



Hugh Nathaniel Halpern
Director



September 10, 2025

Angela Bonnell
Chair, Depository Library Council
Head of Government Information and Maps
Illinois State University, Milner Library
Normal, IL 61790

Dear Ms. Bonnell:

This letter is in response to the Depository Library Council's (DLC) July 1, 2025 transmittal of the DLC recommendations resulting from the Spring 2025 Depository Library Council Meeting.

Library usage statistics are important indicators for assessing services, understanding the needs of the communities served, and making informed decisions. Combining these data with government information use stories best conveys the real value of depository library collections and services. This is important information to have as the Government Publishing Office (GPO) continues to advance the digital-first Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). I instructed the Superintendent of Documents to implement the DLC's recommendations.

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](https://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. Bonnell, and to all the DLC members, for your continued commitment to the FDLP and to furthering GPO's vision of an *America Informed*.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Hugh N. Halpern', is written across the page. The signature is fluid and extends across most of the width of the page.

HUGH NATHANIAL HALPERN
Attachment

cc: Depository Library Council Members
Superintendent of Documents

GPO RESPONSES TO DEPOSITORY LIBRARY COUNCIL SPRING 2025 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Promote mechanisms to assist the depository community in data gathering efforts that offer guidance for quantitative and qualitative data collection and management.

- Methods could include mentorship opportunities, webinars, training, and resource guides that foster collaborative efforts among DLC members, Government Publishing Office staff, and depository community members

GPO Response

GPO recognizes that this recommendation is a direct to response to one of the findings in your study – 40% of your respondents indicated that training is needed for library personnel to gather collection usage data. GPO can assist in this area. A question on the 2025 Biennial Survey of Depository Libraries seeks to gauge interest in a mentoring program that focuses on the collection of such data. GPO will review FDLP Training Repository content related to collection usage statistics and update and refresh as needed. Currently the three-part webcast series on [PURL usage reports](#) is being reviewed. As the FY 2026 FDLP Academy plan is being developed, more programming on collection usage statistics will be considered. Perhaps Councilors on the Statistics and Metrics Working Group could conduct the first webinar.

Recommendation 2

Initiate efforts to expand the collection of stories in [The Essential FDLP: Share Your Experiences with GPO](#).

- Efforts could include oral, pictorial, or prose histories that share the benefits of data collection.
- Stories could represent anecdotes reflecting library patron successes from using depository collections.

GPO Response

GPO supports the expansion of The Essential FDLP collection of stories, as they convey the value of Federal depository libraries. In FY 2026, GPO will develop an expansion plan and begin to implement it. The plan will include, but is not limited to, providing more exposure to The Essential FDLP on FDLP.gov and soliciting stories from the depository community. The main focus of the expansion will be stories that reflect benefits and successes from depository usage data gathering.