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FEDERAL DEPOSITORY
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Digital Deposit: care and maintenance of the National Collection

James R. Jacobs
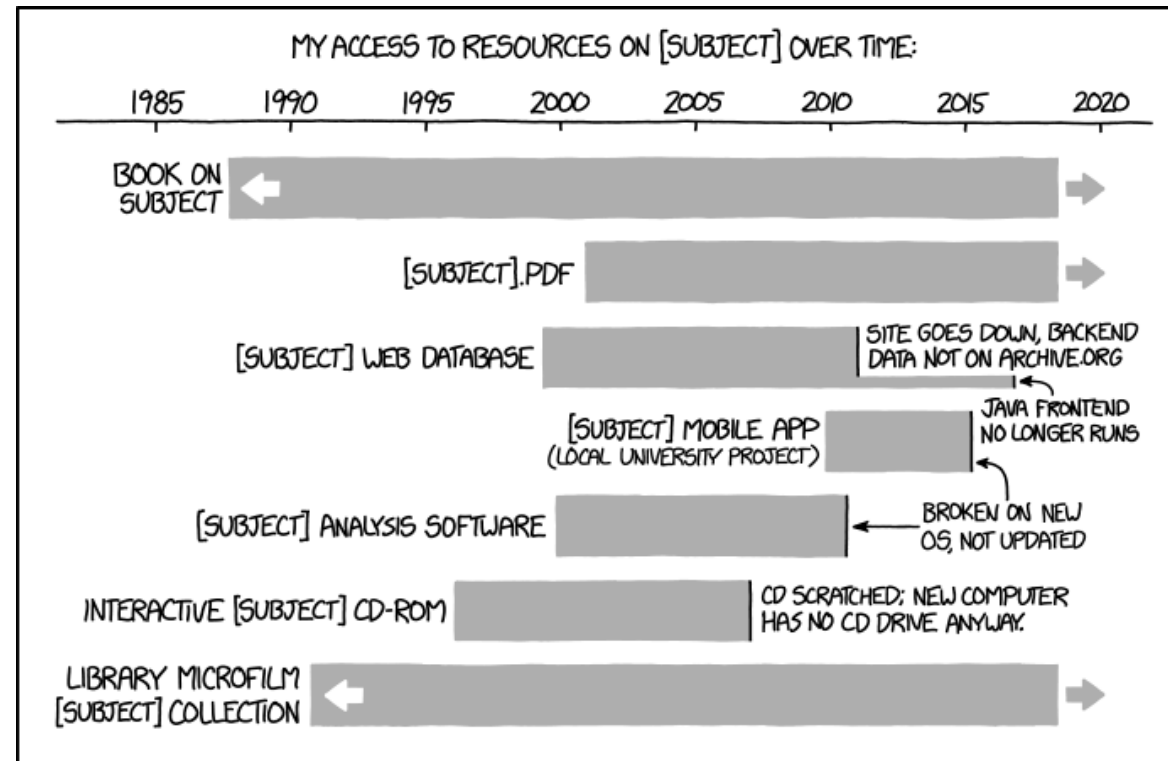
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Fall '18 Depository Library Conference

Framing the discussion

1. what is digital Deposit

2. expanding the concept of digital Deposit

3. why is digital deposit important

4. conclusion

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Scale, law, terminology

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Definition

Deposit: store or entrust with someone for safekeeping. The state of being deposited or placed in safe keeping. Depository is A place where things are deposited or stored.

-- *New Oxford American English Dictionary*

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Fugitives scope

"The number of fugitive print documents has been estimated as about 50% of the universe of Federal printing, but this estimate may be conservative."

Gil Baldwin, "Fugitive Documents – On the Loose or On the Run," Administrative Notes: Newsletter of the Federal Depository Library Program 24, no. 10 (August 15, 2003): 4–8, http://bit.ly/admin-notes-fugitives

"The Superintendent of Documents recently stated that 85% of these non-GPO publications fail to appear in the Monthly Catalog due to the fact that the issuing agencies do not provide copies of them to GPO for cataloging."

