



# The Continuing Transformation of Access to Government Information:

Grants, Models, and Processes in the FDLP

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## Program Objectives:

### Mission

- The mission of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) is to provide free, ready, and permanent public access to Federal Government information, now and for future generations.

### Vision

- The vision of the FDLP is to provide Government information when and where it is needed in order to create an informed citizenry and an improved quality of life.



## How Depository Libraries Support These Objectives:

- Libraries provide the expertise, professionals know how to find information deeper than a Google search.
- Libraries work collaboratively to provide a network of experts across the miles—across the country and the territories.
- Libraries are in the know for trends and issues at the local level, which can impact resource availability at the national level.



## A New Idea:

Committee on House Administration Hearing  
with Testimony by Director of GPO, Davita  
Vance-Cooks, July 18, 2017:

**“I would say that it is time for us to explore the option of grant-making authority for the GPO, so that we can support innovative digital initiatives in the library community.”**



# A New Idea:

## Recommendations for revisions to Title 44 *U.S. Code* Chapter 19, Depository Library Council, September 25, 2017:

**New section: grants to depository libraries:** Add a section to Chapter 19 to give GPO grant-making authority, and to enter into contracts or cooperative arrangements with depository libraries to enhance access to Government publications. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, the digitization of Government publications, preservation of Government publications, and cataloging Government publications.

Giving GPO grant-making authority would provide leverage to accelerate efforts to improve access to and preservation of Government publications, and to foster greater cooperation between GPO and depository libraries that participate in GPO-funded projects.



## How to Implement:

**DLC sought comments and suggestions for modernizing the FDLP's statutory authority.**

**Request for Comments, June 27 – Aug 31:**

- “GPO grant making authority to help FDLP libraries with **preservation** (print and digital)”
- “seeking grant making authority for GPO, I think you should support that -- but **only if the funding for grants isn't simply cannibalized from other parts of the FDLP**”
- “Grant authority for **preservation** of digital and print”



## How to Implement:

**DLC sought comments and suggestions for modernizing the FDLP's statutory authority.**

**Request for Comments, June 27 – Aug 31:**

- “The ability to issue grants: **Preservation** requires funding. The GPO being able to provide grants for **digitization, physical space, cataloging** and other preservation measures is needed. It is important that physical copies be included in preservation efforts to aid libraries with problems relating to older buildings and space issues.”



## How to Implement:

**DLC sought comments and suggestions for modernizing the FDLP's statutory authority.**

**Request for Comments, June 27 – Aug 31:**

- “Add the ability of the GPO to provide grants to FDLP libraries for activities that promote the GPO mission to keep America informed in the 21st Century : grants to assist in the **preservation** process of current collections; provide grants to **libraries in need of assistance to provide online access to information, etc.**”



## Products or Services Funded by the Federal Government:

Federal Grant – Awarding agency has no substantial programmatic involvement with grant recipient during the period of performance. <u>Must support a public purpose</u>	Contracts
	Cooperative Agreements

31 U.S.C. 63 - USING PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS AND GRANT AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS



## Types of Grants

### Discretionary

- Eligibility varies
- Usually an award maximum
- Competitive
- Meet program criteria



## Example of a Discretionary Program

### IMLS National Leadership Grants for Libraries (NLG)

- Eligibility: unit of state or local government or private nonprofit organization that has tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code varies



## Example of a Discretionary Program

### IMLS NLG Categories

- Sparks – Up to \$25k
- Planning – up to \$50k
- National Forum – up to \$100k
- Projects – up to \$2 mil
- Research – up to \$2 mil



## Example of a Discretionary Program

### IMLS NLG Program Criteria

- National Impact
- Innovation
- Strategic Collaboration
- Demonstrated Expertise



## Types of Grants

### Mandatory

- Typically awarded to State governments, but not always
- Usually formula-based
- Non-competitive
- Meet program criteria



## Example of Mandatory Grant Program

### Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)

- Administered by IMLS and distributed to 50 states and territories.
- Largest source of Federal funds to support libraries, ≈ \$150 mil/year
- States submit a 5-year plan
- Population-based formula



## Example of Mandatory Grant Program

### What's in a 5-year plan:

- Mission Statement
- Needs Assessment
- Goals
- Projects
- Coordination Efforts
- Evaluation Plan



## Example of Mandatory Grant Program

### What's in a 5-year plan:

- Stakeholder Involvement
- Communication and Public Availability
- Monitoring
- Assurances



# What if...

## ...the FDLP had grant authority?



# One Idea

***a Grants to Regionals Program***



## Grants to Regionals

### Here's how it might work:

- New appropriations to provide grant funds to regional libraries
- Supports the work of regionals and selectives
- Regional Plan of Action
- Formula-based, by population served



## Requirements

Committee on House Administration Hearing with Testimony by Director of GPO, Davita Vance-Cooks, July 18, 2017:

**“I would say that it is time for us to explore the option of grant-making authority for the GPO, so that we can support *innovative* digital initiatives in the library community.”**



## Additional Requirements

- Regional Plan of Action
  - ◆ Outcome-based assessment strategy
- Stakeholder involvement
- Expenditures must be within scope of the program
- Federal Cost Principles
- National Priorities
- Annual Interim Reports
- Final Report



## Possible Next Steps

- More hearings
- Stakeholder meetings
- Public forums
- Request for comments
- More research/study
- Related programming during spring 2018  
DLC Virtual Meeting



## Grants to Regionals

### Discussion

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