

Memorandum

TO: Will Stringfellow, Chair, Depository Library Council
FROM: Roberta Sittel, Chair, Digital Deposit Working Group
CC: Digital Deposit Working Group
SUBJECT: Digital Deposit Working Group Final Report and Recommendations
DATE: March 24, 2021

As Chair of the Digital Deposit Working Group, I am pleased to transmit to you the final report of the working group and our recommendations.

The Digital Deposit Working Group (DDWG) was convened in early 2019 and charged with exploring current and future needs related to digital deposit - both dissemination of content and acceptance of content by GPO. In response to its charge, the DDWG provided presentations on digital deposit, launched a survey, hosted multiple focus group sessions, conducted a pilot project, and explored the value of digital deposit with a variety of stakeholders, both in and adjacent to libraries.

Following are five recommendations included in the report for Council's consideration:

1. The Digital Deposit Working Group recommends that GPO adopt the following definition of digital deposit:

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.

2. As a model to inform GPO and libraries of workflows needed to implement the distribution of born-digital content, the Digital Deposit Working Group recommends the scoping and implementation of a pilot project that explores the GPO-to-Library approach to digital deposit. GPO should undertake a pilot project with one or a small number of libraries to work out the details of a digital deposit service, in particular a service where GPO facilitates the delivery of digital files to FDLP libraries. The pilot would:
 - 2.1. Use the findings from this group's interviews toward the project.
 - 2.2. Explore delivery issues (push vs pull, file types, etc.) that were brought to light by this group's interviews.
 - 2.3. Draft a high-level workflow for notification and push/pull delivery mechanisms.
 - 2.4. Document the necessary training requirements to support delivery mechanisms.
 - 2.5. Identify opportunities for technical solutions or enhancements to support delivery mechanisms.
 - 2.6. Report back to the Depository Library Council on the findings and outcomes of the processes explored in the pilot project.

3. GPO should take steps to outline a vision of how policy, coordination, and support for digital deposit could fit in with current and future models of the FDLP.
4. The Final Report of the Digital Deposit Working Group should be presented to the recently announced Taskforce on a Digital FDLP.
5. To address knowledge gaps related to digital deposit, notifying GPO of unreported publications, and to better develop the search skills of government information professionals, the Digital Deposit Working Group recommends the following FDLP Academy sessions:
 - Introduction to Digital Deposit.
 - Reporting the Uncataloged, which would introduce the concept of uncataloged government publications and the processes for discovery and reporting.
 - Explaining APIs and how FDLs can utilize govinfo.gov APIs for collection development.
 - Exploring more effective searching within the Catalog of Government Publications (CGP).

With the attached report and recommendations, the Working Group completed its charge.