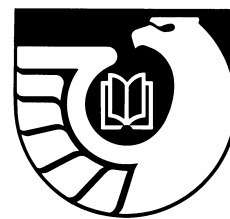


Spring 2007 Depository Library Council RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITIES and LS&CM Responses



1. Council recommends that GPO expedite development of FDsys. This includes incorporation of content currently on the WAIS platform. GPO's commitment to rapidly moving off of the WAIS platform is encouraged.

Recommended Responsibilities for GPO:

Adhere to aggressive timeline as stated in Techline no. 3. Ensure compliance with the RLG/OCLC Trusted Digital Repositories: Attributes and Responsibilities and the subsequent certification document. Ensure that digital government information is authentic and versioned.

Recommended Responsibilities for FDLs:

Participate in beta testing and provide feedback.

Response:

GPO remains committed to developing FDsys on an aggressive schedule. Content currently on the WAIS platform will be incorporated in FDsys with the first public release. The Chief Information Officer's (CIO) staff are leading the development effort, and Library unit staff are working with them to further develop requirements to meet FDLP needs. Initial beta testing of Release 1B was conducted with volunteers from the library community September 26-October 10. CIO staff are conducting another focus group at Fall Council and there will be workstations available to allow attendees some hands on experience with Release 1B. Feedback from testing and other user comments will be incorporated into the first public release, currently scheduled for 2008.

GPO has reviewed the RLG/OCLC Trusted Digital Repositories document as part of FDsys development and will adhere to the technical requirements set forth in "Trustworthy Repositories Audit & Certification: Criteria and Checklist." GPO is developing FDsys based on best practices and applicable government standards.

FDsys has requirements for authentication and version control. In addition, GPO is working with contractors on the development of an Automated PDF Signing (APS) system, and staff training on that system was conducted September 25-27. Further development of this system and planning for deployment is scheduled for October through December, targeting a January deployment of the system. GPO has released a beta version of an Authenticated Public Laws application containing digitally signed PDF files of Public and Private Laws from the 110th Congress. The beta application is online at <http://fdlpdev.gpo.gov/plaws/index.html>. Feedback received on this beta will be used to further refine future implementation of GPO's authentication initiatives. GPO's web page with information on authentication is online at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/authentication/>.

2. Council recommends that GPO review current projects and initiatives with the goal of seamless integration, interoperability and ease of access.

Recommended Responsibilities for GPO:

Integrate the library directory, Browse Topics, CGP, ILS, FDLP Desktop, and FDsys to enhance ease of access and use.

Recommended Responsibilities for FDLs:

Provide comment to GPO.

Response:

GPO strives to meet the goal of seamless integration and interoperability for all GPO public information systems to enable easy access to government information products. All new technology acquisitions are reviewed for compatibility with existing systems, as well as for compatibility with FDsys, before they are acquired. GPO is working toward the goal of integrating systems so that users may more easily access the Federal government information products provided through GPO programs and services. However, there is a wide range of content and metadata offered through such applications as the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications, GPO Access, FDsys, the FDLP Desktop, and others. GPO also wants to provide users with specific search interfaces which are optimized for the various types of content, so that precision in search results is not diminished by using a common interface.

3. Council recommends GPO harvest web-based documents hosted by government agencies. Council attaches a high priority to the development and establishment of a stable web harvesting program integrated into systems currently under development.

Recommended Responsibilities for GPO:

Energetically pursue web harvesting of critical agency material. Collaborate with regional federal agency offices and depository libraries to identify fugitive material.

Recommended Responsibilities for FDLs:

Provide GPO with guidance in discovering agency information and associated metadata critically time sensitive, elusive and endangered.

Response:

With the completion of GPO's initial harvesting pilot and ongoing manual and semi-manual harvesting efforts, Library Services and Content Management (LSCM) is currently working to implement an overall plan to manage the acquisition, classification, cataloging, and storage of all Web harvested content.

LSCM staff is completing the processing of a sample of 300 publications harvested during the EPA Pilot Project. The purpose of working through this sample is to determine workflow and staffing implications as well as to estimate the amount of time that would be required to process all the publications acquired during the EPA Pilot Project.

Prior to making these publications accessible to the public, several steps must be completed. LSCM staff must ensure the entire publication was harvested. If the issuing agency placed the publication online in sections, such as separate PDF files for each chapter of a monograph, LSCM must be sure the harvester acquired all the chapters of that

monograph. The sections of the publication may be scattered throughout the results from the vendor so staff must expend time to locate all of the sections.

Next LSCM staff must review the content of the publication to determine if it is within scope of the FDLP and/or the Cataloging and Indexing Program. Of the 300 publications gathered for the sample, only eight were found to not be within scope. However, the sample was not picked randomly. Staff quickly reviewed each of the 300 publications for scope as the sample was being gathered.

Following the scope determinations, GPO's legacy databases and the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (GCP) was searched to discover if the publication had already been cataloged as an electronic publication or if a tangible version had previously been distributed. While processing of the sample is not quite complete, at least 19% of the publications already have records in the CGP for the electronic version.

