



Focused Discussion: Tangible Collection Preservation

April 24, 2013

FRAMING THE DISCUSSION

The impetus for the discussion of preserving the tangible collection of Government information dissemination products stems from two recent outcomes.

First, in the library forecast, when depository libraries were asked what their ideal FDLP would look like, 102 libraries (13%) responded that preservation or permanent public access to the collection of Government information are part of the future of the FDLP.

Second, LSCM's analysis the forecast responses coincided with the release of the National Academy of Public Administration's (NAPA) final report to the Congress, Congressional Research Service, and the GPO, [*Rebooting the Government Printing Office: Keeping America Informed in the Digital Age*](#). Their third recommendation is:

To safeguard the historical documents of our democracy for future generations, GPO should work with depository libraries and other library groups to develop a comprehensive plan for preserving the print collection of government documents. This plan should include cataloging, digitizing, and preserving tangible copies of government publications, a timeline for completion, and options for supporting the effort financially, as well as a process for ingesting digitized copies into the Federal Digital System. Congress should appropriate funds for the purpose of cataloging, digitizing, and preserving the government collection.

The preservation plan will be incorporated into the National Plan for the Future of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

The focused discussion revolves around the development of the comprehensive preservation plan. GPO seeks your thoughts and ideas as to what strategies should be included in the plan that will result in a collection of Government publications and information dissemination products that will be available for use by future generations.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do you define preservation? What activities come to mind when you think of preservation?

- Do you think digitization is a viable means of preserving tangible content?
- What is the minimum number of required copies of a tangible publication needed, under the stewardship of the FDLP, to ensure preserved for future generations?

What resources can we explore to help answer the question of how many tangible copies are needed?

- What is the scope of the historical tangible collection that is to be preserved?

What parameters would you put on the definition of this collection?

- What would incentivize depository libraries to become a partner to help preserve the historical tangible collection?
- What tangible collection preservation role(s) does GPO have? Federal depository libraries? Other entities?
- What preservation or permanent public access concerns do you have about your tangible collection?
- What factors do you consider most important in determining digitization priorities?
- You have identified your top five choices for digitization (title, series, date range, agency, etc.) They are:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.