New govinfo Content and Enhancements – Audio transcript

Please stand by for realtime captions.

Hi, everyone. Welcome back to our session on new government info content and enhancements. If you have any questions, please put those in the chat box and we will direct those questions to the presenters at the end of the session. Thank you.

Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to this session on new govinfo content and enhancements. Kelly, I cannot find my controls. In my unmute it?

Did you mean to screen share? Hover over the tab.

I did intend to screen share, so I have access to my slides. Okay, we're going to start over folks. Good afternoon, welcome to the session on new govinfo content and enhancements. I am Megan Minto, a collection development librarian and library services in content management. With me, today is John quanta deputy program manager for govinfo and strategy technology. I will be starting the session by talking to you about content added to govinfo in fiscal year 2021, and then John will demo some recent system enhancements. Development of the digital collection in govinfo is provided by GPO's system of online access collection development plan. Version 6 was released on September 30th and was announced in the F DOP news alert. Kelly will Shirlington the news alert in the chat. Evan Dix B and C have been updated to reflect content added to govinfo in FY 21 . GPO is undertaking with the law library of Congress. First, let's take a look at the digitization project that GPO completed in FY 21. A title near and dear to my heart, all issues indexes and supplements to the monthly catalog of U.S. Government publications are now available on govinfo. Monthly catalog lists all of the publications produced by the U.S. Government printing office from 1895 to 2004. As well as publications issued directly by federal agencies. The monthly catalog is a compromised index after the document catalog was discontinued in 1947. The monthly catalog was discontinued with the December 2004 edition, after which point the continuously updated catalog of U.S. Government publications serve that purpose. The monthly catalog browse page, shown here, can be accessed from the browse link and Kelly will provide a link in the chat. The browse page is organized by year. The year covered by the monthly catalog varied over time, with some years running January to December and some years running July to June of the following year. When you expand the year you will see each of the monthly issues and indexes or supplements as they were produced for that year. Clicking on one of these links will take you to the content details page with the issue come index, or supplement you selected, for which you can access the PDF. At the bottom of the list, you will find the cumulative indexes. The first two cumulative indexes expand 10 years and the three cumulative indexes that follow each expand five years. Returning to the top of the monthly catalog browse page, you will find a link for all monthly catalog issue indexes and supplements. Anytime you want to search across a monthly catalog, you will want to start from this link. Indexes like the monthly catalog are hidden from the govinfo basic search so that members of the public don't get overwhelmed with index results when they are looking for publications. Clicking on the link will take you to a search results list of the 1481 monthly catalog items. You can use the date published filter, on the left side of the page, to limit to select years. Or if you want to search across all issues, indexes, and supplements you can click the checkbox next to the search within results. Then you can enter your search terms in the search bar. Here, I have entered a number in quotation marks. My search returned

one search result. A monthly catalog for November 1939. From here, I can open the PDF and use the search function within the PDF reader, whether that is within your browser or Adobe Acrobat, to search for the number again. Our monthly catalog volumes are provided at the volume level, as opposed to page level, which we may be used to and some other commercial products that offer the monthly catalogs. You will have to open the full volume to look for your search results. Here is the item I was looking for. The October 1939 edition of the United States government manual. The monthly catalog includes interesting notes, such as the one here, announcing that the new form of the October 1939 edition was replacing the previous format of the government manual. Sections on the supreme course, the executive office of the president, Congress, and the District of Columbia were included for the first time. In addition to the monthly catalogs, GPO completed digitization of a number of document indexes, including the documents catalog , document index, numerical list, and aims for it in the 1909 checklist. These indexes provide a wealth of information to help locate publications by title or author, and in the case of the documents catalog, by subject. The government document index browse page can also be accessed on the browse A-Z list. Clicking on the name of each index, you will be taken directly to the content details page if the index is a single volume, such as the 1909 checklist. Or you will be taken to a search result list of all volumes if the index is multipart or serial. If you would like to search across all the indexes at once, click on the all government document indexes link at the top of the list, and again, click the check box within search within results like I demonstrated with the monthly catalog. We will be developing a series of short webcast to show how to search and browse the government document indexes and monthly catalog. We have also digitized a selection of older F DOP and GPO publications ensuring long-term public creation related to the programs of the Superintendent of documents. From these public locations you can trace the evolution of items and classification systems. Or review designations for features if they were designated circa 1980. You'll also find free reports from the depository library counsel to the public printer from the 1970s. We are also continuing to add to the congressional hearings collection on govinfo. New editions come from a variety of congressional committees spanning the 85th there 102nd congresses. Saving the best for last, the U.S. Congressional serial set launched on September 28th. The initial public release includes volumes from the 69th Congress, 85th Congress, and select 19th-century congresses. This is a multiyear collaborative progress in GPO's undertaking with the law library of Congress and new volumes will be added on a yearly basis. The two conference sessions related to the serial set introduced in the U.S. Congressional serial set through GPO in the Library of Congress, and wire the Boy Scouts and the serial set? Congressionally chartered organizations , have already been presented. If you didn't have a chance to attend, I encourage you to go back and watch the recordings to learn more about this exciting progress in the wide variety of content that you're going to find in this collection. There is also an excellent FDLP Academy webinar on September 21st titled coming into the U.S. Congressional serial set. The national collection of U.S. government public information continues to be a strategic priority for GPO. One of the ways depositories can contribute to the national collection, and offer reading material to GPO for digitization. GPO's needs are posted to the GPO need list guide in the FDLP exchange. You will automatically match GPO's list. If you don't offer nationally, you will need to identify materials on GPO's needs list and contact us. In addition to matching with GPO, offering nationally and FDLP exchange will give depositories outside your region an opportunity to fill gaps and build collections for the research, which keeps depository items in the national collection. Offering nationally is not the default setting, so please concern your library account settings if it is your intention to offer materials to all depository libraries. Looking ahead, we have already started digitization of the congressional directory and more congressional hearings. As I mentioned earlier, additional volumes will be added to the U.S. Congressional serial set collection as digitization and metadata are completed. We are in the process of contracting the collection of govinfo which lead us back to 1951. We are also in the process of contracting bikes selection of congressional print. Next let's take a look at content contributors for

