

**FOCUSED DISCUSSION:  
DETERMINING THE FUTURE OF MICROFICHE DISTRIBUTION**

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*Help identify the parameters under which GPO could discontinue the distribution of microfiche and determine acceptable alternatives to microfiche distribution.*

From 12/04/13 09:15 AM To 12/04/13 10:14 AM Hawaii  
From 12/04/13 11:15 AM To 12/04/13 12:14 PM Pacific  
From 12/04/13 12:15 AM To 12/04/13 01:14 PM Arizona  
From 12/04/13 12:15 AM To 12/04/13 01:14 PM Mountain  
From 12/04/13 1:15 AM To 12/04/13 02:14 PM Central  
From 12/04/13 2:15 PM To 12/04/13 03:14 PM Eastern  
From 12/04/13 2:15 PM To 12/04/13 03:14 PM Indiana East

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**Lori Smith:** I would be happy to see it go.

**Marcus Jun:** We are a selective depository and I think we receive only 1 title in fiche so the impact to us would be very minimal.

**Elizabeth Psyck:** As a selective it wouldn't impact me much - we've unselected most fiche options.

**Tiffany Mair:** I think it depends on how it is being replaced....

**Dan Barkley:** can you post a summary of this from the regional discussion so others know what we discussed?

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** Selective here - we're losing square footage all the time but not our need for legal material.

**Chris Lemery:** Wouldn't affect us much if at all (we're a selective)

**Barbara Miller:** it would save a lot of owrk if we did not have to catalog it!

**Lori Smith:** Yes.

**Peter Thayer:** We don't have manpower to catalog it.

**Alison Griffith:** Selective: not at all; we are deselecting the last of our fiche

**Lisa Hartman:** Selectives: Wouldn't be missed. Concerned about how it would affect our regional though.

**Karen Russ:** Our patrons will not use it

**James Jacobs:** if there were other preservation options then microfiche is not optimum

**Sandra McAninch:** regionals would need another option than resuming paper

**Peggy Jarrett:** We would lose access to the official hearings which are not all on FDSys (we are a selective)

**Laura Harper:** For regionals need to allow electronic subs as few would have space to archive print CFR for ex. for years into the future.

**Karen Kitchens:** Diffult format for patrons to view. Digital alternatives much better.

**Dana Breland:** Our patrons do not use it

Valery King: We'd get fewer publications since space is a problem here

**Marie Concannon:** Selectives may be asked to assist their Regionals which do not have room to store paper (through SHAs)

**Barbara Costello:** Patrons don't want to use microfiche.

**Jackie McFadden:** It's not used\

**Jan Swanbeck:** I agree with Sandee

**Connie Reik:** we still get hearing we don't get in print and no room for more print

**Kathy Amen:** Minimal impact on us; I'm most concerned about Cong. Record. If it's all online that would be ok with us.

**Danae Snavely:** We are a regional and wouldn't have space for all the print and aren't sure if digital could be provided for all our users

**Donna Daniels:** It's an old technology.

**Alison Griffith:** Agree with Lisa; Regionals may experience space issues

**Tammy Fishman:** We would feel obligated to collect more print.

**Dan Barkley:** of course you can mulit taks

**Tiffany Mair:** I think that the mf is a more stable format than digital and would be sorry to see it no longer produced - regional here

**Marcia Gorin:** almost no effect

**Dan Barkley:** task

**Rich Gause:** Selective - it does provide a tremendous space saving when we're faced with print restrictions

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** I know it's a pain to process but unless there's another way to get that material covered we'd still want it.

**Martha Zimmerman:** As a selective we are trying to eliminate fiche because patrons don't want to use it. I think the real impact would be on Regional depositories.

**Dominick Lombardo:** It depends since we use the fiche to maintain a historical run of congressional hearings

**Leslie Cunningham:** it would affect the need for part-time staff who file these microfiche.

**ASTERIA NDULUTE:** The problem is acquisition of modern viewing equipment

Connie Reik: hearings!

**Leaola Brock:** I am a selective and select only a few titles in the congressional Y 4's. If electronic versions are available for all item numbers/class numbers it would not matter if it disappeared.

**Dan Barkley:** great summary. thanks!!

**Rebecca Troy-Horton:** Same here Jeannie (Leaola). ;-)

**Leaola Brock:** Hi Rebecca! Yes it's me!

**Rich Gause:** Since we purchased fiche scanners where folks can create custom pdf from what they find on fiche we've seen much greater acceptance in using microfiche and microfilm.

