

Considering the FDLP Network – Ensuring Continued Public Access to the Comprehensive Collection

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Goal of the FDLP

To make Government publications available for the free
use of the general public.

(Title 44, *United States Code*, section 1911)

Chapter 19 also explicitly provides:

- Scope of the FDLP (sec. 1901-1902)
- A mechanism for permanence (sec. 1912)

When you see this:



People should think that they can find:

- Informational matter which is published as an individual document at Government expense, or as required by law.
- Going all the way back

* Not including material that is:

- classified
- official use only
- administrative
- etc.

Some history

Before the 1962 Depository Act, all depository libraries either:

- Received everything (1895-1920s)
- Selected what to receive (1920s-1962)
- No provision in either case for discarding anything

After 1962:

- Regionals get one copy of everything.
- Selectives get what they select and retain it for a minimum of 5 years. Discard according to rules managed by the regional.

Throughout, the statute maintains geographic distribution

From the point of creation, regionals have been delegated an explicit role in weeding and discards from selectives.

GPO's instructions and guidance have evolved over time

Before the 1970s, information was found in designation paperwork.

By the 1970s, guidance was created stating regionals have a responsibility to permanently maintain collections and to use the discard process to build complete collections.

Guidelines for Depository Libraries, 1977

GPO's instructions and guidance have evolved over time

In the 1990s, GPO became more explicit:

“ . . . the principle [sic] responsibility of a regional . . . is to ensure comprehensiveness and integrity of the state's or region's depository resources.”

Instructions to Depository Libraries, 1992

The 1992 language in the *Instructions* was accompanied by two “strategies” for regionals:

- 1) “Purposeful” collection development
- 2) Reviewing of state or region's discards

More recently, *Legal Requirements and Program Regulations of the Federal Depository Library Program (2011)* says

Regional Depository Libraries

54. Designated regional depository libraries must:

- Ensure the comprehensiveness and integrity of a tangible FDLP collection in their state or region...

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Comprehensive and Retrospective Collection

“There is no statutory authorization for GPO to pay for distributing copies of retrospective publications, nor is there a requirement in law or GPO administrative practice that requires regional depositories to collect retrospectively.”

Putting it forward – a clear definition

Comprehensive collection: The body of at least one copy of deposited material in a state or region, regardless of its physical location within that state or region.

In practice: One copy of each deposited title must be retained in the state or region of deposit (with the exception of superseded materials). As such, each state will have a different ‘start date’ for their comprehensive collection as each state or region’s first deposit likely varied.

Putting it forward – a clear definition

Administration or Management Responsibility: Responsibility resides with the regional depository library, although cooperation and collaboration among depository libraries is a necessity.

GPO can provide parameters for regionals to work with, but ultimately has limited documentation of when, which, and to whom documents were deposited.

Regional depositories must use professional judgement.

To be clear...

- 1) “at least one copy of deposited material in a state or region” - We are not saying which library has to hold it.
- 2) “responsibility for the management or maintenance of this body resides with the regional depository library, although cooperation and collaboration among depository libraries is a necessity” - You have to work cooperatively as a region.
- 3) We expect that regionals and regions will use professional judgement in administering the comprehensive collection.
- 4) Note that nowhere in this definition does ‘designation date’ or ‘regional designation date’ crop up.

Someone always asks “Can GPO tell me what was deposited?”

- The FDLP and Cataloging & Indexing Program are separate in statute and differ somewhat in scope.
 - They have always been closely-linked in practice, but there isn't an unbroken series of records about what was distributed in the FDLP.
 - We rely on the Catalog, but it cannot serve as an inventory.
- Use your professional judgement.
- Remember your objective is meeting the goal of the FDLP – that the American public has access to its Government’s information.



GPO's work to identify the comprehensive collection

National Bibliographic Records Inventory:

- Shelflist card transcription into brief CGP records
- *MoCat* transcription into brief CGP records
- Exploring pulling down a record set from OCLC for research purposes
- GPO may take fugitives for digitization, cataloging, and ingest into **govinfo**.

What about fugitive documents?

- The goal is to ensure that the American public has access to its Government's information.
- We know that fugitive content is Government content, in scope of the FDLP.
- In the spirit of the goal, we would expect libraries to report it for inclusion in the National Bibliography and to ensure future public access to it.



Regions are creative in adapting their needs to existing law

- Multistate regions (no limit to number of them in law)
- Regional SHAs or MOUs
- Offsite or remote storage facilities
- Shifting model from “just in case” to “just in time” (which can be achieved through cataloging and other rapid delivery services)

* Note that geographic distribution of the collection is still in place.

Reminders for regionals who are tight on space

- Supersede titles, removing titles that have been:
 - Updated or revised
 - Cumulated (ex. bound)
 - Corrected
 - Dated
 - Reprinted
- De-duplicate titles among branches & storage sites (UMD was able to weed approximately 50% of their footprint by de-duplication alone.)

Reminders for regionals who are tight on space

- De-duplicate titles by format (opt to retain MF over P)
- In states with 2 regionals, de-duplicate regional holdings among the 2 regionals
- Substitute commercial MF for P (ex. Congressional hearings on microfiche in lieu of P)
- Find other libraries who will agree to house a portion of the 'regional collection' and sign MOAs to that effect.
- Monitor content regionals can substitute per "regional discard policy" and encourage others to sign MOAs to preserve content so as to allow regional libraries to weed.



The elephant in the room – A bill to revise Title 44

To quote a long-time GPO official, Sheila McGarr,

“Folks, the Law is still the Law. Title 44 hasn’t changed yet.”

In other words, we work with the law we have until we have a different one.

If changes do occur, we roll with it.

Next steps

- GPO will be revising language on web pages, training modules, guidance information, and future releases of *LRPR*.
- In particular, GPO will be revisiting weeding options for library staff that are newer or would like a refresher on the various options available to them.
- If any library experiences difficulties achieving the goal, contact FDLPoutreach@gpo.gov.

We all play a role in the comprehensive collection.



GPO

- Catalog
- Distribute
- Ensure compliance
- Work with DLC and Hill staff on rules of the Program

Selectives

- Proper weeding
- House 'regional' copy or part of the comprehensive collection as needed

Regionals

- Manage comprehensive collection
- Select and receive 1 copy of everything
- Review N&O lists