



2014 DLC VIRTUAL MEETING:
FOCUSING ON SERVICE

More Than Collections: Why Regional Services Matter in the FDLP Network

The Depository Network, Part I

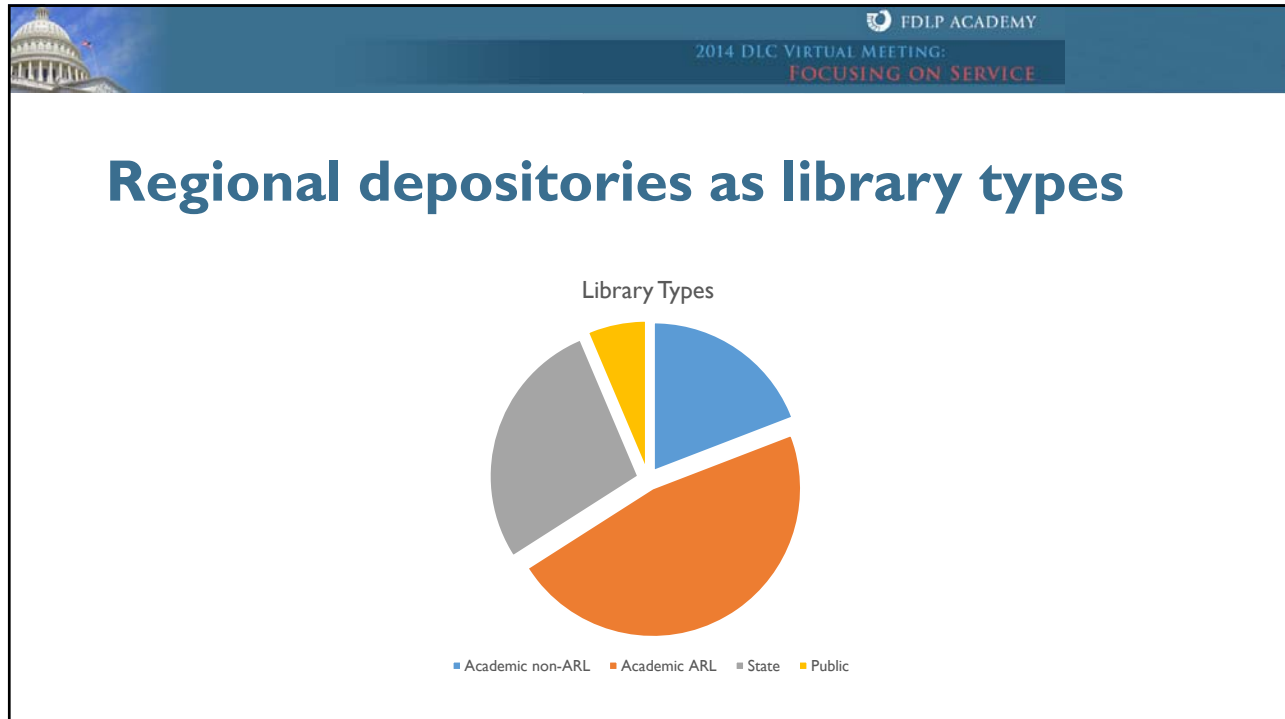
Steve Beleu, David Cismowski, Marie Concannon, Janet Fisher, Hallie Pritchett
Depository Library Council Virtual Meeting
December 2, 2014





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Context

- 1962 Federal Depository Library Act
 - Why libraries originally became regional depositories
 - ♦ To establish & maintain comprehensive historical collections of government information for permanent access by residents of their states or regions
 - ♦ To gain status and prestige
 - ♦ To bump up volume counts inexpensively and thereby improve library ranking
 - ♦ To get first shot at historic collections being weeded by selectives
 - ♦ To provide selective depositories in their states or regions the opportunity to discard
 - ♦ To maintain a library leadership role within their states or regions





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- Library Types
- | Library Type | Color |
|------------------|--------|
| Academic non-ARL | Blue |
| Academic ARL | Orange |
| State | Grey |
| Public | Yellow |
- Academic non-ARL ■ Academic ARL ■ State ■ Public
- ## Services performed by regional depositories
- Training and consultation
 - Access
 - Reference
 - Leadership



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Training and Consultation Services



- Connect with selectives to inform and answer questions
- Provide guidance and/or develop training opportunities
- Recommend in-person or virtual training opportunities
- Facilitate selective discard processes to ensure selectives' collections fit the government information needs of library users
- Serve as a resource for new depository coordinators
- Provide information & answer questions for the managers and directors of selective depository libraries



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Access Services



- Interlibrary loan
- On-demand copying or scanning
- Digitization
- Help selectives replace lost, damaged, or missing copies
- Purchase commercial information products, both tangible and electronic, to supplement the depository collection (e.g., online serial set; Proquest indexing, abstracting, and full-text content, etc.)



