

# Recommendations & Commendations of the Depository Library Council to the GPO Director, Fall 2018



**FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM**

<http://www.fdlp.gov>

## INTRODUCTION

This document presents the recommendations & commendations of the Depository Library Council from the Fall 2018 Federal Depository Library Conference.

## **LIBRARY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENDATIONS, FALL 2018**

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**Recommendation #1: Council recommends that GPO provide an update to the Federal Depository Library Program community about what has happened in the past year with the grant making authority proposal and study. We also recommend that GPO continue to monitor the possibility of a grant program for the future.**

### **Justification:**

The original recommendation from Council regarding grants to depository libraries was in a memo dated September 27, 2017 to Davita Vance-Cooks, then GPO Director, from James Shaw, then Chair of the DLC, which called for the inclusion of a new section in Title 44, US Code, Section 19.

That portion of the memo reads as follows:

*New section: grants to depository libraries: Add a section to Chapter 19 to give GPO grant-making authority, and to enter into contracts or cooperative arrangements with depository libraries to enhance access to Government publications. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, the digitization of Government publications, preservation of Government publications, and cataloging Government publications. Giving GPO grant-making authority would provide leverage to accelerate efforts to improve access to and preservation of Government publications, and to foster greater cooperation between GPO and depository libraries that participate in GPO-funded projects.*

Council believes that such a grant program to depository libraries is important and would contribute to the ability and willingness of the depository libraries to participate with GPO in preservation, digitization and other projects which could include but not be limited to community outreach and public access to government documents. We also believe that grant making authority for GPO would help to ensure future participation of libraries in the program and enhance the preservation of as well as public access to government information.

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**Recommendation #2: Council recommends that GPO continue to seek community feedback regarding FDLP eXchange and commit to ongoing development and support for the platform. We recommend that GPO make submitted feedback publicly viewable so that users of FDLP eXchange have a common forum to compare their experiences and can identify frequently cited feature requests and bug reports. We also suggest that GPO comment on and respond to feedback submitted via this public forum and report on the status of any fix requests submitted by users. Support forums like the one we recommend are common in other software**

**development communities. We believe such a tool would increase transparency as eXchange continues to be improved and developed and would inspire productive discussion around potential enhancements, bug fixes, and workflow issues in the FDLP eXchange interface.**

**Justification:**

The FDLP eXchange platform was rolled out earlier this year for broad adoption by the FDLP community. eXchange was created to replace the national needs and offers list and to facilitate more widespread matching of federal documents at the regional and national level. A number of libraries have already been using eXchange with success, but the system still has its issues and bugs as well as inconveniences. Currently, libraries are encouraged to use AskGPO to let GPO know about issues or questions with the tool or to email individual staff at GPO, which isolates and siloes libraries with their own issues and frustrations and discourages shared communication across the FDLP community about known issues or suggested enhancements. If GPO wants to encourage broader usage and to have continued use, Council believes the community needs transparency as eXchange continues to be developed.

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**Recommendation #3: Council recommends the creation of a working group to explore current and future needs related to digital deposit - both dissemination of content and acceptance of content by GPO. At a minimum, two appropriate members of GPO staff, two members of DLC, and two members of the FDLP community should be appointed to serve on the Digital Deposit Working Group for one year. Composition of the working group should be chosen by DLC in consultation with GPO staff. The Working Group should report findings and recommendations - either initial or final - at the Fall 2019 FDLP annual meeting.**

**Justification:**

Council believes that such a Digital Deposit Working Group is a critically important and inclusive step in reaching consensus on how federal information in digital forms should be disseminated to and amongst the FDLP community for the benefit of all our users. Commendation #1: The Depository Library Council commends the Government Publishing Office for including the Library of Congress, our natural partner, as a featured participant in our gathering.

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**Commendation #2: The Depository Library Council commends the staff of Library Services and Content Management on the redesign of the FDLP Academy**

**Repository. In addition, Council commends the overall success of the Academy webinar program and the participation of the community as both presenters and viewers.**

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**Commendation #3: The Depository Library Council commends the staff of Library Services and Content Management on the creation of two promotional brochures: “Did you know....” and “Free U.S. Government information resources on a wide variety of topics.” These brightly colored tri-fold brochures will be used to promote free government information available through federal depository libraries. Council especially commends the creation of the “Did you know...” brochures that includes a place saver for adding a library address so that the brochure can be made available in branch libraries or in non-traditional locations such as a student union or a local gathering spot.**

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**Commendation #4: The Depository Library Council wishes to commend upon her retirement Robin Haun-Mohamed for her dedication and service to the Federal Depository Library Program.**

Joining the Government Printing Office in 1992 as a Depository Library Inspector, Ms. Haun-Mohamed frequently visited over 100 libraries a year. She spent six years as head of the Depository Administration Branch, and led the library inspection team from 2000-2003. Since those days, she has successfully held various positions in project management, collection management, and preservation. She became head of Outreach and Support in 2016.

Her unique gift throughout has been a personal connection to the Federal Depository Library Program and the people involved with it, coupled with a deep and detailed understanding of the way it works, both internally and in the field.

Ms. Haun-Mohamed has been the face and voice of the Government Publishing Office to countless librarians.

The Depository Library Council wishes her the best in her future endeavors.

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**Commendation #5: The Depository Library Council wishes to commend upon his retirement George Barnum for his long service to the preservation of electronic government information and as chronicler of the history of the Government Publishing Office.**

Mr. Barnum joined the Government Publishing Office in 1997 as one of GPO’s Electronic Transition Specialists. He became GPO’s first Electronic Collection Manager, with a primary responsibility for digital preservation. He joined the Office of Innovation and

New Technology in 2003, and worked with the team that developed the system architecture for FDsys. In the Congressional Relations office, which he joined in 2009, Mr. Barnum coordinated GPO's 150th anniversary celebration in 2011 and was the lead writer and editor on Keeping America Informed and Picturing the Big Shop. In addition, Mr. Barnum led the group that developed the GPO history exhibit in GPO main building on Capitol Street.

The Depository Library Council wishes him the best in his future endeavors.