

Depository Library Council Fall Meeting September 25 – 26, 2025 Minutes

Thursday, September 25, 2025

12:30–1:30* Conference Kickoff / Library Award Presentations

- Angela Bonnell, Depository Library Council Chair, Illinois State University's Milner Library
- Hugh N. Halpern, Director, U.S. Government Publishing Office
- Scott Matheson, Superintendent of Documents, GPO

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. She introduced the Council members and shared the purpose of the Council. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions and participate in discussions during the two days of sessions.

The Chair introduced GPO's Director Halpern. Director Halpern welcomed all the meeting speakers and attendees. And he welcomed Julie Balutis, the new Managing Director of Library Services and Content Management. Director Halpern conveyed that GPO's financial health is sound; Govinfo is seeing more use year by year, with a current total of 14.4 Billion retrievals since the launch of GPOAccess in the 1990s through today's GovInfo; and GPO is working to increase its visibility to our Congressional and partner institutions.

Superintendent of Documents Scott Matheson welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the Depository Library Council meeting and the Federal Depository Library Conference. He reported that he visited 23 libraries during the year, and he expects to visit more libraries in the coming year. He very much enjoyed meeting members of the depository library community. And he, too, welcomed Julie Balutis to the Library Services and Content Management team.

Julie shared her excitement of working with a new team and looks forward to learning and growing into the job. She reported that plans are forthcoming in the next fiscal year to implement recommendations of the Inspector General regarding library assessments. She welcomed the conference attendees and thanked them for celebrating Constitution Day and encouraged them to share photos on social media and share thoughts in the chat. She reminded attendees of the vendor and poster galleries and of the preconference recordings on [FDLP.gov](https://www.fdlp.gov).

The 2025 Federal depository library awards were presented. The Colorado School of Mines, Arthur Lakes Library received the Federal Depository Library of the Year Award. Jack Manus, Lisa Nickum, and Karen Pfiffner accepted the award. The

University of North Texas was awarded the Federal Depository Library Website of the Year, which was accepted by Jennifer Rowe.

1:30–2:00** **Intro to GPO’s Inspector General: Resources for FDLP Libraries**

- Nathan Deahl, Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, GPO
- Tyler Bennett, Supervisory Criminal Investigator, Office of the Inspector General

In this session, GPO’s Inspector General and Supervisory Criminal Investigator discussed the Office of the Inspector General’s (OIG) mission, and how to report suspected wrongdoing to the OIG. The Office of the Inspector General conducts independent audits, inspections, and investigations of GPO programs and offers an independent and objective means of keeping the Director of the GPO and Congress fully informed about problems and deficiencies relating to the agency’s administration and operations.

[Recording, slides, and chat log](#)

2:00–2:15 **Break**

2:15–3:00 **Value of FDLP Libraries**

- Brent Abercrombie, Regional Coordinator, Reference Librarian, Indiana State Library
- Heather Getsay, Depository Coordinator, Bailey Library, Slippery Rock University
- Rick Mikulski, Instruction & Research Librarian, Swem Library, William & Mary

This panel presentation offered various perspectives on how the value of the FDLP is effectively communicated to patrons, the public, and to library staff and administration.

[Recording, slides, and chat log](#)

2:15–4:00 **Promoting Materials in a Digital World**

- Anna Xiong, Head of the Kelley Center for Government Information Resources and Civic Engagement, Fondren Library, Rice University
- Kaitlyn Moody, Government Documents Manager, Marx Library, University of South Alabama
- Lauren Hall, Metadata & Collection Management, Government Documents, California State University, Stanislaus
- Lisa Pritchard, Director of Library Services, Jefferson College Library
- Susanne Caro, Government Documents Librarian, New Mexico State Library

How do you promote Government publications in a digital world? Hear from a panel of librarians as they share examples of displays, guides, and other tools to promote electronic materials. Learn about what works well and the resources available and tools to help you judge the effectiveness of your efforts.

