# Responses to Recommendations

## GPO Responses to Fall 2007 Depository Library Council Recommendations

Council thanks GPO for the progress reports provided at the Fall 2007 meeting, and recommends that the following areas be the basis for presentations at the Spring 2008 meeting:

### FDsys

Council would like to continue to receive reports on the progress of FDsys development. Such a progress report would include detailed milestones, and a timeline with functionality and content goals for the currently planned releases. In particular, Council requests an update that focuses on the particulars of library service functionalities.

> **GPO Response:**
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> In December 2007 GPO published Federal Digital System: System Releases and Capabilities, Version 5.0. This FDsys Reference Document was provided to the Depository Library Council and was published on the web at **<http://www.gpo.gov/projects/pdfs/releasesandcapabilities_v5_121907.pdf>**.
>
> System Releases and Capabilities 5.0 provides a high level overview of system capabilities as they will be implemented in releases of the Federal Digital System (FDsys). This revision was prepared in anticipation of the next release, Release 1C, which is the first public release of FDsys. The first increment of this release, referred to as R1C.2, is targeted for late 2008.
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> Release 1C will be implemented in three consecutive sub-releases. R1C.2 will build on lessons learned from 2007's Release 1B. Key functionality of the first public release includes foundational elements such as the system infrastructure and building a digital repository that conforms to the OAIS (Open Archival Information Systems) reference model and enables the management of content and metadata in information packages. R1C.2 will replace the familiar WAIS-based GPO Access services in use since 1994. All historical and new public content will be available through FDsys at the initial R1C.2 release, with continued enhancements to search and browse functionality on individual collections.
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> The first public release will enable searching and retrieving content or metadata from FDsys. Integration with the Integrated Library System (ILS) will allow an exchange of descriptive metadata from either system to the other. Additional metadata, such as provenance metadata, will also be made available through FDsys.

**WEB HARVESTING**

Council would like to better understand GPO's role in web harvesting and the possibility of establishing partnerships to enhance the web harvesting process. Council suggests a session focusing on the respective roles and current activities of GPO and NARA for harvesting web content, and highlighting other relevant initiatives (e.g., Internet Archive, IMLS-funded research, etc.)

**GPO Response:**

GPO continues to take an active role in Web harvesting efforts. As a member of CENDI's Web Harvesting Task Group, GPO is participating in discussions with other Federal agencies that will lead to the development of a white paper on Web harvesting best practices. Other agencies participating in the Task Group include NASA, the EPA, NTIS, and the Library of Congress. CENDI is an interagency working group of senior scientific and technical information managers from thirteen Federal agencies.

Web harvesting remains a priority at GPO, and web harvesting work to identify online U.S. Government publications continues to be accomplished in Library Services and Content Management on a daily basis. While not included in the first public release, an automated Web harvesting process is a part of the FDsys requirements. Lessons learned from the EPA Web Harvesting Pilot Project, conducted in 2006, will be helpful in the development of this functionality. It is important to remember that GPO focuses Web harvesting efforts on Federal Government information products, or publications as identified under Title 44. This does not include Web pages or portions of databases. Other agencies, such as NARA, may have a different role and approach, including the downloading of entire or partial Web sites.

During the EPA Web Harvesting Pilot Project, files were harvested that require further scope determination in relation to the FDLP. GPO has undertaken projects to identify time commitments and resource needs to process all the files acquired during the pilot. A summary paper on the findings from the processing of a sample of 300 publications is available at **<http://www.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/harvesting/epa-results.pdf>**.

GPO will update the depository community on its Web harvesting efforts at the plenary Council session on Monday, March 31, from 3:30 -5:00. GPO staff will demonstrate the processes associated with identifying, making scope determinations, and cataloging the material acquired during the EPA Pilot Project. In addition, we are discussing an upcoming pilot project to evaluate how GPO's depository library partners can assist in the processing of harvested material. The volunteer depositories will be asked to assist LSCM either in locating the missing sections of partially harvested publications or by creating brief bibliographic records for publications in the Special Materials category, which includes press releases, transmittals, notices, and forms.

ASSESSMENTS

Council asks that GPO provide a report on assessments and a schedule implementation. In addition, Council recommends that GPO prepares and distributes a document on assessment for library directors, ARL, AALL, PLA, and other relevant organizations to keep these groups informed about the statutory and regulatory requirements of maintaining a depository.

**GPO Response:**

GPO has revitalized the individual depository library assessment program, or Public Access Assessments (PAA). Updates on this effort are shared at each Depository Library Council Meeting and at other library conferences and via the FDLP-L announcement service and FDLP Desktop. LSCM personnel also presented on Public Access Assessments at five statewide Federal depository library meetings since last summer.

