging retrospectively. It is asking specifically about what types of activities you are doing when it relates to cataloging depository publications. An okay, question 23 is new, although I know in the past surveys we have at four particular needs across the community for training and other educational programming on tools provided by GPO. But we will be asking here with this question is, and it may not look exactly the same in the new survey tool. This is the preview that was done earlier, and the development of a tool may look differently when you actually fill it out. But what we are asking for is, we have a list of the different GPO tools . We are really trying to get at whether or not there is need for training on a particular tool and the preferred methods for delivery of that training. This particular screenshot here, you can see a list of the different tools on the left and then you can see the checkboxes on how you prefer receiving instruction or training for that particular tool, what would be preference. Some of the choices include are you hands-on ? Do you want to get into the troll along with the structure providing instruction. He liked the webinars? Do you need tutorials, more tutorials on the website? Or are you not interested? We have several different steps.

Question 24, question 24 was a 2019 survey. It is asking about FDLP promotional and marketing services that you plan to use within the next two years. We have given your number choices are for different parts of promotions tools as well as resources. This question gives Kelly a lot of great information so that when she is planning promotions and marketing, this question informs the work that she does specifically.

And finally question 25, which is new is asking for interest in potential opportunities of the national collection. This information is a pretty simple one, yes or no mama or my library is already a partner. It will be used by the team here at GPO to explore different collaborations and different collaboration activities between yet -- GPO and the FDLP. That was the last question on the survey. Now I probably went through that really quickly trying to be cognizant of time and allow for see if we can address any questions in the chat if there are some. I am just going to handed over to Cindy real quick to see if she has any follow-up that she wants to do.

Yeah, I have been tracking the questions in the chat. Some of them I have been able to answer. Some were coming quickly. I'm trying to copy and paste and make sure that we get them all. Let me bring up my list, Kate. One of them was for the recommendations to help to answer the public access question if we are still closed to the public due to the pandemic? Yeah, there is a box on the question where you can make comments about that. Another question is that a comment. It should look into the current situation on physical access for the public. A question about number 9, DE I only related to our repository activities are anywhere in the library?

I was going to say that I think that question is related to more than just the depository information.

There was a comment that question 10 needed a comment box . I answered that one in the chat. Number 10 is the one about describing the collection . Is that right? Question 10? Yeah, the nature of the depository, whether it is comprehensive, mostly digital, or whatever. My response to that was that we are looking for the best match. How in conversation you describe your collection. We know that a lot of libraries have materials that are integrated. We know that libraries have selective housing. But we basically want to know about all of the depository materials that you use, does that make you a comprehensive collector? Does that make you, you know, and primarily current collection because you have regular weeding. How do you describe your collection? This is just the best match. We don't think that that needs a box for further explanation. And you can see that later on we get into more specific questions about the collection and the types of materials that you are holding. Related to the same question, and ask, are comprehensive collections, is that based on current item selections? My response would be not necessarily. It depends on how your item selections are over time, not so much the current item selection. Again, how do you describe your entire collection? If it is complex and because you have been selecting comprehensive all along, that would be it. And there are places to put other information in other questions. Again, that is not the detail that we are looking for on this particular question. Vicki asks about, can we use? This is specifically made within the library or does this mean the fish can be chicken out? I think this is related to the obsolete materials? I think so. Can be used if folks can check them out and they can use them, that is fine. They came back and said, I checked this out and can't use it, there is another story there. If it is due usable weather in the library or checked out. Either way. Kathy asks what does question 14 also ask items in selective housing agreements? Question 14 is the question about the have tangible materials. That is the question that if you answer yes, you have tangible materials anywhere in your depository collection, that is the question that will also divide so that some people will not see the following questions. If they are and all digital the positive library, there were 90 those questions. That yes/no question leads to the separation of the question of those that have tangible materials entering them does that do not have tangible materials do not see those questions. Chris also asked about question 10, and radio buttons. It should be multiple questions allow. That's a similar question we had needing a comment box for that. Again we are looking at the highest level of description of your library. I haven't been looking at the chapter since I have been talking. I don't know if anything else has commented and, since I have been answering those pics

There are a couple there. There has been an effort at Indiana University to provide this letter obsolete. Will be great if this was addressed. Ways to better integrate the cataloging of the obsolete groups.

Let me just say that the group that is working on the materials is aware of the site. We have been visiting that site taking a look at what is happening. We are well aware of that. That is a tremendous asset.

Robin states that question 23 , I can answer this question because I do not what they are or what they cover. That was the question on training of the different GPO tools. I do believe it doesn't show up in the screenshot, but there is an other, which doesn't entirely address your situation, Robin, but there will be another category for those who are interested to add a tool or indicate that they are new and unfamiliar with the tools. In

Someone asked, they missed the dates, when will this happen? We are anticipating sometime in January this will be lots. Moving to a new life form, as Kate mentioned, and we will have to do some testing. We are going to launch probably in January sometime. In right. It looks like it is 3:00. The last one I will say is

for question 13 on digital depository, it is not specific to docs. No, it does not have to be specific to government documents. Survey deadline, it has typically been open six to eight weeks. What we are anticipating is that it will run from January through about the middle of February of 2022. And we will be doing outreach and reminders to remind the community about the survey and how much time is left to take the survey. I am going to put my email in the chat. If there are other questions that we were not able to address, if you would like to get in touch with me after today. Thank you.

Thank you all for your questions and attending the session. You have got Kate's email address. Always ask GPO and you can email me as well. Thank you. Thank you, Kate. Thank you, Cindy. We will be back at: 15.
