

# Government Information Access for All: A National Plan



Bridging the Spectrum Symposium  
The Catholic University of America

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# Cornerstone of Democracy

*"Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government; ... whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied on to set them to rights."*

*Thomas Jefferson --1789*

*"A popular government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or, perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."*

*James Madison -- 1822*

# The New GPO

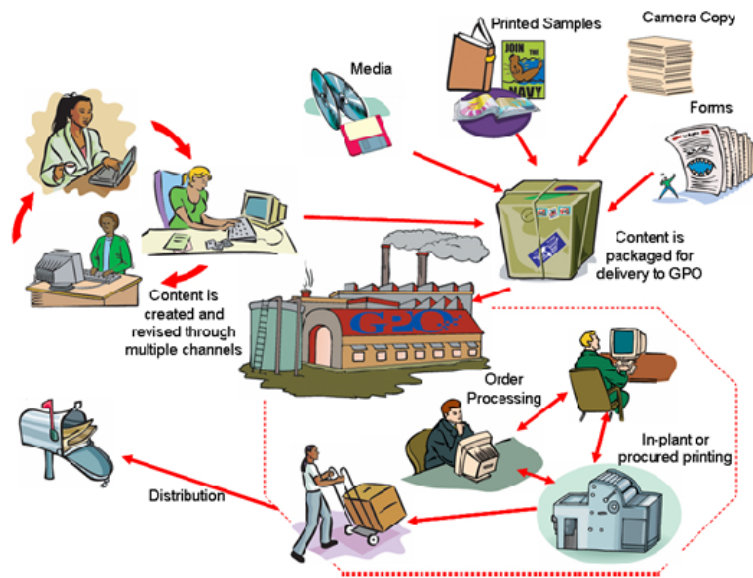
**GPO** is **NOW** the  
**U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE**

*"The name Government Publishing Office  
better reflects the services that GPO currently  
provides and will provide in the future..."*

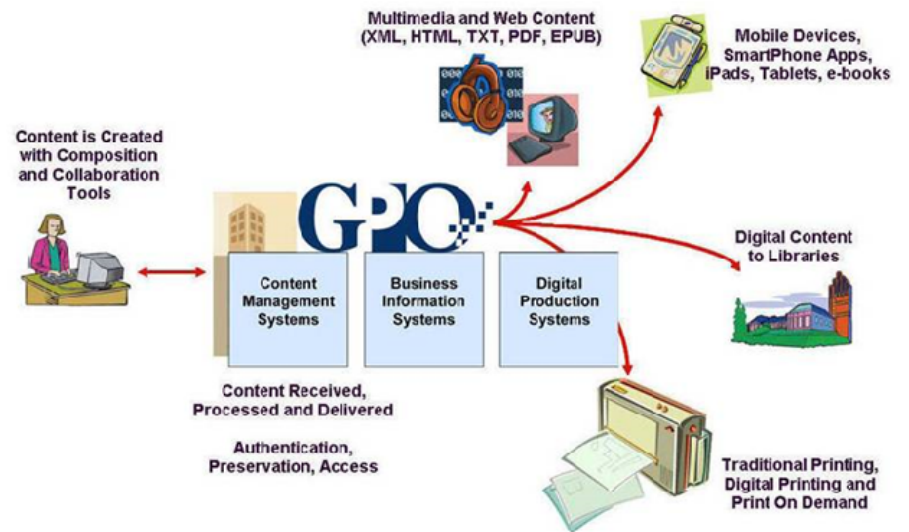
*—Davita Vance-Cooks, Director*

# Official | Digital | Secure

## Print-Centric Model



## Content-Centric Model



# GPO's Mission and Vision

## Vision

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“where we are going”

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Continue to transform ourselves into a digital information platform and provider of secure credentials

## Mission

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“what we do”

