

Depository Library Council

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

Depository Library Council Spring Meeting Minutes March 4 – 5, 2026

Wednesday, 03/04

Conference Kickoff

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

Chair Bonnell called the Depository Library Council (DLC) meeting to order. Opening remarks were delivered by Angela Bonnell, GPO Director Halpern, and Superintendent of Documents Matheson. Director Halpern also welcomed the new Depository Library Council Members:

Brent Abercrombie, Indiana State Library
Andrea Craley, Harford Community College
Ashley Dees, University of Mississippi

Dominique Hallett, Arkansas State University
Antoine McGrath, Internet Archive Library
Dr. Joe Mocnik, Kansas State University

Keynote Address: Integrated Shared Collections at Scale

Ian Bogus, Executive Director
Research Collections and Preservation Consortium (ReCAP)

Ian discussed his vision where libraries work more closely together than they have been able to in the past. Programs like the National Collection Service Areas and Shared Print are establishing infrastructure for libraries to share materials. The next step is to integrate collections in ways that support users as widely as possible.

[Recording, Slides, and Chat log for the Conference Welcome and the Keynote Address](#)

Understanding AI Bias: How It Arises and How to Respond

Sponsored by the DLC Unique Challenges, Underserved Populations, and Federal Depository Libraries Council Subcommittee

- Facilitator: Gwen Sinclair, Chair of the Government Documents & Maps Department, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Library
- Kim Nayyer, Edward Cornell Law Librarian, Associate Dean for Library Services, and Professor of the Practice, Cornell Law School and Cornell University Library

This session explored the phenomenon of AI bias—why bias is seen as inherent in machine learning processes and generative AI models. The impact of training data, design choices, and real-world use on observable and implicit bias in AI outputs, along with the consequent implications for public trust were explored. Participants learned about techniques developers can use to mitigate bias and strategies information professionals can use to critically assess AI outputs for bias and mitigation efforts. By the end of the session, participants had a deeper understanding of AI bias and will be able to apply this knowledge in their own work and toward informative interactions with patrons.

[Recording, Slides, and Chat log](#)

National Transportation Library Resources and Services

- **Rosalyn Alleman, Reference and Outreach Librarian, National Transportation Library, USDOT**

The National Transportation Library (NTL) is a born-digital library which collects Government-funded transportation research and other materials, provides reference services to the public, coordinates the National Transportation Knowledge Network, and supports Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) transportation statistical data products. Created by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, it is funded under the highway trust fund laws that are passed every five years. NTL also hosts the US Department of Transportation (DOT) archives, which is managed by their historian/archivist who makes those materials available to DOT staff and the public.

[Recording, Slides, and Chat log](#)

Zine-Making 101: Zip, Zap, Zine

Sponsored by the DLC Collection & Discovery Services Subcommittee

- Charlie Amiot, Government Information Librarian, CDSS, Chair
- Selena Lee, Librarian, Ninth Circuit, Anchorage Branch
- Ariella Mason, Special Collections Coordinator, Fresno County Public Library

Zine-Making 101: Zip, Zap, Zine introduced what zines are, why they're an effective tool for outreach and education, and how librarians can use them to make Government information more discoverable and engaging. Panelists shared a real-world use case example and walk through practical do's/don'ts, plus tips and tricks for creating zines, followed by audience Q&A.

[Recording, Slides, Chat log, and Handout](#)

Thursday, 03/05

Council is Listening

- Facilitator: Angela Bonnell, Depository Library Council Chair, Illinois State University's Milner Library

Council used this opportunity to hear what was on the minds of the depository library community. The session was guided by the questions attendees answered as part of the Spring Meeting registration form. The feedback helped guide Council as it advised the GPO Director on information policy issues affecting depository libraries and the FDLP.

[Recording, Slides, Chat log, and Registrant Survey Summary](#)

Q&A Follow-Up: Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Pre-Meeting Updates

- Julie Balutis, Managing Director, Library Services & Content Management
- Michael Dent, Supervisory Librarian
- Suzanne Ebanues, Supervisory Management Analyst
- Fang Gao, Chief of Metadata & Collection Services
- Jen Lindley, Supervisory Librarian
- Scott Matheson, Superintendent of Documents
- Oksana Osborne, Metadata Integrity Librarian
- Ben Petersen, Chief of Projects & Systems
- Kate Pitcher, Chief of Federal Depository Support Services
- Lisa Russell, Senior Program Analyst

During this follow-up session, members of GPO's Library Services & Content Management (LSCM) leadership team addressed questions related to LSCM projects and initiatives submitted by the FDLP community leading up to and during the FDLP Pre-Meeting held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

[Recording, Slides, and Chat log](#)

Depository Library Council Business Meeting (3:00–5:00 Eastern)

I. Chair Bonnell called the meeting to order at 3:00.

II. Secretary's Report:

The Chair, reporting for the Secretary, called the roll by cohort and *declared a quorum*.

