

# Recommendations of the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer 2010 - 2014



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM  
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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPOSITORY LIBRARY COUNCIL  
TO THE PUBLIC PRINTER 2010 - 2014  
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**Please Note:** No recommendations were submitted to the U.S. Government Printing Office by the Depository Library Council for the Spring 2010 Meeting.

## INTRODUCTION

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This document presents the recommendations of the Depository Library Council from the Spring and Fall Meetings 2010–2014. The recommendations are presented in sections sorted by year, then further divided by spring and fall sessions.

**Please Note:** This document serves only as an archival record of what was previously published. Links referenced in this document may not exist, may be superseded, or changed.

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# 2010

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## DEPOSITORY LIBRARY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

FALL MEETING, OCTOBER 18-20, 2010 • ARLINGTON, VA

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### **Recommendation 1**

GPO should work with Council and the Community to create additional exclusive benefits that will accrue to official FDLP depositories. Benefits will serve as incentives for both recruitment and retention of FDLP depositories.

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### **Recommendation 2**

We commend GPO for their current efforts at collecting and describing born digital materials. Council recommends that GPO continue to seek formal and informal collaborations with federal agencies and other organizations in order to encourage and support the collection, description, and preservation of digital materials. We further recommend that GPO explore ways to publicize fugitive and other born digital documents that are captured or harvested.

#### ***Rationale***

GPO has unique resources and capacities that can support projects at other institutions, thereby furthering its mission to maintain permanent public access to government information. These projects can in turn help GPO continue to develop its practices and procedures. Publicizing these materials can provide valuable public awareness of newly-discovered, timely information.

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### **Recommendation 3**

In the event of budgetary constraints, Council requests GPO consult with Council on the prioritization of FDLP projects.

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# 2011

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## DEPOSITORY LIBRARY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

SPRING MEETING, APRIL 4-6, 2011 • SAN ANTONIO, TX

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### **Recommendation 1: More Integration between FDLP Community and the FDLP Desktop**

In order to improve and enhance community access to Government Printing Office (GPO) websites and online tools, GPO should explore the integration of Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Desktop and FDLP Community web sites, which would include more overt linkages between these web sites, integrated login using openID (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenID>), alerts/subscriptions for new activity on both websites, and moving “AskGPO” to the community platform in order to create a publicly accessible knowledge base for the community.

#### *Justification*

Many in the FDLP community have expressed frustration with the requirement of logging in to multiple sites in order to fully access FDLP business functions. More integration between the various FDLP sites would encourage increased usage of and communication with and between community members.

#### *GPO's Response to Recommendation 1*

GPO is currently working on a redesign of the FDLP Desktop and targeting upgrades to the FDLP Community site in the future as well. The redesign of the FDLP Desktop will further streamline processes and introduce new tools to assist the FDL community. For example, planned upgrades include the integration of the FDLP-L e-mail distribution service into the FDLP Desktop, enhancements to WEBTech Notes, and more. Once the FDLP Desktop redesign is mostly complete (in addition to the Ben's Guide redesign), the FDLP Community site will be re-assessed.

Since the community operates in two modes (both as individuals and on behalf of a Federal depository library), the FDLP Desktop and FDLP Community sites will continue as separate sites. There will be some cross-functionality due to this distinction, and GPO will be working to create more overt linkages between the two sites, integrate other depository Web services into the FDLP Desktop, and move to a dynamic password that is maintained by depositories, not GPO. In addition, GPO is working on a robust login system that would permit depositories to access a variety of GPO/FDLP Web services based on either their FDL username and password or their personal FDLP Community site username and password. For example, FDLP Community site members would be able to log into the Digitization Projects Registry site with their FDLP Community username and password and have instant access to add to the digitization registry. OpenID is one of the systems that is being considered for the password replacement.

Currently, the askGPO service is leveraged by all GPO business units as an enterprise tool, and it serves not only the FDLP Community, but the general public as well. Inquiries about the FDLP, FDsys, and GPO's Print Procurement are all handled through askGPO, as well as order inquiries from GPO's U.S. Government Online Bookstore. The option of moving towards a future FDLP dedicated ticketing system on the FDLP Community site is potentially feasible but would largely depend on the adaptation of the service by the community and may create a new risk of having more than one system to communicate with GPO's separate business units. GPO is exploring options to enable searching of the askGPO knowledgebase and the FDLP Desktop from a single location.