inclusion in govinfo by GPO partners. University of Florida contributed publications from the U.S. Department of agriculture. Including the entomological commission, theory of entomology, Bureau of entomology and plant quarantine. If, like me, you live in a geographic region that has come through a cicada brood, you may be interested in a publication titled periodical cicada in 1914 which will look at bird spotting. A state university contributed seven publications in FY 21, including those shown here. Boise State digitizes publications of regional interest, some of which were only available from regional offices and federal agencies. GPO appreciates Boise State University's contribution, which make hidden treasures of the national collection of U.S. government public information accessible to all. Are you interested in learning more about, during with GPO to increase access to government publications? This is the partnership page to learn more about each of our partnership categories. You can contact us via asked GPO under the partnerships category to discuss what type of partnership is the best fit for your institution. We are really willing to discuss partnerships on any scale, whether they can contribute a couple of publications, you're digitizing for another purpose, or maybe to fulfill user needs or interlibrary loan request, or if you are entering into a large-scale digitization project. This year, also brought up more digital current content. The final report of the select committee on the modernization of Congress was published using X pub, GPO's digital system for XML-based publishing. Report offers a modern user-friendly layout to demonstrates what X pub will be able to offer congressional committees and faculties in the future. GPO worked with its legislative data partners in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to make compilations available in U.S. LM XML format. Statute compilations are compilations of public laws that either do not appear in the U.S. code, or have been classified to a title of the U.S. code that hasn't been enacted into process law. The collection has grown to include 2180 statute compilations. This year we also saw a new edition of the women in Congress e-book, updated to the end of the 115th Congress. Here is a list of other highlights, and I will direct your attention to two in particular. GPO released 10 additional years of bill status XML bulk data, expanding coverage back to the 108th Congress. The U.S. courts opinions collection continues to grow, with 14 additional courts opting into publishing on govinfo in FY 21. United States course opinion project is a come leopard of effort -- to provide public access to opinions in a text virtual format. I will now turn things over to John, acting program manager for govinfo.

Okay, let me try that again. Can folks hear me now?

Yes. He sounded.

Meeting the headset for the dogs. Anyways, thank you very much. As you mentioned, I'm the deputy program manager for Deputy federal and I have the distinct pleasure with working with a team that helps make continued access to all these exciting publications possible. Other members of the team are online, and they are going to help moderate the chat and answer any questions in the end. Much like many of you, I tend to part of the snacks of counsel and we have been working remote since last March. It has been an interesting journey and we are doing all we can to continue working to meet the needs of the library community and our other stakeholders. Let's jump into the presentation. I'm going to talk a little bit about giving highlights and then we will do a brief demo. As I am sure many of you have heard before, during some of our presentations in previous years, govinfo isn't just a website. It is a flexible content management system , a world-class iso-16363 trustworthy digital repository, and a modern public website. It is the key system that ingests, processes, and preserves documents from all three branches of government. While the focus of the presentation is going to be on the user interface that you all see on a day-to-day basis, you just have to know that there is a lot of work being done to support and enhance govinfo from a variety of components, even those on the back end. Some of the things that Megan was mentioning, some enhancements on the backend. The first two slides, here, I'm going to talk

