

## Draft Policy: Regional Depository Libraries Online Selections - Transcript

Please stand by for realtime captions.

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This is a final audio check, we are going to get started in about two minutes.

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Melissa is asking about the sound, we are on mute right now, and it is 2:00 so we are ready to get started. We are recording. Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the FDL P draft webinar. My name is Ashley Dahlen, before I get started, I'm going to walk you through a few of the normal housekeeping reminders. If you have any questions or technical issues, please feel free to use the chat box which is going to be located in the bottom right-hand corner of your screen. We will keep track of all the questions and at the end, we will respond to each of them. We are recording today's session and I will email a link to the recording in the slides to everybody who registered. I will be sending you a certificate of participation using the email you used to register. If anyone needs additional certificates because multiple people watch with you, please email FDL outreach, and include the names and email addresses of those needing certificates. Desktop computers, you can zoom in on the slides being presented, just click on the fullscreen button on the bottom left. To exit, just mouse over the blue bar at the top of your screen so it expands and click on the blue return button to get back to the default. At the end of the session, we will be sharing a webinar satisfaction survey with you, we will let you know when it is available and it'll appear in the chat box. We appreciate your feedback after the session. That is the end of housekeeping and normally at this point I would hand it over to our presenter but that is me, so let me just get settled in here and get everything flipped over. Let's get started. Over the years, GPO has been keeping tabs on challenges faced by but depositories. This is some of the efforts they have been making over the years to relieve those. We are going to go over specific online selections and we will talk about the findings of those surveys including the concerns. We will introduce a new policy that was created just prior to the survey and we will talk about how you all can weigh in on that draft policy. We will describe the tests that will be conducted to implement the policy finally take questions from you all. The need for regionals to have greater flexibility with their collections is not a new thing, you can see here, snippets of text from three of many documents highlighting among many things the fact that it has been known since at least 1993 that the 52 regionals would not be able, or even need to retain absolutely everything in the stacks. In 2006, we noted that regionals would have also to meet the users needs. Since 2016, we discussed that at some point in time, everyone would need to carefully consider the implications of regionals only selecting online format. So these documents are just a few of the examples of where we knew the regional system was going to need to be adjusted to meet the needs of the future. Some of the more recent things GPO has done to address Ace shortages include two policies and new regional models. The first policy was the government publications authorized discard by regional depository libraries or known as regional discards. This policy permits regional depositories to read material on the shelves after it has met certain conditions, including being authorized and that policy rolled out in 2016. In 2018, we issued guidelines for establishing shared regional depository libraries and began approving those models as well, specifically Georgia, Florida, Virginia and North Carolina. In short, the regionals continue to serve their respective regions however there is collaborative collection development among the regional libraries for select titles that are specifically outlined in the plans. The second policy is the subject of today's webinar, the draft regional depository library section. In a nutshell, this policy is the opposite or as a complement to the regional discards policy because instead of getting material off the shelves like the first policy, the aim of this policy is to prevent the material from getting there in the first place. After certain conditions have been met, regionals would be permitted to provide just digital or online access to select materials. They can deselect the tangible formats. So, that policy was drafted and in fall of 2020, GPO ran the survey about the draft policy. The

survey was conducted to gauge regional depository interests in the prospect of only selecting an online format. To provide transport insight on how they might implement such a practice and used to inform the Department of our own processes in LSCM. We have a 100% regional response rate survey and we did get the information we needed from it, so thank you regionals for filling it out. There is a link to the report on the survey findings but to give you a general breakdown, the high-level survey takeaways are that there is a high support among regionals for flexible collection management requirements. 70% of the regionals are in favor of online selection options for the two titles specified in the survey and we are going to go over theirs in the second. 20 to 46 regionals report space problems for certain titles, that is just under half but it prompts them to select the format over the print format, which is unfortunate because several regionals report that the format is not used or it is rarely used. Some regionals point out that processing and shelving publications that frequently supersede is unwarranted for the shelflife of the two titles we talked about in the survey. In the survey, we asked about two titles in particular that we were considering testing the policy on, the daily congressional record in the federal register. When we asked regionals, would they opt to select the daily congressional record and or the Federal Register only in an online format? Here is how they responded for the daily congressional record, 72% of regionals said they would only select the digital format at the Federal Register, 70% of regionals said they would only select the digital format. Why would some regionals continue to select the print format for those two titles. Five regionals indicated they questioned the permanency of the online format, three regionals had patrons that preferred the paper copy, two wanted to have a comprehensiveness tangible collection, one regional cited the need for official nest of the online format and one question to the completeness of the online format. 10 regionals also indicated that they would be more receptive to the idea of selecting online versions if there were certain stipulations, including the policy only be applied to titles that are superseded or replaced by bound volumes, our two test titles met that criteria, there are assurances that tangible copies are geographically distributed and we are going to talk about that shortly. The online versions are maintained on a secure and permanent site, two test titles definitely are, a certified repository, that patrons can easily access items needed when needed, without restrictions, so this is a rule for all of depositories whether they have the digital or tangible formats in the collections and the online version of the congressional record was considered official. Going back to the one concern that was mentioned about geographic distribution, there is a strong desire to insure or preserve a geographically distributed access to the daily congressional record and the Federal Register. Once regional deposits were allowed to select just the online format for those titles. We had the same concern at GPO as well. So in response to that concern, GPO developed the print selector safety net requirement for titles that would be eligible under this policy. We are going to be going over the details of the policy next. Here we have a link to the draft policy that was created prior to the survey. We are taking comments on the policy through May 16 and there is a link where you can submit your comments. Again, the goal is to enable regionals to select the online digital format into deselect the tangible format for select titles after public access to the print format is guaranteed or locked-in through suitable safety measures. Those safety measures that have to be in place before regionals made the selections are, that there must be four geographically dispersed print selectors which we are going to talk about shortly, and the content must be available on golf info or official digital preservation steward. Yes, the safety measures are in place to ensure permanent public access to the national collection. It's important to pause and talk about the importance of the safety net. Where are we going with all of this? Well, as we continue to re-envision the FDLP, we anticipate there will be fewer publications retained overall but they will be better managed collaboratively. We feel that enabling regionals to better manage their collection space and their staff time is going to be key to keeping them in the FDLP. Regionals currently serve as the primary holder of what we call loosely in the regional collection, but we think that may shift to the regional serving as more of the administrator of the region's collection. So we are already starting to see this in action where regional libraries are enlisting their selective's to house

