

FDLP ACADEMIC LIBRARY WEBSITES



A WEBOMETRIC ANALYSIS

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SUMMARY

The Federal Depository Library Program distributes Government Documents published by the Government Publishing Office to participating libraries. The increasing shift from print to electronic documents indicates the need for FDLP libraries to provide access to electronic government information through their websites. This study evaluated the website content of academic libraries participating as selective depositories in the FDLP to examine legal compliance and accessibility to electronic government information. The research sample contained 140 FDLP academic libraries selected from 50 states in the United States and territories and four research questions were answered.

1. HOW ARE FDLP ACADEMIC LIBRARY WEBSITES IDENTIFIED AS A PARTICIPANT IN FDLP?

Displaying identification is required for FDLP libraries.

116 out of 140 (84%) displayed identification.

- 94 out of 116 (81%) had the FDLP pictorial logo
- 97 out of 116 (84%) had a written statement

2. HOW MANY FDLP LIBRARY WEBSITES PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE OPAC ON THE HOMEPAGE?

115 out of 140

82%

3. HOW MANY FDLP LIBRARY WEBSITES HAVE GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT RESEARCH GUIDES?

84%

115 out of 137

4. WHAT DOES ACCESS TO THE FDLP BASIC COLLECTION LOOK LIKE?

The Basic Collection contains 23 titles and access may be provided through the OPAC or research guides. Providing access is required for FDLP libraries.

108 out of 140 (77%) libraries provided partial access through research guides.

129 out of 140 (92%) libraries provided partial access through the OPAC.



DISCUSSION

The document [Legal Requirements & Program Regulations of the Federal Depository Library Program](#) was used to evaluate legal compliance (FDLP, 2018).

- over 80% of FDLP academic libraries in the sample followed legal regulations and made electronic resources accessible
- 17 % of libraries that did not provide identification can download the free pictorial logo from [FDLP.gov](#)
- 16 % of libraries without Libguides can download and use the FDLP created Libguides from [FDLP.gov](#)
- 8% of libraries not providing access to the Basic Collection can use the CRDP program for catalog records
- 29 libraries did not provide correct information on Federal Depository Library Directory which impaired accessibility

CONCLUSION

The GPO created 90 % of its resources in digital format in 2005 (Jaeger et al. 2010). FDLP libraries providing access to GPO digital resources ensure patrons are informed of the United States Government proceedings.

Selected References

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