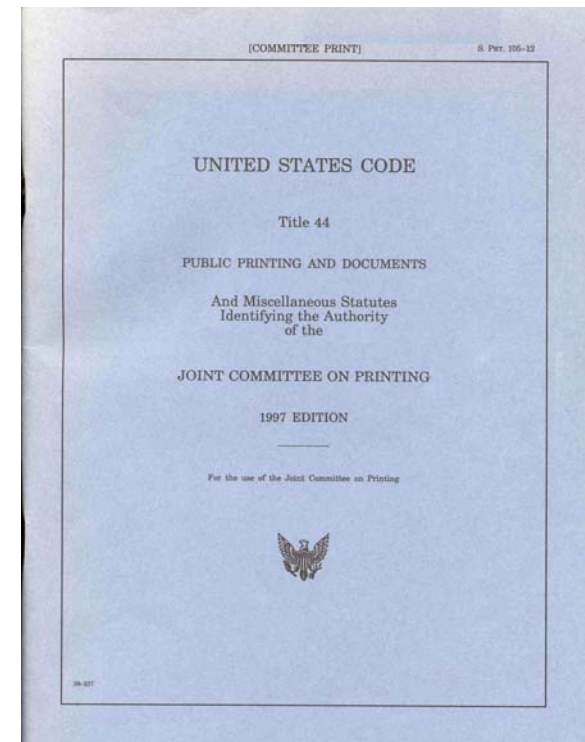
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*Keeping America Informed*  
Produce, protect, preserve, and distribute the official publications and information products of the Federal Government

# The Legal Authority

Title 44 of the United States Code contains the laws pertaining to GPO's information dissemination programs, including:

- Federal Depository Library Program – Chapter 19
- Cataloging and Indexing Program (*Catalog of U. S. Government Publications*) – Chapter 17
- Access to Federal Electronic Information (*FDsys*) – Chapter 41