2023 — 2026 TERM	2024 — 2027 TERM	2025 — 2028 TERM
✓ Angela Bonnell (Chair)	✓ Charlie Amiot	✓ Brent Abercombie
✓ Sarah Erickson	✓ Elissa A. Lawrence	✓ Michael Cerbo
Joshua Finnell	✓ Nia Rodgers	✓ Ariella Mason
✓ Angela Kent	✓ Andrea Stelljes	✓ Melanie Sims
✓ Gwen Sinclair	Lisa DeLuca	✓ Jonathan Underwood

The Chair noted that Council members had the opportunity to review the minutes of the Fall 2025 Depository Library Council meeting (September 25–26, 2025) and thanked Secretary Nia Rodgers for preparing and posting them. The Chair called for a motion and a second to approve the minutes; a motion was made and multiple seconds were offered. The Chair asked for additions or corrections. Hearing none, the *minutes of the Fall 2025 meeting were approved by acclamation*.

III. Remarks from the Chair

The Chair offered brief remarks, thanking attendees, counselors, and GPO for another productive virtual gathering of the depository community and thanking GPO for convening the meeting. For those new to the depository community, the Chair explained that the business meeting is where Council shares reports from its subcommittees and working groups and now, from the four National Collection Service Areas (NCSAs), and that as an advisory body to GPO, Council may submit recommendations and discuss GPO's responses to them.

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

The Chair opened the floor for nominations for Council Secretary. Gwen Sinclair nominated Charlie Amiot. Ms. Amiot accepted the nomination. Multiple seconds were offered. The Chair asked whether there were other nominees; hearing none, and without opposition, **Charlie Amiot was elected Secretary by acclamation**. She will begin secretarial duties on 1 June. The Chair congratulated Ms. Amiot and thanked her for her willingness to serve.

V. Reports

SUBCOMMITTEES

Collection and Discovery Services (CDSS), Chair Charlie Amiot reporting

Membership

Charlie Amiot (Chair), Angela Bonnell, Ariella Mason, Melanie Sims, and Andrea Stelljes, with representation from every Council year; GPO members Cynthia Etkin (designated

federal officer) and Jen Lindley; and community member Kate Irwin, who was unable to attend because she was teaching.

Charge

To assist in coordinating the thoughts, research, plans, and efforts related to collection management, cataloging, and metadata, and to expanding and enhancing the discovery and access services that GPO provides to the depository community and other interested parties, and to engage the depository community in these processes.

Activities

- Drafted a new charter, reorganizing and improving its operational efficiency.
- Changed the meeting pattern to meet more frequently for shorter periods.
- Planned the conference session Zine-Making 101. Feedback has been very positive. Attendees were encouraged to download the session packet, which includes a zine-making tool and folding instructions.

Next steps

- Recruit new community members; non-DLC input from community members is a priority.
- Elect a new chair, as the current Chair's term is ending.
- Continue planning the session originally considered for spring 2026, now anticipated for the fall: identifying speakers and refining the program so the incoming chair can carry it forward.
- Continue exploring general artificial intelligence applications where relevant. There has been no substantial discussion recently, as few AI issues have fallen within the subcommittee's purview and capacity, but the subcommittee continues to discuss concerns about ethics, environmental impact, and efficacy. The Chair noted that her own outspoken views on AI do not represent the position of the subcommittee.

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

Reported by Chair Gwen Sinclair, who thanked all past and present UCUP members and, in particular, co-chair Jonathan Underwood.

Charge

To study FDLs at affinity-focused institutions — such as historically Black colleges and universities and indigenous-serving institutions — and other FDLs with unique needs and challenges that impact their ability to provide access to tangible and digital depository resources; and to determine possible solutions and provide recommendations, including ways in which the Government Publishing Office can better support these libraries.

Activities

- Submitted a question for the 2025 biennial survey asking whether patrons who use depository collections, or who are offered the use of government information, express mistrust of it.
- Continued examining the potential uses and impacts of AI in the areas the subcommittee has investigated, and grappled with whether a new working group on AI is needed or whether the issue should be treated as part of the digital literacy work the subcommittee already studies. This remains under discussion.

