



FDLP at the State Library of Massachusetts

Through the FDLP, the State Library is able to connect its own Massachusetts-specific resources to the wider context of national libraries and research. Check out the panels below to learn more about how we incorporate federal materials into our library's exhibits and social media outreach.



Blogs & Social Media

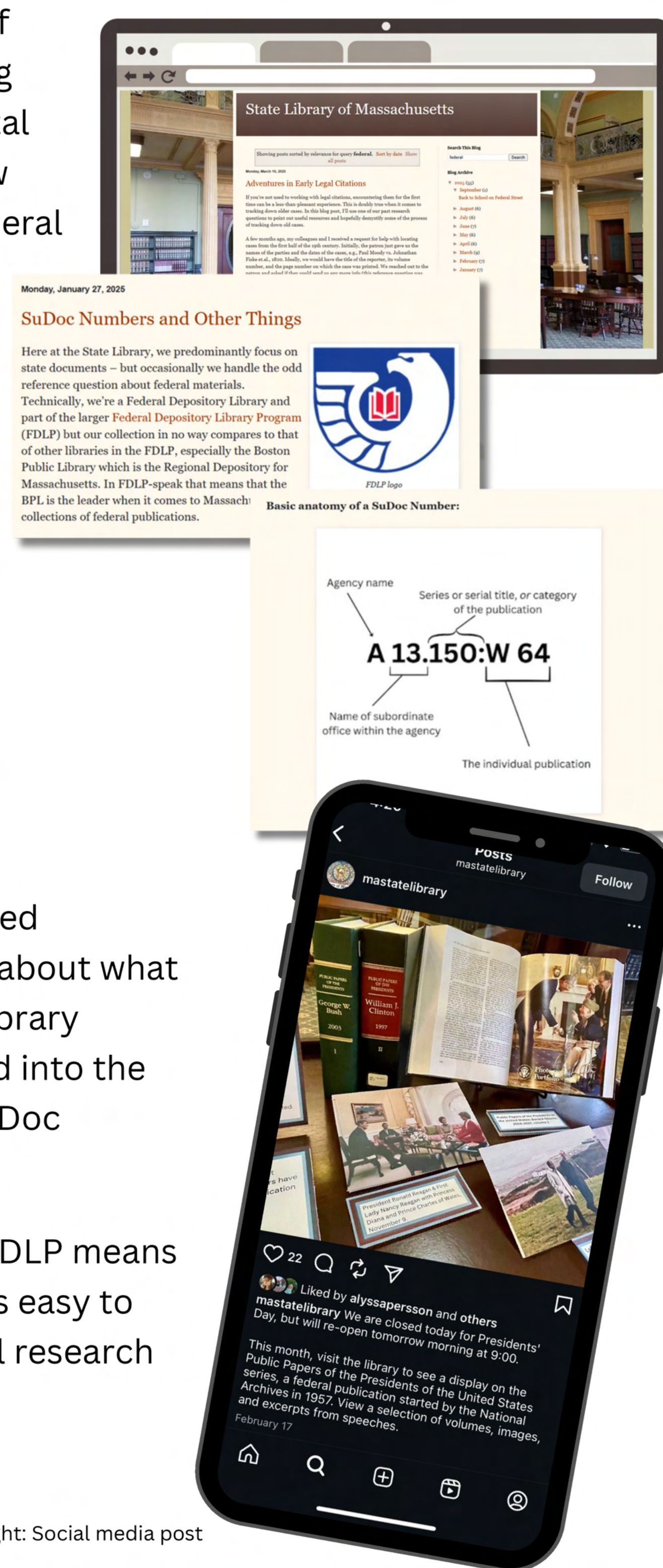
Our digital outreach relies on social media, blogs, and monthly newsletters. These mediums are a good opportunity to approach our audience with public accessibility and interest in mind.

Through the FDLP, the State Library receives a plethora of compelling materials. Sharing these materials through digital outreach is a fun way to draw attention to the Library's federal collection.

Not everyone knows what the FDLP is, and many don't know that the State Library participates in the program, so showcasing noteworthy items from our federal collection helps to introduce our audience to the program in an engaging way.

In the past we have also shared educational blogs and posts about what the FDLP is, how the State Library participates, and even delved into the details of aspects such as SuDoc numbers.

After establishing what the FDLP means to us at the State Library, it is easy to then segue into other federal research resources.