portions of the regional collection that the regional library itself cannot hold, or they are doing these things just because it makes better set sense. So we think this is going to increase over time. Finally, as regions reallocate where content resides locally, we think it's going to be important to guarantee that the public continues to have access to a print edition where needed and that is why we chose to mimic the original safety net of four geographically dispersed regions for this draft policy. So, what is a print selector that I mentioned earlier? Print selectors agreed to select and retain print versions of specialized titles, we agreed to retain those publications minimally for a specified period of time. If they want to retain after that, that is no problem print selectors may be a selective or regional depository library. The fall 2020 regional survey indicated that regional depository coordinators would like to see online only four selections, for titles that will later be collected into a bound volume and for titles that supersede quickly. Titles that get issued in bound format or that supersede quickly presents both space and processing challenges for regional libraries so both the daily congressional record in the Federal Register supersede on a regular cycle and regional depositories are already not required to retain them permanently, so it made them good candidates for the testing of the draft regional online selections policy. For the congressional record daily, print selectors must agree to retain the dailies until the full volume of the bound edition has been distributed and that includes both the proceedings and the index issues. For example, volume 160, January 3, 2014 through January 2, 2015, the 113th session. All of those dailies, I'm sorry, all of those issues must be received in the bound format before the daily issues of volume 160 can be withdrawn. One thing to note is that the bound edition is a regional only title, a print selector is a selected depository, they are going to need to self identify when the bound edition have superseded the daily addition, the congressional record averages about 176 issues per year so that saves quite a bit of shelf space. For the Federal Register, print selectors must retain issues for 2 years and that is the normal supersession rules in place. The Federal Register averages about 261 issues per year so again, saving the regional libraries some shelf space and processing time. When we say for geographically dispersed regions, this is what we mean. These are based off regions, the West, South, Midwest and Northeast. For regional discards to take place, the earlier policy we talked about, we need four geographically dispersed libraries from each of these regions to sign on as preservation steward. Likewise, for regional online selection, this new policy, for that to take place, we need four geographically dispersed libraries from each of these regions to sign on as print selectors. Here is a link to the regional online selection policy page, because we are only asking for print selectors to receive and retain publications for a specified time, it is much simpler to sign up for, there isn't quite as much paperwork as signing up to be a preservation steward. If you are a library that knows you're going to continue to select the print format of either or both titles, we encourage you to sign up to be a print selector and give the regional libraries the chance to alleviate some of the space and time pressures they are under. When the safety net is locked in with four geographically dispersed print selectors, GPO will issue a news alert and regionals may deselect the item number at the time for the tangible formats. At that point, there is no need for regionals to request permission to deselect the tangible formats, we know what you are selecting. One thing to note, when we issue the news alert that regionals may deselect tangible formats of a title, the content currently on the shelves should be retained for the normal rules, so the policy does not apply to past receipts, it just applies to current and future receipts. In order to avoid confusion, here's the quick comparison of the regional discards policy on the left and the regional online selections policy on the right side. Both policies have been formulated to ease regional pressures and to ensure the availability of the national collection. The goals on the left are two withdrawal order material sitting on the shelves and on the right, to deselect current and future receipts retrospectively. For the safety net, again, both policies require four geographically dispersed libraries to participate in either retaining or selecting something. For regional discards on the left, the digital edition of the content must be available on gov info or available through federal agency partners. The regional library has to hold onto the material they have for at least 5 years as well. For regional online selections,