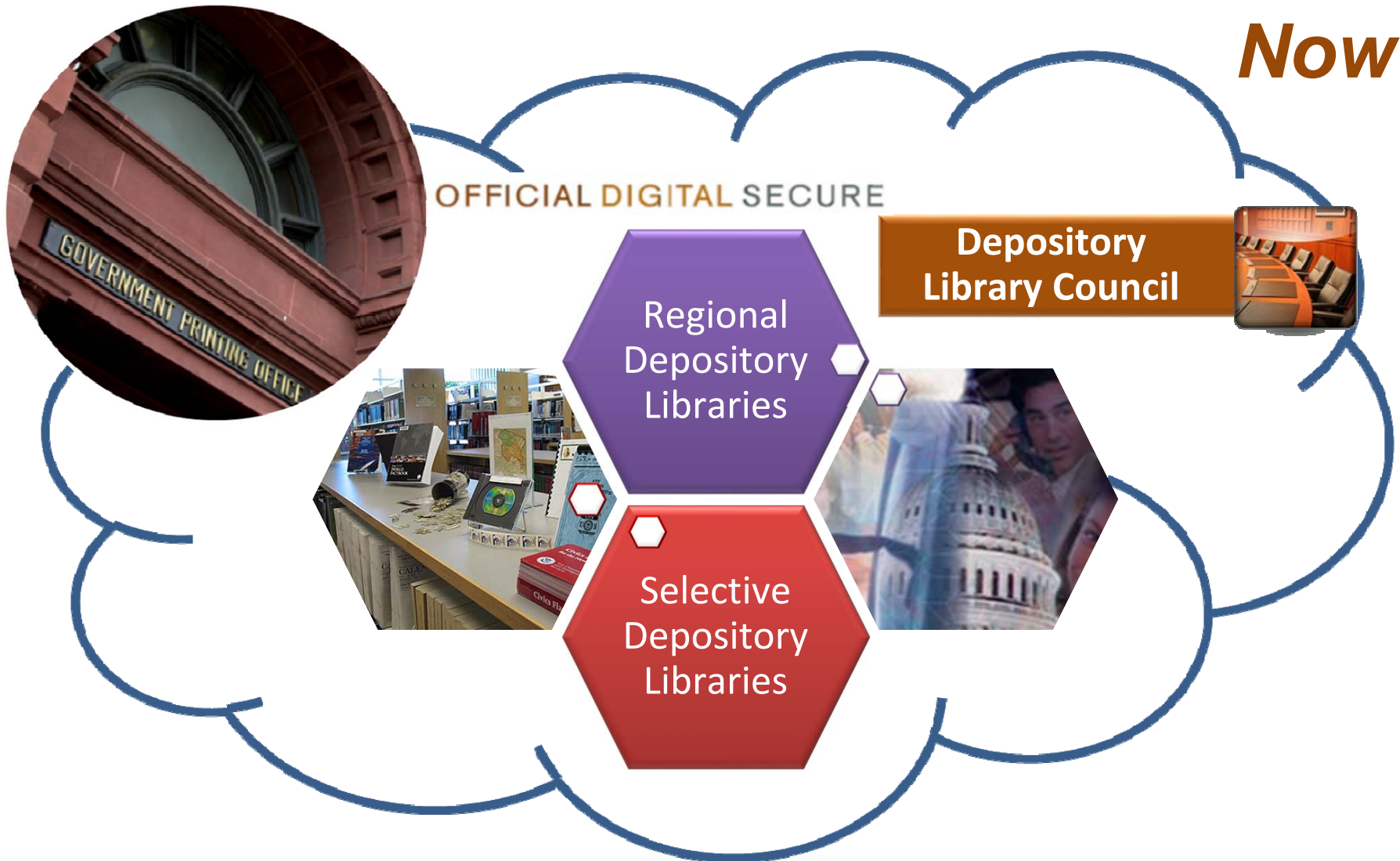


# Principles of Government Information

- The public has the right of access to Government information
- Government has the obligation to disseminate and provide broad public access to its information
- Government has an obligation to guarantee the authenticity and integrity of its information
- Government has an obligation to preserve its information
- Government information created or compiled by Government employees or at Government expense should remain in the public domain