Ongoing evaluation of 2007 Biennial Survey returns is part of the assessment program. LSCM staff are reviewing survey responses to determine each library's compliance with public access requirements. In addition, LSCM investigates reports of denied access and consults with depository library administrators to ensure that free public access to depository resources is available to all.

Significant milestones in PAA implementation are:
- Completion of the Public Access Assessments chapter for the Federal Depository Library Handbook. Spring 2008
- Completion of a draft "Checklist" for GPO assessment librarians to use as a basis for assessment review. This tool is a resource to facilitate consistent review of depositories that achieve outcomes in many different ways. The recently reviewed paper "Focus on Access, Collections, and Service" is the foundation for this checklist. Spring 2008
- Update and revision of the Self-Study of a Federal Depository Library for use by libraries as a self-assessment tool:
  - Public Services section. Summer 2008
  - All sections. Fall 2008

The depository community will have an opportunity to review and comment on the resources listed above. We will review our process with volunteer depositories this summer. Scheduled assessments for all individual depository libraries will start thereafter in winter, 2009.

In addition, at this meeting, LSCM will report to Council on the Public Access Assessments program on Tuesday, April 1 at 3:30 p.m. Along with an update, we will discuss depository library public access best practices.

Public Access Assessments focus on public access requirements and are outcomes-based; therefore, Federal depository libraries following legal and program requirements, as outlined in the Title 44 of the U.S. Code and the Federal Depository

Library Handbook, to ensure that free public access is provided, are in compliance with the law and shall be successful in a Public Access Assessment. Information about PAA is on the FDLP Desktop at **<http://www.fdlp.gov/paa/about.html>**.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

Council encourages GPO to continue to expand their efforts to form partnerships and other collaborative efforts to further the goal of broad access to government information. Council asks that GPO prepare a discussion of strategies that include planned and possible partnerships and collaborations. One possible strategy to consider may be a conference devoted to partnerships focused on digitization best practices; others may include exploring collaborative efforts to enhance tools, content, or services for government information.

**GPO Response:**

GPO continues to make strides in expanding its partnership efforts. At the beginning of fiscal year 2008, GPO had already formed two new partnerships. The first, with the Naval Postgraduate School, allows depository libraries to gain access to the Homeland Security Digital Library (HSDL). HSDL is a database containing U.S. policy documents, presidential directives, and national strategy documents as well as other specialized resources related to the study of homeland security. The partnership also ensures permanent public access to the material within scope of the FDLP that is contained in HSDL. Additional details about this partnership and access to HSDL will be posted on FDLP-L soon. In the second partnership, GPO joined with the University of Illinois at Chicago and other participating depositories to promote the "Government Information Online: Ask a Librarian" virtual reference service. Discussions regarding other possible partnerships are also ongoing.

GPO has also taken steps to increase the amount of information available to depository libraries on its partnership efforts. The partnership Web pages on the FDLP Desktop, available at **<http://www.fdlp.gov/partnerships/about.html>**, have been revised. In addition to describing GPO's current partnerships, the pages include resources for depository libraries interested in exploring a partnership idea. These include information on how to propose a partnership, how partnerships are formalized, and general partnership requirements. Sample Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) were also added to the site, providing depositories with an opportunity to review the general structure of a partnership agreement.

In order to better respond to partnership related inquires, GPO created a "Partnership" category as part of AskGPO. Depositories interested in discussing a partnership idea or that have a partnership-related question can also fill out the "Partnership Inquiry" form on the FDLP Desktop.

While a separate conference on partnerships is not feasible, GPO is conducting a Council session on collaboration with GPO at the Spring 2008 Depository Library Council meeting. The session will be held on Wednesday, April 2 at 10:30 a.m.

**FUTURE FDLP**

Council would like to work with GPO to prepare depository libraries for a digital Federal Depository Library system that is not centered on collections. This may include such things as librarians supporting GPO through the development of reference services, digitization initiatives, and web harvesting. Tools and infrastructure developed by GPO and depository libraries would further both the libraries' and GPO's mission to provide government information to the public and allow for an informed citizenry. The purpose of the discussion at the spring meeting is to begin the process of coordinating the strategic planning of GPO with that of the depository libraries as all move forward into the digital age.

**GPO Response:**

The Wednesday afternoon Council plenary session (1:30-3:00), Shaping and Transforming the Future of the FDLP, will begin the strategic planning process, which will lay the foundation and direction of the FDLP for at least the next five to seven years. This plenary session is designed to elicit feedback from Council and the meeting attendees. A vision statement and assumptions will be presented for validation or revision. Additionally, a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis is planned for the session. A team (Denise Stephens, Tim Byrne, and Cindy Etkin) will draft a strategic plan for discussion at the fall meeting of the Depository Library Council.