the digital selection must be involved from gov info. Other libraries need to sign up to be either a preservation steward or print selector, libraries cannot sign up to be both. With regional discards, preservation steward must submit an inventory to GPO so we can tally if four copies are locked-in and preservation steward holdings must be added to the publications for the CGP. There is no equivalent for this for the regional online selections policy and the reason for that, there's no need to submit an inventory or to upload holdings for material that are eventually going to supersede. Lastly, for regional discards, regionals have to submit a request to GPO after the safety net has been locked in. For regional online selections, no such GPO request has to be submitted. I love this slide because I like colors and maps and I like doing the teachers of the islands but no matter what, the FDLP is going to remain the same. Our network of libraries is going to continue to keep America informed, we just do what we need to do to ensure access at a local level but, libraries are participating at a larger level as well. I see a lot of chat, or at least it looks like a lot to me. Let's scroll up here. I see from Arlene, does print selection mean that it'll be a format option they can select? We are opting for paper at this point. My colleagues have been supplying links, okay. From John, I wish I could submit this anonymously, are we supposed to retain the daily congressional record when the bound version arrives in general? No, when the bound version of the congressional record arrives, you can withdraw the daily addition, that material has superseded at that point and regionals do not need to retain superseded material if they don't want, although some people do. Do we have any other questions? Or did I miss any questions that are higher up in the chat? Okay, do courts recognize the online versions as official? I believe it varies on the court. Can any of my colleagues who might have a better insight into the official this, chime in with this one?

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This is Cindy, from GPO, Ashley is right, it is dependent on the court but we do know that they do book, in the book of legal citation, in the past, they have been very strict, they have been a little bit more flexible in recent years, and now they still prefer the print version to be cited but, there are allowances for online resources, and the question is, does the court allow that? It is very dependent upon the court, it is up to the court to decide for themselves. The Supreme Court rules do say that they have to cite the printed code, and that is the case for some other courts, too. But it does vary with the courts.

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My colleague who is an attendee has submitted a chat, if you chat all attendees, the panelists ironically cannot see your questions so my colleague has forwarded the chat to me, it is from Amelia and she asked, selective's do not have to submit a request to discard, that is correct, in general, selective libraries do not have to request permission to remove, I'm sorry, superseded material with their regional depository but there are a few exceptions and a couple of states where the regional is trying to proactively rebuild portions of a collection whether it is superseded or not, you just have to consult with your regional coordinator. Kathy asks, for the print selectors, do regionals have to commit to a time period like they do for a preservation steward? No. You sign on to continue to select the particular title, and if you need to back out of that, just let us know, we are going to be doing checks periodically to make sure they are in fact selecting it but if you know you need to back out of this for some reason, we would need to hear from you, please. From Elizabeth, so for all four areas of the country, have to have at least one regional or selective, choose to retain print versions of the F are in daily congressional record before they can opt to only receive the digital version? I believe that is correct, yes. We are trying to ensure the same safety net that apply to the first policy to the second policy, so basically we want at least four libraries across the country, in those four geographic areas to continue to get the new material. So if somebody needs it, they have relative geographic coverage, and yes, once we are locked-in, regionals at that point can deselect the tangible format. I'm getting caught up, from Arlene, I know that the CFR technically supersedes the Federal Register, I found that we often get request for the original roles in the Federal Register, it's like saying the statutes at large are superseded by the U.S. code. I agree with you, the Federal Register does have content that does not go into the CFR, a lot of

notices don't actually get into things like that. We do have the four continuing print selectors, we also have gov info which we will continue to have the daily additions as well. But yes, I agree, especially with the statutes, which are completely different volumes. This is a good question, I'm going to put one of my colleagues on the spot. Megan already answered me privately, she said just one, University of North Texas, thank you, Megan. Amelia, is private chatting, with the PowerPoint for the links be available? Absolutely, that will be made available, the link will go out to you all, hopefully tomorrow morning. These are good questions, do we have any more? Okay, I'm not seeing any more questions, although you still have time, let me just give it one final quick plug, we do need more preservation stewards and new print selectors to sign up, in order to enable regionals to partake of these flexibilities. Those are not going to open up for regionals until we can ensure the safety net for public access to FDL material and in general to the overall national collection. So we really want these things to take off and expand, get the greater collaborative collection development going on, but also give the regional some flexibility. I just put out the survey link. If you could please fill out the webinar survey, that would be great. Equally important, if you can fill out the survey on this draft policy, again, it is in draft mode, we have a test we are going to run but we do need your feedback, we need to know your concerns, that sort of thing so we can continue to improve on this. Thank you very much, I think that is a wrap. I see one more question, from Melissa, for those that are selective libraries, is there a way to find out what online documents we have to make sure all online documents are working? Do you want to reach out to me directly and we can go back and forth, I need a little bit more information from you to know exactly what you are thinking. And let me put my email address in the chat box. I just put my email address in the chat box, go ahead and reach out and I will get you the information that you need, okay?

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News alert is going to go out later this afternoon, requesting feedback and there will be a link in the newsletter, I think it'll be out about 3:30 Eastern time.

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[Event Concluded]