



Spring 2022  
Depository Library Council Virtual Meeting  
April 11 - 12, 2022 • @DLCVirtual22



# Gone Digital

An Introductory Discussion of Issues Related to Digital Government  
Information

A joint program of the Digital Deposit and PURL Working Groups of the Depository  
Library Council



# Presenters

Renée Bosman – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (PURL WG)

James R. Jacobs – Stanford University (Digital Deposit/PURL)

Robbie Sittel – University of North Texas (Digital Deposit/PURL)

Will Stringfellow – Vanderbilt University (Digital Deposit/PURL)



# Learning Outcomes

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Define digital Deposit.
- Describe the difference between pointing / collecting / preserving digital Government information.
- Articulate the importance of collecting and preserving born-digital Government information.
- Understand the various infrastructures for curating the National Collection.
- Articulate the difference between persistence access and persistent identifiers.



# Intro to National Collection and *America Informed*

The National Collection is:

- All public information products of the U.S. Government, regardless of format or medium, produced by Federal employees or paid for with Federal funds.
- Geographically dispersed (NOT in a building in Washington, D.C.).
- Accessible to the public at no cost.

Requires continuous:

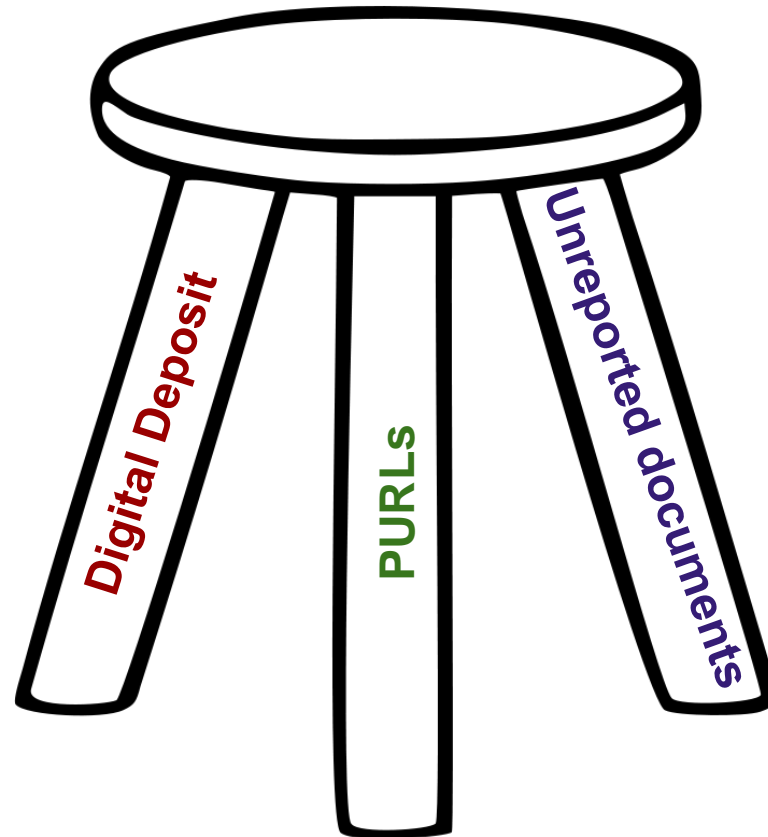
- Development
- Maintenance
- Preservation





# Care and feeding of the National Collection

## Born-digital National Collection





# Poll

"What are ways to expand the national collection?"

- a) FDLP libraries accepting digital deposit of digital files
- b) FDLP libraries accepting metadata from GPO
- c) Notifying GPO of agency unreported publications
- d) PURLs linking dispersed digital collections
- e) A strictly BBQ diet
- f) a, b, c, and d
- g) All of the above



# Digital Deposit is:

“The practices, services, and workflows for the collaborative acquisition of born-digital and digitized Federal Government information for the National Collection of U.S. Government Public Information.”

–Digital Deposit Working Group of the Depository Library Council







# Digital deposit is critical for the National Collection

- 1) Local control of collections (lots of copies).
- 2) Improve access and preservation. Enable libraries to create new services, interfaces, indexes, and views of information.
- 3) Improve the findability of Government information beyond libraries.
- 4) Provide an example workflow for other kinds of open access/open educational resources.
- 5) Greatly improve linked data/semantic web initiatives.







