

Future Roles and Opportunities: An FDLP Forecast Study Working Paper¹



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The U.S. Government Printing Office's (GPO's) Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Library and State Forecast Study Questionnaires requested responses related to the following themes: Affiliations & Community Marketing, Collection Management, Education, Future Roles & Opportunities, Library Services and Content Management Projects, and Preservation.

This series of Working Papers presents an analysis of each theme and includes major findings and conclusions from the related qualitative and quantitative data.

This Working Paper includes the following sections:

- *INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND*
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In response to the Library and State Questionnaires, specific recommendations for each theme will be included in the FDLP Forecast Study Report: Summary and Recommendations.

¹ FDLP Forecast Study Working Papers have not undergone the review and editorial process generally accorded official GPO publications. These working papers are intended to make results and analysis of Forecast Study data available to others and to encourage discussion on a variety of topics.

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The FDLP Forecast Study was designed and undertaken to document the needs, goals, and vision of Federal depository libraries and the environment in which they exist in their individual libraries and states. Analysis of the gathered data will guide the strategic direction of the FDLP and LSCM and the development of the National Plan for the Future of the FDLP.

The library and state forecast questions covered in this Future Roles and Opportunities Working Paper are open-ended and address short term needs and actions as well as the long term or vision of the future FDLP. Specifically asked were, how GPO can help libraries improve public access to Government information in the next five years; what attributes an ideal FDLP would have; and what leadership opportunities were envisioned for their depository library. There also was the standard open-ended question, “Is there anything else that you would like to tell us ...”

Nature of Open-Ended Questions

The nature of open-ended questions elicits responses that:

- Present rich qualitative data.
- Provide unique, unprompted, spontaneous, and often detailed responses.
- Offer context for or clarification of responses to other forecast questions.
- Include suggestions, opinions, and new insights that were not anticipated.
- Express thoughts that may be more accurate as the respondent did not have to choose answers that “fit the best”.
- Avoid unintentional leading responses.

Outlier Responses

Outliers are those responses whose frequencies are outside the norm of the bell curve, at either end of the spectrum. In data analysis they are viewed as extreme or “data noise” and often are ignored, treated as statistically insignificant, or eliminated.

Outlier responses are of great value to the FDLP Forecast Study. The open-ended questions were asked in order to obtain opinions, ideas, and other information that might not have been gathered from the other portions of the questionnaires. All forecast responses, not just those that reoccur, contribute to determining the needs of depository libraries and the views of the ideal or FDLP of the future. Because a comment may appear only once does not make it insignificant. Given a platform or context different from the Forecast Study, that one comment may represent the norm.²

About the Responses

The open-ended responses were coded for categories and themes in a manner that permitted the qualitative data to be quantified. The nature of open-ended questions leads to very diverse categories and themes to analyze. Thirty-three themes were used for coding these questions. Coding, and the categories and themes, are described in more detail in the Library Forecast and *State Forecast Results: Future Roles & Opportunities* [data reports](#) that were released for these questions.

² John W. Foreman, “Chapter 9 – Outlier Detection: Just Because They’re Odd Doesn’t Mean They’re Unimportant” in *Data Smart: Using Data Science to Transform Information into Insight* (John Wiley & Sons, 2014). Books24x7.

State Forecast Questions 18-20 and Library Forecast Questions 30-33 all had observations that were coded with the “Outside of Current GPO Parameters” theme. This means the ideas or suggestions provided are beyond the purview of GPO’s statutory authority. These observations were coded to allow easy retrieval to review for potential revisions to Title 44, *United States Code*.

Responses from library questions 30-33 and state questions 17-20 that related to other working paper topics were shared with the appropriate subject matter teams for reporting. Links to those working papers are provided within this document.

QUESTIONS

Library Forecast Questionnaire:

- **Question 30:** *What leadership opportunities and roles do you foresee for your depository library in the next five years?*
- **Question 31:** *What would an ideal FDLP look like that met all of your current and anticipated needs for Federal government information?*
- **Question 32:** *Thinking about the next five years, what specific things would you like GPO to do to help you and your library improve public access to Federal government information?*
- **Question 33:** *Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about the current and future vision of the FDLP?*

State Forecast Questionnaire:

- **Question 17:** *“What leadership opportunities and roles do FDLP libraries in your state foresee for themselves in the next five years?”*
- **Question 18:** *“What would an ideal FDLP look like that met all of your current and anticipated needs for Federal Government information?”*
- **Question 19:** *“Thinking about the next five years, what specific things would you like GPO to do to help FDLP libraries in your state improve public access to Federal Government information?”*
- **Question 20:** *“Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about the current and future vision of the FDLP?”*

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The high level recurring topics from the responses to the open-ended questions that asked the “ideal FDLP” be described and what GPO can do in the next 5 years to help improve access to Government information in depository libraries are:

- 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.

MAJOR FINDINGS - STATE AND LIBRARY FORECASTS

STATE FORECAST QUESTION 17 & LIBRARY FORECAST QUESTION 30

State Question 17: “What leadership opportunities and roles do FDLP libraries in your state foresee for themselves in the next five years?”

Library Question 30: What leadership opportunities and roles do you foresee for your depository library in the next five years?

Respondents were offered unlimited space to provide answers to these open-ended questions. Their responses included multiple and varying concepts, each characterized here as an observation.³

The 45 state respondents to Question 17 provided 170 observations on 23 of the 33 themes used. The corresponding Library Question 30, with 802 libraries responding, yielded 989 observations in 29 themes. The top six observation themes from each of these questions are ranked by frequency in Figure 1 and analyzed below.

Figure 1: Comparison of State Q17 and Library Q30 Top Ranked Leadership Opportunity Observation Themes

State Forecast Q17 Rank	Library Forecast Q30 Rank	Themes	State Forecast Q17		Library Forecast Q30	
			Freq	%	Freq	%
10	1	No Leadership Role	6	4%	211	21%
3	2	Community Marketing	18	11%	109	11%
1	3	Affiliations	24	14%	108	11%
2	4	Discovery & Access	20	12%	97	10%
3	5	General Training	18	11%	84	8%
8	6	Limited Resources in Libraries	9	5%	77	8%
5	7	Digital Collections	14	8%	57	6%
6	9	Tangible Collection	12	7%	35	4%

³ The term “observations” refers to each unique “library-topic” combination. A library’s response could include numerous topics, each characterized here as “observations.”

NO LEADERSHIP ROLE

State forecast frequency: 6 (4%)

Library forecast frequency: 211 (21%)

LIMITED RESOURCES IN LIBRARIES

State forecast frequency: 9 (5%)

Library forecast frequency: 77 (8%)

While the No Leadership Role theme ranked 10th among state forecast responses for question 17, it ranked 1st among library forecast responses for question 30. As seen above, of the 170 state forecast observations and 989 library forecast observations, 4% and 21% respectively, indicated that libraries were unable to take on any leadership roles in the next five years. Explanations, when given in library forecast responses, were most often tied to limited resources – funding, staffing, time, and space.

An additional 10% or 94 observations from library forecast responses indicated they would continue to do what they are currently doing (with no mention as to whether or not this status quo included a leadership role), they weren't sure, or they didn't know if they could take on a leadership role. Reasons provided for the uncertainty include the depository coordinator or the library director retiring within the next 1-2 years; currently in the process of hiring a new depository coordinator or director; the library is undergoing renovations, moving, or building a new library. Fewer than 5 libraries indicated they were decreasing their depository's role.

The Limited Resources in Libraries theme ranked 8th and 6th for the frequency of observations for state forecast question 17 and library forecast question 30 respectively. Though there were only 9 observations (5%) from the state forecast and 77 observations (8%) from the library forecast, they are consistent and provide insight as to why libraries cannot take on a leadership role. *“With increasing demand on space, staff, and funding we do not anticipate participation in any additional programs or roles beyond our current FDL program commitments”* and *“[S]ome libraries within the state are facing budget cuts and staff reductions and rely on other libraries to take a leadership role”* reflect the tone of observations from state forecast question 17.

Limited Library Resources observations are similar for library forecast question 30 as shown in these responses:

- › *“Continued funding cuts make the prospect of new leadership roles difficult to foresee.”*
- › *“Right now, were in survival mode, so I don't see us being able to take on a leadership role in anything until we get our budget and staffing situations settled.”*
- › *“Due to increased institutional demands and reduced staffing, I don't see our library being able to increase leadership.”*
- › *“We are so small and understaffed; there is no opportunity there for a leadership role.”*
- › *“With limited time spent in the Government Documents collection and not foreseeing any change in the amount of time or staffing leadership opportunities and roles seem unlikely.”*
- › *“We don't see ourselves taking on leadership roles in the next five years due to staff/time constraints.”*

On the other hand, quite a few observations offer encouraging possibilities if funding and staffing circumstances change. A sampling of these includes:

- › *“Due to staff reductions over the last two years, we will simply maintain our current service level until we can hire more staff”*
- › *“Can't really say, the current Gov. Doc. librarian is near retirement and don't know what will happen in the future. The director is also near retirement”*
- › *“We are interested in enhanced digital access (e.g. preserving and/or hosting a digital collection) but funding may be an issue.”*
- › *“Ideally, it would be great to digitize certain government documents collections that would be relevant to our region or the state of Iowa. However, there are a lot of unknowns when it comes to availability of equipment to digitize, funding, staffing, etc.”*
- › *“[D]epository has a strong history of collaboration and leadership. It is possible that our depository would engage in subject collection or take leadership in some way, although we do not have the resources to digitize document collections.”*
- › *“[W]e are really stretched for staffing but I would work collaboratively with other law depositories.”*
- › *“[D]esired expansion of our role relative to geospatial information will be dependent on successful grant writing to obtain funding.”*
- › *“Since we have staff shortages in our library, it would be difficult to have a leadership role in the depository library community. If this were to change, it would be an excellent opportunity to collaborate with the area public libraries and community college libraries.”*

AFFILIATIONS

State forecast frequency: 24 (14%)

Library forecast frequency: 108 (11%)

As noted, the highest ranked theme from state forecast responses for question 17 is Affiliations, with 24 or 14% of observations. Affiliations was ranked third among library forecast responses, with 108 or 11% of observations. Observations revealed trends that include those who are serving in leadership roles in professional associations, networks, or organizations; libraries that are participating in projects or activities of these groups; and those who are willing to undertake projects in collaboration with other libraries or organizations. These trends are supported by statements such as:

- › *“This year, serving as chair of the state's Depository Library Council.”*
- › *“State and federal government information interest group and round table participation and leadership.”*
- › *“Participation by staff in the Indiana government documents group, INDIGO.”*
- › *“Continuing to participate in ASERLs Collaborative Federal Depository Program.”*
- › *“Collaborating on and advocating for more widespread participation for digital projects like LOCKSS-USDOCS, HathiTrust, and TRAIL.”*
- › *“Already participate in the Government Information Online virtual reference service and could expand its role in virtual reference provision.”*
- › *“We will continue to participate in professional groups that are invested in exploring the future of depository collections.”*

- › *“I would like to get signed MOUs with other selectives in the region to develop something along the Centers of Excellence concept and/or light archives.”*
- › *“More cooperation between FDLP libraries in Southern California and, perhaps, our Library can help to facilitate this if the other libraries are willing.”*
- › *“We also plan to work with our regional depository librarian and others to increase collaboration on services, training and collections within the state, as well as the region.”*

DISCOVERY & ACCESS

State forecast frequency: 20 (12%)

Library forecast frequency: 97 (10%)

The frequency of observations with the Discovery & Access theme ranked 2nd among the state forecast responses and 4th among the library forecast responses. These responses included a willingness to take on a leadership role in findability (in tangible or digital collections), discovering digital content online, fugitive documents, or increasing public access to users of Government information. Creating pathfinders or guides and providing reference assistance to an area served also have the Discovery & Access theme.

