

# Depository Library Council

*Advisory body to the Director of the U.S. Government Publishing Office*

TO: Susanne Caro, Chair, Depository Library Council  
FROM: Angela Bonnell, Chair, Collection and Discovery Services Subcommittee  
SUBJECT: Survey Findings Report and Recommendations  
DATE: October 18, 2024

AB

As chair of the Collection and Discovery Services Subcommittee, I respectfully submit the Subcommittee's report from the survey on Managing FDLP Digital Publications in Library Catalogs.

The Depository Library Council's Collection and Discovery Services Subcommittee is (CDSS) charged to assist in coordinating the thoughts, research, plans, and efforts related to cataloging and metadata and expanding and enhancing discovery and access services that GPO provides to the depository community and stakeholders; and to engage the depository community in these processes.

In accordance with its charge, CDSS conducted a survey to better understand library practices, needs, and underlying issues related to managing catalog records and discovery of digital Federal Depository Library Program publications. The goal was to determine what actions or solutions could be undertaken or implemented to help depository librarians with digital collection development and management.

The survey launched March 14, 2024, and remained open until April 8, 2024. We received 176 responses from 165 distinct Federal depository libraries. Upon examination of the data and contemplation of the findings, CDSS included the following three recommendations in its report for Council's consideration to transmit to the Director of the Government Publishing office:

1. Create an online community for those who work with government information to engage in ongoing discussions regarding the collection development, integrated library systems (ILS), consortia, discovery layers, access, and other related issues related to the digital-first FDLP.
2. Develop and solicit from the greater community additional resources and training materials on selected topics highlighted in the survey, such as PURL tracking, GitHub, and uploading records in consortial/shared catalog settings.
  - o Explore different types of guidance and training opportunities and expand outreach to highlight existing training materials.

- Create and broadly disseminate a chart highlighting choices and methods for obtaining digital records.
  - Encourage coordinators to share learning opportunities with general cataloging staff in their libraries, given that a high number of cataloging staff are not dedicated to FDLP materials.
  - Create a LibGuide, wiki, or other resource where known issues and FAQs are posted.
3. Review, revise, and share documentation to provide an overview of retention rules for print and online sources.
- Clearly explain that digital publications are not subject to the five-year retention rule and may be withdrawn at any time.
  - Acknowledge that depository libraries are not required to add catalog records for digital government publications.
  - Update the [\*Legal Requirements & Program Regulations of the Federal Depository Library Program\*](#) to include changes resulting from the digital-first FDLP.

I want to take a moment to thank all the members of the CDSS, including current and former members of Council, members of the depository library community, and GPO staff for all their efforts which resulted in this report and recommendations.

Attachment: *Managing FDLP Digital Publications in Library Catalogs: Survey Findings*. A Report of the Depository Library Council's Collection and Discovery Services Subcommittee

# **Managing FDLP Digital Publications in Library Catalogs: Survey Findings**

A Report of the Depository Library Council's  
Collection and Discovery Services Subcommittee

October 2024

# Collection and Discovery Services Subcommittee

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# Definitions

**Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP):** A search tool for print and digital government documents of the National Bibliography of U.S. Government Publications. The National Bibliography is made up of publications from across the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the U.S. Government.

**Cataloging Record Distribution Program (CRDP):** A program that provides GPO-produced catalog records to participating Federal depository libraries at no cost to those libraries. GPO contracts for bibliographic record services for CRDP participants. This service began in 2009 and will cease in December 2024.

**CGP on GitHub:** A repository of cataloging/metadata resources extracted from the bibliographic records of the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP). In 2017, Library Services & Content Management (LSCM) launched the CGP on GitHub repository to post monthly files of new and changed CGP records for downloading free of charge.

**Depository Selection Information Management System (DSIMS):** A system used to view and manage a Federal depository library's item selection profile.

**Discovery Layers:** An independent tool used in conjunction with an Integrated Library System (ILS), Library Management System (LMS), or library catalog to assist users in finding material.

**FDLP Data Manager (FDM):** A GPO web-based data warehousing and data mining tool to assist depository libraries in processing, cataloging, developing, and managing their FDLP collection.

**GitHub:** A web-based computer source code sharing and publishing service.

**GovInfo:** A service of the Government Publishing Office (GPO) that provides free public access to official publications from all three branches of the Federal Government. It is a content management system with a standards-compliant preservation repository.

**Integrated Library System (ILS):** Also known as a Library Management System (LMS). A comprehensive software solution designed to automate and manage a variety of library operations. An ILS typically has two user interfaces, one for patrons and one for staff.

**LibGuide:** A popular content management and curation platform for libraries to organize subject specific resources or A-Z lists. The FDLP uses this platform for its "Resource Guides" that are arranged in broad subject and content areas.

**MARCIVE, Inc:** Since 1981, this company has specialized in authorities processing, MARC bibliographic cataloging, and government document processing.

**PURL referral tracker:** A tool to measure PURL (Persistent Uniform Resource Locator) usage via GPO's FDLP PURL Referral Tool.

# Table of Contents

Collection and Discovery Services Subcommittee .....	i
Definitions .....	ii
Executive Summary.....	1
Methodology .....	2
Library Demographics .....	3
Staffing Demographics .....	5
Library-wide Data for Increasing Access .....	7
Opportunities for Training and Outreach.....	9
Open-Ended Feedback.....	10
Observations.....	12
Conclusions .....	13
Recommendations .....	14
Appendix I – Survey Instrument.....	Appendix I-1
Appendix II – Sources Consulted.....	Appendix II-1

# Executive Summary

Managing catalog records and discovery of digital Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) publications are topics that often raise questions and concerns among depository coordinators. The transition to a digital-first FDLP has made these issues more pressing. To learn more about concerns, the Collection and Discovery Services Subcommittee (CDSS) designed a survey to understand library practices, needs, and underlying issues to determine what actions CDSS can take to help depository libraries with digital collection development and management.

