

Report on Public Comments Received:

Draft National Collection Strategic Plan for FY 2023 – FY 2027

September 5, 2022

Closed Request for Comment Record

TOPIC: National Collection Strategic Plan

PROPOSAL: [Draft National Collection of U.S. Government Public Information Strategic Plan for FY 2023 – FY 2027](#)

COMMENTS: Comment period closed

DEADLINE: Thursday, July 28, 2022

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [National Collection](#) page on FDLP.gov

NOTICE: [Request for Comments: National Collection Strategic Plan](#) (June 27, 2022)

COMMENTS RECEIVED: Report on Public Comments Received (September 5, 2022)

Feedback

On June 27, 2022, the Superintendent of Documents released *Draft National Collection of U.S. Government Public Information Strategic Plan for FY 2023 – FY 2027* for public comment through July 28, 2022. Six submissions were received during the 30-day comment period. Five of the six respondents asked that their name, institution/organization, and Federal depository library number be removed from the publicly accessible comments. This report will become part of the record of the comments received about the Draft National Collection Strategic Plan.

Question 1

I am ... (select the **most fitting** description)

- A general public user of Federal Government information
- (2) A depository library coordinator
- (2) A regional depository library coordinator
- A government information librarian
- A librarian, other than a government information librarian
- An administrator at a library with a designated Federal depository library
- From a Federal agency or a Federal agency library
- (1) From a library association/organization/consortium
- From a non-profit organization
- From the public sector
- From the private sector
- (1) Other, please specify: Public library staff from a non-FDLP library

Question 2

I am from this type of library:

- Academic, Community College
- Academic, Law Library
- (4)** Academic General
- Federal Agency Library
- Federal Court Library
- Highest State Court Library
- (2)** Public Library
- Service Academy
- Special Library
- State Library
- Not from a library

Question 3

This question asked respondents to fill in the blank with their opinion of the draft strategic plan. The two neutral responses came from regional depository library coordinators.

I _____ the National Collection Strategic Plan.

- (4)** Like
- Need to know more about
- (2)** Am neutral about
- Am unsure about
- Have some reservations about
- Do not like

Question 4

Question 4 asked commenters to identify up to **three provisions of the draft strategic they liked best**. Five of the six respondents offered the three provisions they liked best, while one offered two provisions. There was quite a bit of diversity among the seventeen responses. However, there were a couple of topics from multiple respondents. Two responses related to the Library Services and Content Management business unit having the appropriate positions, and staff having the necessary skills, for a modern organization. Another two responses related to the partnerships and collaborative opportunities, and preserve tangible publications was also mentioned respondents. All the provisions mentioned as liked best are in the table below.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Respondent 1 | I like the idea of revising job vacancy descriptions at LSCM, to better fit the digital world of publications |
| | I like the idea of seeking partnerships for helping to preserve tangible content and to make cataloging "easier" and more streamlined |
| | I also like the idea of LSCM trying to obtain deselected items from "agencies that no longer exist," if possible |
| Respondent 2 | Guiding principles |
| | Expanded role for CGP, including that of a union catalog |
| | Goal 5, Objective 2 — Conduct a collection and bibliographic assessment pilot |
| Respondent 3 | Opportunities for collaboration and partnerships to increase access to government information |
| | Preservation of historic materials and collections |
| | National Collection Service Areas to ensure permanent public access |
| Respondent 4 | Surveying the GPO collection held at the National Archives |
| | Strengthening govinfo and maintaining ISO 16363 certification |
| | Addressing microfiche digitization |
| Respondent 5 | Goal 1: Enhance the customer experience |
| | Goal 4: Increase services to Federal Depository Libraries |
| | Goal 2: Ensure LSCM has the necessary positions, and employees who have the necessary knowledge and skills to perform successfully, for a modern organization. |
| Respondent 6 | Digital deposit |
| | Digital lifecycle management capacity building |
| | N/A |

Question 5

Question 5 asked commenters to identify up to **three provisions of the draft strategic they liked least**. Four of the six respondents answered this question, and only one offered three provisions they did not like. All are included in the table below.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Respondent 1 | N/A |
| | N/A |
| | N/A |
| Respondent 2 | Too focused on the depository library community only. Needs to add an outward focus on the general public as well as non-depository libraries |
| | N/A |
| | N/A |
| Respondent 3 | Relying so significantly on gov.info as repository; needs to be made much more end user-friendly |
| | N/A |
| | N/A |
| Respondent 4 | The National Collection Defined: implies the depository network; lacks clarity; seems slightly out-of-step with current conditions |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| | Developing scenarios for digital deposit; as a regional and GPO partner, I don't have desire to or traction to administer it |
| | Add the holdings of regional depository libraries to the Catalog of U.S. publications? I'm not sure I know what we have in the regional collection |
| Respondent 5 | GOAL 3: Strengthen user confidence in online government information |
| | N/A |
| | N/A |
| Respondent 6 | N/A |
| | N/A |
| | N/A |

