

THE VALUE OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM

The [Federal Depository Library Program \(FDLP\)](#) provides “free, ready, and permanent access to Federal Government information, now and for future generations.” Government information includes official publications from all three branches of Government in any format. The U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) has overseen the FDLP since 1895. Currently, over 1,000 libraries across the Nation are members of the FDLP.

The FDLP values the importance of making Government information freely available to the public to inform and empower them. This is a nationwide network of dedicated experts providing professional skills in locating and accessing publications from America’s National Collection.

It is a common misconception that all Government information is available online. It is not. The important historical record is on library shelves around the country. We need libraries like yours to ensure GPO’s vision of an *America informed*.

Top Five Ways Your Library Benefits from Being Involved in the FDLP

1. Easily access a national shared print collection. As a depository, you have the option of being part of the ongoing preservation of the [National Collection of U.S. Government Public Information](#).
2. Save space using new digital distribution models and increased online access to publications. Starting in 2024, the FDLP pivoted to a digital-first program. While select titles will continue in print, you will save storage space moving forward while providing access to authenticated digital information in accessible formats. You will be able to flexibly build collections around your patrons’ needs and your staff expertise.
3. Access free professional development opportunities for library staff. The [FDLP Academy](#) offers recorded instructional videos, live interaction with specialists across the Federal Government, and reusable educational resources for library staff to develop expertise in navigating Government websites and databases to meet your community’s information needs.
4. Engage in networking opportunities. Share your library’s perspective in discussions about Government information with GPO staff and other Government information librarians through conferences and FDLP Academy webinars. Provide opportunities to your library staff for national service and collaboration.
5. Receive excellent GPO customer service and support. GPO librarians come from a wide array of professional backgrounds to assist you in collection management, cataloging workflows, preservation assessments, and community outreach. GPO can also help connect your library to others in the FDLP.

