

Strategic Vision: Whither the 1996 Guidelines

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October 22, 2008

0

1996 FDLP GUIDELINES – the legacy

- The tangible collection perspective
- Program and performance goals based on static institutional structures
- Uniform for every library type
- Minimum standards
- Pulled highlights from dense, process centered handbook
- Discontinued [or in limbo] in new handbook

1

FEDERAL DEPOSITORY HANDBOOK, 2008

- New and improved: streamlined, electronic, user friendly
 - seeks constant feedback from community
- Articulates all FDLP requirements and more collaborative and suggestive in tone rather than prescriptive
- New chapters
 - Transition of depository libraries from tangible to hybrid, or electronic and subsequent impact on service provision
 - Public access assessments
- Which begs the question: Is a “Guidelines” statement necessary for the 2008 Federal Depository Handbook?

2

Depository Library Council’s Role in the Process

- The “Guidelines” -- a Council document.
- During recent meeting/sessions, Council requested a role: “To work with GPO to prepare depository libraries for a digital FDL system that is not centered on collections”
- Could the 2008 “Guidelines” be designed to contribute to that role in a proactive and persistent way?

3

WHITHER THE GUIDELINES – some suggested contexts to guide discussion

- Shift the discussion from process to principles
- Acknowledge how the profound challenges depositories must confront are part and parcel of those affecting the larger library environment
 - The end of document’s “exceptional” perspective
 - Migration to digital formats
 - Pressure to realign local institutional resources within evolving institutional strategic missions and;
 - Focus shifts from tangible collection management and access to enhanced public services and added value to information resources
- Emphasize realities and opportunities posed by the depository libraries of the 21st Century as outlined in various extant Depository vision documents

4

Suggested options to discuss in creating a new “Guidelines”

- Option 1:
 - Guidelines as a purely marketing piece
- Option 2:
 - Guidelines as mainly a vision document
- Option 3:
 - Guidelines as mainly an adjunct to the ongoing strategic planning activities

5

Whichever focus is selected...

- No need to reinvent the wheel
- Many Council and GPO statements from which to draw, including
 - 9/2005 Council document
 - 6/9/06 Council Vision
 - GPO Strategic Plan 2004
 - etc.

6

Regardless of focus, Guidelines for the 21st Century...

- Respect the legal and programmatic responsibilities we share to serve the public
- Encourage the adoption of evolving technologies, collaborative projects and preservation initiatives and ways to take advantage of distribution arrangements
- Emphasize the enhanced role of public service and instruction in a digital world and
- Foster a user-centric environment

7

Option 1 – Marketing Focus (JS)

- Explains tactical and operational components for depository library staff
- Explains the collection development, technical and public service components for the library administration and other departments/units
- Explains the various collection and service responsibilities among the selective depository libraries in a state and the regional library that serves that state
- Explains the depository expectations and obligations expected by the Government Printing Office through the Superintendent of Documents
- Explains depository expectations and obligations within a digital library environment

8

Option 1 – Marketing Focus (TT)

- Gee Whiz, it's the greatest thing since sliced bread to be a depository library, be part of a digital information world and here's why – this is the take away
- Participation by depository libraries in innovative services serves strategic information provision goals of institution and is responsive to institutional pressures

9

Option 2 – Vision Focus

- Where the program is going, and why it's a good thing, e.g. Gee whiz it's the greatest thing / honor/ privilege to be part of the program because it's cutting edge technology applied to information to the public.
- Explains how depository expectations and obligations mesh with other Council and GPO vision documents
- Explains how depository expectations and obligations mesh with existing federal government information policy and programs
- Explains how depository expectations and obligations mesh with ongoing discussions in library literature and library association perspectives
- Explains how depository expectations and obligations can best evolve within the ever changing environment of digital formats and distribution mechanisms ¹⁰

Option 3 – Focus on Strategic Planning Activities

- Aligns with strategic plan documents and asks FDC to provide a summary of status and progress of strategic plan periodically
- Emphasizes use of Web 2.0 technologies, digitalization of legacy collections, and other strategies that move us toward an increasingly digital environment
- Identifies the FDC as a partner in the process
- Meant to be updated by FDC biennially

11

Questions:

1. How can the guidelines help depository libraries make the best argument with their library to stay in the program, especially in light of the trend to move away from a “stand-alone” depository department model?
2. Would reconfigured ‘guidelines’ be useful to you, either as a director or as a depository librarian?
3. Do any of the three options seem more useful?
4. Are there other options that should be considered?

12

Questions?

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13