**Ella Shurr:** we have been deselcting fiche we also get in electronic format-space is an issue. Although patrons still use it occasionally we have had instances where the students don't even know how to view them!

**James Rhoades:** Selective; Might require more open access computers if move is to electronic

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** Rich - here too. My patrons tend to be scared but find it easier than they expect.

**Karen Russ:** our visually impaired patrons complaining about lack of ADA accessibility unless we print it and then scan that due to equipment restrictions

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** for the law libraries - alternative page image format would be an acceptable substitute.

**Alison Griffith:** Ella- us too and our machine is old and essentially unusable but not a priority to update or fix

**ASTERIA NDULUTE:** I am selective and they are being used here

**Rich Gause:** Fiche content was one of my lifesavers in several cases during govt shutdown.

**Leaola Brock:** We have a nice scanner/printer with the option to email to patrons and students (I'm at a university) are not so scared of fiche anymore.

**James Jacobs:** fiche mor stable than digital though

**Christopher Brown:** We no longer receive fiche but we do use what we have received in the past. It's all about having a good machine.

**Tiffany Mair:** It is still more stable than a website that disappears

**Cindy Etkin:** GPO sends diazo not preservation level

**ASTERIA NDULUTE:** I agree with stability argument

**Carl Olson:** Our fiche and film machines work but we strive for pdf only.

**Kathy Amen:** Having to upgrade viewing/scanning machinery has been an issue for us; too much \$\$ for too little use

**Ellen Bonacarti:** I echo what Christopher Brown said. We no longer select but the old (esp. hearings) still get used. We have a decent reader/printer.

**Marie Concannon:** Agree with Chris Brown - it's not so much the fiche as it is the quality of the machine that reads it. A machine that turns one piece of fiche into a multi-page pdf with one button click would make all the difference

**Jackie McFadden:** We can

Dana Breland: very true Marie

**Tammy Fishman:** it is still polyester film which is very stable

**Leaola Brock:** Not only quality of machine but quality of fiche...some of my old fiche says that it "is the best copy available" and is difficult to read

**Peter Thayer:** None

**Barbara Miller:** Would not need room or maintenance for readers/printers..

**Laura Harper:** Would reduce workload.

**Karen Russ:** space saving when it comes to cabinets

**Rebecca Troy-Horton:** Catalogers would have a celebration party if microfiche was to vanish.

**Stewart Chun:** Dropping tangible access to essential titles.

**Arlene Weible:** Have to adjust cataloging record profiles with Marcive ...

**Chris Lemery:** Very little.

**Kathy Amen:** Since we've been gradually been paring down MF selections it wouldn't affect us too much.

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** I think it depends on what the replacement is!

Vickie Mix: Less staff time

**Marcus Jun:** We wouldn't receive the microfiche shipping lists and no one would have to go through it to find missing items to claim.

**Peggy Jarrett:** we'd still have to work with it since we have 30+ years of hearings in fiche!

**James Jacobs:** +1 Kate

**Karen Kitchens:** Very little.

**Lori Smith:** We have deselected most of the microfiche we used to get so it would have very little impact on workflow.

**Leslie Cunningham:** Yes-- fewer claims!

**Leaola Brock:** not much change processing doesn't take long at all

**Barbara Miller:** No more filing of fiche!!!

**Marie Concannon:** Agree with Leaola

**Karen Russ:** mis-Filing of fiche Barbara

**Barbara Costello:** Reduced workflow often the catalog record doesn't show up for a while after the fiche comes in so we wouldn't need a "holding area" for fiche anymore.

**Peggy Jarrett:** possibly more ILL needed for titles not available digitally

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** agree re: "holding area"

**Rebecca Troy-Horton:** We may deselect most of the mf soon anyways though. Something to discuss with staff. We rely on FDSys to be honest.

**Lisa Nickum:** Processing fiche shipping lists.

**ASTERIA NDULUTE:** Marcive will have to make the changes at extra cost

**Karen Russ:** we have deselected most fiche and weeding heavily

**Rebecca Troy-Horton:** FDsys for hearings senate/house docs etc instead of the mf version of those types of docs

**Rebecca Troy-Horton:** yes

**Rebecca Troy-Horton:** yes current ones

**Jan Swanbeck:** We duplicate fiche for other libraries but our machine is dying - do libraries lend fiche on ILL as we are beginning to do

**Jackie McFadden:** Our staff has been greatly reduced and fiche gets backed up in processing

**Beth Downing:** would need to know which committees are not available on FDsys

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** more sending public patrons to commercial product for this kind of material.

