

Depository Library Council

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

Depository Library Council Spring Meeting

May 1, 2025

MINUTES

Thursday, May 1

12:00-5:15 pm*

12:00-12:15 Welcome

- Susanne Caro, Depository Library Council (DLC) Chair, New Mexico State Library
- Hugh Nathaniel Halpern, Director, U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO)
- Scott Matheson, Superintendent of Documents, GPO

During the welcome, the meeting was officially called to order, opening remarks were delivered, and new DLC members were announced.

[Recording, slides, closed captioning transcript, and chat log for this session.](#)

12:15-1:00 Digital FDLP Tools

- Catherine Bloom, Systems Librarian, Library Services & Content Management (LSCM), GPO
- Ashley Dahlen, Senior Outreach Librarian, LSCM, GPO
- Stephen Kharfen, Supervisory Librarian, LSCM, GPO

GPO staff provided updates and directions on three digital FDLP tools:

- DiscoverGov
- FDLP Data Manager
- LSCM GitHub Repositories

[Recording, slides, closed captioning transcript, and chat log for this session.](#)

1:00-1:45 Statistics and Metrics Working Group Discussion: Can the Numbers Tell the Story?

- Sarah Erekson, Regional Government Documents Librarian, University of Florida

The working group created and implemented a survey to assess who keeps track of their patrons' use of print and online Government documents. This session discussed the themes from the survey, such as setting up and using PURL tracker, what to count when the collection is uncataloged, and using the data that was collected.

[Recording, slides, closed captioning transcript, and chat log for this session.](#)

1:45-2:00 Break

2:00-2:45 Where Did That Document Go? Preserving and Sharing Government Information

- Gretchen Gehrke, Cofounder of Environmental Data and Governance Initiative (EDGI)
- James R. Jacobs, U.S. Government Information Librarian, Stanford University Libraries
- Lynda Kellam, Snyder-Granader Director of Research Data & Digital Scholarship, University of Pennsylvania Library
- Shari Laster, Head of Open Collections Curation & Access, Arizona State University Library
- Kelly Smith, Government Information Librarian and Librarian for Urban Studies & Planning, University of California San Diego

The panel of individuals have been working to save and share Government information through projects including the End of Term Crawl, PEGI, EDGI, and tools such as LibGuides. During this session they shared their experiences.

[Recording, slides, closed captioning transcript, and chat log for this session.](#)

2:45-3:30 Artificial Intelligence: The Good, the Bad, and the Messy

- Kate Peterson, Undergraduate Librarian, University of Minnesota

This session introduced and explored the complexities of Artificial Intelligence (AI), from the way we discuss it to its practical applications and the ethical dilemmas it presents. The presenter talked about current AI tools and shared real-life examples of their use in libraries, including teaching and AI literacies; and offered tips for navigating a love-hate relationship with AI.

[Recording, slides, closed captioning transcript, and chat log for this session.](#)

3:30-3:45 Break

3:45-4:15 A Consortial Cataloging Records Success Story

- Angela Bonnell, Head of Government Information and Maps, Milner Library, Illinois State University

This session briefly described the MARCIVE/Cataloging Record Distribution Program (CRDP) situation, the scope of their consortial working group, the questions they asked while exploring options, choices made with their LMS (Alma), and the basic workflow of the implementation process.

[Recording, slides, closed captioning transcript, and chat log for this session.](#)

4:15-5:15 DLC Business Meeting

I. Call to Order at 4:15pm

II. Secretary's Report

a. Roll Call

Amy Laub took roll call. Council members present: Hayley Johnson, Kelly Smith, Robert Mead, Susanne Caro, Amy Laub, Angela Bonnell, Angela Kent, Gwen Sinclair, Joshua Finnell, Sarah Erekson, Charlie Amiot, Lisa DeLuca, Elissa A. Lawrence, Nia Rodgers, Andrea Stelljes

Amy Laub stated that we have a quorum.

b. Minutes of Fall 2024 Meeting

Amy Laub introduced the minutes from the Fall 2024 meeting

<https://fdlp.gov/sites/default/files/minutes-dlc-fall-2024-meeting.pdf>

Nia Rodgers made a motion to approve the minutes. Susanne Caro seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

III. Remarks from the Chair

We are seeing significant changes in accessibility of information, and we are up to the challenge and will continue to ensure public access to government information. Thank you and keep up the good work. Council has been busy and has heard the concerns of our community. GPO is aware of these concerns and dedicated to their mission.

IV. Election of Secretary for Council term June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026

Amy Laub nominated Nia Rodgers to serve as secretary for the 2025-2026 Council. Joshua Finnell and Robert Mead seconded the motion. Nia accepted the nomination. Council approved Nia as secretary by unanimous consent. Congrats, Nia!