Of the 20 responses to the state forecast, there are 13 (65%) states that indicated a willingness to take on a leadership role to provide pathfinders or research guides to assist users in finding and using Government information, and “to focus on the best service for our communities.” One state would like to seize the opportunity to collaborate with other libraries in other states to develop “new models for Government information service.” Eleven (55%) of the state forecast respondents want to improve or increase access to Government information. Many different means of doing this were identified, including, but not limited to, digitizing Government publications; “demystifying government websites;” providing holdings in shared catalogs and bibliographic utilities; and promoting historic and current Government resources.

Of the 97 library forecast responses, 57 (50%) are providing or increasing access to Government information. Access was often described as free, timely, easy, open, unlimited, or digital. Leadership roles were identified in 35 (36%) responses for providing subject reference expertise; assisting users in how to find and use Government information; and creating pathfinders or research guides for specified subjects or areas. Virtual reference was specifically mentioned in 2 responses.

COMMUNITY MARKETING

State forecast frequency: 18 (11%)

Library forecast frequency: 109 (11%)

The frequency of observations with the Community Marketing theme ranked 3rd among the state forecast responses and 2nd among the library forecast responses. The responses from both the state and library forecasts were similar in expressing their intent to or possibility of taking on a leadership role in marketing or promoting the FDLP, depository libraries, or their local collections and services. Audiences identified for marketing or awareness campaigns are very similar. Observations related to taking on an advocacy role were also reported in the Community Marketing theme.

Five of the 18 state forecast responses identified marketing and promotion as an area for collaboration, using such phrases as “collaboration with librarians at other libraries,” “state-wide effort,” “working with other federal depository libraries in the state,” “in conjunction with state library association,” and “State Action Plan will address future [promotion] plans in more detail.” Nine (50%) of the responses indicated a target audience for marketing and promotional activities: non-Federal depository libraries; local community (and anyone who needs it); attorneys; newly assigned congressional district; non-profit community development groups; law professors; public libraries; researchers; and the university community. Topics for marketing were depository library collections (digital and historical tangible), using Government information, and the importance of government information literacy. Additionally, one state identified the “need to promote ourselves as subject specialists/collection developers in this area (government information).”

The Community Marketing observations from the library forecast included a willingness to take on a leadership role in marketing or promoting the FDLP, depository libraries and their value, or their local collections and services. The targets of promotional campaigns included the same as those identified in the state forecast (see above). There were, however, a couple of different audiences that appeared in library forecast responses: library boards, library administrators, and Chambers of Commerce. Of the 109 library forecast responses, 10 (9%) conveyed taking on various advocacy roles: for including Government information in other state-wide digitization projects; for public libraries and their users; for free permanent public authenticated access to government information; for encouraging stable congressional funding; for advocating for more widespread participation for digital projects; advocate for a strong FDLP and for creating regional collections per ASERL's plan; for serving as tangible archive for government information in an environment within the state where collections are mostly electronic and selection rates have been significantly reduced in Federal depository libraries; to communicate to government policymakers the importance of providing local users access to government information resources; to support legislation designed to sustain the GPO and the FDLP; and for greater open access, increased online authentication, and preservation of government information.

GENERAL TRAINING

State forecast frequency: 18 (11%)

Library forecast frequency: 84 (8%)

The frequency of observations with the General Training theme ranked 3rd among the state forecast responses and 5th among the library forecast responses. These responses included a willingness to take on a leadership role in training generally in the use of Government resources, training for a particular audience, or using a particular method.

The responses in the state forecast provided specific audiences to target for training, including library staff; library users; new depository coordinators; and depository and non-depository librarians. One-third (6) of the state forecast observations indicated using local, state, regional, and national meetings and conferences as venues for presentations, workshops, and other educational activities. Three observations mentioned using methods such as online training modules, video tutorials, and mobile apps to deliver training.

For the most part, the General Training observations from library forecast responses paralleled those of the state forecast responses. Library forecast observations also specified library staff; library users; new

depository coordinators; and depository and non-depository librarians as targets for education and training. Additionally, three depository coordinators recognized a need to receive training as they will be “Developing expertise in FDLP operations in the next five years,” “Attending more conferences and workshops,” and “Continu[ing] to educate myself and my fellow librarians.” As with the state responses, the library responses frequently indicated that meetings and conferences are ideal for training and sharing expertise, and five libraries conveyed opportunities to integrate Government information into existing courses being taught at their institutions. Another two libraries identified cross training staff and other librarians as a leadership opportunity.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

State forecast frequency: 14 (8%)

Library forecast frequency: 57 (6%)

The observations with the Digital Collections theme ranked 5th for the state forecast and 7th for the library forecast. Responses within this theme reference making information available online, digitizing tangible collections, and ingest of born digital content.

Of the 14 state forecast responses, five states (36%) indicated they had taken on a digitization leadership role of depository resources of specified subjects of local interest to meet community needs. Another 2 states expressed possible digitization leadership roles, though no parameters were mentioned. One state conveyed a possible opportunity to assist with digitization of the entire corpus of Federal documents, in collaboration with other libraries/states. Two states identified the inclusion of digitized Government publications in an existing statewide digital library or repository as a leadership activity. Three states cited promoting or increasing awareness of digital (and historical) collections as a leadership role. One state observation reflected, “We have already been a leader in the creation of virtual depository library and worked with GPO and other libraries in managing and promoting electronic depository program.”

The 57 library forecast responses with the Digital Collections theme indicated they would continue providing increased online access to Government information for their users. Some selective depository libraries are doing this through substitution of online resources for tangible depository resources. Others are engaged in digitization initiatives of local interest. About 10% of the library forecast observations convey a willingness to collaborate on digitization efforts or participate in and contribute to ongoing digital initiatives.

TANGIBLE COLLECTION

State forecast frequency: 12 (7%)

Library forecast frequency: 35 (4%)

Observations on the Tangible Collection theme ranked 6th for the state forecast and 9th for the library forecast. Responses for this theme referenced historical legacy collections, tangible or “core” collections, weeding, and managing tangible collections.

Of 12 state forecast responses, four indicated leadership roles undertaken by participation in the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries’ (ASERL) Centers of Excellence program. They are building, inventorying, cataloging, providing reference service, curating, and preserving tangible

collections (and in some cases digitizing) for certain Federal agencies. Two additional states described similar activities, though no specific mention of ASERL was made. One state indicated that some selective depositories may take on responsibilities for portions of the regional collection. The five remaining state responses indicated having large tangible historical collections within the state, in addition to the regional depository, that would be maintained and serve as a major resource for Government information for anyone needing access. An observation from a regional depository conveyed their digitization of Government publication was to increase access to the publications, but also allowed selectives to better manage their tangible collections.

Of the library forecast responses, 17 (49%) indicated a leadership role in retaining their large historical depository collections. It was inferred that these collections are increasing in importance as collections around them are being weeded and downsized. Indeed, ten of the 35 responses (29%) reported they are actively “Minimizing our print-on-paper & microform footprint,” or “Heavily weed[ing] the remainder of legacy print collection.” Another four libraries reported they will maintain a basic or core collection of tangible depository publications.

REGIONAL/SUB-REGIONAL

State forecast frequency: 10 (6%)

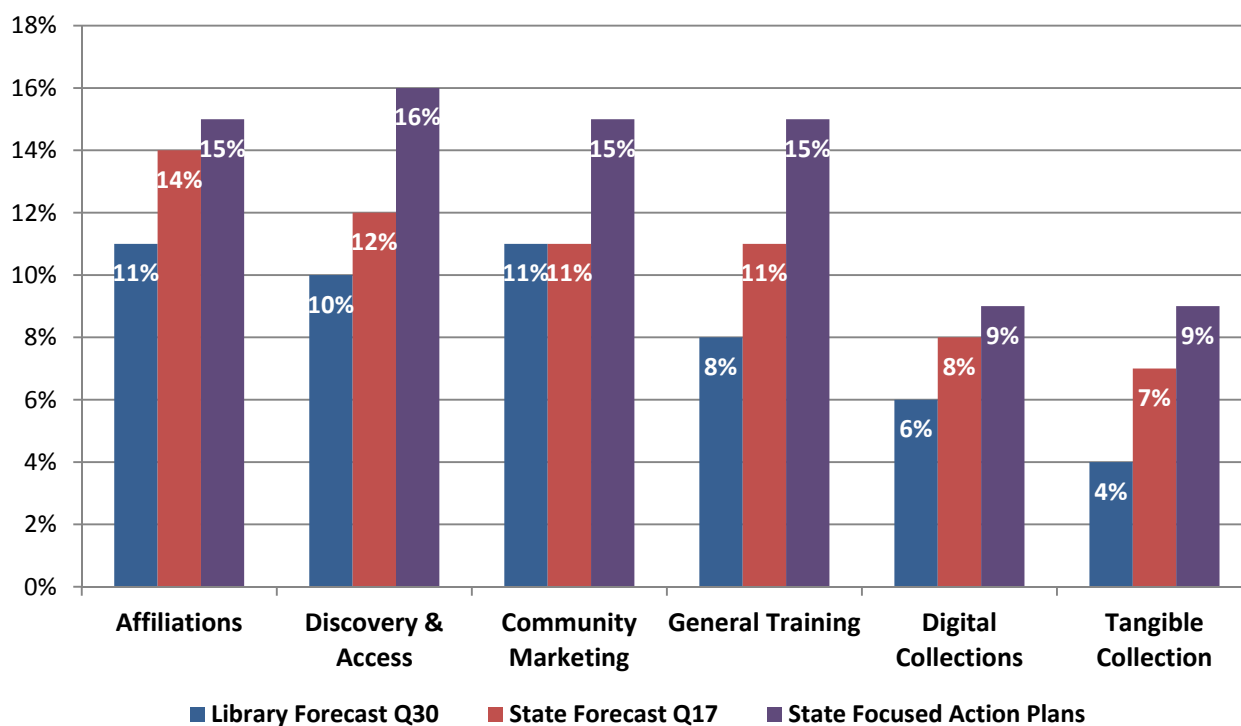
Library forecast frequency: 27 (3%)

The observations with the theme Regional/Sub-Regional ranked 7th for the state forecast and 12th for the library forecast. Though not ranked among the top 6 themes, it is interesting to note regional-related responses as we explore models for the future of the FDLP.

