Federal Publications Digitization and Public Access Files Initiatives

This page has been migrated to the beta version of FDLP.gov. **Go to the new page**.

GPO is working with Federal depository libraries, Federal agencies, and others interested in ensuring public access to materials currently being held in Federal depository library collections across the United States and its territories. This work is being accomplished by coordinating digitization efforts and otherwise providing access to Federal electronic resources. The scope of this initiative makes working together in a collaborative effort essential to create a truly complete and non-duplicative digital collection.

GPO's focus for this effort will be on:

* Coordinating the digitization projects among institutions;
* Assisting in the establishment and implementation of guidelines;
* Maintaining a registry of digitization projects;
* Serving as one of the repositories for electronic files through the ingest of material in GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) upon full system implementation; and
* Ensuring that there is appropriate bibliographic metadata for the titles in the collection.

Federal Digitization Guidelines

GPO, through it's participation in the **Federal Agency Digitization Guidelines Initiative** is one of many agencies participating in the development and sharing of best practices and standards. As part of this initiative, the **Federal Agencies Still Image Digital Working Group** has been formed to focus on developing sustainable guidelines for the conversion of tangible objects (i.e. books, maps, and other still images) into digital files. Adherence to these guidelines will help ensure the quality, consistency, and longevity of all publications digitized. As the working group moves forward with additional guidelines, GPO will share this information broadly as part of the collaborative digitization effort.

How to Participate in this Collaborative Digitization Effort

* **Registry of U.S. Government Publication Digitization Projects**
  Let GPO know what your library is working on by including your digitization projects in the **Registry of U.S. Government Publication Digitization Projects**. Search the Registry to find out what other libraries are digitizing or find possible partners for a collaborative project.
* **Become a Digitization Partner**
  Consider partnering with GPO to make the content you digitized more widely available.

If you have a project that you would like to talk with GPO about, just complete the **partnrship inquiry form** and GPO's partnership coordinator will contact you. To learn more about how to become a partner and see the list of current partners, visit the **Partnrship page** .

* **Consider National Priority Titles When Determining the Titles to Digitize**
  GPO has developed a white paper, **Priorities for Digitization of Historical Federal Publications**, highlighting the publications which should be digitized first because of their importance to the community. This paper is a revision of GPO's paper on the Priorities for Digitization of the Legacy Collection, which was originally developed in 2005. The paper describes the methodology used to develop the list of titles to be digitized that were most important to FDLP libraries and other specialty libraries and organizations. The following is a list of priority titles for the collaborative Federal digitization effort:

1)Code of Federal Regulations
2)Federal Register
3)U.S. Code
4)Congressional Record
5)U.S. Reports
6)Public and Private Laws
7)Congressional Bills

* **Consider using the Following Standard Formats for Public Access**
  GPO's **FDsys**, when fully operational, will have the capability to ingest converted content electronic files helping to ensure public access to Federal resources. Acceptable file formats include: TIFF, PNG, PDF/A, PDF, JPEG2000, GIF, Bitmap, ASCII, and XML. While these formats are acceptable as submission formats, converted content providers are encouraged to work with GPO to assess needs and set expectations for search and access capabilities, access derivative creation, and metadata submission.

Listing of Potential Digitization Grant Opportunities
At the request of the Depository Library Council, GPO developed the reference list below of potential Federal Government agencies and private sector organizations that offer digitization grant funding. Depositories should review their state's grant funding opportunities to see what is available.

Federal Government:
Private Sector:

* **Grants.gov**
* **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)**
* **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**
* **National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIP): A Collaborative Initiative of the Library of Congress**
* **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)**
* **National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)**
* **National Science Foundation (NSF)**

* **Alfred P. Sloan Foundation**
* **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**
* **Foundation Center**
* **Paul G. Allen Family Foundations**
* **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**

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