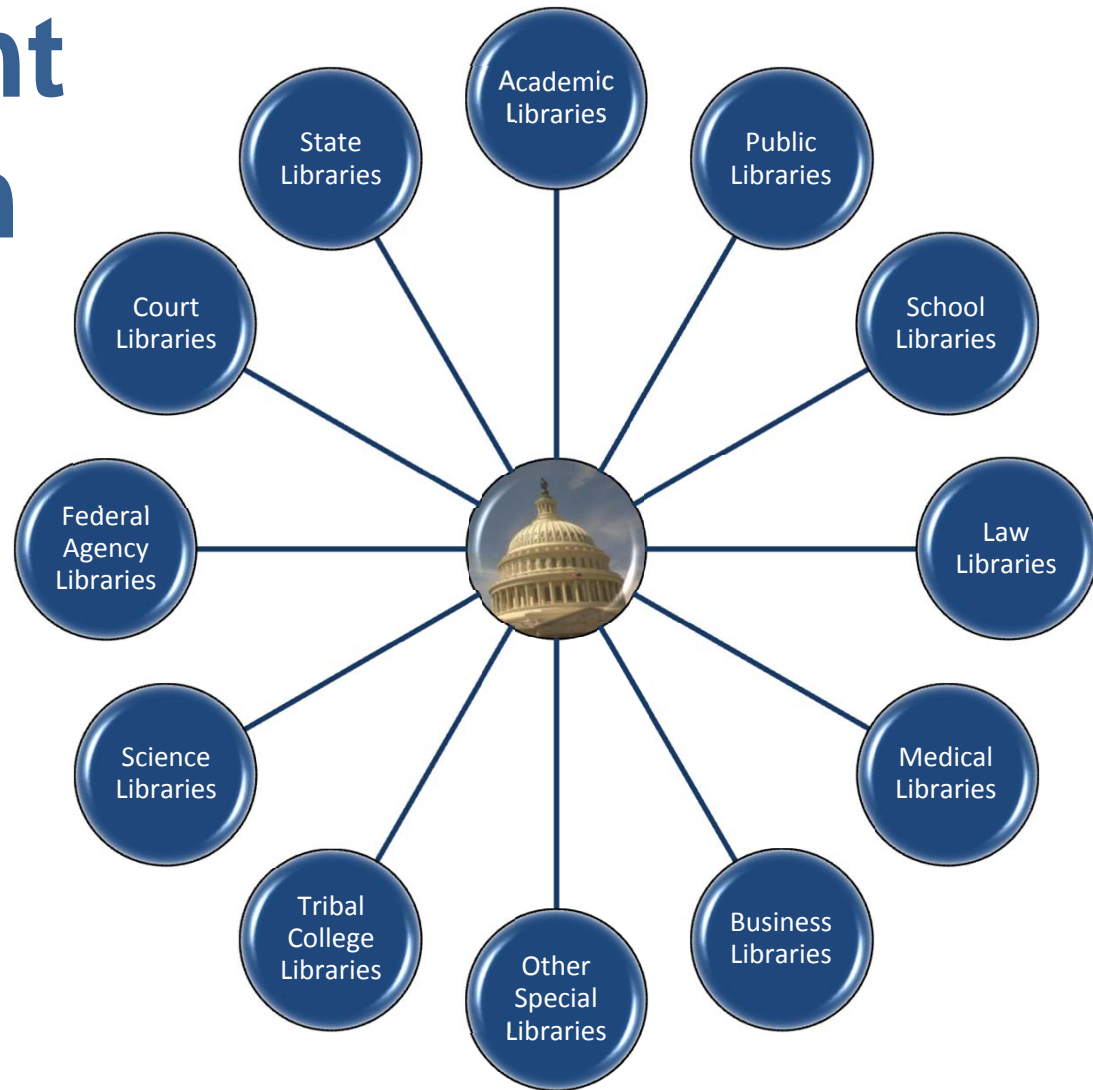
# Federal Depository Library Program

**Now**

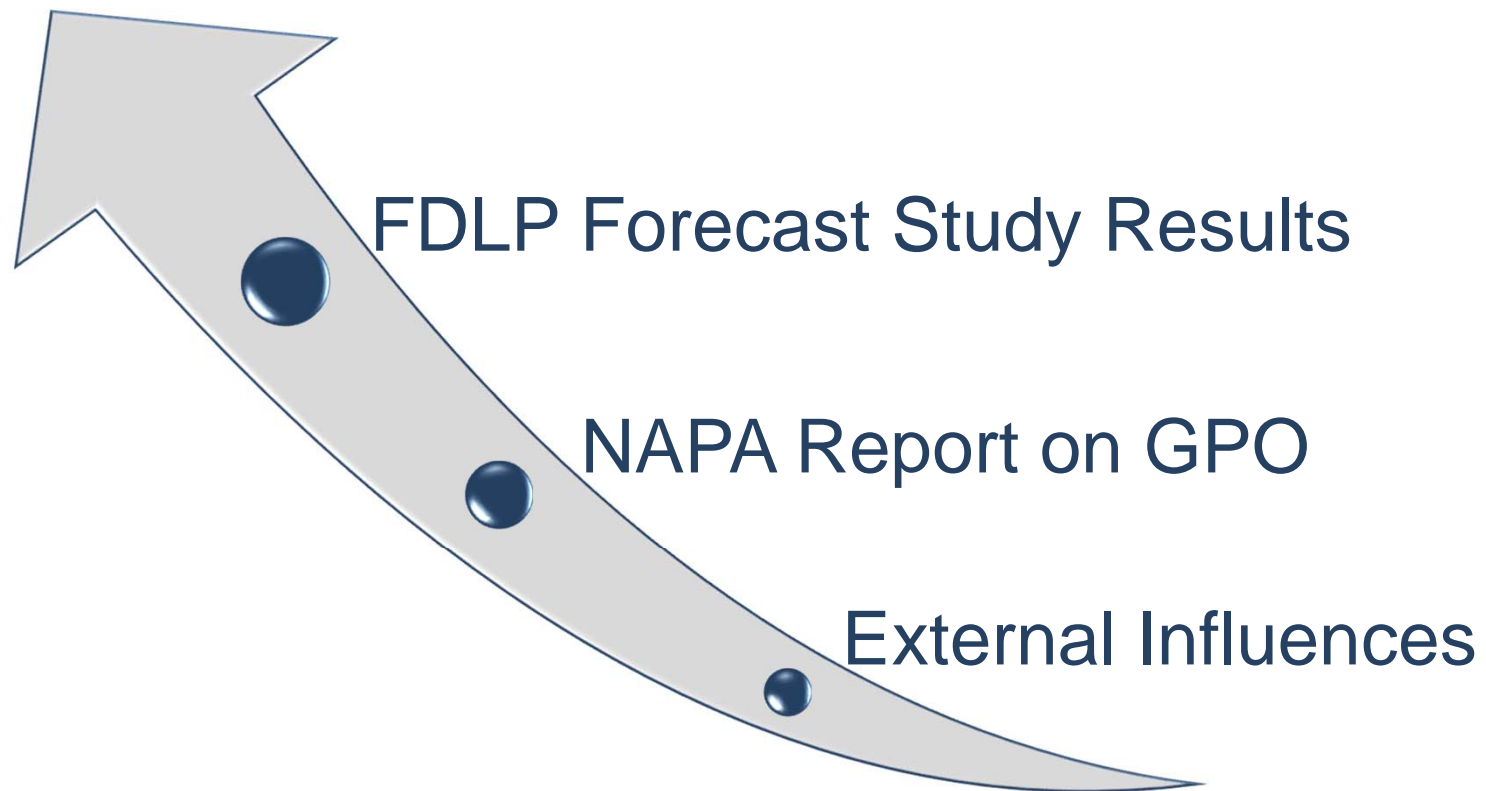




# Government Information Spans All Types of Libraries



# National Plan for Access to U.S. Government Information



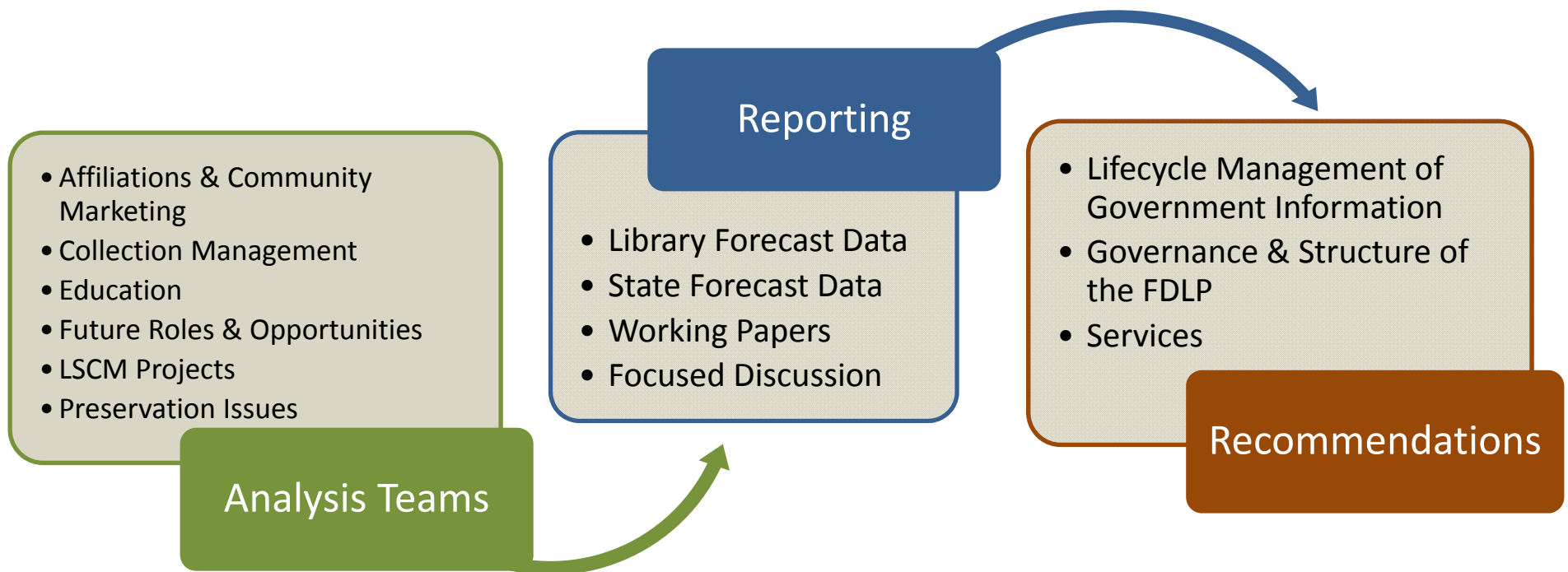
# Forecast Data Provided ...

- Representation from all states and territories
- A library forecast confidence rating of 95%, with a margin of error of + or – 2%
- A state forecast confidence rating of 95%, with a margin of error of + or – 5.5%
- Solid foundation for any inferences made from responses

# Forecast Findings

- Increase access to online Government information.
- Provide improved and easy to use tools/services for discovery and findability of Government information.
- Digitize of the historical collection of Government publications or coordinate a national digitization effort to do so.
- Deliver more and enhanced cataloging
- 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.