GODORT Federal Documents Task Force, "Suggestions to GPO. A Letter to the Superintendent of Documents. February 5, 1973," DttP 1(3) (May 1973): 21–28. https://searchworks.stanford.edu/view/wf053wt9145

For more on fugitives, see James R. Jacobs. "'Issued for gratuitous distribution:' the history of fugitive documents and the FDLP." *Against the Grain* special government information issue, 29(6) December 2017 – January 2018 (Winter 2018). https://purl.stanford.edu/yc376vd9668
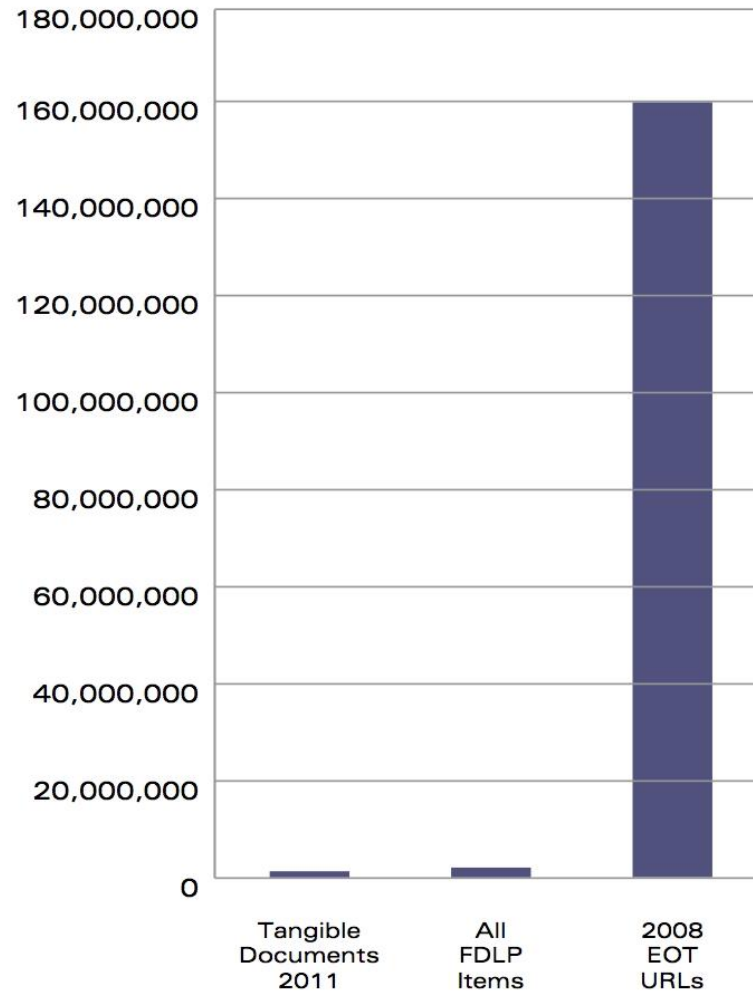
James A. Jacobs, Born-Digital U.S. Federal Government Information: Preservation and Access, March 2014. Prepared for Leviathan, the Center for Research Libraries Global Resources Collections Forum. http://www.crl.edu/leviathan

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Demystifying digital deposit

Rebecca Blakely and Jim Jacobs. Presentation at 2009 Fall DLC meeting
http://bit.ly/demystifying-digital-deposit

Digital Collections Are Inevitable

Results of Biennial Surveys since 2005 show that a significant proportion of FDLs are interested in building digital collections.

2005: 394 libraries were interested in "systematically downloading" files

2007: 453 said they "want to receive PDFs if GPO deposited them."

416 in 2009, and 300 in 2015.

--See "Digital Deposit And The Biennial Survey: context and actions"
https://freegovinfo.info/node/12457

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Crowd-sourced repository

A crowd-sourced repository for valuable government data

https://www.datalumos.org/

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See something, deposit something

https://dhsprogram.com/Publications/Publication-Search.cfm

https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research

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Why digital deposit?

1) Local control over collections (lots of copies)

2) expand the scope of collections within the FDLP and fill gaps in the national collection.

3) improve access and preservation of govt information. Enable libraries to create new services, interfaces, indexes, and views of information.

4) improve the findability of govt information beyond libraries

5) provide an example workflow for other kinds of open access/open educational resources.