Of 10 state forecast observations, 3 states (30%) affirmed continuation of regional responsibilities or the strengthening of intrastate shared regionals; 2 states (20%) indicated they are exploring new regional models for the state; and the remaining 5 states (50%) denoted support for, cooperation with, and increased participation in regional depository library activities.

Of 27 library forecast observations, 14 (52%) were from regional depository libraries indicating they would continue their leadership role as a regional; 8 (30%) indicated they were in a leadership role by selectively housing part of the regional collection; and 4 (15%) expressed interest in becoming a shared regional, housing portions of their regional’s collection, or looking at a shared regional model for their state. And finally, one library in a state not served by a regional depository, *“has taken on some of the responsibilities of a regional for providing access and training.”*

Taking state question 17 and library question 30 a step further, State Focused Action Plans (SFAPs) submitted as part of the *FDLP Forecast Study*, asked states to document initiatives they were planning, working on, or implementing within the next five years. Figure 2 below shows how closely aligned the topics of identified leadership roles and opportunities are with the topics that states want to address through planned initiatives.

Figure 2: Top Ranking Themes of State and Library Forecast Observations and State Focus Action Plan Initiatives

NOTE: The State Focused Action Plan bar (16%) for Discovery & Access is derived from combining the Access and Cataloging SFAP themes. See the [SFAP Summary Report](#) for descriptions of themes used when analyzing the SFAPs.

STATE FORECAST QUESTION 18 & LIBRARY FORECAST QUESTION 31

State Forecast Question 18: *What would an ideal FDLP look like that met all of your current and anticipated needs for Federal Government information?*

Library Forecast Question 31: *What would an ideal FDLP look like that met all of your current and anticipated needs for Federal government information?*

These were open-ended questions that offered unlimited space for an answer. Respondents, therefore, had an opportunity to include multiple and varying concepts in their responses.

The 45 state respondents to Question 18 provided 293 observations on 23 of the 31 themes used. The corresponding Library Question 31, with 802 libraries responding, yielded 1,633 observations in 32 themes. The top five observation themes from each of these questions are ranked by frequency in Figure 3 and analyzed below.

Figure 3: Comparison of State Q18 and Library Q31 Top Ranked “Ideal FDLP” Observation Themes

State Forecast Q18	Library Forecast Q31	Themes	State Forecast Q18		Library Forecast Q31	
Rank	Rank		Freq	%	Freq	%
1	1	Discovery & Access	35	12%	321	19%
2	2	Digital Collections	26	8%	222	13%
3	3	Cataloging Metadata	23	8%	117	7%
4	4	Preservation	22	7%	102	6%
9	5	Item Selection & Distribution	16	5%	98	6%
5	6	Tangible Collection	20	6%	96	6%
5	10	FDLP Regulations	20	6%	54	3%

DISCOVERY & ACCESS

State forecast frequency: 35 (12%)

Library forecast frequency: 321 (19%)

Easy access to government information

Respondents to both surveys want Government information easily accessible via user-friendly interfaces with good search engines and other finding aids. Numerous observations such as “*single database for access to the full FDLP collection with more robust search capabilities,*” “*indexing and search capabilities are the very best,*” and “*provides information easily accessed by the public*” illustrate this need.

Access to multiple formats

While this was seen as primarily electronic access, timely access to tangible collections was also desired. “*There will be a robust and distributed system of digital preservation alongside a quick-track system for locating and securing loans of tangible items.*” Others indicated a preference for mostly electronic access with a limited number of tangible publications available in their libraries, based on the needs of their users.

Fewer fugitive publications

A number of comments expressed concern over fugitive publications and encouraged efforts to identify more content for inclusion in the FDLP. “*Aggressively pursue government agencies to assure access to information.*” A similar comment was that the ideal FDLP “*includes legal requirement(s) and the systematic means to facilitate federal agencies providing permanent public access to government information (e.g., maintain digital files and/or submit materials through GPO/FDLP.*”

Interplay among Discovery & Access, Digitization, Preservation, and Collection Management

Woven through the observations on Discovery & Access are issues of digitization, preservation, and collection management, indicating a strong relationship among these themes. In many cases access and preservation were mentioned in the same observation, while others mentioned “*reliable access,*” “*perpetual access,*” or “*permanent public access.*” Likewise, many comments indicated the importance of digitization to make older materials accessible, to minimize their tangible collection footprint. Taken together, these comments illustrate the belief that preservation is necessary to make electronic

collections reliably accessible while digitization builds a more comprehensive electronic collection, both of which feed collection management activities that allow libraries to provide broader access to government information while maintaining smaller tangible collections.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

State Forecast Frequency: 26 (8%)

Library Forecast Frequency: 222 (13%)

The second most frequently noted theme in both surveys was Digital Collections. As noted above, Digital Collections is closely intertwined with Discovery & Access. At the same time many libraries look to digital collections to provide greater access to government information. This theme is also part of Collection Management. Please see the [Collection Management Working Paper](#) for further discussion and more detail on this topic.

CATALOGING/METADATA

State Forecast Frequency: 23 (8%)

Library Forecast Frequency: 117 (7%)

The third most frequently noted theme in both surveys was Cataloging/Metadata.

Comprehensive coverage

Respondents frequently cited the importance of comprehensive access through cataloging records. Some noted the importance of cataloging older materials in comments such as “fully retrospectively cataloged Regional collections,” or “provide more cataloging records for older orphan works.” Others were broader in their comments; “every item cataloged” was a frequent observation. In addition to comprehensive cataloging over time, some mentioned the importance of comprehensive coverage by format. A common observation was “Catalog all government publications (all their various formats)”.

Timely availability

Many respondents noted the importance of timeliness for catalog records and updates. “Quicker availability of GPO Cataloging records” and “no months-long delays in getting cataloging records” are representative comments on this topic. Some indicated a preference for simultaneous catalog records when materials are received. One respondent indicated, “would like to see Microfiche records available through OCLC when we receive vendor shipments of Microfiche.” Others noted the importance of timely updates, as indicated in “definitely cataloging tangible and online documents so our online catalog remains up to date and relevant.”

Easily accessible/retrievable cataloging records

Respondents indicated that GPO cataloging records should be easily accessible and retrievable so that libraries can easily incorporate records into their local catalogs. Many requested “maybe it could be easier to get catalog records for electronic records.” Some wanted GPO to utilize push technologies to provide catalog records. Requests included “emails with catalog records for online resources,” “catalog records sent monthly,” and “free distribution of GPO cataloging records, both full and brief, by GPO.” Many want catalog records based on their library’s selection profile, as in the comment “we would automatically receive bibliographic records for the titles we selected that would appear in our catalogs.” Others wanted to receive catalog records when they received materials, “shipping lists

containing only the items selected with labels & catalog records (shelf ready).” Shelf-ready distribution will be discussed further under the Item Selection & Distribution theme below. Please also see the [LSCM Projects Working Paper](#), which includes discussion of the Cataloging Records Distribution Project, for further details on receipt of GPO catalog records based on selection profiles.

Accurate cataloging/metadata

Respondents indicated the importance of quality cataloging. Some indicated improvement is needed. These comments included “improvements in quality control for GPO cataloging,” “create system or model where GPO addresses/corrects specific problems and issues of cataloging records before distribution to libraries,” and “GPO should consider creation of better catalogs and indexes to help users locate information that’s available.” Others desire enhanced metadata to increase access and findability. This is seen in comments such as “more extensive metadata included in GPO cataloging records,” “better digital access including enhanced metadata cataloging records,” and “metadata provided to accommodate full-text digital format.”

Additional classification schemes

Several respondents expressed interest in additional classification schemes, beyond or instead of Superintendent of Documents classifications. Comments included “complete LC cataloging for all titles,” “quicker cataloging, particularly with the addition of the LC call no.,” and a request for “anything that would ease & speed delivery of items to the library’s patrons (emailing MARC records, tangible items arriving with spine labels (Dewey, please!), etc.).”

Interplay between Cataloging/Metadata, Preservation, Digitization, Collection Management, and Discovery & Access

Throughout both surveys, Cataloging/Metadata was closely related to the preservation, collection management, and discovery and access. Cataloging and preservation are often mentioned in the same sentence as means to achieve permanent public access, for both online and tangible formats. “I would like to see the print core collection preserved and sources connected across formats with appropriate catalog records and online links.” “As the movement to digitize federal documents continues, and government agencies continue to exclusively publish materials online, there will be a greater need for coordinated and cataloged online access to government information. Ideally the FDLP will take the lead in organization and maintenance of digital government information, and assist libraries with access to information.” Likewise, cataloging/metadata was often mentioned in conjunction with digitization. This was seen in comments such as “access to legacy collections through cataloging/metadata and digitization” and “cataloging and digitization of legacy collection, all holdings in OCLC to assist with interlibrary loan.” Cataloging was linked to collection management through requests for shelf-ready distribution of materials, such as a suggestion that the ideal FDLP “provides centrally coordinated cataloging/metadata services that identify and distribute information to FDLP libraries (e.g., cataloging/metadata records provided along with material).”

PRESERVATION

State Forecast Frequency: 22 (7%)

Library Forecast Frequency: 102 (6%)

In both surveys, Preservation as the fourth most frequently noted theme. Preservation is closely intertwined with Discovery & Access because many libraries view preservation as a means to ensure

access is reliable and content remains available into the future. This theme was also frequently mentioned along with Cataloging/Metadata as discussed above. Please see the [Preservation Working Paper](#) for further discussion and more detail on this topic.