Furthermore, GPO is expanding the potential user base of the FDLP Community site to include anyone interested in the FDLP and Federal information so that a more involved, interactive community can evolve. GPO will continue to activate users based on their registration request in order to keep out spammers, scammers, and scrapers so that FDLP Community members have a safe site free from advertisements, solicitations, and off-topic content.

During the October 2011 Depository Library Council Meeting and Federal Depository Library Conference, GPO is actively seeking feedback from the community regarding enhancements and prioritization of enhancements to its Web services. At any time, FDLP Community members can share their ideas and talk with GPO Web staff in the FDLP Web Services forum thread.

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## **Recommendation 2: Creation of a Registry of Depository Library Inventory and Retrospective Conversion Projects**

Council recommends that GPO encourage depository libraries to engage in local projects to catalog portions of their collections retrospectively.

Council further recommends that GPO establish a Registry of Depository Library Retrospective Conversion Projects, as outlined in Council Recommendation 4 (should this be #5?). This Retrospective Conversion Registry would enable depository libraries to (1) register their conversion projects in a publicly accessible database, (2) see which depositories are engaged in converting specific ranges of SuDoc classed publications, (3) see which depositories have completed conversion of specific SuDoc classed publications, and (4) know which depository libraries have done a complete inventory of certain portions of their collections.

By establishing this Registry, GPO would help the community move forward and make progress toward a complete inventory of FDLP depository collections.

### ***Background to Recommendation***

There is need for a coordinated effort to conduct inventories and retrospective conversions of depository library collections. GPO has previously developed partnership guidelines for cooperative cataloging projects: <http://www.fdlp.gov/outreach/partnerships/757-catalogingpartnershipguide>.

These guidelines and partnership opportunities are oriented toward the creation of bibliographic records or other metadata, records that could be shared with all members of the depository community and/or added to the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP) for use by other depository libraries. In addition to the CGP, OCLC's WorldCat is a rich source of cataloging copy for depository libraries wishing to catalog federal government publications.

Most of the time when a depository library catalogs federal government publications, it also wants to "set holdings" for those publications in a nationally available bibliographic database or union catalog. Setting holdings facilitates interlibrary borrowing and enables regional or national analysis of depository library collections. In other words, setting holdings in a bibliographic database or union catalog enables the community to discover (1) which depositories have specific titles and (2) how many copies of those titles are held in a region or in the nation as a whole. In order to accomplish the setting of holdings in a nationally accessible union catalog, inventories or retrospective conversions of depository library collections must occur. During these inventories or conversions, individual titles in collections are (1) matched to local depository shelf lists or other local inventory databases, then (2) searched in a bibliographic database to find suitable cataloging copy (or are originally cataloged). After cataloging, holdings for those titles are set in both local catalogs and one or more national bibliographic databases, and item records are attached to those holdings records.

While a massive effort to coordinate a complete national inventory of the collections of all 1,250 depository libraries is not feasible in this economic climate, some depository libraries are currently conducting partial inventories and conversions of portions of their depository collections. These efforts should be tracked and the community should be able to easily determine which depository libraries are engaged in these efforts and what portions of their collections they are inventorying and cataloging.

## ***GPO's Response to Recommendation 2***

GPO staff members have been reviewing options for building a national inventory, and we thank council for the recommendation that GPO encourage depository libraries to catalog their retrospective collections. We are working to develop a comprehensive plan to be made available online (a complete national bibliographic inventory for the two programs GPO administers: the FDLP and the Cataloging and Indexing Program). The first phase that we are focusing on is the identification of material for inclusion in the Catalog of Government Publications (GCP). This includes historical material that is not part of the paper Shelflist but was distributed to depository libraries via the FDLP. The bigger and broader group is the material that is located in the libraries, not distributed from GPO, but within scope for the FDLP. We intend to utilize the CGP to provide access to the bibliographic records.