[Recording, slides, and chat log](#)

3:00–3:15 Break

3:15–4:00* **Meeting the Government Information Needs of Speakers of Non-English Languages**

- Jane Canfield, Librarian (retired), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico
- Eva Raison, Director of Outreach Services, Brooklyn Public Library
- Brittany Young, Law Librarian/Program Manager, Lane County Law Library

The Depository Library Council’s Unique Challenges and Underserved Populations Subcommittee has investigated many aspects of underserved populations in Federal depository libraries. One of the challenges identified by depository librarians is working with speakers of languages other than English. This panel discussion informed attendees about resources and best practices for providing Government information services to library users who lack proficiency in English.

[Recording, slides, and chat log](#)

4:00–4:15 Break

4:15–5:15* **New GovInfo Content and Enhancements**

- Megan Minta, Collection Development Librarian, LSCM, GPO
- Amanda Dunn, Program Planner, ASPG, GPO

New content and features of GovInfo over the past year were shared. Highlights included launch of the new U.S. Reports collection, Volumes 2 (1790) through 501 (1991); RSS feeds for search results; release of USLM XML files for the digitized Statutes at Large; historic publications digitized by, or in collaboration with, partner libraries; customizations for new content; and so much more.

[Recording, slides, and chat log](#)

4:15–5:15 **Regional Libraries Meeting**

- Regional Government Information Librarians (REGIL)

The Regional Libraries Meeting was open to all. The meeting covered topics of relevance to regional FDLP libraries and was led by regional coordinators from across the country.

[Recording, slides, chat log and session notes](#)

5:15 Recess until noon, Friday

Friday, September 26, 2025

12:00–2:50** **Council is Listening**

- Facilitator: Angela Bonnell, Depository Library Council Chair, Head of Government Information and Maps, Milner Library, Illinois State University

This session was about the community! Council heard what was on their minds.

Attendees shared what they found concerning or exciting in areas such as FDLP access, collaboration, collections, and services

[Recording, slides, chat log](#)

12:50–1:00 **Break**

1:00–2:00 **Passing the Torch: Navigating a Government Documents Transition with Heart, Humor, and a Hint of Chaos**

- Laurie Aycock, Collection Strategy Librarian, Kennesaw State University
- Stephanie Ard, Collegiate Librarian for the Social Sciences, Kennesaw State University Libraries

What happens when a longtime Government documents coordinator steps into a broader strategic role during a sweeping library reorganization, and another experienced librarian takes on the depository coordinator title for the first time? This session explores one library's coordinator transition amid shifting responsibilities, a major weeding project, and digital-first realities. Presenters will share how they approached the handoff from both sides.

[Recording, slides, chat logs](#)

2:00–2:15 **Break**

2:15–3:15 **History Lab AI: A New Way to Explore a Vast Corpus of Declassified Documents**

- Matthew Connelly, Professor of History, Columbia University
- Ray Hicks, Research Manager, History Lab
- Nick Chimicles, Researcher, History Lab

This session provided a deep dive into History Lab AI, a free research tool built on a corpus of more than 5 million declassified government documents. The project's mission is to make historical records more accessible by enabling natural language and embedding-based search, offering a powerful alternative to traditional keyword methods. They discussed the philosophy behind this approach, practical differences in search experiences, and principles of retrieval-augmented generation. Attendees were encouraged to try the tool in real time, ask questions, and share feedback.

[Recording, slides, chat log](#)

2:15–3:15 **Adventures in Government Comics: Discovering, Preserving, and Promoting a Hidden Collection**

- Tasha McClain, Government Information Librarian, University of North Texas, Sycamore Library
- Bobby Griffith, Lead Government Information Reference Associate, University of North Texas

Government comics are one of the most interesting and fun aspects of the Government Publications collection at the University of North Texas Sycamore Library, but because they are scattered among many different agencies, take on a bewildering variety of formats, and are not always well-indexed in the library

catalog, these fascinating publications all too often have languished unseen by and unknown to the general public and even to library staff. Presenters shared the thrilling story of how they discovered, preserved, and promoted Government comics at UNT's Sycamore Library. They shared the principles we have learned over the years – principles that can be applied at other libraries, not just to Government comics, but to other hidden collections as well. They suggested others also could have a story to share.