Question 6

Question 6 was an unlimited open text box where respondents were asked to **provide any comments about the draft strategic plan**, or respond with N/A. All six respondents submitted additional thoughts about the draft strategic plan. Below are their comments as submitted.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Respondent 1 | I also like the idea of the "tangible holdings in Federal depository libraries will have digital versions accessible through the CGP." |
| Respondent 2 | <p>Outreach to general and public library communities. The goal is to increase Engagement amount among non-depository libraries and their patrons. Some of these areas not new. However, a national effort to reach non-depository libraries is recommended to engage and reach end users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make documents as visible in OCLC as other items, available for ILL • Create something like an affiliate designation for non-depository library document champions. These libraries can talk up documents, offer staff training, and public exposure, without the requirements for full depository libraries. • Put together traveling exhibits of noteworthy documents, excerpts, or cover art. • Consider a repository of leading document as an online exhibit. The exhibits could also include local documents or topics of interest. • Have govinfo/CGP widely available as a library database in non-depository library settings. Most public libraries already have a selection available such as Chilton's Car Repair, Consumer Reports, or EBSCO. This effort would increase exposure and offer a free resource for public libraries and their patrons. This effort should also be statewide or regional collections of databases such as KYVL in Kentucky or OPLIN in Ohio. The state librarian's office in Illinois, for example, lists GPO as well as other government websites on its list of databases for example: https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/library/databases/alphabetical.html#F • Targeted training and outreach to non-depository library staff. This type of training does take place already, but it varies by state and region. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of training to consider would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Webinars. ○ In-person or virtual appearances at library staff training events. ○ Conference presentations, both panel presentations and lobby tables. ○ Train-the-trainer initiatives. ○ Focus on children’s and teen librarians for help with school assignments. ○ Focus on local documents or topics of interest to tie into the local audience. |
| Respondent 3 | I think this is a great plan overall for preserving historic collections and increasing permanent access to government information. As a coordinator in a large urban library, I look forward to the opportunities for collaboration and partnerships. Our library has been an FDL since 1893 and we have a deep and rich historic collection. |
| Respondent 4 | If digitization from microfiche proceeds, please exclude "dual distribution" items - things that were issued in both formats. Please prioritize microfiche items that were provided in limited quantities and may only exist in that format. |
| Respondent 5 | <p>Although the prompts were for the most and least liked provisions, I used the two prompts to reflect how I would prioritize the goals. For that reason, Goal 3 (Strengthen user confidence in online government information) is “least” because although it is important to have accurate representations of government publications, the people I work with distrust the contents rather than if the materials have been authenticated.</p> <p>My primary concern has to do with the sustainability of relying on libraries to collect and maintain the National Collection. In recent years, I have spoken with several libraries that expressed a desire to leave the program. Each institution cited the same things: the recent departure of the FDL coordinator, lack of internal expertise, and the inability to hire someone new for the position. Additionally, libraries must justify themselves to higher ups at their institutions (federal, public, and academic). As GPO moves forward with their plans, I think it will be really important for people to really consider what libraries can and cannot commit to doing. Can libraries continue to serve in the roles they currently occupy? How long can they sustain that? What will GPO do if libraries are not able to fulfill the role that this plan requires?</p> <p>Overall the plan is good, but I am concerned that achieving these goals will be impossible due to libraries’ limitations.</p> |
| Preserving Electronic Government Information (PEGI) Project | The PEGI Project commends the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) on its June 2022 draft of the National Collection of U.S. Government Public Information Strategic Plan for FY 2023 – FY 2027, which seeks to increase the capacity of the Office of the Superintendent of Documents, including Library Services and Content Management, to address the challenges posed by born-digital government information. The document acknowledges the urgency of coordinating and applying lifecycle management principles in cooperation with depository libraries in order to ensure “free, equitable, and convenient access” to federal information into the future. |

We commend GPO on making significant progress toward establishing the ecosystem needed to build and sustain the National Collection. Overall, we concur with the Guiding Principles for Federal Government Information and Assumptions, as well as the Definition, Scope, and Major Challenges identified for the National Collection.

We suggest clarifying that providing born-digital collection development, access, and discovery services requires cooperation among libraries and institutions, just as with the print collection. No one organization can do all that is required for preservation; and access to preserved digital content demands an equal level of cooperation. (Assumption, point 3).

We agree that the proliferation of digital public information not published through GPO represents a major challenge for developing the National Collection. Agencies share government public information not only on agency websites, but also by publishing directly to commercial websites, social media services, and other outlets. GPO should explicitly acknowledge the breadth of the issue and develop tactics that ensure this information is made available as part of the National Collection. (Major Challenges of the National Collection, point 4).

We appreciate the proposal to expand LSCM's operations to include a new unit for digital lifecycle management, and note that while accessibility issues partially overlap with access, the overlap is only partial. We also note that working at scale applies to collecting born-digital content equally if not more so than traditional print collection development. It would be advantageous to evaluate how this Plan aligns with NARA's recently released Digital Preservation Strategy 2022-2026 to ensure coordinated effort.

In addition, please consider the following:

- Developing flexible, custom metadata that is needed for discovery and access in addition to investigating new delivery methods for metadata and bibliographic records. (National Collection, Goal 1).
- Acknowledge the limitations of web harvesting, address challenges associated with commercial platforms, explore opportunities to better utilize web-harvested materials, and include depository libraries in collaborative FDLF web harvesting activities. (National Collection, Goal 2).
- The DLC Digital Deposit Working Group recommended digital deposit as a key digital preservation and access strategy for the FDLF. As such, we urge the swift implementation of a pilot project to meet Goal 4, Objective 1 and further measures to develop a successful pilot into a supported program. (National Collection, Goal 4).
- Adopt a strategy to include in the National Collection declassified NARA records and executive agency records posted to agency FOIA reading rooms in partnerships with host agencies. (National Collection, Goal 5).

In addition to the recommendations of the Task Force on a Digital FDLF, we suggest that the recommendations of the Depository Library Council working

groups on PURLs, Digital Deposit, and collections and discovery services also be addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important strategic document.

Sincerely,

The Preservation of Electronic Government Information (PEGI) Project

Robbie Sittel

Shari Laster

Scott Matheson

James Jacobs

Lynda Kellam

Deborah Yun Caldwell