6) greatly improve linked data/semantic web initiatives.

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Status quo vs digital deposit

Weaknesses of Status Quo

• Reliance on a one-size-fits-all stove-piped collection.
• Difficulty of creating unique collections for specific user communities.
• Services based on agency mission rather than on user needs.

Benefits of Digital Deposit

• Better preservation.
• Better service.
• Better access.
• Better collections.

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Guiding principles of government information

Information must be:

- Not just preserved, but discoverable.
- Not just discoverable, but deliverable.
- Not just deliverable as bits, but readable.
- Not just readable, but understandable.
- Not just understandable, but usable.*

*Open Archival Information System (OAIS) principles

HT to Ranganathan's 5 laws of library science!

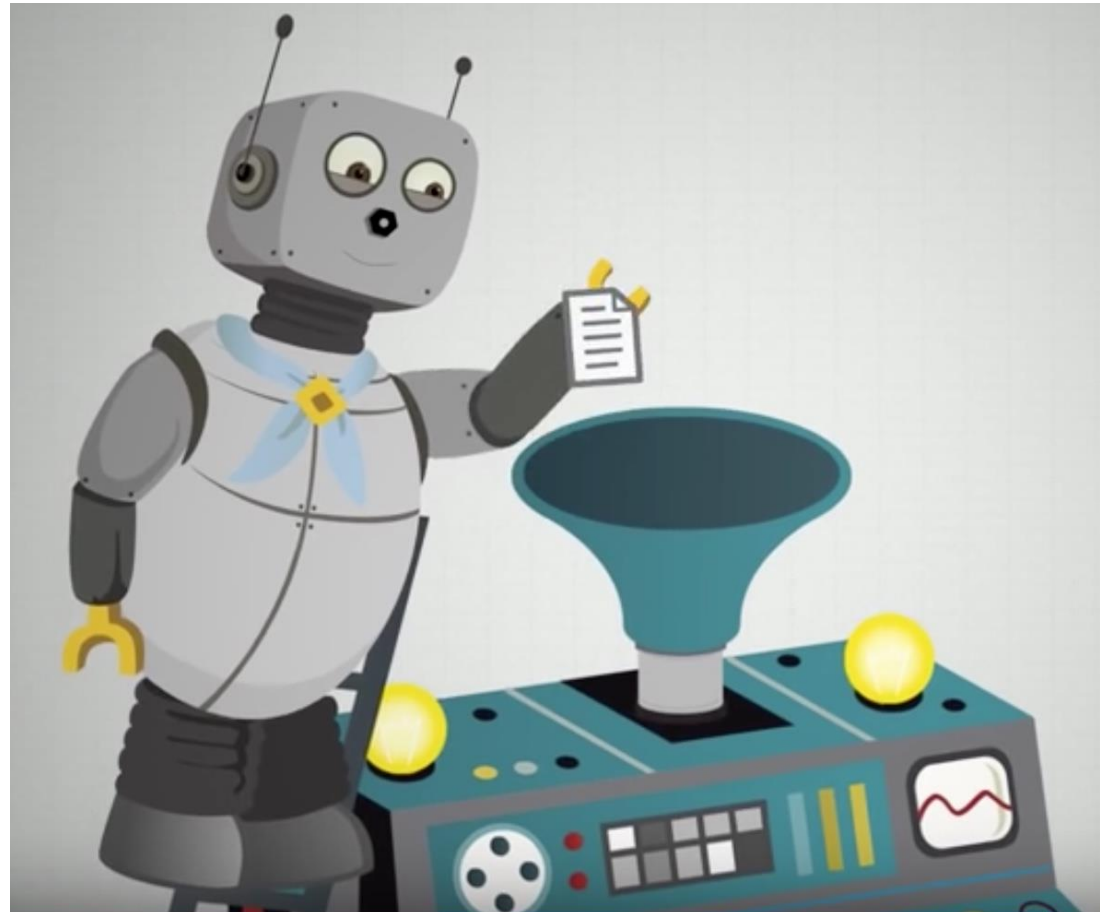October 22-24
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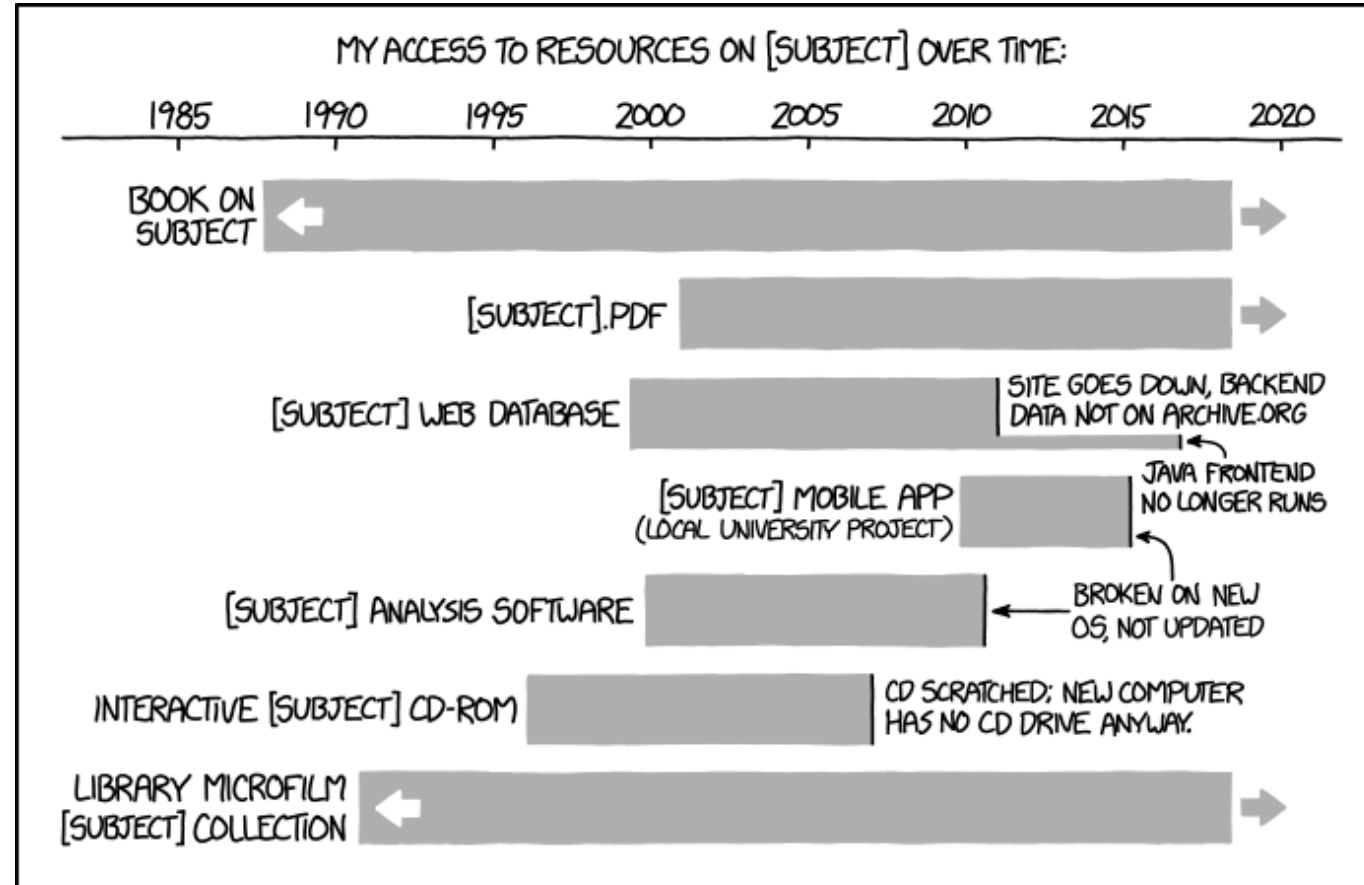FEDERAL DEPOSITORY
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Thanks!

Scout robot courtesy of Sunlight Foundation!

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"I spent a long time thinking about how to design a system for long-term organization and storage of subject-specific informational resources without needing ongoing work from the experts who created them, only to realize I'd just reinvented libraries." https://xkcd.com/1909/