about a few of the highlights, some of which we will demo in a few moments. I'm not going to go into the rest of them in detail. I will put a note into the chat, and after the demo, with a link to the notes which I highly encourage you to check out. In December, we added embeddable govinfo search box which I'm happy to show you. You can send feedback directly from the library community. As Megan mentioned, we did release XML bill status bulk data for the 108 through 112 congresses as part of our partnership with the other members of the legislative bulk data task force. We also added some additional citation search patterns for congressional bills and public and private laws. We made some other enhancements for project delivery. In March of 2021 we made some enhancements to our API to release and make related documents available from the API, similar to what we have done in the past from the user interface. I will demo that in the end. We also made a large number of upgrades and enhancements to our underlying systems so they can be maintained and stay secure and give us a more flexibility for future development. In July of 2021 we did a lot of the major development that made up the Congressional serial set possible to be available for you in September. We also launched a bibliographic citation generator, which if you haven't seen, I'm going to go through. We made some other additional citation enhancements, and obviously in September 2021 we had the big launch of the Congressional serial set which, as Megan noted, there is a few webinars on. I really think you should check those out if you haven't had a chance. Explore all the functionality and content that is available. In terms of metrics, this is one that we like to show off every year to give folks a sense of what is on govinfo. In terms of growth in terms of what we are restoring and preserving, as well as how much usage we are getting. A couple key things I would like to point out are the 320,000 packages added to govinfo in FY 21. That is, I took a look back at our records, that is more packages that we have added in the past year than any year prior to it. It represents a 50% increase over FY 20. That is a pretty big jump for us. We also saw a very large increase in the overall number of retrievals of content from our site, up to 837 million. Averaging 70 million in a given month. Folks will see down at the bottom, that last bullet there, 4.8 billion public website file retrievals since January 2009. We are actually really close to 5 billion. If McKay collations are right, we will probably hit that by the end of December. I'm going to go ahead and switch over to our live demo now. Make sure I share my right desktop, here. Okay. The first thing I want to show is, again, that following up from last year's conference. The embeddable search box. If you go to our main help page, you will see that we have got a quick jump link that gives you information --

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John. We are just seeing the slides. We are not seeing govinfo.

I'm sorry. Apologies. Switch that. Okay. Let's try that again. All right, I will start at the beginning. From our main help page, here. We can jump down. You will see a cold block, here. You can include that on your site, that is going to allow users to directly search govinfo and take them to our search results page based on the request. This includes all the codes that should be needed and styling that will give you something very similar to this. This is a live preview. One thing I like to show off with this, is that we can use any of the same search operators and terms you are used to using on govinfo. You can use here. Pulling example from Megan and the Boise State University partnership. We are going to look into the River of no return wilderness, and we are going to do a published date range operator. You can see here we get directly to govinfo . We have 1000 results, and number three on the list is the partnership item. We are hoping that this is a thing that is useful for everyone, and that if you have additional feedback on it we are always excited to hear it. Since we are on the search results page, I want to show you something new from the March release I briefly mentioned. Something that we are using, the aid and research, we have expanded the ability to download up to 1000 search results in both CSV and J on. We initially released this last year, you could download up to 100 results. For some folks who are doing some research and want to see a larger number of results, you can go here and click on the storage download icon, and then you will get the option to download in either CSV or JSO in. I will click CSV. You

