



Agenda

****All times are displayed in Eastern Time (ET).*

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

12:00–1:00 **Conference Kickoff / Library Award Presentations**

- Stephani (Nia) Rodgers, Depository Library Council (DLC) Chair, Public Affairs Research Librarian, Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Hugh N. Halpern, Director, U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO)
- Scott Matheson, Superintendent of Documents, GPO

During this opening session, the event will be officially called to order, and opening remarks will be delivered. Awards for the 2026 Federal Depository Library of the Year and Federal Depository Website of the Year will also be presented.

1:00–1:30 **Keynote Address: GovScape: Toward Multimodal Search & Discovery for Government PDFs**

- Dr. Benjamin Charles Germain Lee, Assistant Professor, University of Washington Information School

Widespread efforts by libraries, archives, and museums have drastically improved digital access to collections. Yet, scholars and the public alike face a persistent challenge: how to explore and analyze these collections, which contain millions or even billions of items and often suffer from incomplete metadata. My interdisciplinary research addresses this question by bringing together approaches from AI, library & information science, and the digital humanities in order to build and examine large-scale search systems for digital collections. In this talk, I will introduce GovScape, a multimodal search system for 10+ million Government PDFs publicly available at: <https://govscape.net>. I will conclude with a horizon of opportunities and challenges that lie ahead with rendering Government documents discoverable in the age of AI.

1:30–1:45 **Break**

1:45-2:45	NAL Tools: Practical Strategies for Navigating USDA Information Kirstin Nelson, Senior Law Librarian, National Agricultural Library, U.S. Department of Agriculture Discover how the National Agricultural Library (NAL) helps users access authoritative USDA information across the full range of agriculture and food topics. This session introduces practical strategies for working with NAL's key discovery tools, including AGRICOLA, PubAg, and Ag Data Commons, and highlights how the National Agricultural Library Thesaurus (NALT) and Special Collections can support historical research on agricultural and food issues. Created for Government information librarians, this session offers effective methods for locating USDA scientific and historical resources to meet the needs of library users.
2:45-3:00	Break
3:00-4:00	DLC: Understanding Weather Data & Library Disaster Preparedness - Charlie Amiot, Author: whatcongressshouldbereading.com - Ashlyn Shore Dunsworth, Co-Managing Editor of the NOAA Climate Resilience Toolkit (NEMAC/NOAA) - Rebecca Lindsey, Project Director, Climate.us - David Walls, Preservation Librarian, U.S. Government Publishing Office Weather patterns are changing, storms are intensifying, and natural disasters are becoming more frequent. Are you ready for them? Do you have a disaster plan for your library? In this session, learn from the experts about weather data you can use to stay aware of what's happening in your area. Discover tools and actions that will help you adapt, respond to, and recover from a weather event. <i>This program is sponsored by the Depository Library Council.</i>
4:00-4:15	Break
4:15-5:00	There's a GovDoc for That: Government Documents and Information in Teaching, Learning, and Research Mary Elizabeth Schiavone, Education & Curriculum Librarian, Boxer Library, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science How do we encourage patrons to explore the Government Documents collection when they don't know that it exists? This talk will explore the outreach plan undertaken at a small liberal arts college combining social media, events and programming, and instruction sessions with the goal of engaging patrons with the Government Documents collection. It will share successes, pivots, and lessons learned through our ongoing efforts.
5:00-5:15	Break

5:15–6:00	Democracy's Library: Preserving and Sharing the Public Record • Merrilee Proffitt, Director, Democracy's Library US, Internet Archive Democracy's Library, established in 2022, is built on a straightforward but urgent premise: governments have created an abundance of information and put it in the public domain, but the public cannot easily access it. With more than 1,000 collections and 11 million items and growing, Merrilee Proffitt of the Internet Archive will share how a coalition of libraries and archivists preserves federal, state, and local government documents through web harvesting, digitization, and community uploads. Partnerships now span the United States and Canada, including collaborations with the University of Toronto, Library and Archives Canada, and provincial and municipal archives, making the case that collaborative stewardship of the public record is both a civic obligation and an urgent necessity. You will learn how you might help us build Democracy's Library, what you can find there, and how to support your patrons in using the collection.
-----------	--

6:00	Adjourn
------	----------------

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

12:00–1:00	The Legacy of Print: The Importance of Stewarding Legacy Collections in the Digital Age • Allan Van Hoyer, Civics Engagement Librarian, University of Colorado Boulder • Philip Wrede, Government Information and Collection Development Librarian, University of Colorado Boulder For decades, the FDLP's mission; to make government information publicly available, in support of a free and democratic society, meant distributing printed material. Early in the 21st century, we embraced digitally distributed information. Lost in our enthusiasm for this exciting new world were answers to questions like: what happens if digital documents are removed, tacitly altered, or were never digitized? These challenges prove that access is only a part of our mission; preservation is just as crucial. If data can be removed, or changed, the decisions made with government information become immeasurably more complicated. The government's priorities may change, but the FDLP's and the librarians who help maintain the program do not. This session explores the need to maintain our digital presence and access, while continuing the print legacy of the FDLP with preservation.
------------	--

1:00-1:15	Break
-----------	--------------

1:15-2:15	Exhibiting Democracy: Creative Strategies for Government Information Outreach • Anna Xiong, Rice University, Fondren Library • Abby Stovall, Research Services Librarian, Rice University, Fondren Library Throughout the 2025–2026 academic year, Rice University's Fondren Library developed a series of exhibits to promote civic learning and engagement through Government information. This presentation focuses on Landmark Documents (1776–2026), a large-scale wall exhibit launched in July 2026 as part of the library's America250@Fondren initiative. This session will highlight the planning, design, and implementation of the project and will demonstrate how a large-scale, visually engaging Government information exhibit can be developed on a modest budget through strategic planning, creative design, and effective use of existing resources. Attendees will gain practical ideas for creating exhibits that promote civic learning, increase engagement with Government information, and support outreach in Federal depository libraries and beyond.
2:15-2:30	Break
2:30-3:15	Regional Libraries Meeting • Regional Government Information Librarians (REGIL) The Regional Libraries Meeting is open to all. The meeting will cover topics of relevance to regional FDLP libraries and will be led by regional coordinators from across the country.
3:15-3:30	Break
3:30-4:15	DLC: Bridging the Divide: ILL Solutions for Equitable Access • Mike Fernandez, Head of Library Services, Sul Ross State University, Eagle Pass • Jen Kirk, Program Chair, Government Information Librarian, Utah State University • Aimée Quinn, Librarian, Northern Arizona University - Yuma Join us to learn how interlibrary loan (ILL) can expand equitable access to Federal Government information in remote and underserved communities. Panelists will share their experiences using ILL to address geographic barriers and meet the information needs of their patrons. <i>This program is sponsored by the Depository Library Council's Unique Challenges, Underserved Populations, and Federal Depository Libraries Subcommittee (UCUP).</i>
4:15-4:30	Break

-
- 4:30–5:30 **DLC: Business Meeting & Conference Closing**
- Stephani (Nia) Rodgers, DLC Chair, Public Affairs Research Librarian, Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University
 - Members of the DLC

During this session, Council business and potential recommendations to GPO will be discussed, as well as conference takeaways and action items.

5:30 **Adjourn**

Last updated: 9/21/2026