- Organized the conference session Understanding AI Bias, featuring Kim Nayyer of the Cornell University Law Library, which was well attended and well received. The recording will be available through the FDL Academy.

Next Steps

- Continue the subcommittee's exploration of AI applications.
- Analyze responses to Question 26 of the 2025 biennial survey on mistrust of government information. A very preliminary review indicated that many respondents did not answer the question, and that most of those who did indicate it was not an issue; the subcommittee believes the question warrants more detailed study to understand how mistrust of government is affecting depository operations.

WORKING GROUPS

Long-term Impacts of COVID-19 on FDL Access, Collections, and Services Working Group

Reported by Ariella Mason, the working group's new chair.

Membership

Ariella Mason (DLC member and Chair); GPO members Cynthia Etkin, Laura Flint, and Abigail McDermott; and community members Suzanna Caro, Haley Johnson, Rick Mikulski, and Lisa Pritchard.

Charge

To examine the practices, policies, and procedures enacted by FDLs since March 2020 as they adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to assess the long-term impact of these efforts at the institutional and national level. The working group examines pandemic practices, policies, and procedures enacted by FDLs and by GPO relating to services, procedures, collections, staffing, and similar areas, and assesses whether such policies may or may not continue into the post-pandemic era.

Activities

- Included questions 24 and 25 on the 2025 Biennial Survey — the working group's final set of survey questions. Respondents were asked to interpret the questions as covering the entire period since March 2020, not only the two years since the last biennial survey. The questions were:

(24) What, if anything, are the most lasting impacts from COVID upon operations at your institution as an FDL member?

(25) In which areas, if any, did your depository implement new, or revise existing, policies and procedures as a result of COVID-19? (select all that apply).

Next Steps

- Analyze the 2025 biennial survey responses and compare the 2021, 2023, and 2025 biennial surveys.
- Write a final report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on federal depository libraries. The working group will sunset once the report is complete.

Statistics and Metrics Working Group (SAM)

Reported by Cynthia Etkin (GPO) in the absence of Co-chairs Joshua Finnell and Nia Rodgers, with a presentation on the StoryMap project by Ashley Dees.

Membership

Council members Angela Bonnell, Sarah Erickson, Joshua Finnell, Nia Rodgers, and Gwen Sinclair; GPO members Cynthia Etkin, Stephen Kharfen, Ben Peterson, and Kate Pitcher; and community members Ashley Dees, Elizabeth Garner, and Suzanne Caro.

Charge

To study and report on recommended options for how GPO can collect usage statistics from depository libraries for digital and tangible government information products. Further, the working group is to study and report on the broader landscape of library data-gathering trends and to recommend possible programmatic library-related performance indicators.

Activities

- Conducted a usage statistics survey with depository library coordinators, completed the analysis, and provided a report. Thirty institutions responded — not a large enough sample to extrapolate across the Federal Depository Library Program
- In light of those results, the working group is pivoting to qualitative data gathering through a StoryMap project. A news alert inviting the community to contribute stories has been issued.

StoryMap Project

- The goal is to collect at least one story from each state and territory, telling the story of how FDLP libraries use government documents and interact with their patrons.
- The prototype uses the Knight Lab StoryMap platform — the same tool used for the GODORT 50th anniversary map — though the working group may move to a different platform, so the final product may look somewhat different.
- Submissions are made through an online form linked in the news alert and should include an image of the document used in the impact story, its title and SuDoc number, and a short blurb about the interaction with the patron. It was noted in the chat that the image is optional — stories without an image are still welcome.
- Congressional districts will be added to each story so that legislators interested in education, the FDLP, and related topics can see impact stories from their districts. The working group expects that the collective map of 50-plus stories will be especially impactful.
- The deadline for story submissions is August 1. Questions may be directed to any member of the SAM Working Group.

NATIONAL COLLECTION SERVICE AREA (NCSA) STEERING COMMITTEES, DLC REPRESENTATIVES

Midwest NCSA — reported by Angela Bonnell

- Steering committee: Chair Brent Abercrombie (State Library), who is also an incoming Council member; Secretary Sherry Hooper (Minnesota State Law Library); members Braylon Ellis, Jenny McBurney, Ellen Reed, and Alyssa Lawrence; GPO representatives Cynthia Etkin, Kate Pitcher, and Ashley Dalen.
- The first public Midwest NCSA meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10, from 10:30 a.m. to noon ET. The meeting will address the role of regional depository libraries within the framework of the limited print distribution titles model. All depository coordinators are encouraged to attend.