**Sandra McAninch:** have to find a selective housing site for paper

**Peggy Jarrett:** But not all hearings and house/senate docs on FDsys!

**Rich Gause:** We've picked up some Energy and NASA fiche from discards for our ASERL Center of Excellence and our commercial subscriptions are stored here so we would still be processing some.

**Kathy Amen:** Make sure everything that was in fiche is digital with PPA

**Rebecca Troy-Horton:** Good point - have to be careful to determine what is on FDsys and what isn't

**Peggy Jarrett:** work with agencies/Congress to get digital versions

**Lori Smith:** I think a digital deposit system could replace fiche for some libraries.

**Leaola Brock:** agree with Kathy

**Karen Kitchens:** Yes make sure fiche docs are digital.

**Jackie McFadden:** How can digital be made more secure?

**Barbara Miller:** Make sure to notify depositories about distinction between current and backfiles

**Lisa Hartman:** Provide those documents in a more stable digital format

**Marie Concannon:** We've gotten patent and census info on CDs and DVDs. Although I know they are not preservation quality they are "tangible" and would satisfy the requirements of Title 44

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** and address preservation of digitized versions

**Lori Smith:** Send electronic copies to libraries for storage on local servers.

**Karen Russ:** CD are not stable either - access software gets old and inaccessible

**Laura Harper:** Agree with Marie

**James Jacobs:** yes Lori Smith!

James Jacobs: Lori you shuld join lockss-usdocs

**James Jacobs:** ;-)

**Sandra McAninch:** I agree with Marie since digital copies are not an option for Regionals

**Mark Thomas:** we have more problems with CD's than fiche; often don't work with newer OS comes out

**James Jacobs:** digital = micro format IMHO

**Tammy Fishman:** Make more agency publications available through FDsys

**Tiffany Mair:** Many libraries may not have the server space available

Karen Russ: maybe time to make digital an option for regionals

**Lori Smith:** Sadly my library wouldn't want to be a digital depository but I know others would.

**Jackie McFadden:** How much server space would be needed?

**Christopher Brown:** I agree with Marie. The Regionals pull all the weight here; selectives are lucky. CDs/DVDs although not preservation level would meet the tangible requirements.

**Rami Attebury:** As a regional I'd also agree with Marie about getting CDs or DVDs to help with our lack of space to house paper

**Rich Gause:** It might be wonderful to receive a tangible hi-density DVD each year archiving the digital content for each agency/group of agencies but I guess be careful what I wish for.

**Dan Barkley:** CD's not an option here as it still costs \$\$ for cabinets which my administration would also like to see disappear

**Marie Concannon:** My IT dept downloaded software that allows us to view CDs that require Windows 95

**Kathy Amen:** Oooh Rich that sounds neat!

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** It'd be wonderful until we couldn't read the DVDs from 10 years ago....

**James Jacobs:** LOCKSS-USDOCS at @ 1.3TB and harvests all FDsys collections

**James Jacobs:** server space is cheap

Cindy Etkin: That's correct

**Sandra McAninch:** titles that are currently coming in fiche all have paper counterparts

**Tiffany Mair:** Yes Kate

**ASTERIA NDULUTE:** DVD is preferred

**Rich Gause:** I assumed GPO would handle forward migration of format and would create multi-year aggregations.

**Steve Beleu:** Remember that Regionals are required to maintain software to read older CD-ROMS such as Census Test Disk 1 from prior to 2000 that no longer can be read with current software.

**Lori Thornton:** I don't believe courts will accept digital copies. So GPO will have to either come up with a digital water mark or provide paper copy to both regionals and law libraries.

**Barbara Miller:** Think old Census on dvds

**ASTERIA NDULUTE:** Following up Digital content may be overwhelming

**Marie Concannon:** GPO could make out jump drives with all the content from a year's time

Tammy Fishman: Daily continual alerts to depositories for announcing publications from agencies.

**Cindy Etkin:** yes in response to Hallie

**Lisa Nickum:** Of course GPO needs to ensure preservation but having cataloging of all current and past microfiche is important as well..

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** Lori I think that's in flux. There would need to be authentication but states are coming around.

**Jackie McFadden:** jump drives can fail but i'm interested in having the information on our server.

**Rich Gause:** I've still got one old PC to access 1990's CD-ROMs - no other software and not connected to the internet. Of course my systems folks cringe everytime they look at it.

**Tammy Fishman:** That might require cooperation from our federal agencies in working with GPO

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** It sounds like we need to find the technology with the least rate of failure and the longest time before obsolescence.