The survey was distributed March 14, 2024, and remained open until April 8, 2024. There were 176 submissions from 165 distinct Federal Depository Libraries (FDLs).

The response rate was representative of FDLs by type and by distribution within the National Collection Service Areas. Respondents represented a variety of responsibilities in their libraries. Respondents also work in FDLs that use an assortment of ILS/Discovery Layers, but nearly two-thirds reported using MARCIVE, Inc or the Cataloging Record Distribution Program (CRDP).

Approximately three-quarters of the respondents expressed the need to know more about withdrawing of, retention guidelines for, and gauging usage of FDLP digital publications. A large percentage also indicated an interest in learning how to identify FDLP digital publications that can be added to their library's collection. As the survey was conducted prior to the announcement that both MARCIVE, Inc and CRDP will cease at the end of December 2024, it is likely that response would now be higher with the understanding that hundreds of FDLs will need to find replacements for MARCIVE, Inc and CRDP services. Responses indicate areas where FDLP can focus training and outreach. There is an opportunity for communication, collaboration, and guidance from the Government Publishing Office, Depository Library Council, the FDL community, and affected stakeholders.

Members of CDSS offer the following recommendations for Council's consideration:

1. Create an online community for those who work with government information to engage in ongoing discussions regarding the collection development, ILS, consortia, discovery layers, access, and other related issues related to the digital-first FDLP.
2. Develop and solicit from the greater community, additional resources and training materials on selected topics highlighted in the survey, such as PURL tracking, GitHub, and uploading records in consortial/shared catalog settings.
3. Review, revise, and share documentation to provide an overview of retention rules for print and online sources.

# Introduction

Managing catalog records and discovery of digital Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) publications are topics that often raise questions and concerns at Depository Library Council (DLC) meetings, Federal Depository Library Conferences, and other virtual meetings. The transition to a digital-first FDLP makes these issues more pressing. In the Spring 2024, the DLC Collection and Discovery Services Subcommittee (CDSS) launched a survey on collection development and management of digital FDLP publications. The survey was designed to help CDSS understand library practices, needs, and underlying issues to determine what actions the subcommittee, DLC, and Government Publishing Office (GPO) can take to assist Federal depository libraries (FDLs) with digital collection development and management.

## Methodology

Managing catalog records and discovery of digital FDLP publications continue to be topics of concern among depository coordinators and served as the impetus for the CDSS survey. The survey instrument was designed to understand library practices, needs, and underlying issues to determine what actions CDSS can take to help depository libraries with digital collection development and management.

The target audience for the survey was librarians in Federal depository libraries. Depository coordinators were encouraged to share the survey with others in their library who work in areas that have touch points to the depository library operations, e.g., catalogers, e-resources librarians, systems librarians.

The online survey launched March 14, 2024, through an FDLP News & Events announcement. The call for survey participation was also posted via the GOVDOC-L listserv. When the survey closed on April 8th, there were 176 submissions from 165 FDLs, representing a 16% return rate.

Quantitative and qualitative data were collected via fourteen closed- and open-ended questions. Not all respondents answered each question. To determine percentages, the number of those who answered the question was used in the calculation. Some questions had multiple parts and references to questions may not be parallel with the actual numbering from the survey instrument. [See Appendix I](#) for the survey instrument.



# Findings

## Library Demographics

### RESPONSE RATE BY LIBRARY TYPE

In addition to seeking contact information from respondents, the survey requested depository number (if applicable) and library type. The responding libraries represented a cross-section of types of libraries serving as federal depositories. Table 1 and Chart 1 illustrate respondents by library type. All library types participating in the depository program were represented in the results except Military Service Academy. A majority of the respondents work at academic libraries at 52.8% ( $n=93$ ). The next three most common library types were public libraries at 15.9% ( $n=28$ ), academic law libraries at 10.8% ( $n=19$ ), and state libraries at 10.2% ( $n=18$ ). This response rate is consistent with the overall number of depositories by type. For instance, 55% of FDLs are General Academic libraries, and 53% of the survey respondents work in a General Academic FDL. The one exception was that State Libraries constitute 4% of FDLs by type, but in our responses represent 10% of the results. Among the total thirty-nine State Libraries, the survey response rate was 46%.

Type of FDL	Total FDLs	Percentage of Total FDLs	Total Responding	Percentage of Total Responding
Academic General	607	55%	93	53%
Public	171	16%	28	16%
Academic Law	138	13%	19	11%
Community College	51	5%	4	2%
State Libraries	39	4%	18	10%
Highest State Court	35	3%	4	2%
Federal Agency	32	3%	2	1%
Special	14	1%	6	3%

Type of FDL	Total FDLs	Percentage of Total FDLs	Total Responding	Percentage of Total Responding
Federal Court	10	1%	2	1%
Military Service Academy	4	0.36%	0	0%

