



FDLP Forecast Study Findings

The following conveys high level findings from the FDLP Forecast Study. Findings are grouped by the categories of questions found on the library and state forecast questionnaires. Most common initiatives from the State Focused Action Plans are also included.

Collection Management

- Funding has decreased, while demands go up: Decreased funding for staffing over the last five years, combined with increased services and use, was reported (doing more with less). Libraries must rely on GPO more than ever to fulfill their responsibilities providing Federal government information to the public. Most expect ongoing staffing decreases, and expected service needs to increase over the next five years.
- Information from the Federal Government is very valuable to FDLP Libraries and their users: Almost unanimously Depository libraries confirmed the value of the FDLP program; 90% of respondents asserted the importance of FDLP Federal government information including FDsys, tangible and digital authenticated content.
- Format preferences for government information indicating some patrons prefer tangible, and others prefer digital information.
- Commercial resources are commonly used to access Federal government information: Nearly eight in ten libraries acknowledge that their patrons' use of commercial resources (79%).

Preservation Issues

- FDL coordinators believe GPO should be responsible for the leadership, advocacy, and training needed to preserve Federal government information.
- GPO should promote and lead partnerships with FDLs and Federal agencies to digitize the historic tangible collection for access and preservation.
- Web archiving should be an integral part of a digital preservation program for Federal government information
- FDsys is an important source of Federal digital government information, but has significant deficits in the amount of content available, the search interface, and ease of use compared to commercially available sources.
- There is significant concern that GPO will be able to obtain the funding, staffing, and support needed to meet the challenge of preserving and maintaining access to digital government information.

LSCM projects

- Access Services are extremely important: Respondents rated LSCM services highly at helping them provide greater access to government information. Almost all respondents rated as moderately or extremely beneficial (97% Library, 100% State).
- Cataloging Services are highly valued: Nearly all depository and state respondents rate LSCM projects to increase cataloging services as beneficial (92% Libraries; 100% States), across all library types and sizes.
- Education and Online Communication are highly valued. Nearly all respondents rate LSCM projects focusing on education and communication as either extremely or moderately beneficial (94% Libraries; 100% States), and this was consistent among all library types and sizes.
- Collection Development and Management Tools provide benefit to FDLP libraries: Federal Depository Libraries consider these tools highly valuable. Cataloging rated just below education in total numbers of responses.

- Open-ended remarks confirm interest in Access, Cataloging and Education/Communication: Consistent with these ratings, Library and State respondents express most interest in Access, Cataloging, and Educational and Online services.

Education

Libraries and states were asked if they would participate in virtual training offered by GPO. Their top training needs are for:

- Depository administration/management
- GPO tools and services
- Non-GPO content facilitated by GPO

Affiliations and Community Marketing

Libraries/states were asked if they planned to enter into new/additional relationships with other FDLP libraries to provide government information. Responses were:

- Mentioned ASERL as a potential partner in new/additional relationships
- Ongoing/potential relations
- Shared projects/plans

Libraries and states were asked if GPO could provide additional marketing to support their FDLP collections and services. They indicated needs for:

- Marketing collateral, bookmarks, brochures, stickers, signs, media spots, PSAs, etc.
- That GPO advise them in their marketing activities, including best practices, social media, Web 2.0

Future Roles and Opportunities:

Recurring themes in the open-ended questions about the “ideal FDLP” and what GPO can do in the next 5 years to help improve access to Government information:

- Increase access to online Government information.
- Provide improved and easy to use tools/services for discovery and findability of Government information.
- Digitize the historical collection of Government publications or coordinate a national digitization effort to do so.
- Deliver more and enhanced cataloging (include analytics and more subject headings).
- Provide more educational opportunities (including virtual).
- Allow more flexibility and collaboration among depository libraries for collection management than Title 44 currently permits (sharing across state lines and regional discards when online version is available).
- Preserve the tangible and digital collections for future generations.

State Forecast Action Plans (SFAP):

This SFAP framework asked states to document their key initiatives that FDLP members in states or Federal depository regions were working on, planning to work on, or could be implemented in the next five years. The open-ended format of the SFAPs allowed for a state(s) to present plans tailored specifically to the state or region. The three most commonly cited actions states reported they were/would begin working on:

- Collaboration among state groups and existing library networks, as well as the revitalization of existing networks.
- The establishment of training, local mentoring, and integration of teaching and information literacy standards into library curricula.
- Marketing and outreach initiatives to reach broader audiences and raise awareness of the FDLP resources held in the libraries