**Tiffany Mair:** And how long will USBs be relevant? All digital/electronic options change so quickly.

**Kathy Amen:** I go thru New Electronic Titles periodically which probably works better than notifications which would back up really easily I'd fear

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** and honestly for my money that's still microfiche right now

**Connie Reik:** but aren't there some agency pubs still coming on fiche? I made a list recently of what we get and there was more than what is on this list

**Lori Smith:** Kate I think really that's still paper.

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** OK point Lori :)

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** I guess I should have included the space issue.

**Marie Concannon:** Selectives should know that this is a problem serious enough to make their Regional exit the Program.

**Jackie McFadden:** Marie - What problem is making Regionals exit?

**Barbara Miller:** space!!!

**Marie Concannon:** Some Regionals have no room to take paper.

**Kathy Amen:** What is the status of back Congressional Records online? When I looked into it a while ago it seemed rather fragmented and I wasn't sure if all the years are available

**Dan Barkley:** agreed Marie

**Sandra McAninch:** why is GPO having trouble finding fiche vendors? There are still lots of commercial fiche coming into our library so there must be fiche capability out there somewhere.

**Marie Concannon:** They are currently taking fiche

**Dan Barkley:** not an option here to take paper again

**James Jacobs:** but regionals aren't required to take digital if its only format available

**Dan Barkley:** low bidder sandee

**Cindy Etkin:** Vendors -- it's a bid process and if they don't put themselves in the running ...

**Connie Reik:** I have 334 item numbers on this microfiche list I made from DDM 2

**Cindy Etkin:** And vendors have to meet our quality requirements

**James Jacobs:** are most fiche titles going to digital only? or are some still going to be in paper?

**Lori Smith:** Could all the fiche titles be added to FDSys?

**Karen Russ:** current fiche vendors not meeting quality requirements

**Connie Reik:** Energy HHSS Interior

**Laura Harper:** Think almost all but one currently distributed fiche titles are on FDSys

**Connie Reik:** hearings can't be as we have been told again and again

**Stephanie Bartz:** Switching all fiche to paper would be a problem not just for regionals. We select about 97%

**Marie Concannon:** in 2012 we received 16 full shelves of paper hearings in my Regional library. That's just the count on hearings

**Peggy Jarrett:** Why can't hearings be on FDSys?

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** Peggy I want to know that too.

**Tammy Fishman:** Yes! -to Peggy

**Cindy Etkin:** Lots of item numbers for Y4

**Kathy Amen:** Threat would be gaps in collections

**Lori Smith:** Opportunity not to pay vendors to produce fiche threat to permanent access.

**Rich Gause:** In order to maintain some content might some of us need to depend on commercial vendors?

**Christopher Brown:** It's up to the discretion of the House or Senate committees as to when or whether to release in digital format. GPO has no control over this.

**Sandra McAninch:** up to committee whether to print hearings right?

**Marie Concannon:** Threat: Regionals exiting the Program

**Cindy Etkin:** yes Sandee is correct

**Peggy Jarrett:** But GPO could certainly work with committees . . .

**Stewart Chun:** Less opportunity to replace publications lost in natural disasters

**Lisa Nickum:** opportunities - find a format that users would use

**Danae Snavely:** threat would be decrease in access for the public if libraries drop regional or depository status

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** threat: IF 'fiche titles go online even less unique benefit for FDLs.

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** correlation: more people using them who don't have a sense of what they are & where they fit in scheme.

**Lori Smith:** Good point Kate. It's getting harder and harder to justify being an FDL.

**Jan Swanbeck:** This might force the issue of a change to title 44 for regionals

**Rich Gause:** In terms of needing commercial vendors for assurance of access to some content I was in part thinking of privatization of distribution by agencies.

**Stewart Chun:** opportunity - need access skills to get publications through catalog

Marie Concannon: Selectives historically have been the ones to block changes to Title 44 - this time we need everyone paddling in the same direction

**Marie Concannon:** Kansas Nebraska

**Dan Barkley:** Last time we had an opportunity to change T-44 it was a library association that blocked our ability to change it

**Rich Gause:** electronic production - I was not proposing that agencies would seek private firms to produce microfiche.