The second phase of the project is to review and investigate processes for a physical inventory of Federal publications. Approaches discussed, but not yet investigated, include working with a small group of libraries with large Federal depository collections to do a piece level inventory. As the Council recommendation noted, this will be a “massive effort to coordinate a complete inventory” of depository collections. By working on this project in a systematic way, we hope to make the most of everyone’s limited resources. At issue is the need to develop a workflow process that provides for easy submission of material to GPO and that does not build up a backlog of material for review and inclusion in the CGP.

The Digitization Projects Registry at <<http://registry.fdlp.gov>> is useful for libraries considering digitization projects. This is not a tool that can be used to substitute for bibliographic records such as a catalog. It was designed to accommodate users wishing to share information about digitization projects or future projects. The Registry includes information related to the project such as subject, agency, dates, digital standards, contact information and project status. You may also browse or search on all fields in the Registry, including an advanced search function. The project owner chooses whether to make piece level or project level entries for the different publications. The intent of the Registry is to supplement and share information with the community about Federal digitization projects, not replicate either the CGP or World Cat.

Forward progress on the national bibliographic inventory project is limited in part by funds and also lack of staff. GPO will share the final project plan for this initial phase with Depository Library Council in the near future.

GPO encourages any library wishing to share information about their inventory effort to contact LSCM’s Director of Library Technical Information Services, Laurie Beyer Hall, at [lhall@gpo.gov](mailto:lhall@gpo.gov) or LSCM’s Program Analyst, Ginny Wiese, at [vwiese@gpo.gov](mailto:vwiese@gpo.gov).

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## **Recommendation 3: GPO’s Budget**

In order to improve the FDLP community’s understanding of GPO’s operating budget, Council recommends that GPO provide educational updates on the agency’s annual appropriations requests throughout the budget cycle. In addition, Council recommends that GPO provide updates on pending Congressional legislation that impact GPO’s activities and services to the FDLP.

## ***GPO's Response to Recommendation 3***

The Superintendent of Documents provides updates on appropriations and legislation at national library conferences held throughout each year, GPO-sponsored conferences, and through periodic conference calls with the Depository Library Council. In August, LSCM launched FDLP Connection, an electronic newsletter that highlights the goals, achievements, activities, and stories from throughout the FDLP community. The Superintendent of Documents writes a monthly column that includes updates on appropriations requests and the status of those requests. Additionally, that column is intended to inform the community on other important issues affecting the FDLP, such as any pending Congressional legislation.

The Superintendent of Documents is also making a commitment to keep the Depository Library Council apprised of any updates on appropriations and legislation via regular conference calls and timely e-mail updates as events unfold.

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#### **Recommendation 4: GPO Investigate Exclusive Benefit to FDLs for New PACER Platform**

Council recommends that GPO work with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, as its new program of library access to PACER launches and is evaluated, to investigate additional PACER benefits and incentives exclusively for participating federal depository libraries.

##### *Justification*

Council appreciates the potential for increased public access to PACER by the Administrative Office of the Courts through its new library program. As the program proceeds beyond its initial launch and opens to other libraries, the evaluative data collected will provide GPO with an opportunity to investigate additional PACER benefits and incentives exclusively for participating federal depository libraries. These benefits would further increase public access to PACER while providing additional benefits to libraries in the FDLP.

##### *GPO's Response to Recommendation 4*

PACER is provided by the Federal Judiciary in keeping with its commitment to providing public access to court and case information. A primary goal of the PACER: Access and Education Program (the Program) for libraries is to increase public access to PACER through awareness and education of the general public in the use of PACER.

An evaluation process is built into the Program. An evaluation form was developed to be used with all Program educational sessions and participating libraries are obligated to maintain statistics and report quarterly the number of education sessions conducted, the number of participants in the sessions, and the results from the evaluations.

The data collected will be examined to determine if the Program is achieving its goals and meeting the success factors, which have been identified:

- Increase in the number of education sessions;
- Increase in the number of persons participating in sessions; and
- Positive results from session evaluations.