Table 1

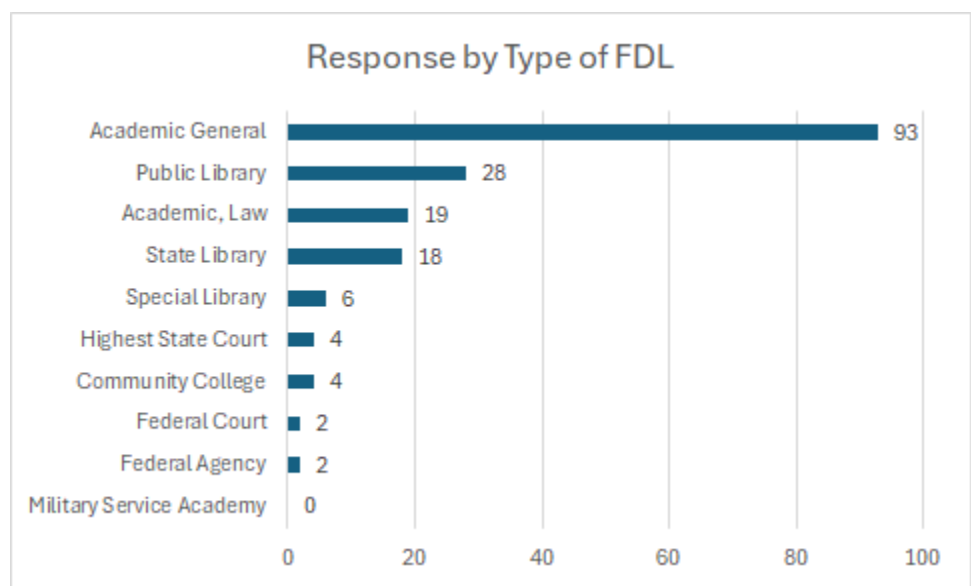


Chart 1

### RESPONSE RATE BY NCSA

The 176 respondents represented 165 different depository libraries. They were divided relatively equally among the four NCSAs. Representations from these areas were:

- 37 (17%) from the West NCSA;
- 40 (16%) the Northeast NCSA;
- 45 (16%) the Midwest NCSA;
- 42 (12%) the South NCSA.

One response did not include enough information to determine in which NCSA it resides. Chart 2 illustrates respondents by NCSA.

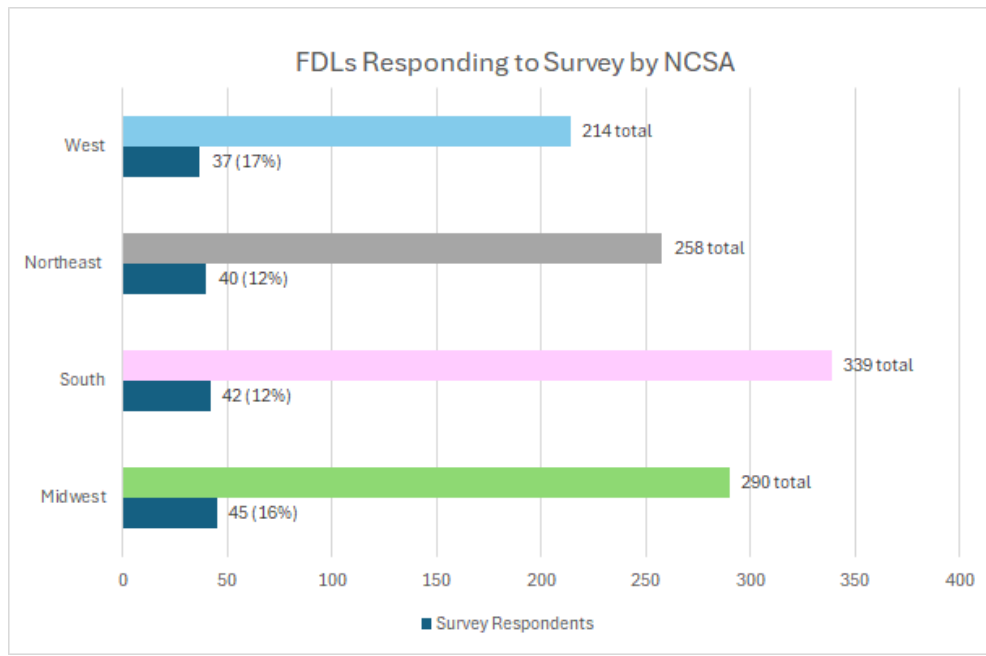


Chart 2

## Staffing Demographics

### STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR DISCOVERABILITY OF FDLP DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS [Q1]

The survey was designed to help CDSS understand library practices, needs, and underlying issues to determine what actions should be taken. To assist in our understanding, the survey asked respondents about their responsibilities, specifically those related to the discoverability of records for FDLP digital publications. We understood that respondents have a variety of roles and levels of training which may not include utilizing ILS/Discovery layers for the collection of statistics. The questions were intended to:

- Determine if the survey was reaching respondents who were best placed to answer the questions.
- Determine if FDLP outreach and training should be extended/promoted to non-coordinators.
- Understand the varied workload of those working with FDLP publications.

Respondents were asked in Question 1 who is responsible for adding/loading and/or removing records for FDLP digital publications to/from their local catalog. The 175 responses for this question indicate the depository coordinator is responsible in 31% ( $n=55$ ) of the libraries, while other dedicated depository staff is noted for 14% ( $n=25$ ), and others in the library were in the majority at 46% ( $n=80$ ). A small number indicated their library does not include records for FDLP digital publications in their catalog 6% ( $n=11$ ), and 4 respondents (2%) did not know who was responsible for this task.

## STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES [Q2]

Responses from Question 2 reveal that FDLP coordinators have multiple responsibilities. Respondents selected all their FDLP responsibilities from a list of choices. The largest percentage of respondents identified having responsibilities in Collection management at 80% ( $n=155$ ), Collection development at 73% ( $n=129$ ), Public services at 64% ( $n=113$ ), and Cataloging at 56% ( $n=103$ ). It was less common for respondents to serve in Supervision ( $n=72$ ), Library administration ( $n=49$ ), or Systems ( $n=30$ ).

Of the responses indicating a single duty, the most common was Cataloging at 53% ( $n=8$ ). The most common combination of two responsibilities was Collection management and Cataloging at 31% ( $n=9$ ). The three most common, combined responsibilities were Public services, Collection development, and Collection management at 50% ( $n=20$ ). Charts 3 and 4 illustrate the type and number of responsibilities for respondents.

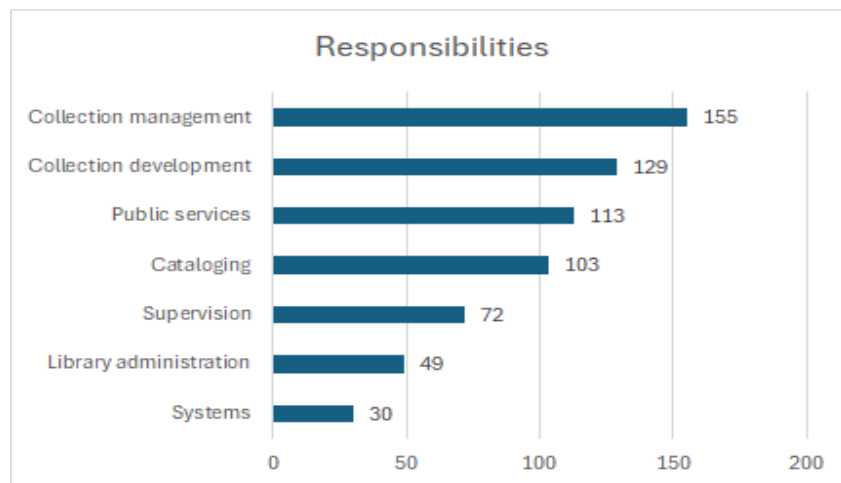


Chart 3

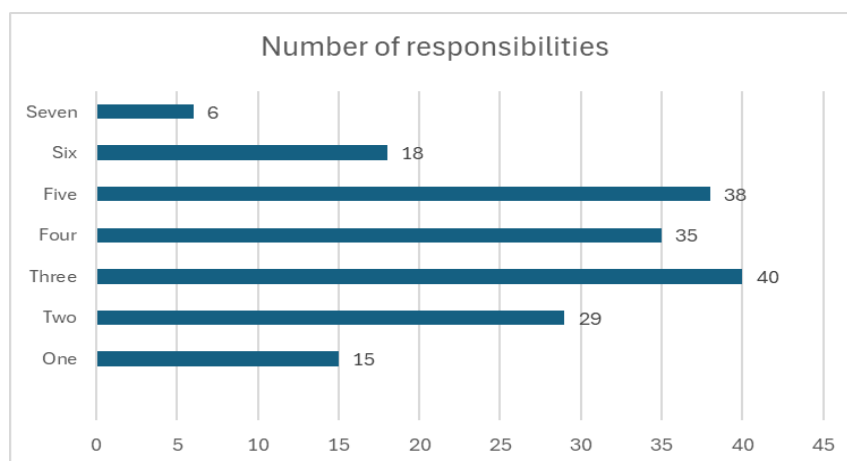


Chart 4

## Library-wide Data for Increasing Access

### LIBRARY ILS/DISCOVERY LAYERS [Q8 AND Q8.1]

Question 8 asked if respondents needed to better understand guidance specifically for their library's Integrated Library System (ILS). A majority stated they did not (61%,  $n=107$ ). To gauge the tools currently used by the community, those who indicated an interest in guidance (39%,  $n=69$ ) were then prompted in Question 8.1 about the ILS or Discovery Layer their library employs.<sup>1</sup> These respondents (32%,  $n=56$ ) shared which ILS or Discovery Layer their library uses. Of those, nearly half (43%,  $n=24$ ) indicated their library uses Alma/Primo and 14% ( $n=8$ ) use Sierra. Ten additional systems were noted in responses. Chart 5 illustrates responses listing ILS/Discovery Layers used by the community.