[Recording, slides, and chat log](#)

3:15–3:30

Break

3:30–4:30*

DLC: Business Meeting

- Angela Bonnell, Depository Library Council Chair,
- Members of the DLC
 - I. Call to Order
 - II. Secretary's Report
 - III. Remarks from the Chair
 - IV. Election of Chair for Council term June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027
 - V. Reports
 - VI. Review of GPO responses to Council's Spring 2025 recommendations
 - VII. New Business

4:30–4:45

Break

4:45–5:30*

- VIII. DLC Wrap Up & Closing
 - Angela Bonnell, Depository Library Council Chair,
 - Members of the DLC
- IX. For the good of the order

MINUTES FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING

- I. Meeting was called to order by Chair Bonnell
- II. Secretary Report
 - Roll & Approval of Spring Meeting Minutes
 - Quorum was reached and minutes from Spring 2025 meeting were approved.
- III. Remarks from the Chair
 - Thanked everyone for attending and especially GPO for orchestrating an excellent conference.
 - Special thanks to Scott Matheson and Cynthia Etkin
 - Round of virtual applause for GPO!
 - Reminder that the 2024 - 2025 annual report from DLC came out late in the summer
 - Reminder that the DLC Recommendations came out in September 2025

- NCSAs foster collaboration and communication across the nation
- DLC asked the community for their continued support and feedback
- It is an honor to serve on Council

IV. **Election of Chair for Council term June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027**

Stephani (Nia) Rodgers was elected Chair for the 2026-2027 year

V. **Reports, Subcommittee Reports**

Collection and Discovery Services Subcommittee

Report by Charlie Amiot, Chair:

Activities:

- New Charter, effective August 14, 2025
- CDSS body convened multiple times to discuss and finalize
- Updates reflect the evolving needs of our communities and a rapidly changing information landscape
- Designed to improve subcommittee operational efficiency and effectiveness
- Clarifies duties, guidelines, and objectives of CDSS, in alignment with FDLP needs and goals.

Next Steps:

- Recruit depository library community members (2)
- Continue program planning for 2026 Spring DLC Meeting
- Explore potential Generative Artificial Intelligence applications related to:
 - Collection management;
 - Cataloging and metadata; and
 - Discovery and access services

Charlie thanked the members of the subcommittee for their hard work and dedication to the group. She also invited anyone interested in working with the Subcommittee to contact her or Cynthia Etkin

Unique Challenges and Underserved Populations, & Federal Depository Libraries

Report by Gwen Sinclair and Johnathan Underwood, Co-chairs

Activities:

- Focus Group Report
- Submitted a question for the 2025 Biennial Survey of Depository Libraries:

Q26. Do patrons who use depository collections, or are offered use of government information resources, express mistrust of them?

- Yes (if yes, please briefly describe the nature of their concern or mistrust)
- No
- Don't know / decline to answer

Next Steps:

- Explore potential AI applications related to library services for affinity-focused institutions and other FDLs with unique needs and challenges or library access to government information resources
- Data analysis of 2025 Biennial Survey Q26 responses

Gwen Sinclair thanked the members of the subcommittee for their work.

Recommendations:

Gwen offered UCUP’s three recommendations for the Council’s consideration to transmit to the GPO:

Recommendation 1:

The Council recognizes that many users of Government information continue to experience challenges related to the digital divide. It recommends that GPO consider developing print-on-demand services for Federal depository libraries (FDLs), enabling them to provide Government information to users who cannot access digital documents or reside far from a Federal depository library. The Council further recommends that the GPO consider ways to support interlibrary loan services to ensure the availability of printed documents to underserved populations.

