

Regionals Meeting – Audio transcript

Please stand by for realtime captions.

Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome back. Welcome to our REGIL meeting. If you have questions, please put those in the chat box. Our panelists will be monitoring the chat box, and they are going to take questions by topic. With that, I would like to handed over to get started. Thank you.

Thanks everyone. I pronounce it REGIL and I have been around for a wrong time. I don't know if that is the definitive answer to the question or not about how to pronounce it. Basically, welcome, everybody. I am speaking as a representative of REGIL, the regional government information librarians group. Which, really, what we are is a steering committee available to the regionals to help organize meetings related to FDLP. We know that regionals often have distinct sets of issues that they like to discuss, and have some impacts that they want to understand and get together to discuss. That is what we do. We try to organize meetings, and occasionally we will make statements or that kind of thing, as well. Mostly it is just organizing meetings and we do have an archive of those meetings, notes, and recordings and all sorts of things. That is hosted by our good friend Suzanne Caro at University of North Dakota. The link is there, if you want to check out what we have been up to recently. As we said, there are six of us that get together to help organize these meetings. I think our next slide has the list of all of the participants. There we are. If you ever have an issue that you are feeling needs to be discussed further through a meeting. Or if you have a question about something that is particularly related to what is going on with regionals. Please feel free to reach out to any of the folks on this list. We communicate mostly via email, but we try to, you know, discuss things that are going on. What types of things we need to bring up on agendas for these types of meetings. Feel free to reach out to any one of us, and we will get back to you and try to figure out the best way to address your issue. With that said, although we have our six folks listed, here. On our next slide he will see one of the announcements we have to make is we actually have two vacant positions opening up after this conference. If organizing meetings is your thing, or if you just want to, you know, help out other regionals and think about issues that are impacting the other regionals in the FDLP. We are a really low impact group. We are very laid back. We organize two to three meetings a year. It is not a lot of work. It really does help to have that group of people that can, kind of, take charge when an issue arrives. Please consider joining the group. Again, just reach out to any of the members that were on that list, and let us know if you might be interested. The other announcement, I want to encourage any of the regionals who have announcements to please feel free to share that in your chat. I did want to take a moment to talk about regional L. This is our email list that we used to communicate amongst the regionals. For many years it was hosted by our friend Bill, and just recently over the last couple of months, the moderation has turned over to me. I am the person that you need to contact if you want to have new staff added to the list, any new staff at your regional. Or if you are not getting messages. This, again, the regional L list is not an active list. It is not unusual to go for a couple weeks and not receive messages. It is -- sometimes her issues with people dropping off. If you have any needs around that can medication list, please feel free to reach out to me. I will see what I can do to help get it addressed. Any other announcements from anyone? I am looking at the chat. Feel free to pop it into chat as we go. We are going to spend most of the time, today, looking at a couple of discussion questions that we thought of that we know are on people's minds right now, in terms of what has been going on with the FDLP. I am going to lead us off with the first discussion question. This one is related to the new procedures that have been put out by GPO regarding the disposal of collections when libraries