# PURLs

- What is a Persistent Uniform Resource Locator?
  - Think of as both an online document label (identifier) AND an actionable redirect link.
  - One part of the National Collection.
  - PURLs notably NOT Digital Deposit.
- 2 Elements for long-term online access
  - Persistent Identifiers (PIDs)
    - Uniquely identifies/labels online objects/documents.
    - Actionable.
    - Underlying metadata of PID can be updated, identifier itself remains the same even if a digital object is moved.
  - Persistent Access
    - Refers to accessing the object identified/labeled by PID.
    - Maintained separately from the PID.
    - If the object identified by a PID is removed from a server, the PID will NOT work.



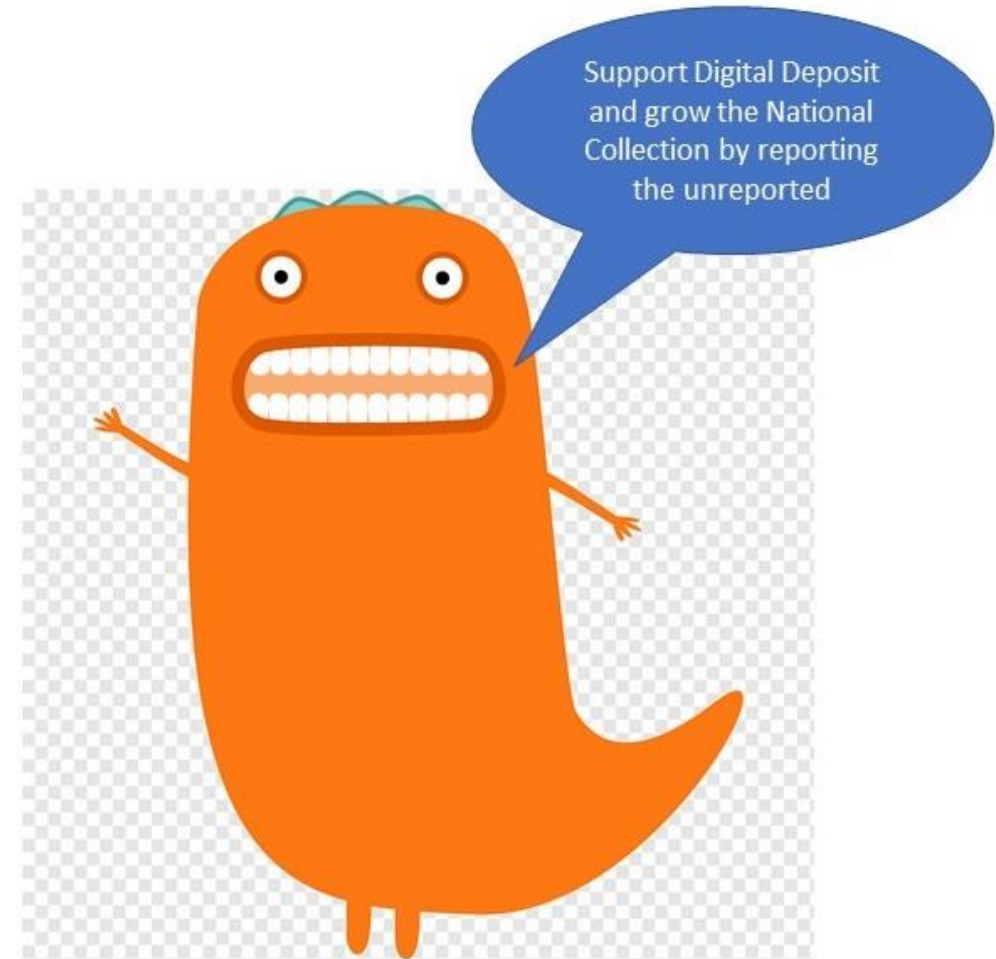


# Unreported Publications

Per FDLP.gov, “Unreported publications are public information products that are not discoverable through the Government Publishing Office’s [Catalog of U.S. Government Publications \(CGP\)](#). Different terms have been used to refer to unreported publications over time, including fugitive documents, LostDocs, and non-receipts.”

By notifying GPO of unreported documents, the community plays an active role in digital deposit and in growing the Nation Collection and completes one leg of the National Collection stool (<https://www.fdlp.gov/collection-tools/reporting-pubs-to-gpo>)

When in scope, GPO assigns a PURL to an unreported document. This PURL either points to the document on the agency’s website or to the resource on a GPO server.







# Conclusion

“The future is already here – it's just not evenly distributed.” -- William Gibson,  
*Economist, December 4, 2003*

Collaborative digital curation, preservation,  
and infrastructure = strong & stable National  
Collection = happy monsters!







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# Questions/Discussion