

Title 44, United States Code, Chapter 19 — Depository Library Program Summary of Proposed Revisions

There are a number of drivers for change to Chapter 19, not the least of which is that the last major revision was in 1962. There is consensus with the Government Publishing Office (GPO) and the depository library community that change is long overdue. GPO's suggested revisions to Chapter 19 are based on what is consistent with our mission; what is needed to better meet the needs of Federal depository libraries and the general public; what is necessary for the Superintendent of Documents to administer the public information programs effectively and efficiently; and what will enable us to achieve our vision, "To provide Government information when and where it is needed." Input received from the depository library community in 2017-2018 regarding revisions to Chapter 19 helped inform the development of these proposed revisions.

Summary of Proposed Revisions	
§1900	The purposes of this chapter are to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Ensure the public's right to free, equitable, and convenient access to its Government's information; and (2) Establish Public Information Programs that together, function to identify, acquire, catalog, preserve, authenticate, disseminate, reformat, and provide no-fee permanent public access to the corpus of Federal public information for future generations.
§1901	Expand the definitions section to include fugitive public information, information, information lifecycle management, permanent public access, preservation, and public information.
§1902	Remove the process of agencies listing information products for GPO use, and replace it with a broader and more flexible term of "notify." Notification is not necessary for public information that is confidential in character or classified for reasons of national security.
§1905	Add the ability for Delegates to Congress to designate depository libraries and provide a role for the Superintendent of Documents in the designation process.
§1907	Revise the disposition of materials process for executive departments and Federal agencies to offer materials to GPO.
§1909	Eliminate the 10,000 book requirement, allow for designation of digital only depository libraries, and replace "investigations" with consultations and training.
§1911	Change Government publications to Government public information, and allow for regionals and states not served by a regional to discard in accordance with Superintendent of Documents policy and guidance.
§1912	Provide a role for the Superintendent of Documents in the regional designation and disposition of materials processes, allow online as a format for selection, and allow for sharing collections across state boundaries.
§1917	Repeal §§1710-1711 and create a new section in 44 U.S.C. Chapter 19, Cataloging and Access Services
§1918	Create a new section in 44 U.S.C. Chapter 19, National Collection of U.S. Government Public Information

MAJOR OUTCOMES OF INCORPORATING REVISIONS

- Provide a purpose for the chapter that will give stakeholders a better understanding of the programs, their complexities, and the array of functions necessary for *Keeping America Informed*;
- Establish the National Collection of U.S. Government Public Information;
- Transform and modernize the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) for the digital age;
- Provide needed flexibility for depository libraries;
- Mandate a comprehensive online catalog; and
- Streamline the depository library designation process.