are leaving the FDLP. If you haven't already done this, I would highly recommend that you review the files from a webinar. The strategic -- the name of the webinar is the strategic disposition to support the national collection. That was held, I believe, just a couple of months ago. I am going to put the link, here, into the chat. That was, I thought, a really good discussion of all of the, kind of, new ideas that are part of the new process, in terms of getting together with regionals and GPO to work with individuals electives as they decide to -- whether they leave the FDLP . But then, also what to do with collections. I think it is a very good overview of what is GPO's thinking behind this and what is the reason for managing this process a little bit more closely. I would highly recommend that. The other piece that I would also, if you haven't already done so, is taking a look at the document that is the actual guidelines for -- the guidance document on relinquishing a designation as a depository library. I think regionals particularly need to be really familiar with these procedures because you are going to be involved in the process, first of all. But also just in the early discussions about whether a library is really interested in pursuing this approach to their role in the FDLP. I do think that, if you haven't done that -- Haven't reviewed those, you really should. One of the reasons we wanted to bring this up, and the discussion point, here, is to talk a little bit more about communications strategies around these new guidelines. This came up, actually, as part of the webinar discussions in terms of , how to communicate the information about the new guidelines out to the depository libraries. You know, regionals play an important role in getting that communication out. So, I was interested to hear from other regionals if you have taken a particular approach to doing that communication. I mean, many of us have, you know, regular conversations with this electives in our region. Either through a regular meeting time or, maybe you have a regular email distribution list, kind of thing , we share information. That is, obviously, one way to go about communicating. Another way is to, actually, a deliberate strategy not to communicate. Sometimes when you raise the issue of her languishing status, that puts ideas in people's minds. That might not be the approach that you want to take with some libraries. There is the strategy of not communicating, or communicating at the point of need. If you receive a question from a selective about , you know, they are having trouble managing their collections or they are wondering about whether they should remain in the program. That might be the best point to introduce the new information about the procedure. That is one idea, in terms of how you could approach this. The other question that I had, and I know GPO does have a question about this and would love to have our feedback about it is, whether folks -- if we think there should be any direct communication with library directors, as opposed to FDL coordinator's. I, personally, feel that that kind of direct communication can be detrimental to FDL coordinators in their system because, if there is a communication directly with the director, sometimes the FDL coordinator is not always involved in that communication. I think that can sometimes undermine a dicey situation in a particular library. I am one that feels that, maybe, that is not a good idea to have GPO communicate directly with library directors. However, there are some advantages of having that communication go out directly to directors. There may not be an FDL coordinator in place, or there might be one that might be in the process of transitioning between staff. I think that can, sometimes, be an issue, as well. I am going to turn to the chat, and see what folks are saying about their communication strategies. Kathy Hill, I have one of the libraries highlighted in the process. One of the things about the webinar is that it does highlight a couple of particular situations with libraries that have gone through the process. She is commenting, it was smooth, but the problem is that the library still has lots of on catalog materials. Yeah, that is the struggle with any kind of disposition. If you have on catalog materials, it is a difficult thing to work on a disposal plan. Thanks, Kathy. Let's see. Janel is talking about, she is planning to communicate new procedures at the point of need rather than proactively. Thank you for that. Abby, from GPO , has some information -- more information that you can -- information about the process that you can share. Let's see. Suzanne is talking, I have been seeing libraries interested in leaving then deciding to stay is digital only. I wonder if that is one of the reasons that designation has increased. I will speak to my experience with that. I have had, in Oregon , we have had a couple of