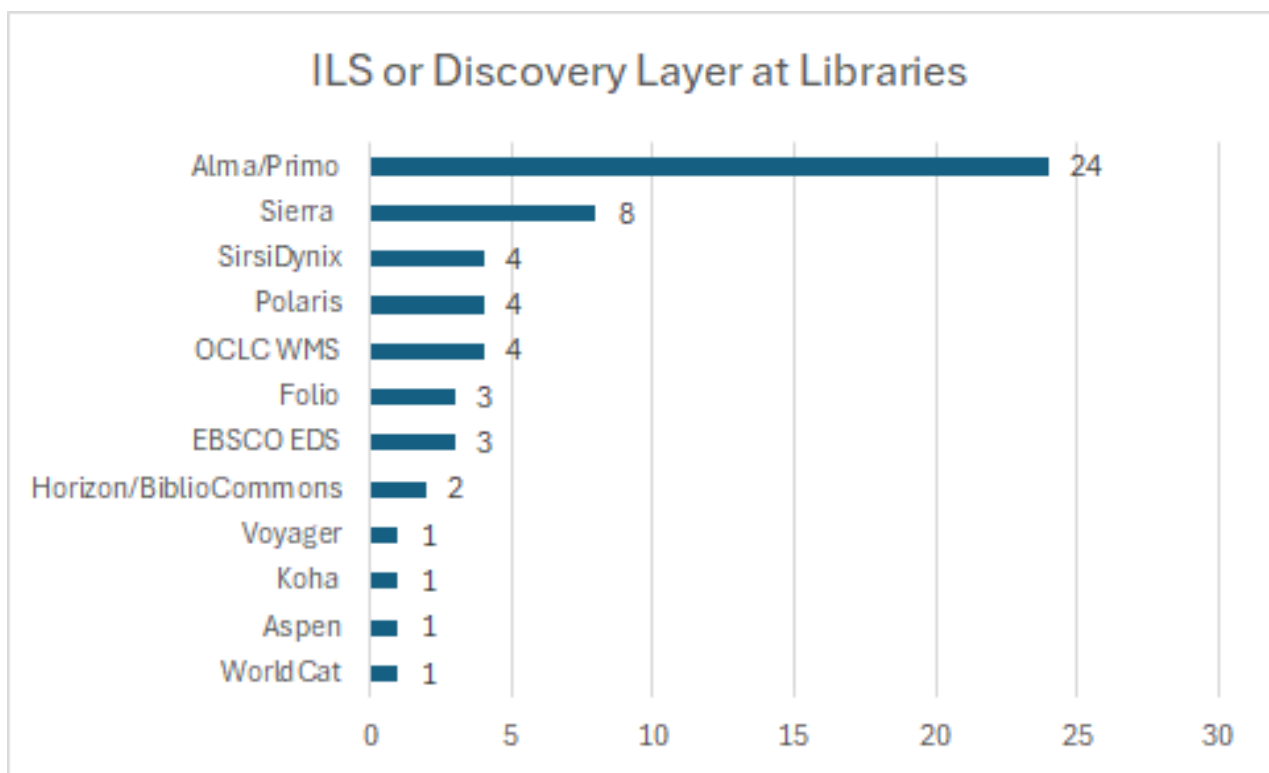


Chart 5

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<sup>1</sup> To help clarify, an ILS has two user interfaces, one for patrons and one for staff. The patron-facing interface allows users to search the library catalog and can act as a discovery tool. Some interfaces incorporate database holdings. The staff interface includes cataloging, circulation, and management functions. These functions can include usage statistics. A discovery layer can also be an independent tool used in conjunction with an ILS or library catalog to assist users in finding material.

## CONSORTIAL/SHARING [Q10]

Slightly more than half (53%,  $n=92$ ) of the respondents indicated in Question 10 that their library is part of a shared/consortial catalog system/ILS. Of those, 68% ( $n=63$ ) are general academic and academic law libraries.

Shared systems reduce the cataloging workload for some libraries but could also limit a user's ability to access specific functions. Depending on the system and organization, this either aids or hampers a coordinator's ability to collect statistics. Consortial agreements can also place restrictions on how libraries add content.

## MECHANISM FOR OBTAINING RECORDS [QUESTION 11]

How a library obtains their catalog records informs future training needs. Some tools may be underutilized due to a lack of familiarity.

Respondents were asked in Question 11 to select how they obtain FDLP records for digital publications. Respondents could select multiple options for this question, which led to 275 total responses. MARCIVE, Inc, was the most frequent method (50%,  $n=88$ ). OCLC was noted by 39% ( $n=68$ ), and GPO's Cataloging Record Distribution Program (CRDP) was cited by 25% ( $n=45$ ) of the responding libraries. Combining MARCIVE, Inc and CRDP revealed that 63% ( $n=133$ ) of responding libraries have relied on MARCIVE, Inc's services to obtain records. Libraries that selected the "Other" response were prompted for narrative comments. From the 18 who chose this response, the most prevalent comments from 28% ( $n=5$ ) reflected they belong to a consortium and their records are added through that shared library catalog. Responses indicated confusion perhaps on the wording of the survey question or based on the understanding of the process. Some libraries (65%,  $n=10$ ) responded they do not include records for e-resources in their catalog. Chart 6 illustrates methods libraries use to obtain records.

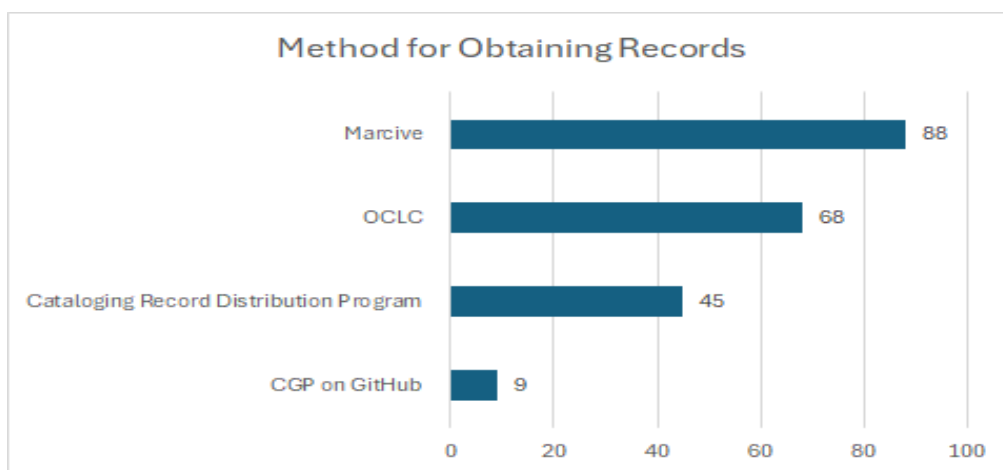


Chart 6

## Opportunities for Training and Outreach

### UNDERSTANDING PROCESSES AND WORKFLOWS [Q3 – Q8]

Six survey questions (Questions 3 through 8) asked respondents to indicate, by selecting yes or no, if they needed to better understand six areas concerning FDLP digital publications. Responses here may indicate areas where the FDLP can focus training and outreach.