will see, hear, that we have got a number of standard fields including the title, as well as links to the details, PDF, and other links as appropriate. Also information about published date. And then the same thing for the JSO and. From our June release, I want to show off the bibliographic citation generator. On every content detail page you can click on this yellow and black double quote icon. That will allow you to automatically generate citations for the Chicago, APA, MLA, and new as of a few weeks ago bluebook styles. This is hopefully going to be useful for academics and students who are trying to access information and put them into their bibliographies as citations. As a former historian by training, I always try to add this. One thing I will, actually, also note. For the bluebook, we did spilled specific transformations so if you're looking at a public law or U.S. courts opinion or a number of other collections, you will get a bluebook specific citation for that particular type of document. For some of our collections, we do not have that. There isn't a one to one relationship. It will fall back to the standard webpage. The Chicago, APA, and MLA styles are that generic web citation, currently. However, in future releases, we are planning -- we are working to add the document specific citation formats into these. That will be coming along in the next few releases. Something that is more exciting, I think, is not only do we have the ability to copy this and paste it into your documentation. You can also build things so there is additional metadata editing to the page which allows us to connect reference managers and save information. Now we will see that I have got -- you will see that the, there is information about the document that it has put into the specific format. We welcome your feedback on this feature, also and hope it is going to be useful for everyone in the community. Another item from the September release that I want to show off is a new feature for enhancement to our citation functionality. Folks are probably used to being able to do this to grab a specific citation and immediately get a PDF back. Something that we have heard, that some folks would like to see, is a little more context around what they're searching for to confirm before they go ahead and download something. That is a feature that we released. Here's an example. 33 CFR part 334 section 230. Here, we have a little bit of a preview. You get the option to download the PDF, as normal. Now you can also access the details page directly so you can get more context around the document. If they want to see federally related, they can jump and see the FR references four. That is a lot easier to do from this location. You can also access the XML directly. That is just another way to getting it the content more quickly. I have got another citation I want to do, so I wish off a couple things. We are going to look at congressional documents and we are going to look at a Senate document from the 25th Congress. For those of you who have been paying attention, is from our serial site collection. This shows our advanced and citation search has integrated with serial set into the other collections. 25th Congress, document 40. So, this is just a -- I will open it up. This document, I think, is very interesting. I stumbled across it when I was looking at the browse by topic feature. It is actually a letter from a peace society to Congress to serve as a mediator between France and Mexico, as part of the pastry war of 1838-1839. Which I never heard of. I was in antebellum history major in a former life. In addition, another interesting thing about this, they asked for mediation but they were also proposing the formation of a Congress of nations. Which sounds very much like a proto-league of Nations 80 years ahead of its time. I don't think anything ever came of it, but it was interesting that this was a thing folks were thinking about in the 18th century. Early 19th century. That is another plug for looking at the congressional serial set browse by topic feature. There's a number of ways you can get that. I will grab a quick one. I would really advise, if you have a half hour, start looking through some of these. One that I like, in particular, if you scroll down here there is malicious mischief. You have got what looks like about 400 results about malicious mischief over the years. I don't know if that is Harry Potter related, but I doubt it. Finally, the last thing I wanted to show off was our new API document service. I am going to put in a demo key that will allow us to put in some requests, here. We previously had the ability to look for collections and see things that have been added or modified. We will look up information about an individual document and package. With this release, that we had in March, we added the related functionality. We started out with relationships from congressional bills and bill status

collections. This will allow us to put in an access I.D.. 111 S3984 ENR. We will execute that, and it is going to give us a response back. I'm going to pull this out to put it in its own window and make it easier is for us to see. Here, we can see the different relationships that the system has available for this particular congressional bill. We can see there are a number of bill versions, bill history from the history of bills. The accompanying public and private law as well as the entries at statues at large and U.S. code. I picked this example because I thought it was a fun one. This is actually the Museum and Library services act of 2010. From our friends at the congressional resource service. This act recognizes how libraries and museums contribute to a competitive workforce and engaged citizenry with new language focusing on 21st century skills. I felt that was very appropriate for this demo. We can do the same thing, here. You can see, on this package summary, there is a link to get to those relationships again, which is going to show you, essentially, the same relationships for different bill version. Each one of these relationships links will return access to a particular package, granted depending on what we are looking at. This is a good way for us to continue to make it easier for users, both on govinfo proper and the API to learn more about how the documents, within the system, are related to each other. That hopefully helps people better understand how government works for them. We also recently added relationships between different congressional hearings and in our current release we are working on relationships between documents in the federal register and federal regulations. As we develop new related documents use cases, and expose more of those to the public, those will be available both on govinfo as well as the API. I'm going to stop sharing for the moment. Again, I will plug that this was a brief demo of some of the features we released over the past year. Again, I do highly encourage you to look at the govinfo.gov/release notes to learn more about what we've been doing over the past year. Before I say that we are done and ready for your questions, we have got some questions for you. Similar to what we have done in the past, past federal Library Council, we ask for your feedback. We want you to tell us what your priorities are so we can understand that and include those into our development road map. I have a link we are going to be putting into the chat in just a moment. As well as a QR code. There is also QR codes if you want to fill it out on your phone, that is also a good option. We will, after the session, be posting an article that has some of these links in it so you can come back to it. With that, I think that I am ready for questions and I'm sure Megan is as well. Let's go for it.

Thank you, Megan and John. We have a few questions so far. From page, are there any guides or search tips for using govinfo or is govinfo mainly used for finding a specific document. I have tried searching and never found what I wanted. I usually just result to Google searches. We generally get general topics not specific documents. Work at a public library. Just wondering how to better use govinfo. I know, Suzanne popped a link to some govinfo tutorials in the chat , but I figured you might want to expand on that.