LSCM will be testing two mechanisms for making the publications found to be within scope of the FDLP accessible. The majority of publications in the sample will be made accessible through cataloging records in the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP) (<http://catalog.gpo.gov/>). Monographs are being cataloged using the new brief bibliographic record format, while serials are being cataloged using the CONSER standard record format.

Following the procedures established during the brief bibliographic records project (http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/cip/creation-brief-bib-records.pdf), the brief records for the monograph publications included in the sample are being created directly in the CGP and will not be exported to OCLC. Given the large number of monographs harvested during the EPA Pilot Project, the brief bibliographic records will not be forwarded to the Cataloging Section for enhancement. To allow for an additional searching mechanism, an added entry for the Environmental Protection Agency will be included in each record.

In order to determine if there is a mechanism that produces adequate public access to Web harvested material while reducing the amount staff time required to process the publications, a small portion of the sample will be posted to GPO Access using a browse table. These publications will not be cataloged in the CGP.

LSCM anticipates processing of the entire sample of 300 will be complete by late October. At that time, the depository community will be given the opportunity to review the results of the sample and provide feedback. LSCM will also be completing an analysis of the sample, the two mechanisms of access tested, and the time needed to process the 300 publications.

4. Council recommends that GPO establish a registry of depository librarians who are expert in specific parts or functions of the U.S. government. This registry would provide a list of depository librarians with expertise in subject areas, who could be consulted by other depository librarians.

Recommended Responsibilities for GPO:

Implement the new FDLS directory which will provide an opportunity for libraries to list areas of their expertise.

Recommended Responsibilities for FDLs:

Add specific institutional expertise information to the directory. Participate in Browse Topics, contributing content and identifying areas of expertise.

Response:

GPO is gathering information about collection strengths from questions in the 2007 Biennial Survey. Once this data is gathered and analyzed, GPO staff will determine the field(s) required to display the information in the new FDLP Library Directory. This information will be made available as a future enhancement to the Library Directory. GPO intends to release the new FDLP Library Directory shortly after the Fall Council/Conference.

GPO is taking a more holistic approach to addressing Council's recommendation. Council's vision statement was reviewed and found that the registry of experts was included in the 1st goal, "Respond to or anticipate U.S. citizens' need for government information when and where it is needed by providing multiple access points to a network of experts."

The Tuesday morning Council session will be a presentation of GPO's approach to the registry as well as to help achieve the first goal of Council's vision for Federal depository libraries in the 21st century.

5. Council recommends that GPO coordinate and support item level cataloging of digitized works to aid in the discovery of converted resources. Council believes retrospective cataloging to be a high priority for GPO and the FDL community, both to support inventory functions required for long-term archival stewardship of digital collections, as well as to enhance user discovery and evaluation of sought after materials. The range of activities includes some or all of the following:

Recommended Responsibilities for GPO:

Recommend appropriate standards, work processes and costs. Partner with source libraries in the creation of new records, or in upgrading non-standard or incomplete records to a uniform standard. Coordinate opportunities for locating and sharing adequate local records. Recommend and support mechanisms for cost-effective enhancement of pre-1976 records. Identify funding sources to support or subsidize enhancement of cataloging records, and co-sponsor funding requests.

Recommended Responsibilities for FDLs: (blank)

Response:

GPO firmly supports entering into cooperative cataloging partnerships with libraries in the Federal Depository Library Program. Our intentions were stated in a June 2006 brief entitled: Cooperative Cataloging for Pre-1976 documents (website address).

GPO envisions that there will be many opportunities for libraries to participate in cataloging partnerships. Two such opportunities for partnerships are the Historic Shelflist project and the enhancement of brief cataloging records.

The implementation and opening of the Z39.50 gateway to the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP) will enable the exchange of cataloging records between GPO and those libraries that wish to become partners. The establishment of partnerships with GPO will be done following the current guidelines and follow all applicable statutes and regulations that apply to the GPO.

GPO intends to create new cataloging records or use already existing records from sources following national cataloging standards for digital documents. GPO will follow national and international standards and practices when creating cataloging records for born-digital documents and documents digitized by GPO.

6. Council recommends that GPO partner with libraries and other institutions on digitization projects. Council further recommends that GPO focus its efforts on coordinating the dissemination of specifications for digitization and standardized partnership agreements. Libraries and other cultural institutions are interested in working with GPO, but need clear guidelines on how to proceed.

Recommended Responsibilities for GPO:

Focus on participating in the digitization community in order to better coordinate the specifications expected of potential digitization projects incorporating federal information. Promote acceptance of non-GPO collections meeting these specifications as authentic products. Establish and present uniform and public partnership agreements.

Recommended Responsibilities for FDLs:

Actively engage in meeting digitization specifications and best practices and pursue projects digitizing FDLs material.

Response:

GPO recognizes the importance of fostering partnerships with other federal agencies and institutions. GPO is maintaining the Registry of U.S. Government Publication Digitization Projects. This tool will serve as a vehicle to identify potential partnerships for digitization.