This process was established in collaboration with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and the American Association of Law Libraries. GPO looks forward to working with the AOUSC to analyze the data and to determine if there are additional PACER benefits that can be provided exclusively to Federal depository libraries. Beginning on 10/18/2011, participation in the Program will expand by 50 libraries. Preference will be given to depository libraries that were part of the PACER pilot of 2007/2008. It is projected that the Program will be opened up to any Federal depository library, public law library, or public library in January 2012. This is an excellent opportunity for depositories to expand their offerings to the public and increase civic engagement in Government.

In addition to the PACER: Access and Education Program, GPO is partnering with the AOUSC to provide no-fee public access to Federal appellate, district, and bankruptcy court opinions available through FDsys. This is currently in the public beta phase.

## **Recommendation 5: Consolidation of GPO Tools and Infrastructure**

Currently, many GPO applications and databases operate independently of each other. This leads to users having to search multiple places to find information and to perform multiple functions in order to transact business with GPO. Council recommends that GPO identify databases and systems that share common aspects; develop interfaces between those databases and systems; and achieve greater database and systems interoperability.

### ***Justification***

- At present, GPO tends to create solutions to problems and needs by developing solutions that address individual problems and needs.
- This leads to a multiplicity of places to search and functions to perform.
- An example is the Needs and Offers List and the CGP--currently, these two databases are separate entities and operate independently of each other.
- Another example is the Item Lister and the List of Classes. With the item lister, a depository can pull up a list of item numbers that depository selects and does not select; however, that depository must then do a separate search in the List of Classes to determine what title, series, or category is represented by that item number. If a linkage existed between the two, that depository could immediately see which titles, series, or categories are represented by item numbers and could also generate a list of selected titles, series, or categories that are specific to that depository.
- Council recommendation 2 (2011) calls for the establishment of a retrospective conversion registry. Instead of making this registry separate from the digitization registry, GPO should combine them and any other registries they generate in the future.

### ***GPO's Response to Recommendation 5***

Data interoperability is crucial to GPO's Web development, and GPO shares Council's goal to have better integration of Web services. Ensuring that applications running on different platforms are able to exchange information and operate cooperatively will allow GPO to create Web applications that not only better assist Federal depository libraries, but also the general public. As services within GPO are re-examined and streamlined to take advantage of today's technological capabilities, GPO must leverage industry and Federal best practices while meeting the demanding needs of its users. Expectations must also be leveraged against GPO's budget and staffing constraints. GPO's first goal is to migrate from legacy, at-risk systems to a stable, structured platform and dataset. This is targeted for completion by the beginning of the second quarter of 2012. Once the systems are migrated and stabilized, future enhancements and integration will be examined based on staffing and funding abilities.

## DEPOSITORY LIBRARY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

FALL MEETING, OCTOBER 17-20, 2011 • ARLINGTON, VA

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### **Recommendation 1: Involve Community in Interface and Systems Development**

Council recommends that GPO work with Council to develop and implement a methodology for active involvement of users throughout the development process of new and refreshed interfaces and systems that affect stakeholders in the FDLP community.

#### *Justification*

Council applauds GPO for its recent emphasis on sharing interface designs with the community and soliciting feedback on interfaces and systems using the FDLP Community site. We hope that together we can develop an action plan that will encourage a larger number of community members to provide this feedback while increasing the number of process checkpoints at which feedback is solicited, with the eventual goal of having all new and refreshed interfaces and systems better meet the needs of the FDLP community.

#### *GPO's Response to Recommendation 1*

GPO shares Council's goal of active involvement of users as Web services are re-examined and refreshed. GPO has mechanisms in place to gather community feedback, such as:

1. Sharing its vision and progress (e.g., mockups, screenshots, beta test sites) with Council prior to sharing with the FDL community and the public.
2. The "FDLP Web Services" forum <<http://community.fdlp.gov/forum/forum?f=67>> on the FDLP Community site. Here members can talk with GPO's Web developers, share their ideas/recommendations, start discussions on any of the FDLP's Web services, and view suggestions from other members.

The key to the success of this recommendation is active involvement from both Council and the FDL community. To that end, GPO will further its marketing of the FDLP Community site. GPO asks for Council's assistance to spread the word among the community to sign up and take advantage of the social networking features on the FDLP Community site.