The largest number (76%,  $n=134$ ) indicated an interest in identifying FDLP digital publications that could/should be withdrawn from their catalog (Question 4). This result was not surprising, as this issue had been among the most frequent questions CDSS had noted in conference feedback. A similar number of responses (72%,  $n=125$ ) indicated they would like to learn more about GPO's retention rules as they relate to FDLP digital publications (Question 3), and also how to gauge usage of FDLP digital publications (Question 7). A large percentage (61%,  $n=107$ ) also indicated they are interested in learning how to identify FDLP digital publications that can be added to their library's collection (Question 5).

Fewer indicated a need to better understand how to receive/load catalog records for FDLP digital publications (42%,  $n=74$ ) (Question 6), or in needing guidance specifically for their library's ILS (39%,  $n=69$ ) (Question 8).

### REMOVING RECORDS [Q9]

Removing records for electronic publications requires a different process than de-acquisitioning or "weeding" of tangible materials. In both electronic and print collections, materials may be withdrawn based on several criteria, such as supersession by another edition, date of publication, accessibility, and usage. Identifying and understanding these factors in a digital environment, however, requires different tools and presents the additional issue of dealing with potentially expired links. It is also important to note that the removal of electronic FDLP publications is not constrained by the "five-year rule"<sup>2</sup> established for tangible materials.

Question 9 asked respondents to note if their library currently removes records for FDLP digital publications from their catalog or would like to do so, and to briefly share why. Most (78%,  $n=138$ ) indicated, by answering "NA" or leaving the response blank, that they do not remove FDLP digital publications from their catalog. Thirty-eight libraries responded that they currently remove records for FDLP digital publications from their catalogs or would like to do so. The most cited reasons for withdrawal stemmed from those records:

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<sup>2</sup> Five-year rule: a minimum retention period of five years from date of receipt, processing, or shipping list date (for selective libraries). See *Legal Requirements & Program Regulations of the Federal Depository Library Program*, <https://www.fdlp.gov/file-download/download/public/17694>

- Leading to dead links (39%, *n*=15);
- Being out-of-date or dated (34%, *n*=13);
- Superseding current versions (18%, *n*=7); or
- Being out-of-scope or irrelevant to the library’s users, collection development policy, or mission (18%, *n*=7).

One respondent suggested the need for a guide in communicating with catalogers in their libraries to improve efficiencies. Another noted it costs their library per each record loaded into their consortial catalog and they need to abide by consortial policies.

## Open-Ended Feedback

### SPECIFIC NEEDS OF RESPONDENTS [Q8.2]

Two areas in the survey offered respondents the opportunity to share open-ended comments. Question 8.2 asked, “What specific questions/needs do you need addressed related to better understanding guidance specifically for [your] library’s ILS.” Comments from Question 8.2 noted the need for guidance on:

- Migrating from one system to another;
- Integrating platforms for catalog and discovery layers to improve user experience;
- Working with consortial systems;
- Loading records of digital publications;
- Selecting digital publications from third parties such as MARCIVE, Inc;
- Tracking usage with and without PURL referral;<sup>3</sup> and
- Running reports for collection assessment.

Additional comments in Question 8.2, not connected to a particular ILS, included the need for guidance on retention decisions for print and online sources; a desire to learn FDL P Data Manager (FDM); and how to update item number profiles. Respondents also suggested that GPO update item numbers to reflect the move to the digital-first framework. There were also requests to expand the Cataloging Records Distribution Program (CRDP); as noted earlier these requests predate the announcement that CRDP would cease.

### ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK [QUESTION 12]

The last question of the survey, Question 12, provided another opportunity to share

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<sup>3</sup> Federal depository libraries can analyze their PURL usage statistics using GPO's FDL PURL Usage Reporting Tool. <https://www.fdlp.gov/instruction/purls>



additional feedback, “What specific questions would you like to have addressed about collection development or management of FDLP digital publications or catalog records?” Of the 176 respondents, 144 (82%) did not share additional comments. Feedback varied broadly and included questions and suggestions.

## QUESTIONS RAISED BY RESPONDENTS

Respondents asked a broad array of topics. These include assistance on:

- Best practices in depository operations, such as working within a consortium to provide access to digital publications;
- Developing new workflows for the mostly digital selections and new collection priorities;
- Tracking PURL usage;
- Promoting digital publications to patrons and to library administration;
- Guidelines for collection management of electronic sources in a consortial or shared catalog; and
- Reporting unreported electronic documents to GPO.

Users also noted their need for more clarity in understanding CRDP, GitHub, and the distinctions between GovInfo and CGP with persistent identifiers (PIDs).

Where older titles are concerned, there were questions on how to catalog them or report them to GPO for cataloging, and GPO’s progress on digitizing historical documents.

Additional questions addressed:

- GPO’s process for curating electronic titles and the role depository coordinators should take in curating their own collections;
- If there will be changes in the Biennial Survey as a result of the digital-first framework;
- GPO’s progress on reaching out to agencies; and
- Updates related to the 2023 recommendations from the PURL working group.