TANGIBLE COLLECTION

State Forecast Frequency: 20 (6%)

Library Forecast Frequency: 96 (6%)

Tangible Collection ranked fifth in the State Forecast and sixth in the Library Forecast. This theme is part of collection management. Please see the [Collection Management Working Paper](#) for further discussion and more detail.

FDLP REGULATIONS

State Forecast Frequency: 20 (6%)

Library Forecast Frequency: 54 (3%)

TITLE 44 USC

State Forecast Frequency: 5 (1%)

Library Forecast Frequency: 14 (1%)

FDLP Regulations ranked fifth in the State Forecast and tenth in the Library Forecast. FDLP Regulations overlapped somewhat with the Title 44 theme. Therefore both themes are discussed together here. Title 44 ranked twelfth overall in the State Forecast and twenty-third in the Library Forecast.

Flexible requirements

Many respondents want and need more flexibility in program requirements. Comments varied from “fewer restrictions,” or “just continue with making changes in a lot of the old and dated policies of the past,” to “an ideal FDLP would be flexible and responsive to the needs of both regional and selective depository libraries.” Others indicated a need for more flexibility in procedures to process and manage materials in their collections. Comments included “a streamlined process on the paperwork, clerical end,” “more flexibility in focusing collections and defining responsibilities,” “reduction in labor intensiveness of bibliographic control processes for depositories,” and “there should be increased flexibility in terms of depository management guidelines and an improved focus on users who need the material collected and distributed in the program.” “It would be good for FDLP to streamline the process more. Couldn’t it drop some of the earlier depository tasks that no longer apply.” “In administering the program, GPO should focus on how to address evolving user needs and not be overly focused on compliance with outdated statutes and rules.”

Collaboration across state lines

The need to collaborate across state lines was a common theme. “There needs to be less geocentric focus. Foster collaboration between libraries across state borders, and allow for new opportunities/roles for FDLP Libraries to participate in the program.” Many comments included allowing multi-state regionals or redefining “regional collection” to allow dispersion of the collection over a larger geographic area. One such representative comment was, “increased flexibility to work with libraries within the state and across states to leverage consortia options for delivery of services.” “From a regional [perspective] allow geographically distributed collections or few comprehensive

collections located through the country. In this way, individual collections would not have to be maintained and depository libraries would rely more on digital delivery and ILL capabilities.”

Fewer regional collections

In addition, respondents suggested that fewer regional collections are required in a digital age. “The FDLP might be 5 or 6 regional consortiums that we all contribute some tiny amount of funds to host and store digital data.” Other comments included “larger regional areas that cooperate to develop 100% combined collections,” “accounts for the shared/distributed retention and storage/preservation of tangible and digital collections, including some number (probably less than 50) of geographically dispersed extensive digital archives/backup sites,” and “streamlined regional system reflective of changing needs for legacy print collections.”

Fewer restrictions on regional depositories

Many respondents suggested fewer restrictions for regional depositories. Some of these comments were “FDLs, including Regionals, would only have to retain the tangible materials appropriate for their local needs,” “new structure for depository system including fewer tangible/regional collections and revision of title 44,” and “change Title 44 to allow Regionals to substitute electronic for print/microfiche.” Another respondent commented, “Allowing current regional libraries to divest of some collections responsibilities and focus more on their service/training responsibilities would enable them to do a better job in those areas.”

General comments

Many comments on Title 44 changes or FDLP regulations were general – recognizing the need for change without including specifics: “Revision of Title 44 so that the program can adapt to current and anticipated technologies and workflows. FDLP would be more flexible in allowing for consortial arrangements that are necessary in these times of financial hardship.” Another respondent suggested, “Consider building on the successes of shared/multi-state regional arrangements to identify the types of services that might be most efficiently handled at the multi-state level, or in clusters not necessarily based on state boundaries. This may require disentangling FDL/RDL responsibilities for collections from services in developing formal strategies for the implementation of FDLP functions.”

ITEM SELECTION & DISTRIBUTION

State Forecast Frequency: 16 (5%)

Library Forecast Frequency: 98 (6%)

Item Selection & Distribution was ranked fifth in the Library Forecast and ranked ninth on the State Forecast.

More specificity in selection

Many respondents indicated they need more specific item numbers, with fewer publications within an item number. Some indicated a desire to select by title, rather than item number. “The ability to fine-tune our selection capability would be a great option; select material by title rather than by item number.” “Print material distribution should be changed from the blanket item distribution now practiced to an opt-in system where libraries would select individual items received.” Some indicated that the current item number system results in receipt of unwanted materials. “Be able to select specific items so that you don’t end up with irrelevant items when you select one item number.”

“Don’t attach numerous items to an item number. Many times I want an item but will not select it because there are 8 or 10 other items I don’t want.” Others suggested discontinuing the use of item numbers, such as “abandon item number system.” “Why is it necessary to have item selection for electronic versions, for example? Why not retain item selection for print only and let us select specific titles rather than item groups?”

Ability to select by subject or geographic area

Many respondents want the “ability to select materials by geographic and subject areas.” Another representative comment is, “We would like to be able to fine-tune our selections by subject (or perhaps by (subject) classification), by particular monographic or serial title, as well as by agency or congressional committee.”

Format specific selection

Many indicated that they want format specific item numbers. Some commented “would like to see further delineation of item numbers, especially to separate electronic from physical formats” and “selection by format as well as item number so we could eliminate all MF or on particular titles do away with receiving print, but not online.” “An ideal FDLP would also overhaul the item selection process, separating item numbers for tangible and digital formats of the same title.”

Ability to add selections more frequently

Some respondents requested the ability to “allow depository libraries to add documents/item numbers more than once a year,” and “ability to add item numbers throughout the year.” A related request was “item selections would go into effect immediately.”

Discontinue automation additions of new item numbers

Some respondents do not want GPO to automatically add new item numbers to their item selection profiles. Comments included, “Eliminate most automatic additions to item profile selections for new item numbers,” and “Don’t add items to our profile automatically without asking whether or not we want the item.”

Simple selection tools and processes

Many respondents indicated a preference for simplified selection procedures. Representative observations include: “The selection process would be easier, simplified,” “simplify the item selection and drop process,” “simple to use tools for selection and de-selection,” and “easier to review, add and delete FDLP Depository subscriptions using a web-based system.” Another requested “allow greater freedom to deselect in bulk.”

Selection specific shipping lists and shelf-ready materials

Many respondents want shelf-ready materials. These requests included “shipping lists containing only the items selected with labels & catalog records (shelf-ready),” “one that provided materials, processing assistance (i.e., records, labels),” “better coordination of shipping lists and labels,” and “offer shelf-ready services.” Others wanted changes to shipping lists. One respondent suggested “Paper shipping lists would cease,” and another “shipping lists would include a notation on titles that are superseded.”

Accurate shipments

Many respondents commented on a need for more accurate shipments. “Every Box that arrives will be complete in its contents and contain only the items that our library selects no short-shipped docs, no unselected docs.” Others commented “it would include accurate shipments,” “streamlined operations so boxes go to the right places,” and “one mailed box for all items (no fiche and S shipments randomly showing up).” Some requested simplified procedures for receiving materials. “An easier way to assure libraries receive the correct selected documents without wading through the morass of shipping lists and item numbers.” Another respondent wanted “easier ways to find out what we should have received in print at any given time and easier ways to claim materials.”

GPO ACTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN

- ***Bulk drop capability for item selection (State Forecast Question 18 and Library Forecast Question 31)***

Respondents indicated a need for improved ability to drop item numbers from their item selections. To this end, GPO developed greater functionality in the Depository Selection Information Management System (DSIMS). This included the ability for depository coordinators to upload a spreadsheet of items to be dropped from their selection profiles. Spreadsheets can contain up to 100 items, and the items are dropped from the depository’s selection profile with a click of a Drop Items button.

- ***More flexible requirements, increased collaboration, fewer regional collections, legal and regulatory changes (State Forecast Question 18 and Library Forecast Question 31)***

Respondents indicated a need for program changes including more flexible requirements, increased collaboration among depositories, fewer regional collections, and legal and regulatory changes. While survey data gave GPO a good starting point, further discussion was required to flesh out specifics of needed changes. To that end, GPO held two focused discussion sessions during the December virtual meeting, *Expanding the Forecast Framework: Engage and Discuss*. Findings from “Depository Library Collaborative Structure for the Electronic Age, Part 1: Regional and Selective Depository Libraries” and “Depository Library Collaborative Structure for the Electronic Age, Part 2: New Opportunities for Depository Libraries” will be incorporated into the *FDLP Forecast Study Report: Summary and Recommendations*.

STATE FORECAST QUESTION 19 & LIBRARY FORECAST QUESTION 32

State Forecast Question 19: *Thinking about the next five years, what specific things would you like GPO to do to help FDLP libraries in your state improve public access to Federal Government information?*

Library Forecast Question 32: *Thinking about the next five years, what specific things would you like GPO to do to help you and your library improve public access to Federal government information?*

These were open-ended questions that offered unlimited space for an answer. Respondents, therefore, had an opportunity to include multiple and varying concepts in their responses.

The 45 state respondents to Question 19 provided 331 observations in 32 themes. The corresponding Library Question 32, with 802 libraries responding, yielded 1,244 observations in 32 themes. The top five observation themes from these questions are ranked by frequency in Figure 4 and analyzed below.

Figure 4: Comparison of State Q19 and Library Q32 Observations by Top Ranked Theme

State Forecast Q19 Rank	Library Forecast Q32 Rank	Themes	State Forecast Q19		Library Forecast Q32	
			Freq	%	Freq	%
1	1	Digital Collections	28	8%	170	14%
1	2	Discovery & Access	28	8%	143	11%
3	4	Cataloging/Metadata	24	7%	88	7%
4	3	General Training	20	6%	106	9%
5	5	Community Marketing	19	6%	78	6%

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

State forecast frequency: 28 (8%)

Library forecast frequency: 170 (14%)

What is a digital collection?

Many libraries indicated they want more digital content, more format options to be available through the FDLP, more mobile apps and social media products, and the conversion of microfiche titles to digital access.

GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys):

Many libraries and states indicated they want more authenticated digital content, necessitating more content in FDsys. States indicated GPO should recognize various 'levels of trust' based on the source of the scanning for future ingest into FDsys and later authentication. Most libraries and states requested older serial content in FDsys, including the Congressional Record, Code of Federal Regulations, congressional hearings, Foreign Relations of the United States, congressional bills, and so on. *"Complete the digitization of the large collections, e.g. Congressional Record."* Libraries noted a concern about the stability of and future funding for FDsys.

