



ENGAGE | INNOVATE | TRANSFORM
FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES & GPO

FOCUSED DISCUSSION

Building an Authoritative National Bibliography of U.S. Government Publications

Tuesday, December 10
1:00 - 1:45 PM (Eastern Time)

FRAMING THE DISCUSSION

The impetus for the discussion on cataloging Government information dissemination products stems from the significant amount of feedback received from the FDLP Forecast Study Questionnaire related to GPO's or library cataloging activities and services. Library Forecast Question 17 and State Forecast Question 6 asked respondents to rate current LSCM projects areas according to how users of Federal government information in their library/state might benefit. Among those areas were:

- **Sub-Question A:** *Projects to provide greater access to government information such as: Simultaneous searching of FDsys and the Catalog of Government Publications; Increasing access to United States Courts' opinions provided in partnership with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts available on FDsys.*
- **Sub-Question B:** *Projects to increase cataloging services such as: The Cataloging Record Distribution Project; Shelflist Transcription & Bibliographic Record Clean Up; Cooperative Cataloging Partnerships; Enhancements to MetaLib.*

LSCM Projects and Services related to cataloging were reported as either “extremely beneficial” or “moderately beneficial” by 92% of library respondents and 100% of state respondents. When responding to the follow-up question on what “other services” LSCM could offer, services related to Cataloging were frequently named. This also was true of respondents to the library and state open-ended questions, which asked, “What would an ideal FDLP look like that met all of your current and anticipated needs for Federal government information?” and “Thinking about the next five years, what specific things would you like GPO to do to help you and your library/state improve public access to Federal government information?”

The Cataloging and Indexing Program, as managed by GPO, is to provide a “comprehensive index of public documents,” including “every document issued or published ... not confidential in character.” This is derived from the statutory requirements for cataloging and indexing codified at 44 U.S.C. §§1710-1711 and 44 U.S.C. §4101(a). The goal of the Cataloging and Indexing Program is to develop a comprehensive and authoritative national bibliography of U.S.

Government publications to increase the visibility and use of Government information products, and to develop a premier destination for information searchers.

The chart below depicts current LSCM projects that feed into the development of the national bibliography.



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Your thoughts, ideas, and strategies that will assist GPO in the development of a premiere comprehensive index of Government publications and information dissemination products.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What factors do you consider most important in determining cataloging priorities?
- How can we improve our cataloging practices to better meet library cataloging and metadata needs?
- How do you currently obtain GPO bibliographic records for your OPAC or cataloging purposes? (Poll)
- What delivery mechanism would be most beneficial for providing you GPO bibliographic records?
- What are your minimum bibliographic record needs?
- What would a shared cataloging program include/look like?
- What are other ideas that could be implemented to assist in the development of an authoritative comprehensive index of government information dissemination products?
- What ideas do you have to make the index more accessible/utilized?