- The meeting will also take up a proposed offer policy that would add a step to the disposal process: instead of a title being offered within a state and then nationally, it would be offered first to the state's regional, then to the Midwest region, then nationally.
- To learn about Midwest depository coordinators' concerns, the steering committee created a survey to be completed before the meeting to guide the discussion. Registration and survey links were shared in the chat.

Northeast NCSA — reported by Michael Cerbo

- Steering Committee chaired by Liza Duncan, State Library of New York,
- The steering committee is working to complete three collection development plans — cataloging and access; development and management; and preservation. Drafts are complete and additional feedback is being gathered, including at a scheduled meeting with the region's seven regional coordinators, who will review the plans and share their opinions.
- The committee continues to discuss coordination of print distribution titles, including determining how many PDTs remain in the service area and possibly developing weeding protocols.
- The committee also continues efforts to increase the number of preservation stewards in the region.

South — reported by Jonathan Underwood

- Steering committee: Chair Anna Xiong, with members Ashley Dees, Suzanne Reimann, Perveen Rustomfram, Dominique Hallett, Rick Mikulski, and Jonathan Underwood.
- An open Zoom discussion for NCSA South community members will be held Monday, March 23, from 10:00 to 11:30, on the role of regional depository libraries in the new FDLP system.
- The move to a digital-first FDLP and the creation of the four multi-state service areas have the potential to fundamentally change the FDLP; the discussion is intended as an opportunity to consider what this means for the regional system and to inform the steering committee's drafting of new collection management policies.

West — reported by Gwen Sinclair

- Ms. Sinclair thanked all past and present West NCSA Steering Committee members for their engagement and hard work, and especially past chairs Arlene Weibel and Cass Hartnett and current chair Niamh Wallace.
- In September 2025, the steering committee polled all depository coordinators in the West NCSA about their priorities for building a collection management plan for the region. Respondents were most interested in the role of the regionals within the still relatively new world of NCSAs and the limited print distribution model.
- In response, the steering committee convened a Regionals of the West discussion in November 2025, followed by a similar meeting for selectives in February 2026. Both meetings produced substantial feedback, which will be used to shape the West NCSA's collection management plan.
- The steering committee also considered a partial reallocation plan for the University of Oregon, which decided to withdraw from its shared regional arrangement in Oregon

and to drop its print distribution titles. Some of those titles will be reallocated to other Oregon libraries, and others will be reallocated in other states in the West.

The Chair thanked the subcommittees, working groups, and steering committees for their reports. No questions or comments were raised.

VI. Review of [GPO responses to Council's Fall 2025 recommendations](#)

The Fall 2025 Depository Library Council meeting resulted in 3 recommendations being transmitted to Director Halpern for consideration: 1) Regarding print-on-demand services, 2) Develop a public facing toolkit with resources to support outreach by depository coordinators, and 3) Establish a training portal.

In the GPO response, Director Halpern stated, "Outreach by depository librarians engages them with the diverse communities they serve and helps bridge gaps in access to government information. Training and continuing education help make government information librarians better facilitators of learning. GPO wholeheartedly encourages these efforts and will do what we can to support them. I instructed the Superintendent of Documents to implement these two DLC recommendations."

VII. New Business

GPO's [2026 Legislative Proposals](#)

Superintendent of Documents Scott Matheson and Cynthia Etkin, Council's Designated Federal Officer, Office of the Superintendent of Documents.

The laws governing the Federal Depository Library Program (44 United States Code Chapter 19) have changed very little in 60 years. With this in mind, the strategies used in developing the proposals were to:

- Ensure a digital-first FDLP is supported;
- Use language that builds in flexibility (e.g., actions through Superintendent of Documents policy and guidance);
- Include a definition of "public information" that is format neutral and better describes the scope of GPO's Public Information Programs; and
- Include a "Purpose" section that ensures the public's right to free, equitable, and convenient access to government public information and includes the information lifecycle in the public information programs of the Superintendent of Documents in the Government Publishing Office

VIII. DLC Wrap Up & Closing

Discuss conference takeaways and DLC action items. Major takeaways include:

- Excellent sessions: Ian Bogus' Keynote Address —ReCAP shared print consortium; Rosalyn Alleman of the National Transportation Library on that library's resources and services; the UCUP-sponsored Understanding AI Bias with Kim Nayyer; and the CDSS-sponsored Zine-Making 101 with Charlie Amiot, Ariella Mason, and Selena Lee. All received strong feedback.
- There remains a strong desire to meet in person. Counselor Sinclair suggested that one way to meet in person could be through the regions within the NCSAs.
- There is interest in developing work through the NCSAs.