Discoverability:

Digital content requires discoverability. Libraries want more prominent search results of FDLP digital content, better findability and the integration of PURLs into catalog searches via metasearch features. Libraries want GPO to work with database vendors to integrate FDLP content into their products, resulting in more access points. As stated by one respondent, *"Government information resources,*

including those from the FDLP, need to be better integrated into how our users, particularly undergraduate students, locate information. Non-exclusive and non-privatized access through resources such as Google, EBSCO's Academic Search Complete, Gales Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center, and the Internet Archive would provide additional gateways for getting undergraduate students to the resources they need."

While multiple access points are desired, some libraries also indicated a need for GPO to assist with centralized access to digitized content. States indicated that pushing customized catalog records to libraries would be a mechanism to increase public access. Some libraries indicated they wanted GPO to permit their contribution to the cataloging of digital content. Somewhat related to discoverability is the desire for GPO to provide training on digital resources so they themselves can provide 'digital reference assistance' for their library patrons.

Coordination of digitization:

Both libraries and states indicated they want GPO to play a role in the coordination of digitization projects. Libraries encouraged GPO to reach out to library organizations to help coordinated efforts. Libraries also articulated that GPO could provide a tool for the communication, organization, and funding of such digitization efforts. Some libraries seemed to expect that GPO will have to partner with others to digitize the FDLP collection. *"Continue cooperation with Library of Congress & Google on digitizing legacy government information. Seek other potential partners, like LLMC Digital, HeinOnline, Public.Resource.org."* Libraries encouraged GPO to recognize HathiTrust as official digital content.

Usability and Accessibility:

Libraries noted a need for digital content to be accessible and usable (e.g. ease of printing and downloading). *"Make as many items as possible available online and open access, in a manner that is easy to search and navigate, so we can eliminate the need for links in our online catalog."* States also indicated a relationship between discoverability and usability of the discovery tool, be it a catalog or other Web site.

Stability and Future Access:

Both libraries and states expressed concerns over the permanency and stability of online resources. They want GPO to provide *"permanent/stable access to authenticated government publications in the digital environment."* States noted a continued need for future print resources through the FDLP.

Both libraries and states encouraged GPO to regularly harvest or capture current digital content on agency Web sites to avoid fugitive content. Libraries requested that GPO work with agencies to secure online content for future permanent access. States specifically noted that they could safely withdraw print material from their collections when the stability of digital content is secure. States also expressed an interest in GPO maintaining no-fee public access to digital content.

DISCOVERY & ACCESS:

State forecast frequency: 28 (8%)

Library forecast frequency: 143 (11%)

Concern with commercialization of public information

Several libraries and states expressed concern about the commercialization of some Federal Government information products, hindering the continuation of free public access to Federal Government information. *“No one should be charged to access public information.”* Some libraries indicated a need for free access to PACER content.

Concern with the stability of PURLs

Both libraries and states indicated access to information is a concern given the unknown stability of PURLs.

Improve search capabilities

Libraries requested improved search tools in general. Specifically, they asked for the addition of SuDoc call number searching, new metadata, and subject searching in FDsys, and *“More dynamic search capabilities within FDsys and the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications.”* States indicated a need to search across FDsys and CGP. States also requested more indexing – but did not specify what.

Improve user friendliness of Web sites

Both libraries and states conveyed a need for online resources to be more user-friendly, both for specific tools such as FDsys and the CGP, but also for non-GPO tools. *“Make interfaces to the information as user-friendly as possible.”* States indicated a need for standardized interfaces and standardized functionality of Web sites – libraries wanted built in help tools, instruction guides, and videos. One state requested that Web sites provide assistance for those with disabilities – but did not specify what type of assistance.

Minimizing fugitive content

Libraries and states conveyed the need to minimize the number of fugitive documents. Libraries and states want to have *“Greater confidence that the documents from all federal agencies and departments are included in the GPO system.”* Libraries and states want GPO to educate agencies about fugitives, work with them to identify fugitives, and ensure fugitives are captured for permanent public access. They want GPO to *“[w]ork more on regulating agencies to make government information available to the public;”* Some libraries indicated that GPO should also work with library community to identify and capture existing fugitive documents, especially field office publications.

Centralization for discovery versus multiple access points

Centralized or streamlined access is desired by both libraries and states; some specified they want a centralized search portal, while others requested a centralized repository. *“GPO should also provide direct public full-text search access to archived electronic documents (both born digital and legacy) that are not included in FDsys.”* Libraries went as far as to request centralized access to digital content, no matter where it resided (e.g. HathiTrust). *“GPO should create a centralized catalog or index of government documents digitized by various libraries and organizations and work toward making born-digital materials from all government agencies easily findable.”*

Opposite of centralizing searching, some states instead want to increase discovery by making content available through multiple sources. Hence state responses geared towards increasing search result hits in major browsers, the increase of cataloging, permitting libraries to catalog in the CGP, cataloging in

OCLC, and the customized push of records to library catalogs. States seemed to be more interested in multiple access points, with some customization in library catalogs.

Other discovery and access issues raised include one library that expressed a dislike of single-format records because it conflicted with their library policy and created work for them to modify GPO catalog records. Both states and libraries requested more mobile formats, although it isn't clear if they want GPO to capture more mobile formats or if they want GPO to work with agencies to educate them about the public desire for more mobile formats. States requested training for library staff to increase awareness of Government resources and help with the marketing of government information.

GENERAL TRAINING

State forecast frequency: 20 (6%)

Library forecast frequency: 106 (9%)

Goal of training

"I don't think access is the problem, it is using the access to find what you need or even know where to start."

Both libraries and states want training to increase promotion and use of the collections by the public and staff. *"Offer regional workshops and/or webinars to assist with promotion and use of the collection"* States expressed a desire for promotional material that specifically educated the public on FDLP resources. One library stated, *"[D]evelop Bens Guide-like sites for many subjects so users can educate themselves and librarians can use them as teaching tools"*

Wide audience identified for training

Libraries were more articulate about whom training efforts should be geared towards. Audiences identified include: library staff, patrons, faculty, students, non-depository library staff, and "train-the-trainer".

Types of training resources

Libraries and states both want lesson plans for people who teach Government information. *"[D]evelop online training materials and lesson plans to enable local librarians in turn to teach patrons various subjects easily and with authority."* Libraries also want training through various mediums such as: web instruction, videos, YouTube videos, tutorials, streaming segments for review when on the desk, *"Short anytime training segments on finding/using resources for general reference personnel."* States specifically requested tutorials and downloadable guides that can be reused in library guides or linked to. Most libraries seemed to be more interested in short, unpolished training videos as opposed to polished high-end production videos.

State emphasis on general training

States tended to articulate more about general training needs. States requested:

- Continuation of onsite training across the country (local and regional – using local information when possible)
- Continuation of onsite conferences for networking opportunities
- More virtual training

- Development of a training database for government document questions and answers
- Establishment of training standards for library professionals and information literacy
- Certification program of government information experts

Training content

Libraries and states appeared to want resource training like FDsys training, and topical training like transitioning to a virtual library.

CATALOGING/METADATA

State forecast frequency: 24 (7%)

Library forecast frequency: 88 (7%)

Where states and libraries agree

States and libraries want GPO to:

- Provide quicker access to catalog or MARC records
- Continue to catalog all formats; states specified they want GPO to expand the formats cataloged
- Catalog historic material; states want GPO to also help them do retroactive catalog work
- Help them, or encourage them, to add their holdings to OCLC
- Ensure the stability of PURLs in the catalog records
- Catalog digital content from non-GPO sources and to provide URLs to it

What libraries want

Libraries tend to want things from GPO that would ease their workflows. One library requested GPO review the need for SuDoc numbers because they are not needed by their library, another asked for LC call numbers (to increase browsing). One library did not like the single record approach to catalog records because it required them to do manual cleanup work to fit their catalog policy. *“Because we want the links in our catalog records we have to put them in manually.”* Libraries note a need for GPO to review cataloging workflow, and *“If possible, reduce the time lag between material being distributed and the entries appearing in the CGP.”* Libraries want a new tool or service to help them weed their tangible publications when GPO catalogs an online version. Libraries want GPO to increase access points for discoverability, including, *“Ensure incorporation of government information into discovery tools such as PRIMO.”* Libraries want GPO to update serial records with closing dates so they don’t have to.

What states want

States tend to want larger or more cooperative initiatives from GPO that could potentially impact lots of libraries. They want GPO to:

- Customize MARC records and push or deliver them to all libraries
- Improve the CGP by providing dynamic New Electronic Titles that was based on library selection profiles
- Permit libraries to contribute to the CGP
- Provide training on how to apply RDA to federal government catalog records
- Catalog online material that is in danger of becoming fugitive
- Provide full and brief catalog records to aid in timely processing

COMMUNITY MARKETING

State forecast frequency: 19 (6%)

Library forecast frequency: 78 (6%)

Across the board, libraries and states want more marketing material.

Advocacy with agencies

Both libraries and states want GPO to advocate with agencies for open and free access to agency publications. States specifically want GPO to educate agencies about the need for continued public access, continued FDLP distribution, and continued free online dissemination. Libraries want an online, permanent, and authenticated format as shown in this observation, “[A]dvocate for a requirement that Federal agencies make their publications available online in permanent, authenticated format.” One library wants GPO to promote the development of more 'official' online versions of legal materials that the courts and/or Federal Government have authorized for citable purposes.

Libraries further request national advocacy for programs, agencies, and publications that are endangered. The Statistical Abstract was given as an example.

Types of marketing materials

Both libraries and states want bulk quantities of promotional materials for distribution in their libraries.

Formats of promotional materials include: brochures, handouts, public relations materials, Power Point files that can be reused and shared or posted on local Web sites, newspaper public service ads, posters, press releases, and more. States specified use of social media, podcasts, streaming videos, billboards, online ads, etc. In short, libraries and states find value in marketing beyond the library itself through online means and traditional means such as Public Service Announcements (PSA), posters, and billboard announcements. “More PSAs (Public Service Announcements), posters and other print material that can be displayed in our library as well as businesses throughout the community.”

One library requested guides for using the Federal Register and CFR as well as signs explaining the SuDoc classification system. One state wanted more national publicity of the FDLP – possibly with the aid of the Ad Council.

Audience of marketing

Libraries want marketing materials for depository and non-depository libraries, for library and university administrators, for library boards, the public, and young people. One library requested GPO to market directly to the public. Libraries want help from GPO to reach out to their larger communities.

