



Council Briefing Topic

Spring 2005

National Collection of U.S. Government Publications

The National Collection of U.S. Government Publications (National Collection) supports the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) in its mission to ensure no-fee permanent public access to the official publications of the United States Government regardless of format.

The National Collection includes preservation and access copies of digital publications and tangible publications. The National Collection will consist of geographically-dispersed collections of tangible and digital publications, located at multiple sites, and operated by various partners within and beyond the U.S. Government. This briefing topic is focused on the National Collection dark archives for preservation of tangible and digital publications.

CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL COLLECTION

Contents	National Collection Preservation Sites	Access Collections for Public Use
Tangible publications	Dark archives with preservation copies	Light archives (minimal use, active preservation), or Depository library collections (normal preservation efforts) with access copies
Digital publications	Dark archives with digital preservation masters	Service archives at GPO or partner sites with access copies or derivatives

For tangible publications the dark archive(s) include preservation copies which are only used when all other avenues to obtain a copy have been exhausted. Public access is provided from depository library collection access copies, or from light archives, which have minimal use and active preservation.

Preservation copies of digital publications will be maintained in dark archive(s), and used to create access copies or derivatives for delivery from GPO service archives or partner sites.

GPO will provide online public access and other publications and services derived from the digital preservation masters and other items in the National Collection. Access copies, also referred to as “derivatives,” of the stored digital publications will be available for no-fee online use by the public.

Publications in GPO portions of the National Collection will be bibliographically controlled using GPO's Integrated Library System. The cataloging records will be part of the National Bibliography data base, provided to OCLC, and made available to requesting libraries and vendors. Ultimately, preservation metadata will be included in GPO's Future Digital System.

KEY ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE COLLECTION

1. The National Collection primarily supports the FDLP goal of no-fee permanent public access, but also supports other GPO information dissemination and preservation programs.
2. General administration of the National Collection and management of the tangible and digital publication dark archives are inherently governmental functions.
3. Publications in the National Collection will be included in the National Bibliography of U.S. Government Publications.
4. National Collection assets will be maintained in geographically-dispersed locations. A National Collection segment may be consolidated in a single location or as a distributed collection at multiple sites which together form a single collection.
5. National Collection management will be benchmarked against the criteria for assurance developed by the Center for Research Libraries or successor documentation of best practices..
6. National Collection preservation activities for digital resources will be based on the agreement between GPO and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) designating GPO as an archives affiliate.
7. The National Collection includes the FDLP Electronic Collection.
8. National Collection assets in the "dark archives" are held for preservation rather than public access.
9. Access copies of the National Collection assets are publicly accessible from light archives (tangible) or service archives (digital).
10. GPO will acquire tangible copies from a variety of sources, including the transfer of portions of the legacy FDLP Collections from depository libraries to GPO.
11. The tangible publications in the National Collection will be digitized for preservation and access. After digitization the original publication, even if disbound, will be retained and preserved in case the item must be digitized again in the future.
12. Tangible copies of "born digital" publications will be produced for the dark archive as backups for the digital publications. Tangible copies in the National Collection dark archive will, to the extent practicable, be produced on archival media.

NEW INFORMATION

National Collection Acquisitions

The National Collection receives two copies of every in scope tangible publication printed by or through GPO, whether or not it is distributed through the FDLP in tangible form. GPO will preserve the digital master files, access files, and other derivatives.

In addition, there have been a number of important acquisitions from depository and Federal libraries, including:

- Complete *U.S. Congressional Serial Set*
- Complete *Records of the War of the Rebellion*
- Bound *Congressional Record*, 1866-1873
- *Foreign Relations of the United States*, 1907-1957
- 82 folios of the *Geologic Atlas of the United States*
- *Monthly Catalog*, 1959-1999
- *Federal Reserve Bulletin*, 1918-2002
- Over 50 years of reports from the U.S. Tax Court
- *Social Security Bulletin*, 1939-1989
- Numerous U.S.G.S. Circulars

Future Digital System

Preservation is one of the core functions of GPO's Future Digital System (FDSys). The FDSys planning team, under the leadership of the Office of Innovation and New Technology, has developed a detailed set of requirements for the System. Overall, the System design conforms to the OAIS (Open Archival Information System Reference Model, ISO 14721:2003) reference model for an archive. Preservation planning for the FDSys includes requirements for storage, access, preservation processes, metadata, security, system workflow and administration, and other functions.

Center for Research Libraries' Publication

GPO recently placed online *Baseline Requirements for Digital Reformatting and Delivery of Legacy Federal Documents Collections*, prepared for GPO by the Center for Research Libraries. The report describes CRL's recommendations for the minimum requirements governing file formats, interoperability, accessibility, asset management controls, and other aspects of digital reformatting and delivery for print and microform legacy materials. This report was used in developing the preservation requirements for the FDSys. The Baseline Requirements report is available from the FDLP Desktop at: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/crl_digital_baseline_112904.pdf and is included as an attachment.

NARA

GPO and NARA are discussing transforming the set of FDLP tangible publications that NARA currently holds for GPO into one of the proposed National Collection dark archives. That would allow NARA to move that material to storage, providing greater preservation for those materials. NARA will continue to refer users to FDLP collections for tangible documents and will use the digital copies in the EC for access. GPO is working with NARA to develop procedures for the addition of publications to the National Collection dark archive that were not previously distributed to depository libraries. This will allow GPO to assemble comprehensive coverage of all content that should be in the FDLP, whether it was distributed at the time of publication or not.

QUESTIONS

- Are the revised assumptions on the National Collection still appropriate, or should something be changed or added?
- Now that the plan for the National Collection has been revised in light of discussions with Council and other public comments, are there elements of the plan that need further refinement or need to be added?
- In the event that a publishing agency indicates a desire to withdraw a publication from the FDLR does the proposed revision of ID 72 adequately provide for necessary actions?

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