*“I would like to better understand how electronic resources are curated and cataloged by GPO. There seems to be some inference by GPO at presentations that librarians can and should curate. I agree. I’d like to know more about how that happens at GPO beyond the links I see in News Alerts.”*

## SUGGESTIONS OFFERED BY RESPONDENTS

Respondents offered a wide range of suggestions, including:

- Provide basic webinars on the digital framework now, with more detailed sessions to be offered in the future;
- Create a pro/con source on using a LibGuide to promote digital publications versus using an ILS to increase access;
- Provide clarity on choices and methods for obtaining digital records;
- Improve item numbers;
- Provide early notice if new types of statistics questions are added into the Biennial Survey to give depository coordinators time to prepare;
- Expand CRDP;<sup>4</sup> and
- Share questions and answers from this survey.

## Observations

It was noted that responding libraries represented a cross-section of types of depository libraries serving as federal depositories.

It was noted that many libraries use or are migrating to Alma/Primo. This agrees with recent reports in the library literature.<sup>5</sup>

Nearly half of those responding (46%, *n*=80) shared that responsibilities for cataloging digital publications are held by library staff whose responsibilities extend beyond FDLF materials. Only 31% of depository coordinators have this in their responsibilities, and some noted a lack of understanding cataloging workflows.

A majority of the respondents shared they are part of a consortial/shared catalog, with some noting a need to better understand best practices for those using a shared ILS/catalog. We noted there are advantages and disadvantages to depository libraries in a consortial system; in some situations, cataloging digital publications is managed for them, but they may also be constrained by consortial policies. For example, an individual library may be unable to remove or “weed” their “copy” of an electronic publication.

Survey responses highlight four closely related areas where additional GPO outreach/training would be beneficial:

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<sup>4</sup> As stated previously, it was announced after the survey deadline that both CRDP and MARCIVE, Inc would cease effective December 31, 2024.

<sup>5</sup> 2024 Library Systems Report. <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2024/05/01/2024-library-systems-report/>

- 76% (*n*=134) of respondents indicated an interest in learning more about identifying FDLP digital publications that could/should be withdrawn from their catalog (Question 4);
- 72% (*n*=125) of respondents indicated an interest in learning more about GPO's retention rules as they relate to FDLP digital publications (Question 3);
- 72% (*n*=125) of respondents indicated an interest in gauging usage of FDLP digital publications (Question 7); and
- 61% (*n*=107) of respondents indicated an interest in learning how to identify FDLP digital publications that can be added to their library's collection (Question 5).

We noted that responses from both newer and long-serving coordinators indicate a need to better understand retention rules for FDLP digital publications.

Respondents shared a number of challenges that affect their ability to effectively manage FDLP publications, including limited staffing, expanding responsibilities, and poor communication between depository coordinators and technical services staff who upload and/or manage cataloging records.

We saw several comments about libraries removing links to electronic publications because access cannot be confirmed, such as when links are “out of date,” “no longer work properly,” or the “PURL doesn't resolve.” These concerns may point to a need for more GPO outreach/training on how to handle broken links, e.g. should the link be reported to GPO, and, if so, what is the correct process for doing so?

## Conclusions

The survey was designed to help CDSS understand library practices, needs, and underlying issues to determine what actions the subcommittee, DLC, and GPO can take to assist depository libraries with digital collection development and management. We appreciate GPO's dedication in proactively providing expert assistance for GPO-managed resources through sessions in the FDLP Academy<sup>6</sup>; FDLP Resource Guides, particularly the LSCM Metadata and Collection Services Information Portal<sup>7</sup>; FDLP News & Events announcements; AskGPO; and up-to-date web content.

The confluence of the implementation of a digital Federal Depository Library Program, with the awareness that FDL staff work in a complex environment frequently complicated by consortial frameworks, has contributed to uncertainty. Feedback at recent Fall Federal

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fdlp.gov/about/fdlp-academy>

<sup>7</sup> <https://libguides.fdlp.gov/lscm-metadata-and-collection-services>

Depository Library Conferences and Spring Depository Library Council Virtual Meetings has reflected the community’s desire for more information, guidance, and training covering all facets of digital collection development and management for Federal government publications. This survey’s feedback yielded similar responses. Survey results indicate depository staff require a range of assistance, from basic step-by-step instructions to advanced techniques for cataloging and adding digital government documents using sources such as the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP), GitHub, DSIMS, and FDLP Data Manager (FDM). The preferred timing of the assistance is also varied; where some seek information at the point of need, others appreciate ongoing professional development opportunities as they are offered, and some want a mixture of both.

Some respondents provided suggestions referencing the CRDP or MARCIVE, Inc services. This feedback is no longer applicable because in August 2024, LSCM announced the CRDP service would cease in March 2025. This was followed by an unanticipated announcement in September by MARCIVE, Inc would close its doors at the end of 2024. The concerns for digital collection development and management have been exacerbated for many FDLs following these announcements. The workflows and practices at hundreds of depository libraries will be affected by the closure of this long-standing service.<sup>8</sup> These changes will also have effects on consortia workflows and practices.<sup>9</sup>

These circumstances present an opportunity and need for communication, collaboration, and guidance from GPO, DLC, the FDL community, and affected stakeholders. The Collection and Discovery Services Subcommittee provides these suggestions based on feedback received through the survey. And CDSS remains committed to work with GPO to enhance public access and awareness of digital U.S. Government publications for an *America Informed*.