GPO recognizes that the beta FDLP Community site has some limitations in design and functionality. These issues will be addressed in the site's redesign, which will begin once the FDLP Desktop and Ben's Guide redesigns are complete. In the meantime, GPO eagerly seeks feedback on the features/functionality requested by both Council and the community for the official launch of the FDLP Community site.

Web design is iterative. As Web technologies and community needs change, GPO's Web services will adapt, evolve, and improve.

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### **Recommendation 2: Guidance for Regional Transition Situations**

Council recommends that the document "Guidance for Federal Depository Libraries Relinquishing Regional Designation" be reviewed and expanded to include other possible Regional transition situations and be made widely available. An emphasis on open communication and transparency is strongly recommended.

### *Justification*

Council is concerned about the recent confusion in the FDLP community about GPO policy and procedures related to the transition of Regional services within the states. The document “Guidance for Federal Depository Libraries Relinquishing Regional Designation” provides some assistance, but primarily addresses situations where there is more than one Regional library designated in a state. There is a need for more clear guidance and information to address a scenario where the sole Regional library in a state is relinquishing status. Improved guidance from GPO will ensure a transparent process, and give depository library directors and coordinators the appropriate tools to make the best decisions for the state. In examining policy and procedures, GPO should place a primary emphasis on open and repeated communication with all stakeholders within the state and the depository community.

### *GPO’s Response to Recommendation 2*

GPO is reviewing the “Guidance for Federal Depository Libraries Relinquishing Regional Designation” with respect to the issues raised. We plan to develop additional guidance to address several issues, including regional and selective depository responsibilities when the sole regional depository in a state relinquishes regional status. A team has been formed and will be working with the respective DLC liaisons. We will share our results in the near future.

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## **Recommendation 3: Creation of a Registry of Government Information Training Materials**

Council recommends GPO create a registry of government information teaching and training materials and make the registry available on the FDLP Desktop.

### *Justification*

A registry of teaching and training materials, including tutorials, would enable depository libraries to (1) register materials in a publicly accessible database, (2) download and adapt materials for their own constituency’s needs, and (3) connect with other depositories that are engaged in the teaching and training of users of government information. A registry would improve teaching, enhance community collaboration, and increase access to government information, GPO websites, and online tools. We envision a registry modeled on the Digitization Projects Registry that could be populated by the community.

### *GPO’s Response to Recommendation 3*

It is part of GPO’s requirements for the upcoming learning management suite to have a repository for training materials that can be used by our community so that in the end, GPO can serve as a clearinghouse for training materials.

The ability to share videos, tutorials, guides, and other user-developed training materials might map to the future iteration of the FDLP Community site rather than through the development of a new Web site. The FDLP Community site cannot only house these materials, but since they are user-generated, they can be user-maintained. The user can control the enhancement of their materials by either adding to or replacing existing materials. Meanwhile, members can communicate directly with the author regarding questions, suggestions, and collaborative efforts.

If Council concurs, these features can be mapped out as part of the FDLP Community site redesign, which is due to start in spring 2012.

## **Recommendation 4: Embedded Tutorials in FDsys**

Council recommends that GPO embed its own tutorials in FDsys, where appropriate.

### ***Justification***

Currently, GPO is working on making its applications and databases operate with each other, so that users will be able to search across multiple databases to find information. Council believes that incorporating tutorials within FDsys will further GPO's goal of achieving greater database and systems interoperability.

### ***GPO's Response to Recommendation 4***

Part of LSCM's efforts to educate the public on the use of FDsys is the creation of a formal FDsys training plan. In the summer of 2011, LSCM staff began the design of a plan with two major components:

1. Developing a comprehensive FDsys curriculum and curriculum tools
2. Planning for the implementation of the curriculum and tools in live, virtual, and recorded video environments

In August of 2011, the FDsys curriculum was completed. It includes detailed scripts for recorded video modules, step-by-step talking points and instructions for educators, presentation material for each session, and a user manual. The curriculum includes the following:

- Introduction
- Background
- Basic Searching
- Advanced Searching
- Browsing Government Publications
- Retrieving by Citation
- Tracking Legislation (including 7 sub-parts)
- Tracking Regulations (including 4 sub-parts)
- Help
- Tips & Tricks (including 15 sub-parts and counting)