# Analysis to Recommendations



NOTE: All the data reports, working papers, SFAPs, and the methodology are on the FDLP Forecast Study Web page.

# National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) Report



*“In the digital age, GPO’s core mission of authenticating, preserving, and distributing federal information remains critically important to American democracy.”*

# NAPA Recommendation #3

To safeguard the historical documents of our democracy for future generations, GPO should work with depository libraries and other library groups to develop a comprehensive plan for preserving the print collection of government documents. This plan should include cataloging, digitizing, and preserving tangible copies of government publications, a timeline for completion, and options for supporting the effort financially, as well as a process for ingesting digitized copies into the Federal Digital System. Congress should appropriate funds for the purpose of cataloging, digitizing, and preserving the government collection.

# External Influences

- Technological change and innovation
- Changing business model of libraries – Focus moving away from collections to providing access and services that facilitate access
- Federal agencies publishing increasingly online
- Information seeking behavior in the digital age
- Need for changes in LSCM and the FDLP in order to remain relevant in the digital age



# National Plan: A Vision

*To provide Government  
information when and  
where it is needed*

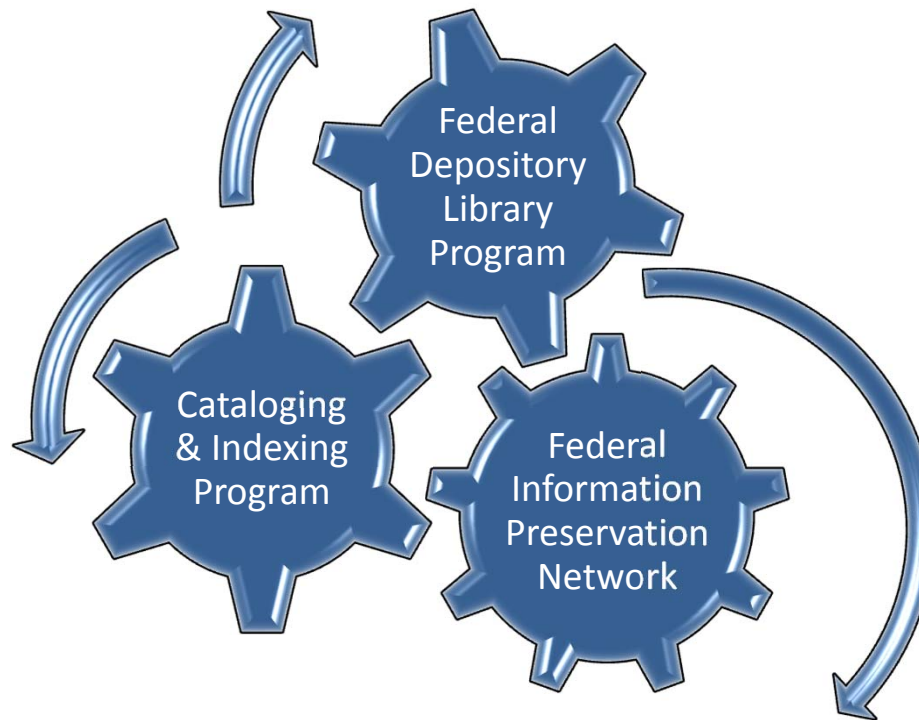
# National Plan: The Mission

*To provide readily discoverable  
and free public access to Federal  
Government information, now  
and for future generations*

# National Plan: Strategic Priorities

- 1 Establish processes and procedures that apply life cycle management best practices
- 2 Develop a governance process and a sustainable network structure for the FDLP
- 3 Deliver new dynamic, innovative, strategic services and mechanisms to support FDL needs