Customization

Libraries and states want GPO assistance with the customization of marketing material for both depository and non-depository libraries. Templates with customization options for marketing materials were suggested, such as LibGuide templates. This particular observation conveys the need for customization of marketing materials, “Marketing materials intended for different uses in different types of libraries would be best – a law library could not use the same displays that a public library uses.”

Other suggested marketing topics include:

- Finding aids by topic and resources
- Marketing askGPO
- “Every library a depository”
- Marketing new databases
- Helping libraries marketing the value of being a depository

One state wanted training on how to market a depository collection and services locally.

GPO ACTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN

FDsys authentication

GPO has the ability to apply digital signatures to PDF documents. Currently, this process is done on PDF documents in FDsys.

Advocacy

As a Federal agency, it is not within the purview of GPO to lobby Federal agencies or Congress. That said, GPO continues to work with other agencies to capture online content through harvesting and to prevent the creation of fugitives with the Document Discovery initiative.

Improving the usability of agency Web sites

GPO does not have the authority to “dictate” Web design for other agencies. That said, there is the Federal Web Managers Council (Web Council), an interagency group of senior Federal Government Web managers who collaborate to share common challenges, ideas, and best practices, and improve the online delivery of U.S. Government information and services. Also, library staff is encouraged to contact agencies directly and provide user feedback on the quality of their Web sites. GPO has found during conferences and seminars that agencies are typically eager to hear feedback on their information resources.

Commercialization of content

When GPO learns of the cessation of a tangible title, the producing agency is contacted to discuss the transition to an alternate format. Publications appearing on the *Essential Titles for Public Use in Paper or Other Tangible Format List* are given a high priority for working with the agency to continue with tangible distribution. It should be noted that the ultimate decision to discontinue a title resides with the authoring agency, not with GPO. When GPO learns that a title distributed through the FDLP is to be distributed through a commercial vendor or through a partnership outside the scope of the FDLP, GPO will attempt to negotiate continued FDLP access to the information.

Coordination of digitization projects

The [Digitization Projects Registry](#) is a directory listing of U.S. Government publication digitization efforts. Its goal is to provide a comprehensive listing of all these digitization efforts. Libraries,

government agencies, or other non-profit institutions contribute their time and resources to obtain official tangible copies of these publications, digitize them, and make them publicly available online.

Included in the listings are:

- An overview of the project.
- The institution(s) and partners involved in digitization.
- The scope of the digitization project (e.g., by volume, year, Congress, administration, geographic region).
- The status of the project (planning phase, in-progress, completed).
- Technical specifications of the digitization output (e.g., file format, metadata schema).
- Whether a digitization project is seeking collaborative assistance.
- A link to the publicly-accessible digitized content. URLs must point directly to project content, i.e. a collection home page or landing page.

Libraries are encouraged to create an account and add their digitization project to enhance awareness of their resources or to identify partners from within the library community.

Acquisition of Fugitive Documents and Document Discovery

LSCM Collection Development and Acquisitions staff work daily to identify and process new electronic titles for inclusion in the FDLP and Cataloging and Indexing Program. Staff process newly identified electronic titles from a variety of sources including recommendations from libraries, agencies, and FDLP partners. This is in addition to their daily review of agency websites and notification/order of new titles identified through GPO printing processes and Document Discovery.

Cataloging and centralization of searching through metasearches or portal

GPO launched MetaLib in 2010. MetaLib is a federated search engine that searches up to 50 U.S. Federal government databases simultaneously. It retrieves reports, articles, and citations while providing direct links to selected resources available online.

Marketing

Several ideas about marketing surfaced in the Forecast responses, including: promotional material for distribution in libraries; marketing to different audiences; and availability of customizable marketing/promotional materials. For a summary of marketing initiatives completed or in development, please consult the [Affiliations and Community Marketing Working Paper](#).

Training

LSCM has expanded training offerings to include regular webinars. Webinar topics already presented are based on the preliminary results of the FDLP Forecast Study and include FDsys, marketing, SuDoc and item numbers, and an overview of RDA and GPO's implementation of it. For more on training initiatives see the [Education Working Paper](#).

ACTIONS IN DEVELOPMENT

Increasing content in FDsys

One of GPO's goals for FDsys is to increase the amount of content managed, preserved, and made publicly available through the system. This includes at-risk born digital content, ongoing day-forward

content, and historical digitized content. GPO continues to add content through partnerships (e.g. U.S. Courts Opinions pilot) and through a cost-recovery model (e.g. "Getting to Know the President" audio files). GPO is dedicated to increasing the amount of content and providing enhancements to current content and the user interface. In addition, Library Services and Content Management is developing a collection development plan for FDsys that is critical to defining future content collections from their stakeholder perspective for inclusion of additional content into FDsys. This document is essential for defining future content needs to avoid duplication of effort and ensure resources are allocated appropriately.

Stability of FDsys funding

Continued investment in FDsys is essential to ensure the system remains robust and responsive to public demand, and that it provides the necessary capacity to house and provide access to a continually growing collection of Government information. FDsys currently provides free public access to titles from all three branches of the Government and is used by the public to retrieve more than 43 million documents monthly.

Appropriations remain an important component of funding for FDsys, as they have been since its initial development. The GPO budget request for FY 2015 includes approximately \$6.8 million for FDsys development, support, infrastructure, and testing. GPO is also seeking increased funds for the Federal Depository Library Program to sustain our ongoing commitments to the public access in partnership with depository libraries nationwide.

GPO is leveraging the capabilities of FDsys, as a shared platform, by offering services to Federal entities on a cost recovery basis. These services have already been used by NARA with the public release of the JFK assassination audio files and the Nixon grand jury testimony; and by the CIA with the recent release of the "Getting to Know the President" audio files. GPO is working on alternatives to expand the provision of these services.

In addition, GPO is developing a funding model for the next five years as part of strategic capital planning to request stable funding for ongoing development and support of FDsys.

Usability of FDsys

GPO plans to conduct usability testing on the FDsys public user interface. During the December 2013 virtual conference, *Expanding the FDLP Forecast Framework: Engage and Discuss*, the "Next Generation FDsys" (NextGen) was presented. Usability was a topic covered and the FDsys usability initiative was described. Usability testing will be conducted of FDsys to determine a baseline. An iterative design process will be used for NextGen, that is, updates and improvements will be made, tested, measured, and refinements made. "This process will continue until users are happy." The depository library community was invited to provide feedback and volunteer for usability testing through askGPO (FDsys: Federal Digital System -> FDsys Comments/Suggestions).

Harvesting Initiative

LSCM harvests new U.S. Government information resources. Web archiving continues to play an increasingly important role in the efforts of LSCM to provide permanent public access to Federal Government information. Bibliographic records are being created for the collections of harvested

materials from .gov sites. Sites being harvested include, but are not limited to, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Japanese US Friendship Commission, and the Arctic Research Commission.

Historic Shelflist Project

GPO's shelflist cards are the bibliographic records of historic U.S. Government titles published between the 1870s and 1992. The shelflist catalog cards are being transcribed, and subject headings/corporate names have been added to existing shelflist records. Records are accessible through the CGP, and the publications are available in Federal depository collections throughout the country. LSCM contract staff is also transcribing bibliographic information for titles in the 1895 and 1898 *Monthly Catalog*.

Cataloging Record Distribution Project (CRDP) for customized catalog records

In October 2009, GPO contracted with MARCIVE, Inc. The contract allows participating depository libraries to use MARCIVE's existing MARC record distribution infrastructure to acquire cataloging records. In March 2012, GPO surveyed participating libraries and received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Highlighted benefits for CRDP participants include customizable output profiles, automatic updates to project selection profiles, an easy process of retrieving records, and hands-on customer service provided by MARCIVE staff. Ultimately, the CRDP allows libraries to reduce their staff's cataloging time and assists libraries in providing greater access to Federal Government information.

On October 1, 2012, GPO extended the service contract with MARCIVE, Inc. to September 30, 2013. Currently, 75 libraries participate and receive MARCIVE records. In FY14, a new feature is being offered to CRDP participants, the setting of OCLC holdings. If libraries choose to add this feature to their MARCIVE profile, they can do this beginning with records for October 2013. Information about this new option will be made available to participants shortly.

For more information on this project, visit the [Cataloging Record Distribution Program page](#) on fdlp.gov to find a full project description, a list of participating libraries, and a summary of the former pilot project.

Cooperative cataloging through a partnership with the University of Montana

LSCM has been collaborating with the Mansfield Library, University of Montana, since 2011 to add bibliographic records for historic U.S. Forest Service Publications to the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP). The library creates bibliographic records for these publications, and submits them to LSCM in batches. Cataloging and classification staff at LSCM then verifies the SuDoc class, item number, and validates subject and corporate name headings. As a result of this partnership, over 830 Forest Service records have been added to the CGP and more are added each month. To locate these records, conduct a keyword search in the CGP for "Cataloging Partner; University of Montana". Other cataloging partnership opportunities are available. Refer to the [Partnership page](#) for more information.

Training Initiative

LSCM has a community training program that focuses on topics of U.S. Government information, depository library operations and management, and Federal Depository Library Program issues. The program encompasses multiple types of training, including virtual training via webinars and other online venues, in-person training, and conferences. Through the program, GPO also provides the FDLP community access to GPO's virtual training rooms for their own training or meeting use.

For more information about the community training program, please consult the [Training and Events page](#) on fdlp.gov.

STATE FORECAST QUESTION 20 & LIBRARY FORECAST QUESTION 33

State Forecast Question 20: *Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about the current and future vision of the FDLP?*

Library Forecast Question 33: *Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about the current and future vision of the FDLP?*

The response options for both questions were:

- 1) No
- 2) Yes (Please explain)

Of the 45 State Forecast respondents to Question 20, there were 29 (64%) “Yes” responses and 16 (36%) “No” responses

Of the 802 respondents to Library Forecast Question 33, there were 238 (30%) “Yes” responses and 564 (70%) “No” responses.

Individual open-ended observations were coded with themes for all of the “Yes” responses from question 20 of the State Forecast and question 33 of the Library Forecast.

The 45 State Forecast “Yes” respondents to Question 20 provided 131 observations accumulated into 29 themes. The corresponding Library Forecast Question 33, with 238 libraries responding “Yes”, yielded 386 observations accumulated into 30 themes. The top five observation themes from these questions are ranked by frequency in Figure 5 and analyzed below.