## Recommendations

Given the conclusions, the Collections and Discovery Services Subcommittee offers the following recommendations for Council’s consideration:

1. Create an online community for those who work with government information to engage in ongoing discussions regarding the collection development, ILS,

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<sup>8</sup> According to FDLP’s site for CRDP, “More than one in five FDL, of all sizes and types, with many different library systems, participated in the Cataloging Record Distribution Program (CRDP) program.” <https://www.fdlp.gov/cataloging-and-classification/cataloging-record-distribution-program>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/i-share/electronic-res-man/usgovdocs>

consortia, discovery layers, access, and other related issues related to the digital-first FDLP.

2. Develop and solicit from the greater community, additional resources and training materials on selected topics highlighted in the survey, such as PURL tracking, GitHub, and uploading records in consortial/shared catalog settings.
  - Explore different types of guidance and training opportunities and expand outreach to highlight existing training materials.
  - Create and broadly disseminate a chart highlighting choices and methods for obtaining digital records.
  - Encourage coordinators to share learning opportunities with general cataloging staff in their libraries, given that a high number of cataloging staff are not dedicated to FDLP materials.
  - Create resources such as a LibGuide, wiki or other sources where known issues and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are posted.
  
3. Review, revise, and share documentation to provide an overview of retention rules for print and online sources.
  - Clearly explain that digital publications are not subject to the five-year retention rule and may be withdrawn at any time.
  - Acknowledge that depository libraries are not required to add catalog records for digital government publications.
  - Update the [\*Legal Requirements & Program Regulations of the Federal Depository Library Program\*](#) to include changes resulting from the digital-first FDLP.

# Appendix I — Survey Instrument

## Managing FDLP Digital Publications in Your Library Catalog

There have been several comments/questions expressed in previous Depository Library Council (DLC) meetings and Federal depository conferences about collection development and management of digital FDLP publications. The DLC Collections and Discovery Services Subcommittee would like to learn more about the concerns underlying these questions. To do so, we need to better understand your library's specific needs. We would greatly appreciate your response to this survey, and we will use your responses to help guide our next actions.

Survey results will be made publicly accessible. Personally identifiable information will be removed upon request.

Name:

Depository library number or NA:

Library type: (Choose from drop down list)

- Academic General
- Academic, Law
- Community College
- Federal Agency
- Federal Court
- Highest State Court
- Military Service Academy
- Public Library
- State Library
- Special Library

Redact my name and institution/organization from the publicly accessible survey results. Yes/No]

1) Who is responsible for adding/loading and/or removing records for FDLP digital publications to/from your local catalog? (select all that apply)

- The depository coordinator is personally responsible
- Other dedicated FDLP staff are responsible
- Others in my library are responsible
- I do not know
- My library does not include records for FDLP digital publications in our catalog

2) My FDLP responsibilities include (select all that apply):

- Cataloging
- Collection development

- Collection management
- Library administration
- Public services
- Systems
- Supervision

3) I and/or my staff and colleagues need to better understand: [YES/NO Responses]

- GPO's retention rules as they relate to FDLP digital publications.
- How to identify FDLP digital publications that could/should be withdrawn from my local catalog.
- How to identify FDLP digital publications that can be added to my library's collection.
- How to receive/load catalog records for FDLP digital publications.
- How to gauge usage of FDLP digital publications.
- Guidance specifically for my library's ILS

(If they respond yes, then these are required)

- Which ILS or discovery layer does your library use? [narrative response]

- What specific questions/needs do you need addressed? [narrative response]

4) If your library currently removes records for FDLP digital publications from your catalog, or would like to do so, please briefly share why. Please answer NA if your library **does not remove records**. [narrative response]

5) My library is part of a shared/consortial catalog system/ILS [Y/N response]

6) My library obtains catalog records for digital FDLP publications via (select all that apply):

- CGP on GitHub
- GPO's Cataloging Record Distribution Program (CRDP)
- Marcive
- OCLC
- Do not include records for e-resources in our catalog

- I don't know
- Other

7) What **specific** questions would you like to have addressed about collection development or management of FDLP digital publications or catalog records?

**Thank You Message After Finishing the Survey**

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete the survey. Your voice is important! If you think of something additional later, submit your thoughts to [askGPO](#).



## Appendix II — Sources Consulted

Breeding, Marshall. “2024 Library Systems Report.” *American Libraries*. (May 1, 2024).  
<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2024/05/01/2024-library-systems-report/>.

Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI). *Resources for Government Documents Catalogers*. <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/i-share/electronic-res-man/usgovdocs>

Government Publishing Office, Federal Depository Library Program. *Cataloging and Distribution Program*. <https://www.fdlp.gov/cataloging-and-classification/cataloging-record-distribution-program>

Government Publishing Office, Federal Depository Library Program. *FDLP Academy*.  
<https://www.fdlp.gov/about/fdlp-academy>

Government Publishing Office, Federal Depository Library Program. *FDLP PURL Usage Reporting Tool*. <https://www.fdlp.gov/instruction/purls>

Government Publishing Office, Federal Depository Library Program. *Legal Requirements & Program Regulations of the Federal Depository Library Program*.  
<https://www.fdlp.gov/file-download/download/public/17694>

Government Publishing Office, Federal Depository Library Program. *LSCM Metadata and Collection Services Information Portal*. <https://libguides.fdlp.gov/lscm-metadata-and-collection-services>

MARCIVE, Inc. *MARCIVE Company History*. <https://home.marcive.com/history/>