

# Depository Library Council

*Advisory body to the Director of the U.S. Government Publishing Office*

December 5, 2025

Hugh Nathaniel Halpern, Director  
U.S. Government Publishing Office  
732 North Capitol Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20401

Dear Director Halpern,

On behalf of the Depository Library Council (Council), I am pleased to transmit, for your consideration, three recommendations that were approved at its Fall Business Meeting held September 26, 2025.

The recommendations originate from the work of the Unique Challenges, Underserved Populations (UCUP), and Federal Depository Libraries Subcommittee of the Depository Library Council. Members of UCUP conducted focus groups to determine challenges that limit access to Federal Government information in Federal Depository Libraries (FDLs). According to their [findings](#), flexible publication delivery, digital outreach, and professional support are interconnected solutions that can support access to Government information. These recommendations recognize that underserved populations are diverse and experience a wide range of barriers. They also acknowledge the tension created in an environment that is shifting to digital-only collections and where depository coordinators often face increasing responsibilities with reduced staffing and budgets.

We are aware that multimodal communication is necessary to promote access to FDL collections and Government information, and the Council offers you these recommendations:

## **Recommendation 1: Develop print-on-demand services**

The Council recognizes that many users of Government information continue to experience challenges related to the digital divide. It recommends that GPO consider developing print-on-demand services for FDLs, enabling them to provide Government information to users who cannot access digital documents or reside far from a Federal Depository Library. The Council further recommends that the GPO consider ways to support interlibrary loan services to ensure the availability of printed documents to underserved populations.

**Recommendation 2: Increase outreach with a public-facing toolkit**

In a digital-first environment, Government information is accessed both within and outside of FDLs. To increase outreach and awareness to underserved populations who may not visit FDLs, the Council recommends the GPO develop a communications toolkit for Government information in all formats that FDLs and the general public can utilize. The toolkit should include promotional content suitable for social media and online use, as well as the tangible materials currently available.

**Recommendation 3: Establish a training portal**

To increase the visibility and accessibility of all training materials available on the FDLP website, the Council recommends that GPO establish a training portal to provide a single-entry point for all of its training resources, including FDLP Academy presentations, conference proceedings, and Library Resource Guides.

We appreciate GPO for its responsive and solutions-based approach in its mission of providing permanent public access to Government information through the Federal Depository Library Program. Council is committed to working with GPO in the vision of an America Informed.

Sincerely,



Angela Bonnell  
Chair, Depository Library Council  
Head of Government Information and Maps  
Illinois State University, Milner Library

Copy:  
Scott Matheson, Superintendent of Documents  
Cynthia Etkin, DLC Designated Federal Officer  
Stephani (Nia) Rodgers, DLC Secretary

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Dear Director Halpern,

On behalf of the Depository Library Council (Council), I am pleased to transmit the following commendation also from Fall Business Meeting held September 26, 2025.

The Depository Library Council (Council) commends the Government Publishing Office (GPO) for their consistently high-quality Fall Federal Depository Library Conferences and Spring Depository Library Council meetings. As the largest annual gatherings of Federal depository librarians and colleagues in the country, GPO's conference programming creates an informative and collegial atmosphere that advances professional development, knowledge, and communication among the diverse cross-section of attendees.

Notably, GPO's proactive efforts in scheduling the 2025 Fall Depository Conference several weeks earlier in September, rather than in October as has been the practice, ensured the conference would be held in the event of a government shutdown. GPO accelerated the planning without sacrificing quality. It is particularly laudable they maintained their professionalism while preparing for the impacts of a potential shutdown.

During conference planning, GPO is receptive to Council's suggestions and questions. Though planning time for the 2025 fall conference was shortened by several weeks, GPO implemented several new Council initiatives such as the conference portal's "Congratulations Board," a "Council is Listening" session, and virtual breakout rooms during the Regional Library sessions. These adaptations enhanced attendee experience and expanded Council's ability to interact with attendees. In the Council's advisory role to GPO, these conferences serve as the primary mechanism to learn from the community. GPO structures the sessions with open chat streams that encourage attendees to interact with the presenters, Council, GPO, and one another to promote dialogue and understanding. Conference feedback reveals how important this is as attendees have shared that chat

interactions were “enriching” and they “don’t feel out of place” when asking questions. Survey responses also reflect that attendees feel they are with “my people” and affirm a sense of community that promotes “camaraderie.”

Council is continually impressed by GPO’s efforts in delivering programming that provide an informative, collaborative, and interactive venue for the federal depository community. Council is honored to serve beside GPO staff who exhibit a commitment to providing U.S. Government information to the American public and work toward the vision of an America Informed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Angela Bonnell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Bonnell  
Chair, Depository Library Council  
Head of Government Information and Maps  
Illinois State University, Milner Library

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