



Office of the Superintendent of Documents

## SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT 2016-2

EFFECTIVE: 03/29/2016

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**SUBJECT: Content Scope for GPO's System of Online Access**

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### PURPOSE

To describe the content to be ingested into GPO's System of Online Access — Federal Digital System (FDsys).<sup>1</sup>

### BACKGROUND

In June 1993 the Government Printing Office Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-40 as codified in 44 U.S.C. §§4101-4104) provided a means of enhancing electronic public access to a wide range of Federal electronic information through GPO. In accordance with the law, a year later *GPO Access* was launched, and in 2009, it was replaced by GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys), which is currently GPO's system of online access. FDsys is a content management system, a preservation repository, an advanced search engine, and a public access Web site. FDsys conforms to ISO 14721, the Open Archival Information System Reference Model for preservation and access.

*Managing the FDLP Electronic Collection: A Policy and Planning Document* (October 1, 1998) affirmed that the scope of the electronic collection was determined to be the same as that of the content for the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). The electronic collection was described as having four components:

1. Core legislative and regulatory *GPO Access* products which will reside permanently on GPO servers;
2. Other remotely accessible products managed by either GPO or by other institutions with which GPO has established formal agreements;
3. Remotely accessible electronic Government information products that GPO identifies, describes, and links to but which remain under the control of the originating agencies; and

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of the issuance of this policy, FDsys is GPO's online system of record. Following a period of beta testing, it will be replaced by the next generation system, govinfo. This policy will be valid with FDsys, govinfo, or any successor online system of record.

4. Tangible electronic Government information products distributed to Federal depository libraries (e.g., CD-ROMs, DVDs).

Since 1998, along with the evolution of the Web, the Office of Management and Budget revised OMB Circular A-130, *Management of Federal Information Resources*, and issued Memorandum M-05-04, *Policies for Federal Agency Public Websites*, and the E-Government Act (P.L. 107-347, 116 STAT 2899) was implemented. Most recently in January 2013 the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) issued its report, *Rebooting the Government Printing Office: Keeping America Informed in the Digital Age*. Among the recommendations NAPA made in this report was for GPO to develop a comprehensive plan to preserve the historical print collection of Government documents through digitization and ingest into FDsys. GPO accepted this recommendation, as preservation is part of its mission. GPO defines the scope of the collection to be preserved as:

The corpus of official Federal Government information dissemination products, paid for with Federal funds regardless of format or medium.

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.

The developments mentioned above have expanded the range of accessible public Government information dissemination products and, at the same time, have made the content scope for the FDLP as found in 44 U.S.C. §1901 limiting in the digital age and for purposes of FDsys.

The GPO Access Act is codified in 44 *United States Code* Chapter 41, which sets the parameters for content of the online system:

§4101(a)(2) : provide a system of online access to the Congressional Record, the Federal Register, and, as determined by the Superintendent of Documents, other appropriate publications distributed by the Superintendent of Documents

§4101(b) : Departmental Requests.—To the extent practicable, the Superintendent of Documents shall accommodate any request by the head of a department or agency to include in the system of access referred to in subsection (a)(2) information that is under the control of the department or agency involved.

## **POLICY**

GPO's System of Online Access is the repository for the Government's official content, which may include born digital and converted content or harvested and deposited content. With the

exception of materials classified for national security, all official Government publications, information, or information dissemination products paid for with Federal funds originating from agencies of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the U.S. Government are within scope for ingest into GPO's system of online access. Government content converted by parties with whom GPO has a formally signed partnership agreement that contemplates ingest of such content are also within scope.

The Congressional Record, the Federal Register, and other core legislative and regulatory information dissemination products will be ingested, as well as their historical issues or editions.<sup>2</sup>

Section 1902 of Title 44 does exclude publications determined by their issuing components to be required for official use only or for strictly administrative or operational purposes, or which are classified for reasons of national security, and thus they are outside of the SuDocs distribution program. Also outside the scope of the program are cooperative publications which are sold in order to be self-sustaining (44 U.S.C. §1903). However, any document made accessible on the issuing component's public Web site, Superintendent of Documents' approach is that the issuing component has determined that the publication does have public interest or educational value, or it does not have to be sold, and therefore it is appropriately harvested and ingested. In addition, unless impracticable, any request by the head of a department or agency to include their information in GPO's system of online access will be accommodated (44 U.S.C. §4101(b)).

## **DEFINITIONS**

<b>Born Digital</b>	Digital objects, created in a digital environment, with the potential of multiple output products, including hard copy, electronic presentation, and digital media.
<b>Converted Content</b>	Digital content created from a tangible publication.
<b>Deposited Content</b>	Content received directly from Federal agency originators in digital form (e.g., court opinions or the Federal Register).
<b>Government Information</b>	Information created, collected, processed, disseminated, or disposed of by or for the Federal Government (OMB Circular A-130).
<b>Government Publication</b>	Information which is published as an individual document at government expense, or as required by law (44 U.S.C. §1901).
<b>Harvested Content</b>	Digital content that is gathered from Federal agency Web sites.

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<sup>2</sup> In a letter dated November 17, 2010, the Joint Committee on Printing authorized GPO to make accessible online the Constitution of the United States: Analysis and Interpretation (CONAN), and historical volumes of the Congressional Record and the Statutes at Large.

<b>Information</b>	Any communication or representation of knowledge such as facts, data, or opinions in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual forms (OMB Circular A-130).
<b>Information Dissemination Product</b>	Any book, paper, map, machine-readable material, audiovisual production, or other documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristic, disseminated by an agency to the public. (OMB Circular A-130).
<b>Official Content</b>	Content published by the Federal Government, at Government expense, or as required by law.

#### APPLICATION

The Superintendent of Documents, through the Managing Director of Library Services and Content Management and the Chief Technology Officer, is responsible for ensuring that digital content ingested into GPO's system of online access is within the scope of this policy.

#### REFERENCES

- Public Law 103-40. "[Government Printing Office Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993](#)" (107 Stat.112).
- [Managing the FDLP Electronic Collection: A Policy and Planning Document](#), (GPO: October 1, 1998).
- OMB Circular A-130, [Management of Federal Information Resources](#).
- Memorandum M-17-06, [Policies for Federal Agency Public Websites and Digital Services](#) (OMB), November 8, 2016.
- [E-Government Act of 2002](#), (Public Law 107-347, December 17, 2002).
- [Rebooting the Government Printing Office: Keeping America Informed in the Digital Age](#), (NAPA, January 2013).
- [44 United States Code Chapter 41](#).

Approved: Mary Alice Baish 3/29/16  
Superintendent of Documents Date

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