

Summary of New Models for the Federal Depository Library Program

This document summarizes the new models this project has drafted for the Federal Depository Library Program. This document should not be mistaken for the full description of these new models, which is available at <http://www.fdlpmodeling.net>; this document is provided as a convenience to the reader, and not as a formal component of the modeling process. We would request that any feedback provided be based on the *full* description of these models rather than these summaries, as several details and motivations are specifically excluded from this brief discussion.

Assumptions

These models are guided by two assumptions that are outside of the project's scope:

1. That GPO will continue to provide an increasingly high-quality centralized and freely available access point for FDLP materials and
2. That over time, the historic collection of FDLP materials will be comprehensively (or very nearly so) digitized, but that this digitization will require patience and coordination.

Common themes

Several common themes pervade each of the models and reflect the Direction for the Program that we believe will best support the sustainable provision of permanent public access to government information via a robust network of libraries, in formats appropriate to the user, and with increased levels of support services to help users effectively discover, interpret, and make use of government information. These themes are:

- Enabling libraries to take on more *granular* roles, unbundling roles and responsibilities to allow libraries to more effectively choose roles that make sense for them;
- *Formalizing* roles for a wider variety of existing and emerging Program priorities;
- Introducing *collaboration* among libraries, reducing individual burdens and increasing sustainability and impact; and
- Increasing *coordination*, to ensure that Program priorities are addressed purposefully and effectively even while individual libraries experience greater flexibility

Building Blocks

The series of models described below present different configurations of a small set of building blocks. Two important notes should be kept in mind in examining these building blocks:

- In each of these building blocks, the roles and responsibilities described may be taken on by an individual library or by a group of libraries working together.
- In the full document, we have suggested several targets for levels of coordination of activities to ensure that Program priorities are met; for the sake of simplicity, these targets are not included in this summary.

Short-term changes to tangible collections roles and responsibilities

To relieve tension on the Program and provide an environment supportive of structural change, this building block focuses on making near-term, non-structural changes to the existing Program.

Transforming and increasing the availability of government information services

To provide the American public with support and assistance in effectively discovering, interpreting, and making use of government information, this building block provides libraries with *formal* responsibilities for providing government information support services through one of three roles:

- providing an extremely basic level of support services, which may significantly broaden the availability of basic government information services to the American public;
- providing a more advanced level of services, providing expert assistance to members of the American public in working with government information;
- and providing a specialized level of services, going above and beyond the provision of excellent service within a region and taking on responsibility for addressing the system-wide needs of the public for targeted government information support services.

This building block would also coordinate nationwide peer training in government information topics.

Supporting the preservation and integrity of digital FDLP materials

Recognizing that distributed responsibility for preserving and maintaining the integrity of government information is a long-standing value of the Program that must be maintained in the digital environment to complement GPO's centralized efforts, this building block formalizes library roles for the collection, maintenance, and preservation of digital FDLP materials, via one of four roles:

- taking on minimal responsibilities for digital materials, for libraries that wish to play a role in the Program but do not wish to build or maintain collections of digital FDLP materials;
- collecting, maintaining, and disposing of local copies of digital materials (born-digital or digitized) from GPO and other government sources at will, without formal commitments to maintain these materials;
- building and maintaining comprehensive collections that completely duplicate all FDLP materials disseminated through official GPO channels in digital form as an integrity assurance; and
- building, maintaining, and preserving such comprehensive collections according to certified community best practices (e.g. in DRAMBORA or TRAC-certified digital archives).

Preserving tangible collections in an increasingly digital environment

To ensure that tangible collections remain accessible to support user needs, this building block allows libraries the flexibility to over time choose to draw down such tangible collections as users' needs are better served by digital versions, while also ensuring that tangible collections are preserved for the long term to support residual access needs and to provide a backup for digital versions. A library would take on one of five roles:

- taking on minimal responsibilities for tangible materials, for libraries that wish to play a role in the Program but do not wish to build or maintain collections of tangible FDLP materials;

- maintaining true working collections tailored to the needs of local constituencies;
- supporting regional and system-wide access needs by maintain collections of tangible versions of materials that are not yet available digitally, with the freedom to deaccession materials as they are made available digitally;
- supporting regional and system-wide access needs by maintaining collections of tangible versions of all government documents, with collecting and retention responsibilities substantively similar to those of a Regional today; and
- supporting system-wide preservation needs by taking on the responsibility of collecting retrospectively, working towards the development of truly comprehensive collections of FDLP materials in tangible form and maintaining and preserving same.

Maintaining page-validated tangible collections

To provide an extremely high level of confidence that materials would be effectively maintained over the long term, this building block more completely applies the current Ithaka S+R *What to Withdraw* framework, including coordinating the creation of page validated collections to serve as the backbone of a long-term system-wide preservation program.

Models

While implementation of all of the above components will most completely realize the Direction, each of these building blocks would have benefits on its own. Our models represent different arrangements of these components, which are described more fully in the complete document:

| | Immediate changes to tangible collections | Transform and increase the availability of services | Support preservation and integrity of digital materials | Preserve tangible collections in an increasingly digital environment | Maintain page-validated tangible collections |
|---------|---|---|---|--|--|
| Model 0 | | | | | |
| Model 1 | √ | √ | | | |
| Model 2 | √ | √ | √ | | |
| Model 3 | √ | √ | √ | √ | |
| Model 4 | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |

Conclusion

These models assemble several building blocks to together address Program priorities, with the paired goals of reducing the burdens of participation in the Program for member libraries and simultaneously making the Program more effective at providing permanent public access to government information.