



Hugh Nathaniel Halpern
Director



October 3, 2022

Ms. Lisa Pritchard
Chair, Depository Library Council
Director, Library Services
Jefferson College Library
Hillsboro, MO 63050

Dear Ms. Pritchard:

This letter is in response to your August 19, 2022 transmittal of the Depository Library Council's (DLC) recommendations and commendation resulting from the spring 2022 DLC Virtual Meeting.

My thanks to you and the members of the DLC for taking the time to develop thoughtful recommendations that will certainly contribute to the continued success and betterment of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

I have directed the staff in Library Services and Content Management (LSCM) to move forward with the action items outlined in the U.S. Government Publishing Office's (GPO) formal responses, which are attached, and to collaborate with the DLC as work progresses.

The recommendations and responses are part of the permanent record of GPO's work. They will be published on [FDLP.gov](https://www.fdlp.gov) for the FDLP community and the general public to access.

I also thank the Council for recognizing Superintendent Hall with a commendation and concur with the commendation's sentiment. GPO and the FDLP are fortunate to have Ms. Hall's expertise and leadership.

I realize that Council members have also given generously of their time, and I thank you all for your continued dedication to the FDLP and for your guidance. I look forward to meeting with you during the fall 2022 Federal Depository Library Conference. Should you have any questions about GPO's responses to your recommendations, please contact Ms. Hall.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Hugh N. Halpern', is written over a long, thin blue horizontal line that spans most of the width of the page.

HUGH NATHANIAL HALPERN

Attachment

Cc: Depository Library Council members
Superintendent of Documents

Depository Library Council Recommendations & Commendation, Spring 2022 and Responses from the U.S. Government Publishing Office

August 2022

Recommendation 1:

Council recommends GPO formally adopt the definition of digital deposit as “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.”

GPO Response:

GPO understands the definition of digital deposit recommended by Council and believes that the definition must clearly identify the collaborative bodies assumed to be part of this collaborative acquisition process. GPO will adopt the following definition:

Digital deposit encompasses 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, including deposit mechanisms: (1) from GPO to depository libraries; (2) from Federal agencies to GPO; or (3) shared by libraries with their communities and deposited with GPO.

GPO supports a framework to expand efforts for collaborative acquisition processes for born-digital and digitized Federal Government information. This formalization of a framework will be supported by existing priorities and strategies within the National Collection of U.S. Government Public Information Strategic Plan for FY 2023 – FY 2027 (September 2022), Goal 5. The entirety of a framework which supports programs with FDLs, agency outreach, and addressing potential recommendations of the Task Force on a Digital FDL, along with Pilot Projects and new procedures for managing digital collections, provides new opportunities to address a more robust, holistic acquisition approach to digital Government information.

Recommendation 2:

Council recommends GPO offer the following FDLP Academy sessions: Introduction to Digital Deposit; Reporting unreported publications; APIs, FDLs, and collection development.

GPO Response:

GPO fully supports the idea of identifying topics and presenters to help address the professional knowledge gaps related to digital deposit and the processes for notifying GPO of unreported publications, as well as the use of APIs for use in collection development. Federal Depository Support Services (FDSS) staff will collaborate with the Federal depository library community and GPO staff to provide training on these topics during FY23 and into FY24. FDSS staff is also working on identifying other areas of professional knowledge gaps during FY23 and FY24 by developing curriculum and content for training through the FDLP Academy platform and welcomes the Depository Library Council's continued support for training, education, and presentations for Government information professionals in our depository libraries.

Commendation:

Council commends Superintendent of Documents Laurie Hall for her exceptional leadership serving in dual roles as both Superintendent of Documents and Managing Director of Library Services and Content Management (LSCM) at GPO since May 2016. During her time as Superintendent of Documents, Superintendent Hall created and implemented groundbreaking policies that addressed longstanding challenges within the Federal Depository Library Program, including the following highly important innovations:

- Adoption of SOD-PPS-2021, Regional Depository Libraries Online Selection
- Adoption of SOD-PPS- 2020-1, Government Publications Authorized for Discard by Regional Depository Libraries
- Cessation of Microfiche Distribution
- Digitization of FDLP individual library records, communications, and profiles
- Implementation of Salesforce and the shift to its survey tool for the Biennial Survey

These recent examples show the commitment of the LSCM, under Superintendent Hall's leadership, to greater access and transparency in a rapidly changing information environment. The digitized records tied to the Biennial Survey responses, the improved Federal Depository Library Directory, and the ability of Salesforce to connect askGPO questions to individual library accounts allow continuity within individual Federal Depository Library (FDL) operations and better management of services throughout the entire FDLP.

Finally, Superintendent Hall was instrumental in helping lead GPO and the FDLP through many of the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in 2020. The Federal Depository Library Program, Federal Depository Libraries, and the American public have all benefited from Superintendent Hall's leadership and service.

GPO Response:

Superintendent Hall thanks the Depository Library Council and is humbled by their kind commendation. She notes that the support she has receives daily from the staff in LSCM has been stellar, with the entire staff having a strong grasp of the opportunities and challenges that face the FDLP and GPO and a commitment to working together for the success of the Program.

The staff in LSCM concurs with the DLC's commendation and appreciates the hard work and dedication of Superintendent Hall, not only since her dual role began, but since she started at GPO in 1985.