**Dan Barkley:** and we had all the major players in place

**Cindy Etkin:** Kansas/Nebraska decision was made by Joint Committee on Printing

**Cindy Etkin:** Based on memo from Congressional Research Service

**Marie Concannon:** I guess it's complicated - sorry for my oversimplification!

**Kathy Amen:** If assured all is online and easy to find

**James Jacobs:** if all titles were in FDsys and CGP

**Peggy Jarrett:** Only if the material was on FDsys!

**Dan Barkley:** rain snow sleet hurricane drought

**Sandra McAninch:** if regionals can substitute electronic access for paper

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** (Marie I want to hear more about that some time! :) )

**Tammy Fishman:** Only if it were no longer an option.

**Tiffany Mair:** Agree Tammy!

**Barbara Costello:** If there were a reliable digital copy.

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** OH I don't need a receipt. I'm not gonna return it.

**Leaola Brock:** If all titles were available online and would remain there for future use.

**Stewart Chun:** would still like to see access to essential titles through microfiche

**ASTERIA NDULUTE:** Availablity on FDsys

**Lori Smith:** I've already given up fiche but for the system overall there does need to be a permanent way to make the content available. Ideally digital.

**James Jacobs:** but Sandy "access" is not "preservation"

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** authenticated electronic version accessible even during a shutdown.

**Karen Russ:** digital reliability

**Steve Beleu:** Amendment of Title 44 to allow Regionals to use online titles to meet our perennial-keeping requirement

**Arlene Weible:** Regionals can only do this if digital copies can be substituted for tangible holdings requirement

**Peggy Jarrett:** Agree with Kate!

**Sinai Wood:** agree with James

**Beth Downing:** Onine is not always the best option. I am not sure I would not be able to have in house access to the Congressional Record.

**James Jacobs:** I would agree to digital substitution for regionals if there were a way for them to continue their preservation requirements

**Lisa Hartman:** Allow digital copies for regionals ensure reliability of digital copies

**James Jacobs:** sorry to be a broken record but there are 10 regionals in

lockss-usdocs

**James Jacobs:** need more

**Arlene Weible:** Do you really need more than 10 regional participating James? How many is enough?

**Beth Downing:** I am a selective and now receive it only on fiche

**Rich Gause:** we can't switch to paper at selectives either so content needs to have permanent online access easily and freely available and reliable - such as problem during govt shutdown.

**James Jacobs:** all regionals ;-)

**Beth Downing:** Again list of committees not on FDSys so I could make decisions on paper vs. electronic

**Kathy Amen:** Is it by committee or just random? That hearings aren't on FDSys that is?

**Lori Smith:** It would still be nice to have the older fiche digitized as well. :-)

**Karen Russ:** if you are interesting in getting fiche to replace your paper contact me offline kmruss@ualr.edu

**Peggy Jarrett:** Re: committees it seems to me that committees might prefer digital to microfiche

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** agree peggy. unless they don't want us to know what they're doing!

**Barbara Costello:** Some committees have no publications in FDSys some committees have incomplete collections on FDSys. That's been true for years.

**Beth Downing:** Kathy Armed Services is an example. I do not get electronic records for these hearings so I assume that they are not on FDSys

**James Jacobs:** thanks Hallie and all. good conversation

**Sandra McAninch:** are CR and FR required to be printed?

**Karen Russ:** Nice job Hallie

**Kathy Amen:** Whoa! I didn't realize that Beth!

**Dan Barkley:** I believe they are Sandee

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** Thanks everyone!

**Blaine Redemer:** Thanks Hallie!

**Cindy Etkin:** yes for both

**Kate Irwin-Smiler:** req'd to print != distribution?

**Sandra McAninch:** Cindy just said yes

**Dan Barkley:** nicely done. another conference call awaits me.

**Sinai Wood:** me too

**Marie Concannon:** Great job leading the discussion Hallie !

**Perveen Rustomfram:** Thanks so much!

**Marcus Jun:** Thank you

**Jan Swanbeck:** Great job Hallie!

**Leslie Cunningham:** Thank you

**Ella Shurr:** Thank you!

**James Jacobs:** cheers everyone

**Barbara Miller:** see you tomorrow!

**Peggy Jarrett:** Thanks Hallie - this was a great discussion

**Laura Harper:** Thanks Hallie!

**Leaola Brock:** Thank YOU great discussion

**Jackie McFadden:** Thank you Hallie!

**ASTERIA NDULUTE:** Decision Making machines followed in the past might applicable today in deciding what is to be produced in microfiche. Thank you

**Jenne Turner:** Thanks :)

**Helen Burke:** Thanks to all presenters. Great discussion.

**Flora Shrode:** Thanks!

**Carl Olson:** Thanks

**Tammy Fishman:** Thank you

**Ashley Dahlen:** Thank you everyone! 'See' you all tomorrow.

**---End Transcript---**