Also in the summer of 2011, LSCM posted questions about online training tools and learning software applications on the FDLP Community site. Comments were received about how content is created and delivered, favorite features, and other online training informational resources. The information LSCM gained from the Federal depository library community was used to develop a document that identifies requirements for a system to be used for depository library training and to manage training materials and activities. GPO is in the midst of a free trial of a product called iCoherere 9, a configurable collaboration platform for online events and professional communities. One use of this type of tool, once procured by GPO, will be to administer virtual FDsys training through webinars. Once the trial period for iCoherere 9 is complete in April, GPO will evaluate the results of GPO tests of the tool and determine the next steps in procuring a tool for virtual training needs. Additionally, GPO is currently recording scripts and developing FDsys video tutorials. Once completed, these 3-7 minute tutorials will be made available on [www.fdsys.gov](http://www.fdsys.gov), [www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov), and [www.fdlp.gov](http://www.fdlp.gov). In total, there are 33 educational videos planned for FDsys on topics such as basic searching, advanced searching, retrieve by citation, Help tools in FDsys, and more. The first video on basic searching is expected to be ready for launch this spring.

## **Recommendation 5: GPO Continue to Analyze PACER Subsidy**

Council recommends GPO continue to analyze whether the PACER subsidy is adequate to meet the needs of depository libraries and patrons. In particular, we are concerned that self-represented litigants have adequate access to PACER.

### ***Justification***

Council appreciates the potential for increased public access to PACER by the Administrative Office of the Court through reduced fees and a training program from participating FDLs. We now recommend that GPO evaluate whether these benefits are sufficient to provide increased public access to PACER, and to investigate potential methods for additional savings or incentives for FDLs. This recommendation builds upon Recommendation 4 from the Spring 2011 Council Meeting, that GPO investigate exclusive benefits to FDLs for the new PACER platform.

### ***GPO's Response to Recommendation 5***

PACER: Access and Education Program (the Program) is provided by the Federal Judiciary in keeping with its commitment to providing public access to court and case information. GPO, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC), and American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) share your concern about adequate access to PACER, which is a major reason why the Program for libraries was established. The Program's goal is to increase public access to PACER through awareness and education of the general public in the use of PACER. Participating libraries have a \$50 waiver of PACER fees per quarter, which can be used to assist self-represented litigants.

At present there are 26 libraries participating in the Program. We are currently entering the third phase of the Program, which opens it up to all Federal depository libraries, public libraries, and public law libraries. An evaluation process was built into the Program. As Council recommends, GPO, with the AOUSC and AALL, will evaluate and analyze data as it is obtained.

Ultimately, the decision for any changes to the waiver amount or addition of exclusive benefits for depository libraries rests with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and will have to be justified and supported with data gathered from participating libraries.

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## **Recommendation 6: Develop and Integrate FDLP Web Resources**

Council applauds GPO for its progress in integrating the FDLP Desktop and FDLP Community sites and creating an improved Ben's Guide. Council supports GPO's further enhancement of the FDLP Desktop, FDLP Community site, and Ben's Guide and encourages GPO to assign high priority to achieving this.

### ***Justification***

Council's first recommendation following the Spring 2011 conference encouraged integration of the FDLP Desktop and FDLP Community sites. GPO's October 2011 update to Council estimated that scheduled enhancements to three GPO sites (FDLP Desktop, FDLP Community and Ben's Guide) will be completed by January 2012 or soon thereafter with phased rollouts for the Ben's Guide and Community sites. The current recommendation builds upon the Spring recommendation and recommends that further progress on these sites will soon take place.

### ***GPO's Response to Recommendation 6***

Based on feedback received from Council and community members, either online or at the Fall 2011 Depository Library Council Meeting & Federal Depository Library Conference, the template mockups for the FDLP Desktop and Ben's Guide are being modified. While this has set development back a few weeks, the changes are necessary in order to provide the highest quality Web services to our community. We are still anticipating a late winter or early spring 2012 launch of the redesigned

sites. Both sites will feature a phased-rollout of features. These features will be outlined on the FDLP Community site's "FDLP Web Services" forum <<http://community.fdlp.gov/forum/forum?f=67>>.