# Components of The National Plan



# Federal Depository Library Program

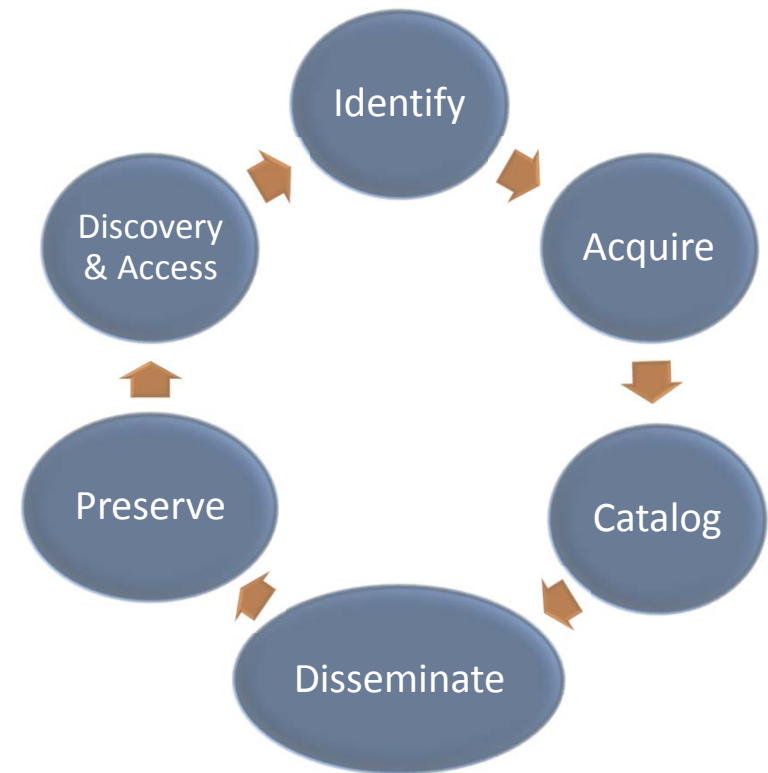
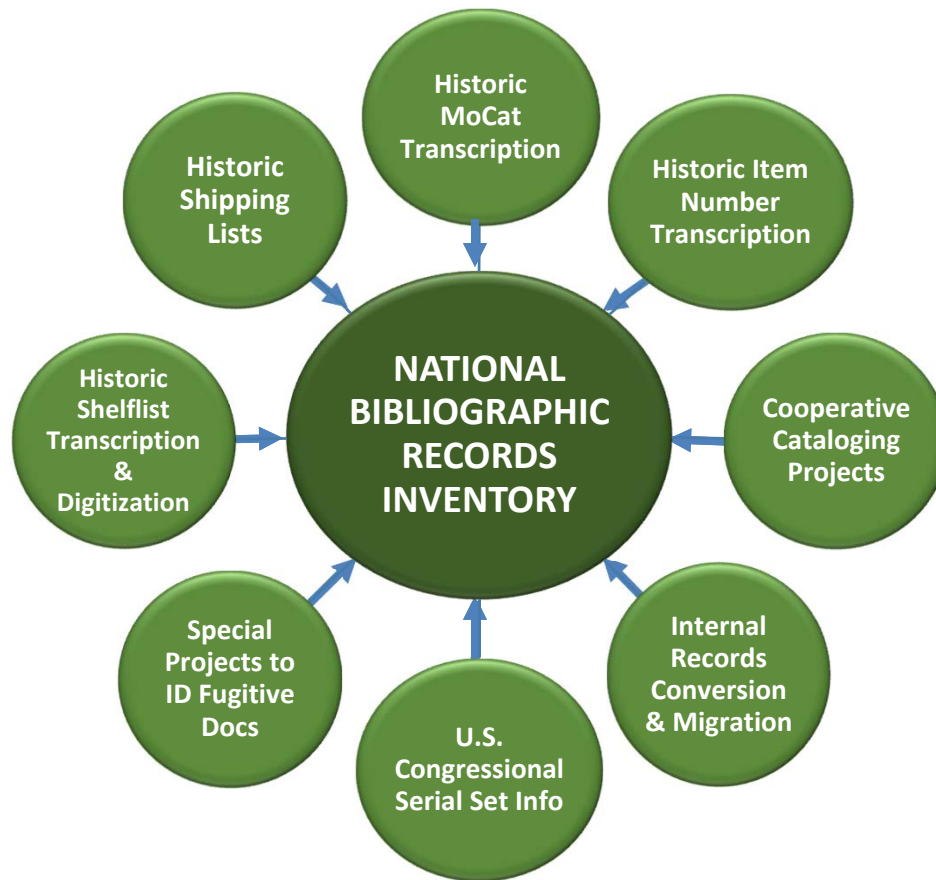
*Provide free public access to Federal Government information*