Sure. Let me share my screen again. Yeah, so, in here, under help we have tutorials and handouts. I want to fix that. We do have some video tutorials about how to use different parts of the site. Including some things that might be of interest like advanced search techniques and more complex searches using metadata. There is definitely, and I know there are some other FDLP Academy webinars that have covered that, as well. I think if you are trying to find something and you are having a little bit of trouble, we are not exactly like Google in that there is a little bit more knowledge that is required, maybe. You know, if you can look into it from a collection basis there is another browse option to be discovering things in terms of browse A-to-Z.

Page also asks, where do we find the place to link to your website?

Great question. Me see if I can drop that in. It is under help, if you're talking about the embedded search link. It is here at govinfo.gov/help search box. There we go.

Any other questions for our presenters?

I see a question from Hunter about performing a search that yields more than 1000 results. Is there way to export multiple files?

Yes.

It is an extra step or two. If you have an example that does that, I can come up with something for you. This isn't a real example, of course, but if you want to see all of the Federal Register. We have 890,000 results. The principal is going to stay the same. You can limit it down by date range, or you can do some things to limited down. If you want to see 1998, and then bring it down further. That is, sort of, the approach I would take initially.

Okay. In the API search, does the relationship link go to a document?

Great question. Let me share again. Yes. This relationship link will go to a list of related documents. In this case, I clicked on the related bill versions to this bill. You can see the different bills. From there, there is a package link. That link will give us, sort of, a brief metadata view that tells you a little bit more about the resources. This is the API equivalent to our content details page. You can see the title and the short title and the collection and when it was issued. Some other information. We also have a download section that allows you to see and download. Example, here's the XML for this particular version of the bill. You can also download and access the related link, you know, the direct link to the bill status. You can also see more information about this bill. Each of the different collections that we have with its congressional bills, congressional record, Federal Register. They will have different sets of metadata. There are some standard things, but there is also some specific items that are related to each particular collection.

Okay, thank you. Rich is asking, is there an effort to get greater participation from the court to contribute opinions to govinfo?

I will take that question. We are in regular communication with the administrative office of the U.S. court. They serve as our liaison onto the court. They are always encouraging those courts that have not opted into the program to start participating. It is something that each court has to decide to adopt for their court, and then we have to them set up so they can start publishing their opinions to govinfo. It is our hope that one day we will have 100% participation. At this point, I believe we have all of the appellate courts, 68 of the district courts, and 67 of the bankruptcy courts.

Thank you, Megan. I don't see any other questions at this moment. We will stay on for a few more moments and see. One just came in. How would I troubleshoot a download that does not work? The result list was less than 100 items. They are not large.

If you could drop the search that you put in, we can take a look at that off-line and get back to you. Or if you want to put it in the ask GPO you can do it that way. I would have to see the example to see what the challenges.

She did drop that P URL into the chat box.

I will take that and we will dig into it. I will share my screen again. I am able to bring that up, that I am also on internal networks. Sometimes things happen a little bit differently. We will be happy to look into this, we will do some testing and we can get back to you if you want to maybe send Kelly your contact info. Or you can send it directly to me, I guess. We can look back at that and get back to you.

Thanks for the info about the courts, how about publications of the ministry of law judges decision?

Those are not currently included on govinfo. We are interested in adding more coverage for administrative law titles, however. We are looking into our list of everything that falls under the category of industry of law, and starting to investigate what it would take to get that type of content represented on govinfo.

Think you both. As we are waiting for any last questions, I just want to say that our next session is the regional meeting at 3: 30, in this room. If you are looking for the other session on identifying the catalog. That is in room B and all of the access information is on our event page. John, Beth just provided her email for follow-up in the chat box.

Yep. Got it. I will take a look at it. Thank you very much.

Question from John, for the monthly catalog can be served by the monthly catalog number?

I will let Megan take that one.

Sorry, I was on mute. I would need to look at -- I am not sure whether or not that is in the design data. The monthly catalog is not a collection on govinfo. It does not have advanced search, which has a lot of extra metadata fields that you can search across. Let me go ahead and take a look at it. No, it looks like we did not capture the specific monthly catalog number. Let me check. Hold on. Taking a look at the mods, it looks like we did not capture the multi-catalog number. However, you can search on the number if you have that. GPO 3.8/1 could be the January issue for 1941. It would be a fulltext search for the issue number, is not likely to return anything specific enough for you.

Okay, I am not seeing anything else coming in at this time. Thank you, once again, Megan and John for the presentation. Folks, please take time to fill out the survey. The link is in the chat, or the QR code is on the screen. Again, we will be back at 3: 30. Thank you.

[The event is on a recess. The session will reconvene at 3:30 ET. Captioner on standby.]