Figure 5: Comparison of State Q20 and Library Q33 Top Ranked Themes of “Anything Else” Observations

State Forecast Q20 Rank	Library Forecast Q33 Rank	Theme	State Forecast Q20		Library Forecast Q33	
			Freq	%	Freq	%
3	1	Discovery & Access	10	8%	38	10%
10	2	Digital Collections	6	5%	36	9%
6	3	Tangible Collection	7	5%	28	7%
6	4	Title 44 USC	7	5%	31	8%
2	5	Affiliations	11	8%	27	7%
5	6	Preservation	8	6%	26	7%
1	12	FDLP Regulations	12	9%	12	3%
4	19	Outside of Current GPO Parameters	9	7%	8	2%

DISCOVERY & ACCESS

State forecast frequency: 10 (8%)

Library forecast frequency: 38 (10%)

“In the past, depository libraries have been crucial to GPO fulfilling its mission. In the modern information environment, though, GPO has the opportunity to reach increasing numbers of potential users directly.”

“We cannot expect our users to come to us in person or even virtually; rather, we need to find ways to serve their needs for information or support them in this new and ever changing environment.”

“I believe that the FDLP can continue to serve a vital role in this democracy, provided it focuses on the means to maximize effective access to digital information and improve tools and procedures to help FDLP librarians efficiently identify, access, and manage digital resources while coping with inadequate and shrinking budgets and limited staff.”

Centralized portal for searching for Federal government resources

Libraries expressed a need for a centralized resource for Government information.

“I like the idea of having one database of government information, searchable by keyword, where all data is accessible to all. Placing some information in our electronic catalogs seems to be limiting access rather than expanding access” and “We need to have a primary site that becomes a known, used site for Gov information” are representative of the comments.

Educating the public about the FDLP and Federal government resources

One state emphasized the need to educate users that information is available and how to use it.

“The mission of the Federal Depository Library Program, to ensure that the American public has access to its Government’s information, remains as vital as ever for the present and the future. Beyond the administrative and technical sides of this endeavor is the necessity to educate patrons and other individuals about what information is available and how to use it so that they may improve themselves and the nation and the world around them.”

Catalog digital content and distribute records to libraries

One state requested that catalog records be given to both depository and non-depository libraries.

“Allowing non-depository libraries to add records for electronic publications to their catalogs. This can be facilitated by making it easier for non-depository libraries to learn about specific items that would be beneficial to their users.”

Similar concerns between libraries and states related to discovery and access

Both libraries and states indicated their concern about the:

- Commercialization of Federal government resources
- Need for free and public access, which GPO should advise Federal agencies about the continued need for
- Stability of online resources and PURLs
- Improving the user interface of FDsys and other online resources. *“GPO should promote FDsys and also work with agencies that produce significant digital access tools, and resources, such as*

American Fact Finder, to ensure that these are user-friendly and comprehensible to average users”

- Authentication of online content. One state indicated a need for continued tangible publications until the online equivalents can be archived and authenticated. *“Until electronic information can be preserved for 100 years and authenticated, the tangible version will remain an important part of permanent public access to government information.”* One library stated that they wanted print resources for primary resource materials.

Reformat material as needed

Both states and libraries indicate they wanted GPO to migrate information to a more suitable format.

- *“CD-ROM-based databases such as the FERC archive should be recompiled as online databases.”*
- *“[e]xpand access to updated and historical authenticated government documents in pdf; and, reformat/digitize microfiche”*

One library stated that GPO should improve how GPO updates the community on the numerous initiatives intended to improve services and collections.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

State forecast frequency: 6 (5%)

Library forecast frequency: 36 (9%)

Leadership for the development of digital collections

Both libraries and states want GPO to lead in the provision of digital access and preservation *“We would like to see GPO take a major leadership role in digital content access and preservation.”* Yet not all are able, in turn, to provide both digital access and preservation. One state requested that GPO, *“Separate the responsibility for the preservation of print material from that of access to print and digital material.”*

Cooperative efforts to get digitization done

A library and a state both indicated that GPO would need to partner with other libraries and commercial vendors to get digitization done. One library stated, *“The program needs grant money and strong(er) partnerships to do the digitizing.”*

FDsys interface and usability

States requested that GPO improve the FDsys interface. *“GPO should promote FDsys and also work with agencies that produce significant digital access tools, and resources, such as American Fact Finder, to ensure that these are user-friendly and comprehensible to average users”*

Both states and libraries also expressed concern about the future funding of FDsys. *“Additionally, it must ensure that the future vision for tangible and digital government information (especially FDsys) includes a realistic view of the ever-changing factors and provisions that will be necessary to secure future funding for the FDLP.”*

Management of a digital collection

One library noted the difficulty in managing online collection. *“The online collection is fantastic for wide access, but unwieldy to manage as a collection.”* And, *“Regular weeding, even for e-resources, is*

important to maintain the quality and usability of our overall collections. Perhaps GPO can offer leadership in this area.”

In general

States indicated a need for authentication of digital content and cataloging for digitized material. One library stated a need for the continuation of print as well as digital content.

TANGIBLE COLLECTION

State forecast frequency: 7 (5%)

Library forecast frequency: 28 (7%)

Of the seven state forecast Tangible Collection responses, one state conveyed a moderate stance for digital and tangible collections, “Strike an effective balance between current & legacy and online & tangible documents.”

De-emphasizing tangible collections and distribution in favor of services and access to online or digital content was mentioned by one state, and another state made a similar comment, though it was specific to reformatting/digitizing microfiche. Also related to de-emphasizing tangible collections is this statement from one state, “There is less of a need for many duplicate collections of physical material.”

The need to continue geographically dispersed tangible distribution of Government titles, particularly “essential publications”, was expressed by one state. Other comments related to the preservation comprehensive/historical tangible collections:

- Reduce the burden on Regionals to maintain extensive collections of print documents in perpetuity.
- Entire FDLP community involved in housing portions of historic collections – spread responsibility for tangible collections more evenly.
- Energy should be devoted to developing and preserving the comprehensive collections.

Finally, a suggestion relating to tangible collections and possible future models for the FDLP was made by one state, “any migration to a new program model should try to account for the orderly transition (including redistribution) of tangible collections so that valuable materials are not lost/wasted”.

Of the twenty-eight library forecast Tangible Collection responses, seven (25%) indicated a need for or the importance of tangible collections. Of the nine, two conveyed the need for tangible versions of the Essential Titles, one conveyed the need for tangible versions of legal materials, and one conveyed the need for Print on Demand services.

Eight (29%) libraries asserted a preference for digital content or collections with statements like, “If I had digital access, I could reduce the tangible footprint of my collection while improving patron service dramatically.” Two of the eight represent a desire to eliminate microfiche in favor of converting their content to digital files. Four libraries indicated the need for both tangible and digital collections.

The need for more flexibility in regard to weeding collections was conveyed by nine (32%) libraries, with one library (a regional) expressing frustration when trying to responsibly apply good collection management practices to print collections, “It is frustrating sometimes that when reviewing our print

collections, we have to pull government documents off to the side and not consider them along with the other collections.”

Three libraries imparted their view of the future of the FDLP as one where there is less of a need for many large tangible collections of Government resources; fewer depository libraries need to retain comprehensive or retrospective collections. The focus of the FDLP transforms to a service-oriented Program from a collection-oriented Program.

There is much overlap between the responses with the Digital Collections theme and the Tangible Collection theme and between the state forecast and library forecast responses.

AFFILIATIONS

State forecast frequency: 11 (8%)

Library forecast frequency: 27 (7%)

“FDLP should recognize the value of this collaborative approach that will ultimately benefit all depository libraries.”

Some states and libraries took the opportunity in question 33 to outline the goals and activities of the affiliations they work with. Some indicated they were willing to explore existing affiliations or networks and participate in them (e.g. LOCKSS).

“The ASERL model for Centers of Excellence attempts to build and preserve comprehensive collections of the publications of various agencies. While not every Center of Excellence currently digitizes their material, this is the ultimate goal.”

Use affiliations to create government information literacy efforts and develop curriculum

One state requested that GPO work with affiliations to create government information literacy standards and teaching curriculum. *“GPO may lead this effort or initiate a conversation with ALA and/or ALA/ACRL, GODORT, PLA and AASL, to research, establish and test national government information literacy standards for diverse levels of users. This could be combined with civic literacy efforts as well. GPO could partner with ALA and other organizations to develop curriculum materials.”*

GPO should work with innovative solutions developed in affiliations

Representative comments include:

- *“GPO should support or adopt improved or innovative systems developed within FDLP libraries or consortia, e.g., the ASERL Disposition Database.”*
- *“GPO might partner with others (see, for example, the Help! I’m an Accidental Government Information Librarian series by the North Carolina Library Associations Government Resources Section) or develop content/tools in-house (the recent revision of Bens Guide might provide insights for success).”*
- *“Since 2007, four Oregon FDLs have collaborated to create a successful model for a shared FDLP Regional Collection. We believe that this model was a good interim approach to*

addressing the burden single libraries often cite in maintaining Regional collections at the state level.”

- *“Work with the Canadian depository library system and other depository systems to develop and follow best practices for distributing government publications in the digital environment.”*
- *“The FDLP needs to be flexible enough to leverage the shared services models being articulated in public higher education. For example, hosting and creating digital government information may be better stewarded at the consortial, rather than the institutional level.”*

PRESERVATION

State forecast frequency: 8 (6%)

Library forecast frequency: 26 (7%)

Of the eight state forecast responses with the Preservation theme that includes permanent public access, four (50%) recognized the importance of preservation and the need for it to be included in any future model for the FDLP. Two specifically mention permanent access as essential for the future success of the FDLP and that should be a central aspect of Title 44 revision.

Other preservation comments from states include reliance on GPO. One stated outright that Federal depository libraries rely on GPO to ensure the permanent preservation of documents and another state wants GPO to “take a major leadership role in digital content access and preservation.”

Two suggestions were offered:

- Separate the responsibility for the preservation of print material from that of access to print and digital material. There needs to be two preservation sets of federal documents managed by NARA and the national libraries and managed by depository libraries.
- The FDLP should recognize the value of The ASERL Centers of Excellence collaborative model approach to build and preserve collections of Federal agency publications. It should serve as a model for the development of preservation collections as well as enhancing access to these collections via cataloging and digitization – a benefit to all depository libraries.

Of the twenty-six library forecast responses with the Preservation theme, ten (38%) recognized the importance of preservation and the need for it to be included in any future model for the FDLP. One observation expresses preservation responsibility rests with GPO, and an additional two observations place preservation of digital content with GPO. One library asserts that control of Government information must be in the hands of libraries for it is “only if we have control of digital government information can we ensure that the community can preserve it.”

