



Determining the Future of Microfiche Distribution

Is it feasible for GPO to discontinue microfiche distribution through the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP)?

FRAMING THE ISSUE

There are many factors that make a thorough review necessary of the microfiche dissemination programs managed by the Superintendent of Documents. New issues have evolved and surfaced that question the practicality of continuing to offer microfiche as an option for Federal depository library selection.

These factors include:

- A significant decrease in the number of commercial companies producing microfiche through the years, constraining the Government's ability to award contracts that adequately fulfill GPO quality requirements;
- A decline in the number of libraries selecting microfiche;
- A December, 2012 letter sent to the Acting Public Printer from the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, requiring all House Committee documents, Committee hearings, and Committee reports printed by GPO and for public use be made available online through the Federal Digital system (FDsys);
- A need to shift resources from microfiche production to identification and processing of online U.S. Government information dissemination products; and
- GPO is conducting studies to determine how to cut costs on outdated processing and formats (not just microfiche) so that adequate funds can be dedicated to current publishing formats.

BY THE NUMBERS

- Item count for microfiche distribution decreased an average of 13.52% from April 2012 – April 2013
- 141 hours per week of GPO staff time devoted to microfiche-related tasks
- All microfiche series are accessible through FDsys with the exception of one title and portions of another

MICROFICHE TITLES

Title	Item Number
Bound Congressional Record	0993-A
Bound Congressional Record Index and Daily Digest	0993-C
Federal Register	0573-D
List of CFR Sections Affected	0573-D-01
Congressional Record Daily	0994-C
Senate and House Committee Prints, Reports, Documents, Joint Committee Publications, hearings	numerous item numbers
SEC Docket	0908-C
Official Gazette of United States Patent and Trademark Office. Trademarks (MF)	0260-D
Code of Federal Regulations	0572-C
Code of Federal Regulations Index and Finding Aids	0572-C-01

Of the above titles ...

- The SEC Docket is not available on FDsys. GPO is in discussions with the agency to add this title to FDsys.
- FDsys holdings of Senate Committee Prints, Reports, Documents, Joint Committee Publications, and hearings are not comprehensive. GPO is investigating an alternative means of access.

QUESTIONS FOR DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES

- How would the discontinuation of microfiche in the FDLP affect regional depository libraries? Selective depository libraries?
- Consider your workflow and operations. Would any adjustments have to be made?
- Would discontinuation of microfiche have any effect on resources housed in selective housing sites or locations other than with the main documents collection?
- Were microfiche to be discontinued, what could GPO do to facilitate the transition away from microfiche?