Depository  
Library Council



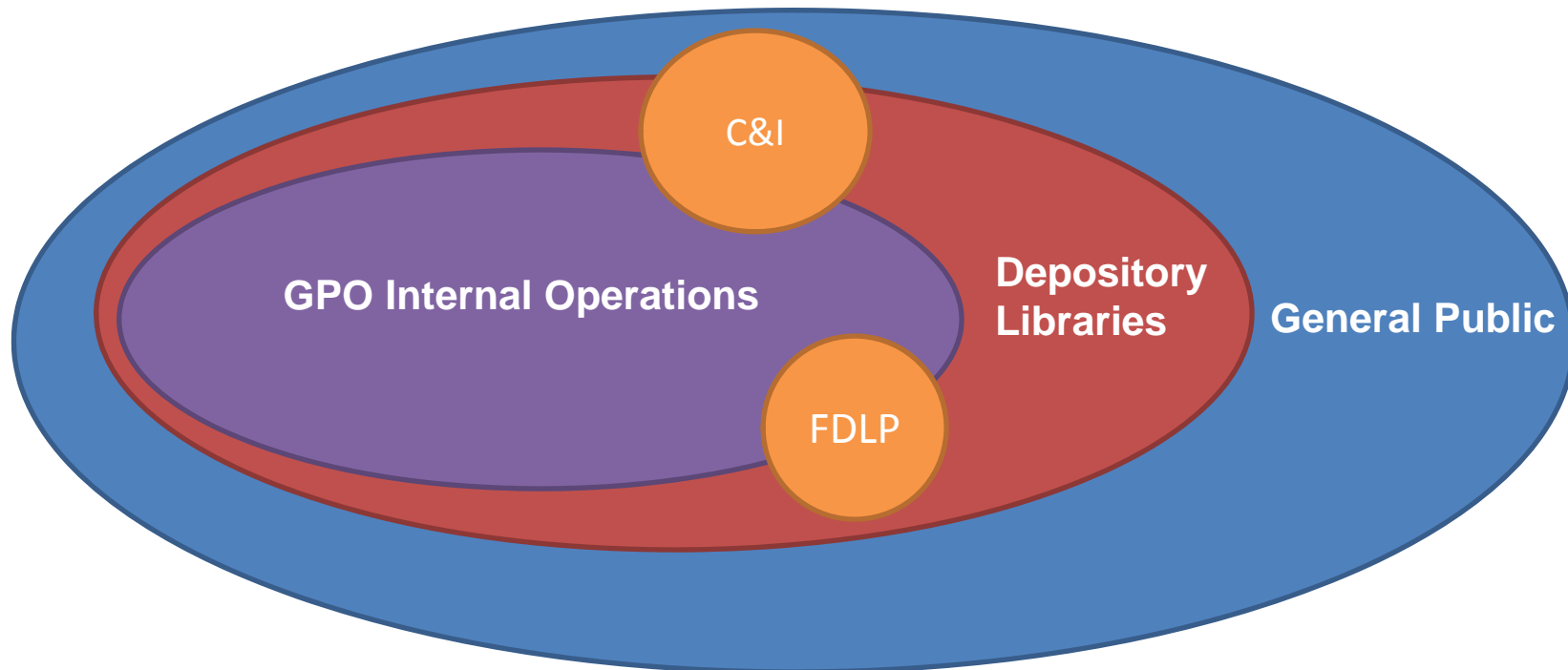
# Cataloging & Indexing Program

*Creating a sustainable future for the American public's discovery and access to U.S. Government information*



# Technology Plan

Design and implement an integrated/flexible Library Services System (LSS) to support federally mandated programs



# National Collection of U.S. Government Information

The corpus of Federal Government information products, regardless of format or medium, that date from 1789 to the present.

Materials that are classified for reasons of national security, or that have privacy concerns, are not included within scope until such time as they are declassified or privacy considerations expire.



# Federal Information Preservation Network

*To ensure Government information access for future generations*

## Partners

- Potential
- Federal Depository Libraries
  - National Libraries
  - Library of Congress
  - Federal Agencies
  - Library Consortia
  - Associations
  - Public Sector
  - Private Sector
  - Other Stakeholders



## Partner Roles

- Cataloging
- Digitizing
- Harvesting
- Hosting
- Preserving
- Storing
- Assessing Collection Condition

# Questions? Comments? Or, if you think of something later...

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