Recommendation 2:

In a digital-first environment, Government information is accessed both within and outside of FDLs. To better accommodate underserved populations who may not visit FDLs, the Council recommends the GPO develop a toolkit for Government information in all formats that FDLs and the general public can utilize. The toolkit should include promotional content suitable for social media and online use, as well as the tangible materials currently available.

Recommendation 3:

To increase the visibility and accessibility of all training materials available on the FDLP website, the Council recommends that GPO establish a training portal to provide a single-entry point for all of its training resources, including FDLP Academy presentations, conference proceedings, and Library Resource Guides.

Council voted to accept the recommendations in concept and transmit them to the Director of the U.S. Government Publishing Office.

Working Group Reports

Long-Term Impacts of COVID-19 on FDL Access, Collections, and Services

Working Group

Report by Cynthia Etkin

Activities:

- Submitted questions for inclusion in the 2025 Biennial Survey of Depository Libraries.
- The questions are meant to be interpreted as “since March 2020, the beginning of the pandemic,” and not since the last Biennial Survey.

Q24. What, if anything, are the most lasting impacts of COVID-19 upon the operations of your institution as an FDLP member?

Describe impacts:_____

No lasting impact

Q25. In which area(s), if any, did your depository implement new, or revise existing, policies/procedures as a result of COVID-19? Select all that apply.

- Collection maintenance and weeding
- Instructional and education services
- Outreach services
- Public access
- Reference services
- Staffing
- Other (please explain) [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
- Changes were made due to COVID-19 but now back to pre-COVID policies
- No new policies or procedures were implemented because of the COVID-19 pandemic

- These will be the last Biennial Survey questions from the COVID WG

Next Steps:

- Data analysis of 2025 Biennial Survey response
- Compare 2021, 2023, and 2025 Biennial Survey findings
- Write the final report
- Sunset the COVID WG

Cynthia thanked the previous members of Council that have stayed on the group after rotating off Council. She also asked for any current Council member interested in serving to let her know.

Statistics and Metrics Working Group

Report by Nia Rodgers and Josh Finnell, Co-chairs

Activities:

- Usage Statistics in Depository Libraries Survey follow-up
 - Q6. If GPO required usage statistics, would you be able to provide them?
 - 57 Follow-up emails to “Yes for print” respondents
 - 31 replied with data
- 2. Began a pilot with Science Data Collaboratory, Colgate University
 - Will Cipolli, Director of SDC and Student project
 - Assess a common set of variables that depository libraries count/track
 - Normalize the data and attempt some non-probability sampling

Next Steps:

- Continue work with Data Science Collaboratory, Colgate University
- Collect additional data sets from depository libraries (e.g. digital use)
- Explore potential AI applications in relation to data gathering
- Work with GPO on expanding The Essential FDLP collection of stories

Nia thanked the group for their work, especially their flexibility in seeking both qualitative and quantitative data.

National Collection Service Area Reports

Midwest: Angie Bonnell

The NCSA Midwest's new chair is Brent Abercrombie from Indiana State Library, and the news secretary is Sherry Hooper from the Minnesota State Law Library. The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 9am. Midwest discussed creating a new outreach subcommittee that would in part encourage the Midwest FDLP libraries that receive limited print titles to agree to a preservation steward partnership with GPO. The document storage subcommittee is exploring a file sharing system. They have set up NCSA email and Google drive accounts. They are happy to share information with other NCSAs regarding their file sharing systems. The annual report for 24-25 is posted at the NCSA Midwest website.

Northeast: Michael Cerbo

Liza Duncan chairs the NCSA Northeast. The group tested their reallocation plan with much success, following an FDL that needed to relinquish its federal collection. Currently working on creating a collection management plan. They are setting up two working groups; one will focus on collection development and collection management, and the other will focus on cataloging and access. The entire group will work on preservation issues going forward. The annual report is posted on the NCSA Northeast website.

