since 1861

September 20, 2023

Ms. Jen Kirk
Chair, Depository Library Council
Government Information Librarian, Merrill-Crazier Library
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322

Dear Ms. Kirk:

This letter is in response to the Depository Library Council's (DLC) May 17, 2023, transmittal of the DLC recommendations resulting from the Spring 2023 Depository Library Council Meeting.

I agree with the DLC's assessment that a Digital Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) needs a persistent identifier system, and that the principles articulated form strong basis for maintaining or enhancing the current system in use at GPO. I have asked the staff in Library Services and Content Management (LSCM) to consider these principles as they review the agency's current and future persistent identifier systems.

Training and professional development are a key part of the FDLP and better data on how online resources are used will be vital to the Digital FDLP. LSCM staff will work to enhance and expand training on how to use the PURL referral tool to understand how their patrons use online government information.

The DLC's recommendations and GPO's responses, attached, are part of the permanent record of GPO's work. They will be published on FDLP.gov for the FDLP community and the public to access.

Should you have any questions about GPO's response to your recommendations, please contact Superintendent Matheson.

Thank you, Ms. Kirk, and to all the members of the DLC, for your continued commitment to the FDLP and to furthering GPO's vision of an America Informed.

Sincerely,

HUGH NATHANIAL HALPERN
Attachment
cc: Depository Library Council members
        Superintendent of Documents

Depository Library Council recommendations Spring 2023 and responses from the U.S. Government Publishing Office

September 2023

Recommendation 1.

The Exploring the Durability of PURLs and Their Alternatives Working Group of the Depository Library Council recommended the Council endorse the [attached](#) *Principles for Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) and PID Systems*, and further recommended they be transmitted to the Director of GPO with a recommendation that they be adopted. Council approved this request and endorsed the Principles on May 2, 2023.

GPO Response:

GPO endorses the concept of principles that provide the fundamental basis for PIDs and PID Systems. *Principles for Persistent Identifiers and Persistent Identifier Systems,* developed by the PURL Working Group, will be adopted by GPO, as recommended by the Depository Library Council.

Recommendation 2.

The Exploring the Durability of PURLs and Their Alternatives Working Group proposes that the Depository Library Council recommend to GPO that training be offered on PURLs that includes, but is not limited to, referral reports, how to create a library's report profile, how the data can be used to promote Government resources, and features in GPO bibliographic records that relate to PURLs. Council approved this request on May 2, 2023.

GPO Response:

Ensuring that depository library staff have the training and support they need is among the highest priorities of Library Services and Content Management (LSCM). Our data show that only 297 or 27% of depository libraries are collecting usage statistics through PURL referral reports. This indicates a need for increased awareness and training.

In March 2022, a [series of three webcasts](#) was made available on [FDLP.gov](#). All three are fewer than 30 minutes and include the following topics:

- What PURLs are and where they are found;
- How GPO's PURL server works with your networks;
- An overview of the tool;
- Tips on how to configure the tool for your library; and
- Tips on how to work with the report to analyze your library's usage data.

The webcast topics do not include discussion of features of GPO cataloging records that relate to PURLs. GPO will conduct a webinar that includes this topic as well as an overview of the topics in the webcasts. The webinar will allow attendees to ask questions and get any further clarification they need.