

# Profile of a Successful Depository Library-- *A Regional Perspective*

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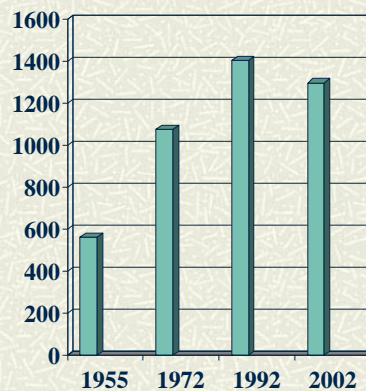
## Libraries in Federal Depository Library Program

# 1955 – 563

# 1972 – 1077

# 1992 – 1405

# 2002 – 1297



## Qualities of a successful depository library

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- # Strong customer focus
- # Community profile
- # Aware of benefits of depository program to the library and the community
- # Attentive to authoritativeness of sources
- # Buy-in at all levels within the institution

## Qualities of a successful depository library (continued)

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- # Approach selection with flexibility and with a fiscal responsibility
- # Seek partnerships and collaborative relationships with others
- # Let others know about resources available
- # Committed to continuous process improvement

## Strong Customer Focus

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- # Open to serve community
- # Strives for excellent customer service

## Community profile

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- # Identified focus community
- # Broadened scope to include entire Congressional district and/or wider community of users
- # Addresses unserved or under-served areas

## **Aware of benefits of depository program to the library and the community**

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- # Leverages required actions to assist the library as a whole
- # Receives recognition from depository host library and the user community for:
  - Investing time and depository library resources
  - Fostering a sense of service to the public
  - Developing a connection of users of the library to ideas and events outside their own community

## **Attentive to authoritativeness of sources**

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- # Value of providing user with primary source material

## **Buy-in at all levels within the institution**

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- # Education of librarians and administrators-- not a one-step process
- # Buy-in is not necessarily total, but is a fundamental respect for and valuing of the concept of public access to federal government information

## **Approach selection with flexibility and with a fiscal responsibility**

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- # Authoritative sources already paid for with tax dollars
- # Value of using the free and readily accessible before the value-added, but costly, commercial alternatives

## **Seek partnerships and collaborative relationships with others**

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- # Partnerships & collaborative relationships
  - Mentoring, internships, continuing education
  - Grants and alternative funding strategies
- # Sharing successes and challenges
  - Web sites
  - Discussion lists
  - GPO services and support

## **Let others know about resources available**

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- # Outreach to the user community including
  - library users (tangible and virtual)
  - co-workers
  - non-depository libraries
  - other institutions
  - Congressional district

## Committed to Continuous Process Improvement

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- # Self-evaluates services periodically
- # Surveys user community periodically
- # Keeps up with the literature
- # Attends professional meetings, with the opportunity to interact with colleagues and users

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“You must be convinced yourself, know what you are selling and why, be able to look at the big picture, and establish a reputation for looking at the big picture.”

Mary Prophet  
Denison University Libraries  
Depository Library Council Meeting, Spring 2002