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Free Information, Dedicated Service, Limitless Possibilities

GPO's Content Acquisitions Process

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



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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





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Programs: Overview

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



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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



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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



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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.



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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



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Government Information

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



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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



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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.



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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).



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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



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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



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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



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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?

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Questions?

Ask Now!

-or-

Contact:

jmcclane@gpo.gov

(202) 512-2279

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