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# Public Access Assessments

Focus on access, collections,  
service, and cooperative efforts

*Interagency Depository Seminar*

U.S. Government Printing Office

July 28th, 2008

our strategic vision in progress

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## Overview



Public Access Assessments (PAA) program focuses on FDLP legal and program requirements (44 U.S.C. §19 and FDL Handbook)

Depositories following these requirements to ensure free public access is provided are in compliance and shall be successful in a Public Access Assessment

our strategic vision in progress

## Update

### Focus on Access, Collections, Service, and Cooperative Efforts

<http://www.fdlp.gov/paa/about.html>

- PAA documents
- Educational resources
- Additional background

### Request for GPO Participation

- Under Outreach & Education on the FDLP Desktop

## Process: Initial review

### GPO review of Biennial Survey submission and library and institution Web pages

- Some issues always result in follow-up, e.g., non-response to Biennial Survey or library's access policy indicates that the library is closed to the public

### Possible results:

- Review satisfactory and report provided to library
- Follow-up is needed
- Library requests onsite Public Access Assessment

## Process: Follow-up review

Interview depository coordinator by phone.  
If the following will address a question, will request additional documentation, e.g.,

- Biennial Survey
- Library surveys with info. about depository
- Policies not posted online
- Self-assessment document (*in development*)
- Regional librarian visit report (*in development*)
- Other (e.g., library annual report, etc.)

## Process: Follow-up review (cont.)

Possible results:

- Review satisfactory and report provided to library
- Follow-up is needed and library is requested to take action and report back within a specific time frame, e.g., 3 months
  - When satisfactory, report provided to library
- Follow-up is needed and onsite Public Access Assessment is scheduled
- Library requests onsite Public Access Assessment

## Final review: Onsite visit

### Possible results:

- Satisfactory and report provided to the library
- Follow-up is needed and library is requested to take action and report back within a specific time frame, e.g., 3 months
  - When satisfactory, report provided to library.
- Report is provided to the library outlining needed action and is scheduled for another onsite visit after a minimum of 6 months
- Probationary status a possibility

## Discussion: PAA follow-up review

Examples of triggers or indicators that may prompt further review during a Public Access Assessment:

1. Uncataloged publications in closed stacks or remote storage.
2. Age restrictions that effect the depository collection.

## Discussion cont.

3. Inability to disable patron authentication or filtering software on public access computer workstations.
4. Building signage, web pages, and/or phone recording indicate that the library is closed to the general public.
5. Are there workarounds for users wanting to use depository resources when there is a barrier?

## Coming attractions

### Self-assessment resource

- Update of Self-Study of a Federal Depository Library for educational and strategic planning purposes, on a voluntary basis

Federal Depository Library Handbook chapter

New depository coordinator Web pages

Online library user feedback form

Test of PAA processes this summer

Regular assessments in winter, 2009

## Discussion: Self-assessment resource

Suggestions for format or organization?

The draft Public Services chapter includes:

- FDLP resources to review
- Library & selective housing site resources to gather and review
- Questions (updated Self-Study questions)
- Track progress (incl. your benchmarks)

## Other questions?



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