

SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS POLICY STATEMENT

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/28/2008

Subject: Firsthand Investigation of Individual Federal Depository Library Conditions

Purpose

The Public Access Assessments Program fulfills the GPO's responsibility to conduct firsthand investigations of conditions at individual depository libraries.

Background

The authority for GPO to evaluate Federal depository library compliance with Title 44 *United States Code* rests in §1909:

The Superintendent of Documents shall make firsthand investigation of conditions for which need is indicated and include the results of investigations in his annual report. When he ascertains that the number of books in a depository library is below ten thousand, other than Government publications, or it has ceased to be maintained so as to be accessible to the public, or that the Government publications which have been furnished the library have not been properly maintained, he shall delete the library from the list of depository libraries if the library fails to correct the unsatisfactory conditions within six months.

GPO is responsible for ensuring that resources distributed through the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) are freely accessible to the general public and that depository libraries comply with FDLP legal and program requirements. As libraries formally agree to provide free public access upon designation as Federal depository libraries and as the Federal Government information products disseminated to Federal depository libraries remain Federal property, the U.S. Government Printing Office must account for access to and the condition of Federal Government information products in depository libraries for proper administration of the FDLP.

Policy

The current program for investigation of Federal depository library conditions is named Public Access Assessments. The primary focus of this program is free public access to Federal Government information products, distributed and disseminated by GPO, at individual depository libraries, utilizing criteria of access, collections, and service requirements.

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Scope

This policy pertains to the assessment of all designated Federal depository libraries. Any statutory exemptions noted for certain types of libraries in 44 U.S.C. §1907 and 1915 will be accounted for in the individual library's assessment.

Application

The Superintendent of Documents, through the Director of Library Services and Content Management, is responsible for ensuring depository libraries are compliant with the statutory provisions of the Federal Depository Library Program. Any exceptions to this policy must be authorized by the Superintendent of Documents.

Reference

44 *United States Code*, Chapter 19

Recommended *Arthur G. New* 01/28/08
Director, Library Services and Content Management

Approved *Arthur G. New* 01/28/08
Acting Superintendent of Documents