smaller universities either small private or small regional diversities that have made that decision to go to digital only. They came to me first, by discussing whether they should continue to be in the program. I was the one that helped give them ideas about how they could remain in the program and be digital only, and then downsize their collection. I do think many of us who have libraries in that situation may be already doing that, kind of, counseling work with the individual libraries. Laying out different options that GPO, in these new procedures, are more formalizing that whole collection planning process. It does allow for that kind of discussion about alternatives other than leaving the program. I think that most of the libraries I have worked with in this have definitely been in that situation where they are happy to continue to provide electronic access, and are happy to continue to have people from the public come into their library, of course, maybe not now but in general. They don't necessarily want to maintain those print collections. They need the space for other things. Staying connected to the program through that digital only option has been a really appealing thing to a lot of libraries. That is why it is really important, I think, to have some ideas about how to know little bit about why regionals are so important in this process and talking about understanding what the needs are and what can happen in a library as they are making decisions about whether to give up status or not. Let's see. I have a lot of agreement about not directly communicating with library directors. Point of need when it arises. Let's see. Right, I think this goes for -- I see James is talking about I would rather communication with my director come to me first so I can be the one to talk to my director. I agree. I think all of us feel that is important. To have a coordinator be the one that is aware of things before a director is. I think this and a scenario where there isn't an active coordinator, where someone is recently retired or there is someone who isn't very experienced. There could be situations where involving a director might be a smart thing. I think that is so situational that I don't think that is an approach that a lot of people would recommend. Yeah, Lane is recommending to maybe start with the coordinator and if it needs to move the director. I think that is a good approach. At what point are you talking about -- I'm sorry, Cindy. I don't quite understand the question you're asking. At what point in this process are you talking about communicate? I think what I was thinking about is, like here are some new -- hi there, which is created this new process. It is really an outreach, kind of, here something new. I think the thing we want to avoid is drawing attention to something that may not be necessary. The idea that, at the point we get questions about their library selective status, or there is a desire to downsize collections. That is the point that we would bring it up. Rather than doing a, hey here is something new that everybody should know about. It does sound like that, based on what I'm seeing in the discussion. That is the approach that a lot of people are doing. Yeah. Some directors are more familiar than others. Kind of a blind message, what am I trying to say? Not a blind message, but a direct communication from GPO has, kind of, and official next to it that sometimes may make it rise to a different lever than, again, the intention. It sounds like we have some pretty good discussion, here, that is agreeing that at the point of need and getting the coordinators involved in this discussion and involving a director, as needed, depending on the situation. It sounds like that is what a lot of people are thinking is the right direction to go. Yeah, again, clarifying that this is announcing the new procedures rather -- but not the communication that happens once a process is actually started. Yeah. Thank you for all the clarification. I think I will, we've used up, I don't know, sometime, here. Are we ready to move onto the next discussion? I think we have gotten, kind of, the answer to the question that we primarily had around medication with directors. I would encourage you that Abby has been very thoughtful, as she has gone through, in thinking about issues associated with communication. If you have any more thoughts about that, please feel free to reach out to me and I can pass them along to Abby or have you talked to her directly. I think there is a real desire in GPO to be very respectful of the local situations that we are encountering as we work with selective's in our regions. If you have any concerns or ideas about other issues around the communication about the new procedures, please feel free to reach out. I think, with that, I will go ahead and pass it on to Jen.

Thanks, Arlene. Now we will be looking at discussion question number two. This covers which regionals have decided to select eligible online only titles, and discard tangible copies during a pilot test running from, I forget whether it is September or October, or the end of this calendar year. December 2021. I have shared a link to the FDLP page about the regional online selections policy . This was the best place I could find that included everything you might need to know, if you are just catching up to speed, here. There is links to the policy guidance, there is links to webinars where this was introduced, and generally we like to get a sense from the regional community about who has opted to participate in this pilot program. I think we saw one earlier. Suzanne, would you mind chatting in again. I think you said FR has gone online only. If we could bring that into this discussion topic. Unlike Arlene, I have no personal information to share, here. We are retaining the status quo for the time being. Renee chats in, the UNC, the North Carolina regional has deselected print for both the congressional record in the Federal Register opting for online only. Thanks, Renee. Blaine writes, when I brought up the question with our local counsel, the consensus was the regional keep receiving tangible copies. Many selective's have been moving to online and looking for the regional to provide a tangible as backup. Thanks for sharing that, Blaine. Thank you, Suzanne. North Dakota State is getting a fiche of the Federal Register, but will now get only the online. Hawaii at Manoa has selected online only for both the congressional record daily into the Federal Register. There selective has signed on to that. Arlene shares that she hadn't been thinking of switching online, but now that microfiche will not be an option, she may have to think about it. John divine reports that they dropped the congressional record and Federal Register in print. The Federal Register is too bulky and the congressional record is superseded by the bound edition. They are keeping microfiche, now that is still tangible. Indiana State Library deselected print of both. Arizona didn't opt for online, since they get both in fiche and the fiche is still used. When fiche is discontinued, we may switch to online only. Arlene asks a question for the group. How have you involved selective's in these decisions? Did you send them a survey, did you convene a virtual meeting, just ask via email? We would love to hear how you went about that. University of Maryland, which is regional for Maryland and Delaware, right? Will be deselecting print. Suzanne reports patrons prefer online to fiche. They asked for feedback from all the selective's and they were supportive. When emailed and asked if anyone objected, given she deselected, no one did. Alicia reports that phasing out of fiche would potentially prompt us to move to online only in the future, but not right now. Inc. you for confirming, Selena. Chris asks, is there any timeframe on when fiche may be discontinued? I have that same question. It looks like a lot of people just communicated via email to get feedback. Brent went to a listserv stating the intention, which is great. Texas Tech, one of our Texas regionals, is now selecting online. Renee comedic aided the selective's after the decision was made. They have been supportive on past decisions, it sounds like you knew your partners, Renee. I guess we have folks from GPO in the chat. Do we have a time frame on when fiche may be discontinued, or is this a TBD situation? If you are willing to weigh in.