Specific approaches to preservation found in the observations include:

- Partnerships or collaborative arrangements (7)
- LOCKSS (4)
- Collection of Last Resort (2)

- Mirror site (1)

The two suggestions originating from state forecast responses, and listed above, also were found in the library forecast responses. Suggestions unique to library forecast are:

- Establish a National Library of Government Publications, on par with other national libraries.
- Evaluate preservation and hosting priorities of federal information in light of other collections currently being hosted and preserved.

Concerns expressed by two libraries are:

- “The ongoing conversation has been mostly among the big players, those who will help to digitize and preserve. The role of smaller institutions, which were primarily about access in a print-based world, is less clear and I think our voices are also often left out.”
- “The potential that not enough libraries will digitize older government documents and make them freely available, thus limiting digital access to older government documents, and the related possibility that commercial companies may become the primary digitizers of older government documents and only make them available at prices that are so high that the prices become barriers to access.”

FDLP REGULATIONS

State forecast frequency: 12 (9%)

Library forecast frequency: 12 (3%)

TITLE 44 USC

State forecast frequency: 7 (5%)

Library forecast frequency: 31 (8%)

FDLP Regulations and Title 44 USC observations were coded based on the information supplied by the observation. If legal changes were referenced, then the observation was coded with a Title 44 USC theme. If nothing specific was referenced, it was coded as FDLP Regulations.

However there is much crossover between legal and regulatory changes. As such, the two themes are being reviewed together for the purpose of this analysis.

Change the name of the program

“The word depository remains problematic. FDLP should either distribute digital content to depository libraries or drop the word from its name.”

Weeding/Retention Requirements

Both libraries and states wanted a review of the retention requirements.

“Can the 5 year retention requirements be eliminated? Can the Regional approval requirement for discards be eliminated?” “Reevaluate the requirements for withdrawal of material and the management procedures for documents collections.”

“GPO may want to explore alternative models, similar to the Patents and Trademark depositories’ evolution to all electronic Patent and Trademark Resource Centers.”

In particular, a regional library stated that, *“retention restrictions--they are anachronistic and burdensome rules”*

Legacy collection/light and dark archive

“For a while GPO had plans to create a national collection of last resort with a dark archive and a light archive. I think that idea still has merit. It does seem like there should be a National Library of Government Publications to go along with the other national libraries.”

Clarify and simplify rules and regulations

There is a desire within the community to simplify the Program regulations and guidance, as seen in the following comments:

- *“Have rules and guideline that make it easy and attractive for such depositories to remain.”*
- *“Considerable confusion has been caused by continued reinterpretation of FDLP guidelines and T. 44 language by various GPO administrators.”*
- One library requested that GPO simplify requirements and communicate any changes with the community.
- *“Work with the Canadian depository library system and other depository systems to develop and follow best practices for distributing government publications in the digital environment.”*

Flexibility

“I want a Title 44 that is flexible enough to meet the needs of smaller libraries and also strong enough to protect the comprehensive research collections.”

One state and library requested flexibility in the law so the FDLP can adapt quickly as needed.

“Modification to Title 44 USC to allow the Public Printer and the Superintendent of Documents to modify the Federal Depository Program as needed and when needed to take advantage of emerging technologies, reduce participating library burdens, and allow for more flexible arrangements among libraries within the program.”

“The structure of the program needs to change because it does not allow for innovation & collaboration between libraries.”

One library specifically requested flexibility in the processing of publications. *“We would like more flexibility with processing the tangible materials. Specifically, we would like the freedom to track and process these items with the same workflows as our other materials and not be burdened with the unique and rigid FDLP processing requirements.”*

Explore other depository models

Both a library and a state requested that GPO review other successful depository models as possible

sources of inspiration. *“GPO may want to explore alternative models, similar to the Patents and Trademark’s depositories evolution to all electronic Patent and Trademark Resource Centers.”*

“Perhaps create larger regions and fewer regional libraries but fund them like the NLM does.”

OUTSIDE OF CURRENT GPO PARAMETERS

State forecast frequencies: 9 (7%)

Library forecast frequencies: 8 (2%)

See OUTSIDE OF CURRENT GPO PARAMETERS below.

GPO ACTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN

Educating the public

GPO has launched a new marketing campaign. For more information see the following: [Promotion page](#) on fdlp.gov, the [marketing presentation](#) from 10/17/2012 during the fall 2012 Depository Library Council Meeting and Federal Depository Library Conference, and webinars on [promoting your depository and the FDLP](#).

GPO advocacy for free public access with Federal agencies

Acquisitions staff in LSCM has incorporated information on permanent public access in their day-to-day outreach with Federal agencies. As information dissemination has moved more online, LSCM Acquisitions staff have placed a greater emphasis on outreach to agencies. They do this to prevent fugitives; as well as educate the agencies on the need for awareness of their content (cataloging) and the long-term importance of public access.

Stability of PURLs

In order to ensure high availability and redundancy of PURLs, GPO migrated from the original OCLC PURL Resolver Software to the PURLZ Resolver Software. Included with the migration is the implementation of an improved hosting solution that provides higher availability for the PURL application. Previously, (ro)bot traffic severely hindered the performance of the PURL application and prevented GPO staff from being able to access the system and add/modify PURLs. Under the new hosted solution, the public's and GPO's access is ensured while still allowing access to traffic, which mostly consisted of link validators.

There was much duplication in identifying “Actions Already Taken” for observations found in state questions 19 and 20 and library questions 32 and 33. ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN for state question 19 and library question 32 also apply to the following for state question 20 and library question 33:

- Centralized portal
- Distribute catalog records to libraries
- Commercialization of FDLP resources
- Stability of FDsys
- Authentication

ACTIONS IN DEVELOPMENT

Reformatting of material

GPO is currently investigating the continued distribution of microfiche. GPO has formed partnerships with other libraries to ensure continued access to content found on obsolete formats, e.g. floppy diskette partnership. See the [Partnership page](#) for more information about FDLP Partnerships.

GPO leadership in digitization and preservation initiatives, even if in cooperative efforts

See ACTIONS IN DEVELOPMENT for state question 19 and library question 32, above.

Improve FDsys interface functionality and funding

The GPO Revolving Fund receives appropriated funds for specific technology investment and facility improvements. For FY 2015, GPO is requesting \$11.3 million. The request includes funding for the continued development of GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) to support increased online access to congressional and Federal agency information as well as other digital information technology improvements.

Legal/regulatory review:

The following were offered as actions to consider when undertaking a legal and regulatory review of the FDLP:

- Retention requirements
- Explore Light archive/dark archive/legacy collection
- Explore other depository models
- Write law broad so program can quickly change as needed
- Clarify rules and regulations

OUTSIDE CURRENT GPO PARAMETERS

State Forecast Questions 18-20 and Library Forecast Questions 30-33 all had observations that are "Outside of Current GPO Parameters." This means the ideas or suggestions provided are beyond the purview of GPO's statutory authority. Only in State Forecast Question 20 did observations with this theme rank within the top five frequencies.

Examples of recurring observations falling into this theme are:

- "Provide grants to libraries to participate in digitization initiatives"
- "Continue printing the Statistical Abstract"
- "Standardize, as much as possible across the board, software programs"
- "Develop guidelines for a certain amount of consistency with agency Web sites"
- "Avoid distributing formats that are likely to become obsolete"
- "Please do not be swayed by the people talking about privatizing the information you provide to the public"
- "I wish that more care was given and an opportunity for input when choosing to discontinue information access to a resource like the Statistical Abstract"
- "Provide more access to NTIS"

- “[Provide] funding to offset costs of hardware and software to service patrons with special accessibility needs”

CONCLUSIONS

The responses to the “ideal FDLP” questions in the Library and State Forecast Questionnaires confirm that the FDLP community has a need for more efficient services from GPO as well as for program changes. Topics related to more efficient services include revisions to the methods used for resource selection, timelier cataloging, and better quality control. The community also desires simplified tools for processing materials, both at the time of receipt and for the disposition of materials no longer needed in their libraries.

Respondents indicated a need for program changes to allow more flexibility in the requirements placed upon them. This included fewer restrictions in retention policies, as well as allowing regional depositories to substitute electronic for tangible resources. While there was not a question on either the state or library forecast questionnaire that directly asked respondents to provide an appropriate number of regional depositories for the FDLP in the digital age, it can be inferred from responses to the open-ended questions that maintaining 50 regional collections is no longer necessary in today’s or tomorrow’s library environment. Relative responses not only cut across questions, they cut across several themes:

- Affiliations.
- Digital Collections.
- New Services.
- Program Regulations.
- Regional/Sub-regional.
- Retention and Substitution.
- Tangible Collection.
- Title 44.

Representative comments from Question 31 that support this view include:

- “There is less of a need for many duplicate collections of physical material.”
- “Digitally focused program with selected regional multi-state repositories.”
- “Consider building on the successes of shared/multi-state regional arrangements to identify the types of services that might be most efficiently handled at the multi-state level, or in clusters not necessarily based on state boundaries.”
- “I believe there are opportunities to create a network of comprehensive collections that can achieve this goal without every single depository library having to replicate similar and duplicative collections”
- “Greater flexibility in shared depository collections and arrangements”

A smaller number of regional collections spread across state boundaries can meet the needs of the FDLP. To enable this, legal or regulatory changes may be required.

The responses to the question, “Thinking about the next five years, what specific things would you like GPO to do to help FDLP libraries in your state improve public access to Federal Government information?” confirm that digital content is seen as a vital access point to Government information for the public, provided the content is discoverable in a user-friendly interface. Libraries have high expectations that GPO will coordinate and lead other Federal agencies in promoting full access to their content via the Internet, through continued tangible distribution through the FDLP, and through the GPO notification of new content for public consumption.

Though libraries and states have found leadership opportunities with digitizing collections of local interest, depository libraries also have high expectations that GPO will lead and coordinate the digitization of the existing FDLP collections spread across the nation, and provide future digital preservation of that content through forward thinking digital preservation practices. There is concern in the community about GPO’s ability to ensure the future success of digital content, both for content held within FDSys and linked to through the use of PURLs.

Responses also indicate that GPO should train FDLP partners on Government information. They envisioned having access to numerous types of training resources and a wide array of training opportunities. While many want GPO to conduct training, this was also an area where libraries and states identified leadership opportunities for themselves.

While the centralization of Federal Government resources would aid discovery of content through a single search portal, most still want GPO to provide high quality cataloging for the benefit of libraries to plug into their own local catalogs, effectively creating local discovery.

These responses provide GPO with an indication of areas where the library community is in need of assistance, and where libraries and states have taken on new roles and identified and leadership opportunities for themselves. They will play a role in the development of the National Plan for the Future of the FDLP.