GPO has established standards for the digitization of visual materials, with the exception of motion picture images. The scope includes metadata requirements associated with the digital imaging process (technical, administrative, preservation, etc.). The following specifications:

- Specification for Quality Control
- Specification for Converted Content

were developed to ensure faithful reproduction through the digitization process. These specifications serve as the baseline for preservation quality images and will evolve as technology progresses.

GPO also participates in the NDSAB (National Digital Strategy Advisory Board). The goal of the group is to develop federal digitization standards. The goal of this federal advisory board is to create a Federal Government Collaborative specification that will serve as guidance to agencies and institution engaged in digitization projects.

7. Council recommends that GPO provide an online venue for collaboration, communication, training, and education for depository libraries. Council commends GPO's redesign of the FDLs web page and the potential for development of education and training programs in OPAL.

Recommended Responsibilities for GPO:

Redesign page, refine via testing. Provide communication site. Collect and promote the collection of training modules to be added to OPAL.

Recommended Responsibilities for FDLs:

Participate in the testing and evaluation of any new page. Use the web page to communicate best practices, new projects and training opportunities. Provide GPO with training modules to be added to OPAL.

Response:

As we continue to populate the new desktop, we will organize and update current pages to allow for easier use by the community, while deleting duplicate pages and outdated information. As additional functionality is phased in on the new desktop, the depository community will be able to communicate directly with each other and with GPO via chat to share best practices and obtain advice. Training potential will be enhanced via the new Desktop. Forums, moderated chat, and other features are being implemented. GPO will seek feedback and suggestions from depository libraries as new desktop functions are phased in.

GPO will continue to offer the opportunity for collaborative education sessions by depository libraries during the spring and fall DLC meetings.

GPO staff will continue to provide training sessions on subjects pertaining to the FDLP, using OPAL or similar systems, and sessions will be collected and archived. We welcome suggestions on topics to be covered from Council and the depository community. In addition, we are developing guidelines and evaluation criteria to allow the community to present training sessions via OPAL. Submissions from the community will be accepted starting January 2008.

8. Council recommends that GPO focus its digitization efforts on specific projects requiring unique treatments and with significant national value as identified by Congress or the depository library community.

Recommended Responsibilities for GPO:

Identify and complete specific projects for digitization.

Recommended Responsibilities for FDLs:

Assist GPO in identifying high value digital projects.

Response:

GPO proposes to achieve the goal of a digitized legacy collection by taking a path that:

- Establishes partnerships between GPO and Federal agencies, depository libraries, and private organizations that efficiently utilizes available resources and reduces duplication of effort;
- Involves GPO in digitizing, in-house, those types of materials generally not digitized by others, e.g., maps, fragile materials, microfiche;
- Permits GPO to determine specifications for and manage issues relating to quality control of legacy collection digitization;
- Specifies GPO as the leader in authenticating the digitized legacy collection;
- Results in the legacy collection ultimately being digitized at preservation level specifications;
- Includes coordination of digitization priorities with partners, and particularly with the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and other Federal agencies.

More information and the proposed path forward for digitizing the legacy collection of Federal publications are included in Summary Report: Digitization Demonstration Project, which is now online. GPO is seeking comments on this through November 2, 2007. Both the report and the comment form are accessible through *GPO Access* at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/legacy/index.html>.

9. Council recommends that GPO evaluate any assessment proposals in the light of new expectations resulting from changes in emphasis in the depository program.

Recommended Responsibilities for GPO:

Review assessment expectations to ensure compliance with statutory requirements, but expand to include new components required to measure performance.

Recommended Responsibilities for FDLs:

Integrate depository assessment into local programs.

Response:

GPO agrees completely with this recommendation and continues to take these issues into account in the plan for a Public Access Assessments program. We believe this is largely accomplished as Public Access Assessments will emphasize how Federal depository libraries serve the general public Federal Government information needs by reviewing how they provide access to and services for their Federal Government information products.

The assessments program must be flexible to accommodate review of library conditions during or after any changes in FDLP policies and/or structure, although we expect the need to accommodate changes to be minimized by the more specific focus of the program based on FDLP legal requirements. Any changes in FDLP policies and/or structure are effected within GPO outside of the assessments process.

We expect that the reports to libraries following an assessment will continue to include major recommendations for best practices in any areas not yet covered by FDLP policy. We also expect to provide self-assessment resources for depository library use on a voluntary basis. We anticipate these will be useful for strategic planning and educational purposes.

GPO is updating the assessment process from that used during inspections and self-study review. We expect to streamline the process but also include new components (i.e., processes and “measures”) to reflect current library application of FDLP legal requirements. We are also looking at mechanisms to gain direct patron feedback about library access to and services for Federal depository resources. This may be accomplished through review of a library’s patron satisfaction survey, if one exists, or review of patron feedback provided directly to GPO. We are considering various options for this direct feedback, including a Web form for comment to be linked from library Web pages to a GPO Web page.

For additional information, please refer to the draft Superintendent of Documents policy on individual library assessment. The Tuesday 1:30pm Council session will be a presentation on Public Access Assessments, with a focus on discussion of public access issues in various scenarios.