Once the FDLP Desktop design is finalized, GPO will begin mapping out timeframes and efforts to integrate other FDLP Web services into a consistent design and bridge functionality (e.g., logins). In addition, new functionality will be outlined with the goal of developing a planned release schedule for new FDLP-related Web services.

Finally, as the development of FDLP Desktop and Ben's Guide initial launch nears completion, efforts will be focused on re-engineering and redesigning the FDLP Community site.

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## **Recommendation 7:**

Council applauds GPO's activities to gather system-wide information on the FDLP and engage the entire depository community in a strategic planning effort that will result in improvements to the FDLP and inform our discussions on aspects of Title 44 and other regulations that may need to be changed. Council stands ready to assist GPO in this effort and encourages wide participation in the process by all depository libraries.

### ***Justification***

GPO announced its intention to have results of the FDLP state forecasts and action plans and analyses available before the Fall 2012 DLC meeting and FDLP conference. This is an important deadline in order to make improvements to the FDLP in a timely manner. Council also supports expanding this conversation beyond depository libraries to include other stakeholders as appropriate.

### ***GPO's Response to Recommendation 7***

GPO thanks Council for its support and willingness to assist GPO with the FDLP Forecasting study. We appreciate the support already provided to GPO in suggesting topics for inclusion in the FDLP Forecast questionnaires and for pilot-testing the FDLP Library Forecast questionnaire. DLC members have been instrumental in organizing opportunities for GPO staff members to speak about FDLP Forecasts and State Focused Action Plans to California's Bay Area Documents Network and FDLP members in Ohio.

Library Services & Content Management staff members first began a collaborative discussion about the future of the FDLP with community members attending a special Thursday, October 20th session of the fall 2011 Depository Library Council Meeting & Federal Depository Library Conference. GPO staff presented information about two proposed information gathering tools, an FDLP State Forecast questionnaire and a State Focused Action Plan. These tools make up the FDLP State Forecasting Project designed to work with the community to identify and document the most pressing needs of FDLP libraries and to assist GPO in determining a national strategy for the future direction of the Program. The FDLP State Forecasting Project is part of a larger FDLP study that will also examine primary and secondary data, laws governing the Program, and possible program models. The data gathered from the Forecasts and Action Plans will inform decision-making and ensure that the FDLP National Plan for the future of the Program will be one based on a shared vision with member libraries.

GPO staff members were pleased with the positive reception these information gathering tools received. Members of the FDLP community expressed interest in submitting individual library Forecasts in addition to the state level Forecasts which were originally proposed. GPO staff welcomed this opportunity to survey the opinions of coordinators and directors at the individual library level and to collect additional data that will enrich our understanding of how coordinators and directors view the effectiveness of the Program. Individual library Forecast questionnaires were added to the State Forecasting Project in response to community feedback.

In February GPO released the FDLP Library Forecast questionnaire designed to document the changing needs of FDLP members. It has also released the State Focused Action Plan template and created a project page available through the FDLP Desktop <<http://www.fdlp.gov/project-information>> here members of the community can access information and articles about the Project as well as Word and PDF versions of the Forecasts and the State Focused Action Plans. GPO is currently preparing the FDLP State Forecast questionnaire for release to the community early next week.

GPO staff members have been reaching out to the community to provide information and guidance about this project. FDLP Forecast team members have participated in phone conferences and virtual meetings with government documents coordinators in Illinois, Minnesota, South Dakota, and members of Ohio, Oklahoma, and Kansas GODORTs as well as the Government Publications Interest Group of Colorado. GPO appreciates DLC's continued support of this study and its outreach efforts to FDLP members throughout the Program.

Individual library and state level FDLP Forecast questionnaires and State Focused Action Plans are due by **June 30, 2012**. Quantitative and qualitative data analysis of all submissions will begin in July 2012. Issues identified in the data will be investigated further through targeted interviewing with individuals or possibly with focus groups. Preliminary quantitative data findings will be shared with the community online and at the 2012 Depository Library Council Meeting & Federal Depository Library Conference.