V. Reports

a. Collection and Discovery Services Subcommittee (CDSS)

Angela Bonnell shared a summary of the subcommittee charge and membership and recognized outgoing members Susanne Caro, Kelly Smith, Michelle Colquitt, and Libby McDaniel. Activities from the fall to present have focused on three major areas: the CDSS survey, Marcive alternatives and missing federal government content. For their next steps they will be exploring potential projects based on spring Council feedback and we will recruit CDSS members for the upcoming year.

b. Unique Challenges, Underserved Populations, and Federal Depository Libraries Subcommittee (UCUP)

Robert Mead shared a summary of the subcommittee charge and membership. This past year the subcommittee hosted a “Snacks with Council” session and gave a program on “Understanding Government Mistrust and Enhancing Transparency” during the Fall Conference. Additionally, they analyzed information gathered from focus groups and began drafting the report of their findings. Next steps include completing the final report of the focus groups and identifying any resulting recommendations.

c. Long-term Impacts of COVID-19 on FDL Access, Collections, and Services

Hayley Johnson shared the working group charge and its membership. Since submitting its second report in Fall 2024, the working group has drafted questions for inclusion in the 2025 biennial survey, which will be the last biennial survey to include questions related to the impact of COVID-19 on FDL access. Next steps include analyzing the results of the 2025 COVID-19 questions and submitting a final report.

d. Statistics and Metrics Working Group (SMWG)

Sarah Erekson shared the membership and charge of the working group. This year the working group conducted a survey on usage statistics in depository libraries and presented on the findings in a program earlier today. Additionally, they have created the final report of the survey and made two recommendations based on their findings. Council voted to accept the recommendations in concept and will work on the final wording before the end of the 2024-2025 Council year. Next steps for the working group are to gather samples of usage data from various institutions to generate a framework for consistent data gathering.

e. Council Representatives of the National Collection Service Areas

Midwest: <https://www.fdlp.gov/about-the-FDLP/national-collection-service-areas/midwest-national-collection-service-area>

Angela Bonnell announced new members as of June will be Jenny McBurney, Elissa Lawrence, and Brylynn Eliss. Thanks to outgoing members Marie Concannon and Sanga Sung.

Since the fall, they discussed creating a Retention Copy Policy for compliance with JCP / NCSA threshold. Chair Concannon created a checklist that includes determining the process, Identifying libraries holding a retention copy, and administering that copy. Among the topics they discussed having an online database (such as the CGP) which should include location of retention copies, accessibility of these copies, as well as contact information for the depository coordinator.

Chair Elect Abercrombie is drafting an email to send to individual depository coordinators encouraging them to serve as preservation stewards, he is also compiling a list of Midwest NCSA depositories with at least one 20-copy title.

Their next meeting is May 20.

Northeast: <https://www.fdlp.gov/about-the-FDLP/national-collection-service-areas/northeast-national-collection-service-area>

Joshua Finnell shared updates since the fall Depository Library Conference. Members of the Northeast NCSA steering committee have been meeting monthly to discuss the development of a collection development plan for their NCSA and to test their established protocol for the reallocation of print distribution titles because a public library in the Northeast recently asked the steering committee to reallocate a title they were receiving.

Over the course of the last six months, the steering committee has also been discussing the development of a collection development plan for the NE NCSA, with consideration for a last copy or preservation policy, the role of regionals, and potential shared print collaborations.

During the environmental scanning phase, Trina Magi reached out to a few shared print initiatives in the northeast to inquire whether they include government documents in their collection scope. They were:

- Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust (EAST),
- Maine Shared Collections Cooperative (MSCC),
- and The Research Collections and Preservation Consortium (ReCAP)

Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust (EAST) excludes government documents from their collection scope.

Maine Shared Collection also excludes federal government documents from their collection scope.

However, both suggested NCSA steering committee members attend/engage with the Print Archive Network and Forum for further discussion.

The Research Collections and Preservation Consortium (ReCAP) does include government documents in its collections. A quick search for GPO in their collection reveals just under 10k results. The tricky part is that Gov Docs that are in the collection weren't specifically included as much as they fit under blankets of pre-existing criteria. However, they were keen to explore the question of collaboration further.

Next steps: Several members of the initial steering committee will end their year-long term at the end of this month, and Lisa Hartman from Frostburg State University and Kathleen Hale from the Pennsylvania State Library will join the steering committee on June 1st.

The steering committee plans to engage the broader NE NCSA community to form working groups with members of the steering committees to begin tackling many facets of a comprehensive collection development plan.

Their next steering committee will be on May 20th.

