

Q&A from the Online Congressional Hearing Project Session

12/3/14

Below you will find responses from GPO staff to questions that were posed during the Online Congressional Hearing Project session of the 2014 DLC Virtual Meeting. These were the questions that remained unanswered when the session ended.

1) from Julia Bauder to All Participants:

I wonder if the percentages get better as you go forward in time, or if the numbers are just as bad now as they were in 1995?

The team is identifying content based on committee and not Congress. However, there does appear to be an increase in the number of hearings available as you go forward in time for some committees.

2) from Sandra McAninch to All Participants:

When a committee opts out of FDsys for a born digital hearing, does GPO archive the digital version?

Some committees choose not to produce a digital version at all, instead only request that a printed document be produced. If a committee asks GPO to produce a digital version in addition to printing a tangible version, but chooses not to have it ingested in FDsys, LSCM will harvest this digital version if it is posted on the committee site and if it can be identified during the cataloging process for the tangible version.

3) from Christine Fletcher to All Participants:

The versions of committee hearings, reports, and prints on Committee websites, are they considered authenticated or authoritative/official?

A determination of whether or not digital content made available on a Committee Web site is considered authoritative or official is at the direction of the Committee.

4) from Carmen Orth-Alfie to All Participants:

how about noting in the list of classes the committees that participate 100% in FDsys?

Final results of the congressional hearings project analysis are expected to be made available to the community.

5) from Arlene Weible to All Participants:

Does harvested content go into FDsys?

Currently, LSCM is harvesting content from a variety of sources and storing it at various locations, including permanent.gpo.gov and the Internet Archive. So at this time, not all content that LSCM is harvesting is being ingested into FDsys.

6) from Scott Casper to All Participants:

That answer, about how committees decide what format documents will be made available in -- was that just in terms of paper vs. electronic, or do agencies have a say in microfiche as a choice as well?

GPO disseminates tangible vs. electronic content based on the direction of the originating agency. The decision to provide a microfiche version is made by LSCM as a mechanism for distribution to libraries in the FDLP. It is an FDLP Program decision. Agencies are not involved in that decision.

7) from Lori Smith to All Participants:

Could the committee lists in the FYsys browse hearings section be annotated with the % of that committee's hearings that are included?

Final results of the congressional hearings project analysis are expected to be made available to the community. Please note that the congressional hearings project only includes an analysis of the 1995-2012 committee hearings disseminated to the FDLP.