Charge for DLC Working Group Exploring the Durability of PURLs and Their Alternatives

Effective: April 22, 2020

Summary

Since March 1998 GPO has used Persistent Uniform Resource Locators (PURLs) to provide federal depository libraries (FDLs) and other parties stable URL access to online federal information. Due to changes in library collection policies, advances in technology, and an increase in the amount of born-digital and digital-only federal information, along with an increased interest in some depositories becoming mostly or all digital depositories, Council created a working group to investigate the durability of PURLs and their alternatives and to present findings and recommendations to Council for consideration.

Actions Items for Discussion and Development

- Research and review information related to how and why GPO assigns PURLs to better understand PURL functionality.
- Investigate why some PURLs are assigned to federal documents hosted locally by GPO and others direct to agency hosted content.
- Research and review other relevant information related to the functionality of PURLs.
- Create a report or white paper to compile relevant historic and current information about PURLs in an easily accessible location for Council and the FDL community.
- Research and consider potential alternatives to PURLs such as ARKs, DOIs, etc.
- Report to Council potential recommendations for PURL alternatives which Council could recommend to GPO. These recommendations would be without any system or solution bias, to provide a neutral base which could be used to support a formal solicitation within the procurement framework required of GPO.

Organization and Membership

- Name of WG: DLC Working Group exploring the durability of PURLs and their alternatives
- The working group will be ongoing as necessary, and will dissolve upon completion of recommendations to Council and any other stated deliverables.
- The working group may be extended upon the recommendation of Council.
- DLC and GPO will cooperatively determine the method of selecting members.
- The membership of the group will consist of interested parties from the Government Publishing Office, the Depository Library Council and members of the community.
- Membership will consist of at least three members of the DLC, up to two members of the community, and at least one member of GPO, not to exceed ten members.
- Community members will be selected by soliciting volunteers with specific expertise in areas related to the charge.
- Criteria for selecting community members will be based upon several factors including but not limited to:
    - Technical experience and expertise working with PURLs and other digital identifiers

- o   Experience and expertise working with PURLs and other digital identifiers from a user or discovery perspective
- o   Interest in technical or other aspects related to PURLs and other digital identifiers
- Interested community members will be asked to provide a statement to demonstrate interest, experience, and expertise working with PURLs and other digital identifiers.
- Volunteers will need to be willing to serve through Fall 2021.
- Terms will last the length of the time the working group is completing objectives, with anticipated completion by Fall 2021.
- Term lengths may change if the working group is extended by recommendation and approval from Council.
- Terms may end upon completion of working group objectives if no additional objectives or tasks are recommended by Council.
- To help maintain consistency, Council members whose terms on Council end while the working group is active are eligible to continue on the working group as a non-Council member with the approval of the working group.

Meetings
- The group will meet virtually on a monthly basis. An additional in-person meeting at the Fall Depository Conference may be held.
- All members will attend the virtual Spring Depository Conference, and if possible, Fall Depository Library Conference in person.
- The agenda and minutes of the meetings will be posted on the FDLP.gov website.

Governance
- The working group will have a Chair and a Secretary, agreed upon by the group.
- Additional expertise from any relevant area may be called upon as needed.
- The chair will schedule meetings based on a poll of members.
- Meetings will be recorded.
- Ideas for actionable work may come from a variety of sources: within GPO, Council, from the community, or may be solicited for input.
- In compliance with FACA the working group will have a Designated Federal Official (DFO).

Communication with FDLP
- The Working Group will use a variety of tools to communicate to the FDLP. At a minimum, the group will offer brief reports during the Spring and Fall Conferences.
- Other modes of communication may include FDLP news alerts, surveys and blog posts.

Timeline
- Spring 2020 - Submit charge to Council for consideration. (Spring Council Meeting)

- Spring 2020 - If Council approves charge, submit Council approved charge to Superintendent of Documents for approval.
- Fall 2020 - Report progress at Fall Council meeting.
- Spring 2021 - Report progress at Spring Council meeting. If available, report findings/ recommendations for Council consideration. (2021 Spring Council meeting)
- Fall 2021 - If report and findings are not ready by Spring 2021, findings should be reported to Council at Fall Council meeting.
- Upon completion of objectives, the working group will end, unless an extension is recommended and approved by Council.
- Due to various circumstances, timeline may be modified upon recommendation of the working group, Council, or GPO.

Reporting to the DLC and GPO

- Minutes of the meetings will be shared with the Depository Library Council via email and reside in the Council's Working Group Google Drive files.
- A DLC member on the working group will report on any meetings or action items during the monthly DLC conference calls.
- A DLC member will report out at the Fall and Spring Council meetings.
- The presence of GPO staff on the committee will promote information sharing from GPO to the DLC and community and vice versa.