South: <https://www.fdlp.gov/about-the-FDLP/national-collection-service-areas/south-national-collection-service-area>

Amy Laub shared updates since the fall Depository Library Conference. This spring the South NCSA steering committee has continued to meet monthly and:

- Conducted a survey of South NCSA depository libraries to help determine the minimum number of copies of each Limited Print Distribution Title they want to retain in the region and to get a sense of where the region wants the steering committee to focus their energies in creating a collection management plan.
- As a result, they agreed on four as the minimum number of copies of each LPD title to retain and set up a working group entitled, Leveraging Existing Networks. This group includes Anna Xiong and

Angela Bardeen from our steering committee, Ashley Dees from the University of Mississippi, Tasha McClain from University of North Texas, and Rebecca Crist from ASERL. Amy shared the working group's charge in the chat.

- Additionally, the steering committee is focusing on reaching out to regionals who are receiving limited print distribution titles to encourage them to become preservation stewards.

Doris Johnson-Felder (South Carolina State University), Colleen Williams (University of Arkansas School of Law), and Amy will be rotating off the committee on May 31, but the following will be joining:

- Ashley Dees (University of Mississippi) will serve a two-year term.
- Dominique Hallett (Arkansas State University), after having served as alternate, will now have a two-year term.
- Suzanne Reinman (Oklahoma State University) will serve as the alternate.

West: <https://fdlp.gov/about-the-FDLP/national-collection-service-areas/west-national-collection-service-area>

Gwen Sinclair shared updates since the fall Depository Library Conference.

Chair Arlene Weible is cycling off the committee and handing reins over to Cass Hartnett. Members continuing are Daniel Cornwall, Jen Kirk, and Karen Pfiffner. James Jacobs and Niamh Wallace, who were serving out other people's terms have been appointed to their own two-year terms. Natalie Bond joining as an alternate.

The committee created a procedure for determining reallocation of limited print distribution titles within the NCSA and the process was successfully used earlier this year to reallocate House Reports from the Wyoming State Library to the Arizona State Library.

Committee members reviewed the distribution data for limited and unlimited print distribution titles and current preservation steward agreements for those titles in the West to determine the minimum of copies for retention. They decided on five copies for the twenty copy titles and 10 copies for the 50 copy and unlimited copy titles.

Steering Committee members are currently contacting print distribution title selectors in their states to encourage them permanently retain the titles they select.

- f. Questions and comments from Council—There were no questions or comments from Council
- VI. Review of GPO responses to Council’s Fall 2024 recommendations
<https://www.fdlp.gov/sites/default/files/letter-gpo-responses-dlc-fall2024-recommendations2025-04-17.pdf>
Susanne Caro reviewed Council’s Fall 2024 recommendations and GPO’s responses.
- VII. New Business
- a. Any new business to bring forward from Council members?
None
Can be a number of different things. Unfortunately, we have had a lot of issues that have come up—in response to Andrea’s question.
Sarah New business: Really wants to know more about philosophically what the role of regionals will be in the future. We need to figure out what the most important thing is going forward.
 - b. Council discussion of meeting
Amy Laub: We are a great community, and we don’t hesitate to help one another.

Nia Rodgers: Agrees with Amy. It is amazing how optimistic this community is. No matter what is going on they work towards finding a solution.

Rob Mead: Knew there were data protectors and gathers out there but had no idea of the scope and heroic work people are doing, which provides a bit of optimism for a bleak period.

Andrea Stelljes: Confused what is considered new business—maybe why there were no responses to that agenda item.
Conference takeaways—always amazed at GPO staff and the FDLP tools that are out there. Maybe we could have a session on logins and passwords to use GPO tools in the future. Maybe GPO can streamline this. On library usage statistics report—do you envision how you might collect the data that you talked about? Are there qualitative things that can recorded for libraries that don’t have circulating collections.

Sarah Erikson: One of the things she did if someone requested an item that was interesting, she would take a snapshot with her phone. So maybe just a snapshot or recording interesting questions you’ve

received. The group hasn't come up with a framework or thought completely through next steps.

Wants to know, philosophically, what the role of the regional depository libraries will be going forward.

Susanne Caro: The question about our roles in the future is a fantastic question and a huge question.

c. Potential recommendations

Council approved the recommendations of the Statistics and Metrics Working Group in concept.

d. Questions and comments from the library community

e. What's next for Council

Susanne Caro: Reevaluation of our roles as depository libraries.

VIII. For the good of the order

IX. Scott: Fall Federal Depository Library Conference will be Sept 25-26, 2025, with the option to extend to Sept 29 if DLC needs an extra day for additional programming—Virtual only

X. Adjourn 5:15 pm

[Recording, slides, closed captioning transcript, and chat log for this session.](#)

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Laub

AMY LAUB

Secretary, Depository Library Council