



HUGH NATHANIAL HALPERN
Director



October 1, 2024

Ms. Susanne Caro
Chair, Depository Library Council
Government Information Librarian
New Mexico State Library
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Dear Ms. Caro:

This letter is in response to the Depository Library Council's (DLC) May 24, 2024 transmittal of the DLC recommendations resulting from the Spring 2024 Depository Library Council Meeting.

Communication and transparency are keys to successful partnerships, like the FDLP, and to effective plans that innovate and improve the status quo. I will convey to the Superintendent of Documents and Library Services and Content Management's chiefs that they are to share as much planning information as possible with the DLC and with the broader community of government information users.

As the Government Publishing Office (GPO) implements a digital FDLP, change is inevitable. Communicating changes and what they mean for depository libraries and the broader FDLP is of the utmost importance. GPO will provide handouts, or other communication tools, to assist in ensuring depository coordinators and library directors understand the value of and need for depository libraries and the National Collection of U.S. Government Public Information in a digital FDLP.

The DLC's recommendations and GPO's responses, attached, are part of the permanent record of GPO's work. They will be published on [FDLP.gov](https://fdlp.gov) for the FDLP community and the public to access.

Should you have any questions about GPO's response to your recommendations, please contact Superintendent Matheson.

Thank you, Ms. Caro, and to all the members of the DLC, for your continued commitment to the FDLP and to furthering GPO's vision of an America Informed.

Sincerely,



HUGH NATHANIAL HALPERN

Attachment

cc: Depository Library Council Members
Superintendent of Documents

GPO Responses to the Spring 2024 Recommendation of the Depository Library Council

RECOMMENDATION 1

Council accepts the following Recommendations from the Long-Term Impacts of COVID-19 on Federal Depository Library Access, Collections, and Services Working Group's 2023 Report and will share them with GPO.

- GPO should include a question about the impact of COVID-19 policies and practices in the Biennial Survey of Depository Libraries at least through the 2025 survey.
- Encourage GPO to use 2021 Biennial Survey Question 6 data for local needs and further exploration and study.

GPO RESPONSE

GPO appreciates the work of the Long-term Impacts of COVID-19 on Federal Depository Library Access, Collections, and Services Working Group. The 2025 Biennial Survey of Depository Libraries will include a question that will ensure the Working Group can continue its work with consistent data to determine long-term impacts of COVID-19 on depository libraries.

GPO will be glad to help promote the use of the COVID Biennial Survey data gathered by the Working Group. A good place to begin would be for the Working Group to conduct a webinar or conference program about their work, what data are available, and how depository libraries can benefit from using the data.

RECOMMENDATION 2

GPO staff mentioned numerous plans at the Spring Virtual Meeting and the April 29th Council Working Session. Council requests that GPO prepare and distribute a summary of the various plans (including Digital FDLP implementation, the National Collection Strategic Plan, etc.) mentioned, including a description of how they interact with each other, tentative timelines for their release, and a process for announcing delays if necessary.

GPO RESPONSE

The current guiding documents for a digital-first Federal Depository Library Program are [*National Collection of U.S. Government Public Information Strategic Plan for FY 2023 – FY 2027*](#) and [*Feasibility of a Digital Federal Depository Library Program: Report of the GPO Director's Task Force*](#).

The National Collection Strategic Plan sets out goals and objectives for developing and

managing the National Collection. The Task Force's recommendations to GPO Director Halpern were largely accepted in [his response to the Task Force Report](#). There is substantial overlap between the objectives of the National Collection Strategic Plan and the recommendations of the Task Force, and they are used together for guidance as the digital FDLP is implemented.

The progress of work on the National Collection objectives and the Task Force recommendations can be followed on the [Action Items to Implement a Digital FDLP](#) page on FDLP.gov, which is updated quarterly. Progress on increasing online access can be followed in *GPO's System of Online Access | Collection Development Plan which is reviewed and revised annually in September (2024 Update V9)*. *Appendixes track current and in-process collections.*

RECOMMENDATION 3

Council requests that GPO provide communication and talking points about the Value of the FDLP in a digital-first program, articulating the value of both digital and existing print collections. Council requests to review and provide feedback on drafts. One handout should be aimed at Library Directors (or other administrators who oversee Federal Depository Libraries). A second handout should be aimed at Federal Depository Library personnel and focus on how they can communicate the value of the FDLP to their administrators.

GPO RESPONSE

GPO is working on handouts for both library directors and depository library coordinators that have talking points and express the value of being in the Federal Depository Library Program. Drafts of them will be shared with Council when they are ready in the fall.

RECOMMENDATION 4

Council appreciates the opportunity to gather in-person at GPO for a series of presentations and an in-person working session during this Council year. Council recommends that GPO provide an annual two-day in-person working session for Council when funding allows.

GPO RESPONSE

GPO is pleased that Council found the in-person working session to be productive and beneficial. Budget permitting, GPO will consider convening such sessions in the future.