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Reference Services


- Assist selective depositories and the public with information needs
- Connect with other regional depositories and/or larger depository network to find relevant information and materials



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Leadership

- Coordinate with selectives to ensure residents of the state or region have free, permanent public access to government information
- Toward that end, coordinate development and revision of State Plans
- Coordinate in-person and virtual conferences and meetings
- Facilitate selective efforts to participate in FDLP action plans
- Lead efforts to work on educational projects



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Regional services matter because regional depositories:

- Provide an outlook and direction with their geographic region in mind
- Are closer at hand than GPO for visits and collaborative opportunities
- Have the needs of their region in mind when providing guidance and assistance
- Serve as a central contact for GPO within the region



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The Importance of Being Allowed to Discard: Why Regionals Support the Draft Policy

The Depository Network, Part 2


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Regional challenges

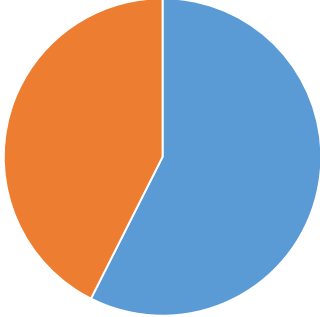
- Regional collections are very large
- Growth space for new tangible items and materials from selective depository discard lists is needed
- Staff cuts impact ability to maintain large tangible collections



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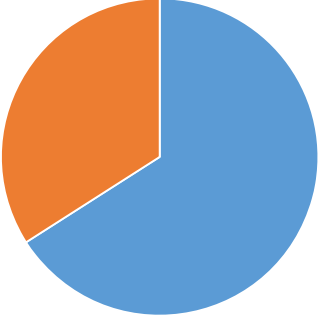
2011 Biennial Survey Question #3 I: “What are the biggest issues your library as a whole is facing?”

Staffing

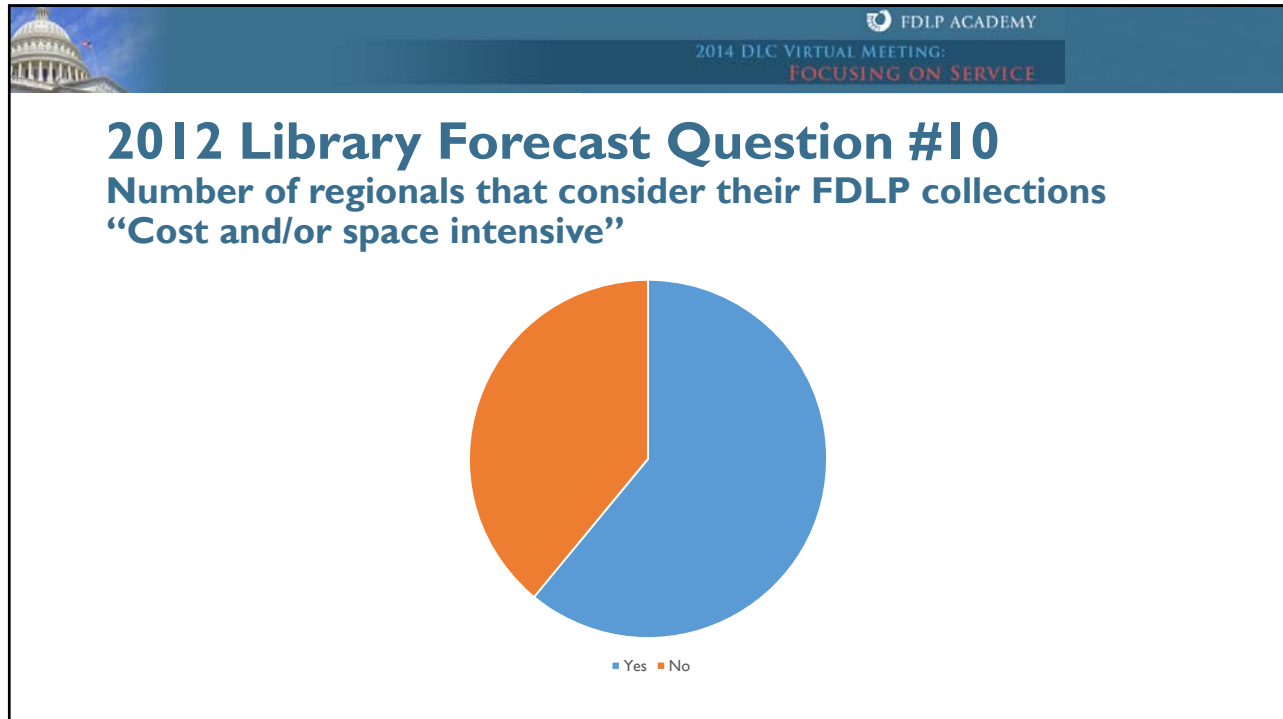


■ Problem with staffing ■ Reported no problem with staffing

Physical Space





■ Use of physical space ■ Reported no space problem



Institutional Context



- Regional operations are only one part of the library's overall mission and responsibilities
- All libraries are not alike
- All regionals are not alike



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Limited Resources



- A 2008 GPO assessment found that the annual cost of housing and maintaining a regional collection can be close to \$1 million
- Since the federal government provides no monetary support to regionals, costs of housing and maintaining this federal property must come from the regional library's general operating budget
- Some regional depository directors question spending limited funds to house and maintain property that doesn't belong to the library



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Relevance



- Regional collections may be perceived as:
 - Seldom accessed
 - Obscure to the point of irrelevance
 - Classified in a scheme that nobody but the depository librarian knows how to interpret
 - Uncatalogued and many times not browse-able
 - Collections that "normal" librarians fear
 - Occupying valuable square footage that could be repurposed
 - Have rules different from the rest of the library that require dedicated staff, training and/or library resources



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Administering collections



- By allowing regionals to discard in a careful, measured way, this policy change will enable regional depository departments to maintain good relationships within their library
- Many libraries have had to downsize their print collections in the last few years; why should the regional depository collection be any different?



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Augmenting & strengthening services



- By allowing regionals to discard in a careful, measured way, this policy will allow regional coordinators and other staff to address other needs of their libraries and provide better service to selectives



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Summary

- Size and institution specifics have impacts on regional depositories, as they do on all other collections in the library
- Regionals strive to serve the public in their areas, as well as serving needs of their selectives
- GPO's strategic proposal to alleviate collection housing problems faced by some regionals will not diminish permanent public access to federal government information



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Questions?