- The community is a creative group that wants to engage the public in many interesting ways
- The community wants to learn about wide-ranging topics such as ReCAP, zines, AI bias, and Preserving print and digital content.

Questions and comments from the depository library community

There were no verbal questions or comments. Council will review the chat transcript for questions when it is available.

Superintendent of Documents Scott Matheson

- Thanked attendees for their engagement and participation over the two and a half days of the meeting and encouraged those who missed the pre-conference to review the recordings.
- Noted that while the fall meeting often combines the Depository Library Conference with the DLC meeting, the spring meeting is Council's meeting, and thanked Council for its engagement and for putting together the information sessions for the community, which also inform the work of Council's working groups and subcommittees.
- Reminded attendees to complete the withdrawal recall for the U.S. Marine Corps service registers; the call to action was sent by email and linked in the chat.
- Encouraged attendees to complete the event satisfaction survey, including any ideas for future topics; both DLC and LSCM staff read all the comments. The survey is also available through the portal.
- Noted that the recordings are available now in the archives on the FDLP site — including the Tuesday pre-conference and the Wednesday and Thursday sessions, which can be navigated freely — and thanked Ashley Dalen for her speedy work posting them. Slides, handouts, and resource sheets produced for the meeting are available through the portal, with links also on fdlp.gov.

Managing Director Julie Balutis

- Echoed the thanks to everyone for their enthusiastic participation and to Council for the engaging and informative sessions, noting the great feedback received and expressing gratitude to the community, which is what makes the program strong.
- Reported that planning for the fall conference is under way. As with last year, it will take place in late September. GPO is still working on the possibility of an on-site event in the Washington, DC area and will share details as soon as they are firm.

The Chair thanked Mr. Matheson, Ms. Balutis, and GPO for creating these opportunities for the community in the fall and the spring.

IX. For the good of the order

Chair Bonnell's Parting Thoughts

Chair Bonnell thanked Superintendent Matheson, Managing Director Balutis, and GPO for creating these opportunities for the community each fall and spring.

And she gave thanks to the Counselors, especially those whose terms end May 31, 2026: Gwen Sinclair, Sarah Erickson, Joshua Finnell, and Angela Kent. Reflecting on the cohort that began in June 2023.

The Chair noted that during their term Council experienced the transition toward the digital depository; witnessed the limited print distribution titles implementation; creation of the NCSAs steering committees; and was invited to an in-person meeting in the spring of 2024.

As counselors, they addressed concerns about the unexpected end of MARCIVE and, with it, the GPO's cataloging record distribution program, and have grappled with how to preserve disappearing online information.

The Chair observed that each conference and meeting has shown GPO's productivity, including its continuing digitization projects and new tools such as govinfo and Discover.gov, and said it is hard to imagine any professional service being more fulfilling or working with more dedicated colleagues.

The Chair noted that Nia Rodgers will be the next Chair of DLC and Charlie Amiot the next Secretary, and wished them well, adding that the outgoing cohort still has March, April, and May remaining in its term.

Chair recognized Counselors who wished to comment

- Nia Rodgers thanked the Chair for her leadership over the past year, describing her as a compassionate and optimistic colleague and a delight to work with.
- Charlie Amiot thanked her colleagues, noting how much she values these meetings and the group, and expressed hope for a future in-person meeting.

Designated Federal Officer

The Chair recognized Cynthia Etkin, who thanked all the Council members for their commitment, hard work, and perseverance. She reminded everyone that following Council's September meeting the Government experienced a six-week shutdown and there were no communications or directions from GPO during that time. And yet, Council came to this meeting with a full slate of accomplishments. She thanked them for their dedication, and for serving GPO and the depository library community so ably.

X. Adjourn

Chair Bonnell thanked the Council and all attendees for their thoughtful participation. She adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m. ET. Council will convene again in the fall of 2026, with Chair Nia Rodgers presiding.

[Business Meeting Recording, Slides, and Chat log](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Stephani (Nia) Rodgers

Stephani (Nia) Rodgers, Secretary
Depository Library Council, 2025-2026