Jen, this is Lori. I am writing something in text right now. Give me a moment.

Hi Lori, thanks. Wendy has shared an update from Arkansas. They have opted for both publications online, as well. Sounds like we have got a fair amount of people that are participating. I should have counted. Or done a poll. I know as part of the process folks are tracking any patron requests or interlibrary loan you would have to do. I won't ask you to share your stats, but one of the questions I had about going forth with this was, trying to keep those statistics. Because of the way my collection is located in the building. Has anyone found any issues with that, or has it been a streamlined process for collecting the data that GPO would like us to collect? Okay. John, from the University of Iowa, has shared that they are also opting for online only copies of the daily additions. All right, we seemed to have wrapped up this topic. Now we can move on to the third discussion point, Lori is going to walk us through that. Lori, if you are available? Lori Thorton, sorry to many lorries.

I believe I am on. While we all await Lori's response. I know we are all quite interested in the timeframe for microfiche. What I wanted to share with everyone, today. Mostly just to raise awareness about the new FDLP directory. Let me put the link in the chat box. In case you don't know where to find it. It is great to have a new directory, to have a new look and feel. All of the extra functionality is great. Many thanks to GPO staff, all of you who worked on this. I encourage everyone to check your library entry and, you know, make those updates that you need to with all the particulars. Check your map location, make sure your photo is right. Or the one you really wanted to send. Look, also, at the entry for your whole state. Glance around. See what you see, and then talk to your fellow depositories if you see something that doesn't look right. Or, you know, something that somebody needs to fix. Gentle nudges and reminders are always good. I also wanted to let you know that , there are a few oddities for everyone to ponder. One of those is that, what the directory doesn't do is it is not indicating the various regional models that exist. Not to the old ones, not the new ones. For instance, if you do a search on Alaska, Washington does not come up as the regional. It just looks like Alaska doesn't have a regional. In fact, it is not even in the list. You really can't search. For Alaska as a regional. Same thing for New Mexico. We are a three-way regional. That is not appearing. Do be aware of that. Our regional models are not reflected in the new directory. Which does create a bit of a pickle for some of us. When New Mexico did our three-way regional agreements, all of the library directors did big press releases. They were all excited, 100% behind it, and I'm dreading the day one of them looks in that directory. I hope they never find it. Because there are going to be a lot of questions, and a couple of them are not going to be very happy. The directory is contrary to all of our websites , our PR, all of our handouts, all of our Lib guide. We have been very careful to publicize it to make it easy for the public to figure out which regional to go to for which parts of the collection. We actually moved collections. Anyway, be aware of that for those of you that have a new and unique regional model, or even the old kind of split regional models. Also, be aware that the only regional libraries that will receive communication from GPO are going to be the regionals that are listed in the directory. Make sure, in your state, that you have a communication plan in place. So that whomever is going to receive those communiqués in your state knows that they have to be shared with the other regionals that exist in your location. That is it. I can't remember. Arlene, I think you said once that there was a search anomaly that you had discovered, as well. If I haven't covered it please pipe up. In any case, I hope that in future enhancements the directory will reflect all of our different in various regional models so that the public isn't misled about what is actually happening on the ground when they use the directory. Again, many thanks to GPO staff. It is always good to move forward. I think we can take one more giant leap to get the anomalies corrected. With of that, I will look at chat to see if anyone -- let me see.

