



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

GPO's Content Acquisitions Process

April 21, 2009

Joseph C. McClane
Manager, Content Acquisitions
Library Services and Content Management
U.S. Government Printing Office



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

Library Services & Content Management (LSCM): Overview

- **Mission**
 - Identify, **acquire**, classify, catalog, disseminate, and preserve Government publications
 - The “informed” of *Keeping America Informed*
 - *Codified in 44 USC 1901 – 1916, 4101 -4104*
- **Composition**
 - Three divisions, Approximately 100 employees
 - Library Technical Information Services = identify, **acquire**, classify and catalog
 - Collection Management and Preservation = disseminate and preserve
 - Library Planning and Development = support services and program development





FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

Programs: Overview

- Programs
 - Federal Depository Library Program
 - Cataloging and Indexing Program
 - International Exchange Service
 - By-Law Program



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

Programs: In Depth

- Cataloging and Indexing Program (C & I)
 - Catalogs “all” Government publications
 - Allows citizens to find and view records of Government publications
- International Exchange Service (IES)
 - Think-- “international library exchange”
 - Government publications sent to the major library in another country
- By-Law Program
 - GPO will produce, store and disseminate “By-Law” (as directed by Congress) publications



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

Programs: In Depth

- Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP)
 - Largest of programs managed by LSCM
 - Began in 1813, although providing for extra copies of documents for the public is older than the Constitution.
 - Transferred to GPO control in 1895 from Department of Interior.
 - 1,245 federal depository libraries
 - 51 Regionals (receive one copy of everything disseminated + permanently maintain)
 - 1,194 Selectives (can select one copy of everything disseminated + maintain for 5 years)
 - Libraries must maintain documents and provide for free public access and reference support for these materials.
 - Although GPO continues to ship tangible copies of Government publications to libraries, most Government information is now available to them in electronic format.
 - LSCM processes 20 to 25 thousand titles per year



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

Federal Depository Libraries

- Almost every major library in the U.S. belongs to this Program, and these depositories are located in almost every Congressional district and territory.
- Diversity of types of libraries in the Program ensures that everyone from casual users to highly educated researchers can find the assistance they need.
- Depositories provide “value added” services such as expert subject knowledge and reference assistance to help the public find the most helpful Government information.
- Depositories are equipped with the technology to access Government information regardless of format.



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

Finding Government Information

- Printed by GPO
- Printing orders handled by GPO
- GPO Express
- Harvested documents from official Web sites
- Identified as a “fugitive” document through “Lost Docs”
- Contact Government Agencies

 U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
Keeping America Informed | www.gpo.gov



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

Government Information

- “Government Information” is information produced with Congressionally appropriated funds
- Not all Government Information falls in scope for GPO’s Content Acquisitions

 U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
Keeping America Informed | www.gpo.gov



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

Criteria for Selecting Documents

- **Scope:** Government information is collected for the Program unless one of the following is true:
 - Document contains personal, inaccurate, sensitive or restricted information (sometimes copyrighted)
 - Document has no educational value
 - Document is strictly for “administrative” use



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

Content Acquisitions (Traditional)

- Acquisitions was reactive (waiting to be informed of new publications).
- Acquisitions discovery was based on the printing of tangible information products.
- The costs (time and expense) of printing a tangible document was a vindication of the value of the document.
- Mass printing runs meant that many copies were available for a long time.



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

Content Acquisitions (Now)

- Most Government Information is born digital.
- There are many more avenues for producing/reproducing Government Information.
- Production is cheap. Every “thought” can be a separate document (an explosion of titles and versions).
- Government publications, both tangible and electronic, can be only briefly available (less mass production – less copies stored- faster turn-around).



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

Challenges

- Harder to monitor new publications due to the ever-increasing number of titles
- More version control issues
- More “sources” of Government Information
- Prioritizing resources and publications



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

Initiatives

- More emphasis on collection development
- Finding Content Originators, not just content
- Proactively working with Content Originators to identify and prioritize suitable Content
- Expediting initial Acquisition process
- Working with FDLs to better identify suitable content for the FDLP



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

What You Can Do To Help

- Good - keeping us informed via “Lost Docs”
- Better- Giving us as much information as possible
- Best- Give us contact information for Content Originators

- Good- send us “askGPO” questions
- Better - submit question with as much information as possible
- Best - check knowledge base before sending question



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

We Want To Hear From You!

- What are your concerns regarding GPO's Content Acquisitions?
- Are we going in the right direction when it comes to acquisitions?
- Can you envision a bigger role for Documents Librarians in identifying content to acquire?

 U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
Keeping America Informed | www.gpo.gov



FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES
Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

Questions?

Ask Now!

-or-

Contact:

jmcclane@gpo.gov

(202) 512-2279

 U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
Keeping America Informed | www.gpo.gov