South: Jonathan Underwood

Anna Xiong chairs the NCSA South. Created a limited print distribution reallocation plan, established a minimum copy policy (5 for the South). Administered 2 surveys to the community to establish priorities, Sept 2024 and Jan 2025. Leveraged existing networks working group in March of 2025 to assess the impact of existing shared collections within the South. This involved a partnership with ASERL; a final report was submitted to the NCSA and GPO. Contacted Regionals in the South to encourage them to volunteer for preservation steward agreements with GPO. Angela Bardeen will be the new chair for 26-27. The group looks forward to an opening meeting and further work to promote the Preservation Steward program, especially for limited print titles.

West: Gwen Sinclair

Cass Harnett of the University of Washington chairs the NCSA West. First, congratulations to the Arthur Lakes Library at the Colorado School of Mines for being selected at the Depository Library of the Year. Annual report for 24-25 is posted on the NCSA West website. The group surveyed libraries in the West to assess their priorities and interests as well as to ask about interest in serving as

a preservation steward. The top issues identified were the role of regionals in the new system and developing best practices for access in areas such as interlibrary loans and circulation. Members attended the Regionals meeting at this conference and will consider what has been learned at the next meeting. Members will continue to print distribution title selectors in their states to inquire about their willingness to permanently retain the PDT titles they select. Some new preservation stewards have been identified through this process. The ultimate goal is 5 stewards for the 20 copy titles and 10 stewards for the 50 copy titles. The committee is exploring consortia and shared print repositories to determine how we can build on those relationships as part of ensuring permanent public access to limited print titles.

VI. Review of GPO responses to Council's Spring 2025 recommendations
[gpo-responses-spring-2025-dlc-recommendatons-2025-09-10.pdf](#)

GPO Accepted both recommendations from the Depository Library Council

VII. New Business

Andrea Stelljes: Can we learn more about the GPO community assessment planned for early 2026 mentioned at the pre-conference. Kate Pitcher spoke on that; she is not currently at the conference. Kelly Siefert said that the needs assessment will help LSCM understand the problems our users face and determine the gaps between where they currently are and where they need to be in a digital FDLP. It will assist LSCM in developing, expanding, and continuing services aimed at supporting FDLPS. Slated for the Winter of 2026.

Robust discussion of GPO sites and GPO related issues during a shutdown. Tools will remain available but will not be updated during a shutdown. GovInfo will be the only one system adding material - they will add Congressional materials. askGPO will not be live. GPO will post a news alert telling exactly what will be available.

[Business Meeting recording, slides, and chat log](#)

VIII. Wrap Up & Closing

Conference Takeaways:

- Stephani (Nia) Rodgers elected to be the next Chair of the Council
- Thanks to all the presenters
- What we learned:
 - How to use new tools and enhancements
 - We need to reach out and collaborate beyond gov docs units
 - We should be documenting processes and procedures
- What we discussed:
 - Communication in the community and how people are meeting
 - AI and its role
 - Great collections including unique items, all are relevant and valuable

- Collections belong to the people, not the institutions, we are the stewards
- How overwhelming gov docs can be
- Recognition in libraries affecting docs responsibilities, including added responsibilities and reduced staffing
- We were reminded:
 - This is the best conference ever! Whether new or experienced.
 - GPO supports depository libraries
 - The community is so supportive and possesses deep knowledge... including student workers
 - Always share your feedback about new processes or tools; it may help improvements
 - Ask for help; tap into the network
- The last word — sessions were recorded and are available, along with presentation slides and handouts from the [FDLP Academy](#).

[Wrap Up & Closing recording, slides, and chat log](#)

IX. For the good of the order

5:30 Council will convene again for its Spring 2026 meeting. Adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephani (Nia) Rodgers

Stephani (Nia) Rodgers, Secretary.
 Depository Library Council
 March 5, 2026

NOTES:	ACRONYMS	
* Required session for Councilors	ASPG	Agency Strategic Programs & GovInfo
* Council session	FDLP	Federal Depository Library Program
* GPO session	GPO	U.S. Government Publishing Office
🕒 All times are Eastern	LSCM	Library Services & Content Management
	OIG	Office of the Inspector General