[Captioners transitioning] See, I did notice that. The emails for the coordinators are missing. Selena says she had to login to see the email addresses. Oh, that's interesting. I hadn't noticed that. Another thing to be aware of, everyone. You have to login. If you want to see email addresses. So when you do your checking for your library and your region, login. Well, actually, do it both ways. Because you need to see what the public is going to see, and then you need to see what you are going to see on the backside. Marlene has posed the question that you don't have to login to see them, right? Waiting for GPO to answer that one. And I think we are so also waiting on Lori's message about the microfiche timeline.

Nope.

Okay.

There is no actual timeline. We have to do this work with congressional hearings, so, you know, each committee in the library select format committee and hearings by format. In various committees have very different publishing practices. Sometimes they don't put hardly anything on their info. It's going to take a little bit of time for the phaseout of microfiche for all of those committees and all their hearings and reports and documents. I only have a specific timeline, but there's a lot of work left to do. I just want to remind everybody, if you have brought suggestions, you need to submit them to GPO. We do not have all of our libraries signed up. In askGPO. If you have issues or questions or can't find something, that is with the services for. We need to get all of our libraries, regionals and selective, signed up for askGPO, because you have to use askGPO and a password to submit your biennial survey. And we are still in phases of enhancement, so if you have things that don't work for you, let us know through the askGPO service or if things don't work. It's not a done, complete process. We have huge task orders to do with enhancements and updates. Just let us know things aren't working. Or if you have suggestions for any answers.

Okay. I'm going to open it up for full flowing discussion. We have another 20 minutes or so. This group is always been quite vocal. So anything you'd like to discuss with your colleagues?

Just one more comment about getting into askGPO . Yeah, on the public site it doesn't have as much information, but once you login, there is all kinds of information, much more so than there ever was that you as a coordinator could get to. You will be able to get copies of documents, you will be able to get things that once we finish digitizing the loading materials, you will be able to get all those. And all of that is required to have to login. So you will have more information when you login.

Sorry, everybody. I'm scrolling through the chat box to make sure that I didn't miss anything. And now I'm going to mute myself. I can't tell if any of you are typing comments or discussion topics into the chat box or not. We will wait a few minutes to see if anything pops up. If not, I think we will end early.

Also, I'm seeing Jen ask a question about microfiche is. Yeah, please let us know. We are going to have some kind of webinar probably in maybe November or December to talk a little bit more about some of the work that we have been doing behind the scenes related to microfiche, what our next approach is going to be, how we are going to figure this all out. Because it is condo complex. I will keep you posted on that, and really would like to hear some of your opinions. Definitely, there are some pros and some cons. But we are little bit more confidence, I think, and the discontinuing of microfiche than we were quite a few years ago, because some of the content on info is kind of spotty. We think there's a lot more committees posting rings to govinfo. We are doing some internal procedures to make sure that we have a digital and a tangible version, and everything there is that's appropriate. So we just feel a little bit more confident in phasing it out at this particular point in time.

I'm reading to the chat along with all of you. I understand my typing is very loud, Swaim myself on mute. And assuming that you all are reading through the chat as well. Jen has kindly added into the chat box a reminder that we are looking for community legal members, and our next meeting will be in the spring sometime around the 11th and/or the 12th for the spring the LC meeting is held. And with that, I think we are finished. I think you all. For attending. Janel has added a comment that she highly recommends volunteering. And I would agree. It's a great way to keep in touch with your colleagues and to be active in a group. All right. I think we can sign off. Thank you GPO, thank you REGIL members, and thank you are to our attendees as well. Bye-bye.

Thanks Lori. Please join us back here and a half an hour, 4:45, for the next section on technical reports.
Thank you.