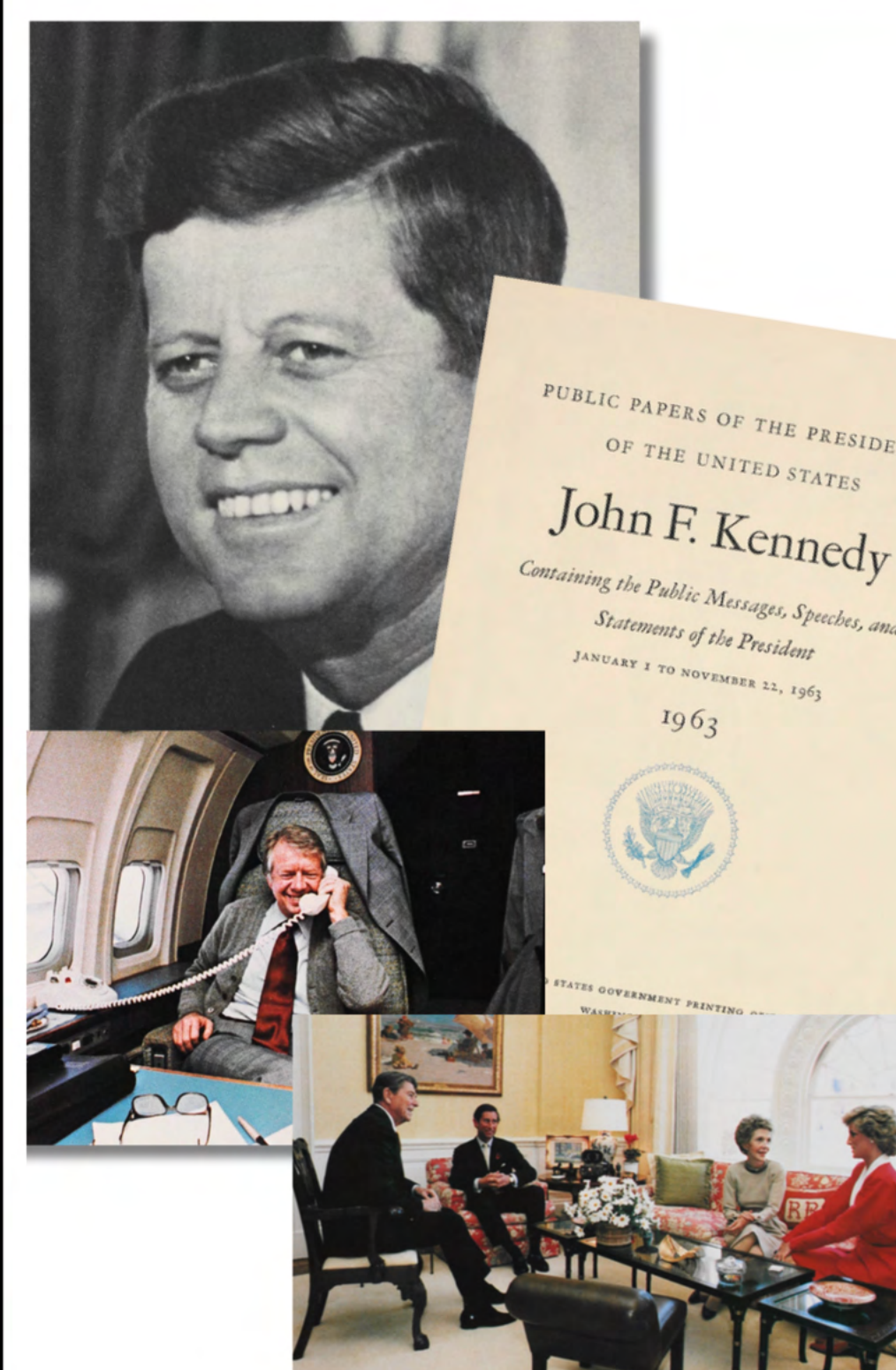
Top: Excerpts from our blog posts. Right: Social media post promoting our February 2025 exhibit.

Exhibits

We have several exhibit spaces throughout the Library. The ones located in the center of our reading room have housed two federal documents exhibits so far.

Our standard practice with these cases is to rotate them on a semi-monthly basis and link the exhibits to seasonal themes or anniversaries of historic events. For the February 2025 exhibit, we showcased our collection of *Public Papers of the Presidents*, tying it to Presidents' Day. The highlights we chose invited viewers to reflect on past presidencies in light of recent events such as Jimmy Carter's passing, and the coronation of King Charles.

As a Massachusetts library, we would be remiss to exclude John F. Kennedy from any exhibit on the U.S. Presidency. He featured prominently, both in images and with excerpts from his speeches.



Images used in the exhibit. Taken from the *Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States* of Presidents Kennedy, Carter and Regan respectively.

Since there is only one more year until the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution which marks the beginning of the U.S. as well as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, our July 2025 exhibit, 250 Years of History, acknowledged past milestone years for both our state and the nation.

We pulled materials published for the American centennial, sesquicentennial, and bicentennial. The publications for the American Bicentennial in 1976 comprised the federal document portion of the exhibit.

Learn more about the preservation work that went into one of these documents in the Preservation panel.



Photo of the 250 Years of History Exhibit.



Official logo of the 1979 Bicentennial used in promotion materials.

Preservation

We strive to maintain the integrity of the materials in our collection, and sometimes that means that an item needs some preservation attention.

Before our 250 Years of History exhibition, *Documents of Democracy*, 1976, needed a little work. It had previously been folded and creased in a manner that made it difficult to display.



To return it to its natural state, it spent some time in our humidification chamber. This is a plastic tote that seals tightly, and within it are small containers for water and rack over the water to hold the document.

For humidification treatment, the small containers are filled with warm water, the document is placed on the rack, and then the whole thing is sealed up for a few hours. The water is changed, and the document is flipped about halfway through treatment.

The humidity from the warm water loosens the fibers in the paper, and then after about 24 hours in the chamber, the document is removed and placed between blotting paper and under weights for another 24 hours. This pressure flattens it so that it looks good as new!

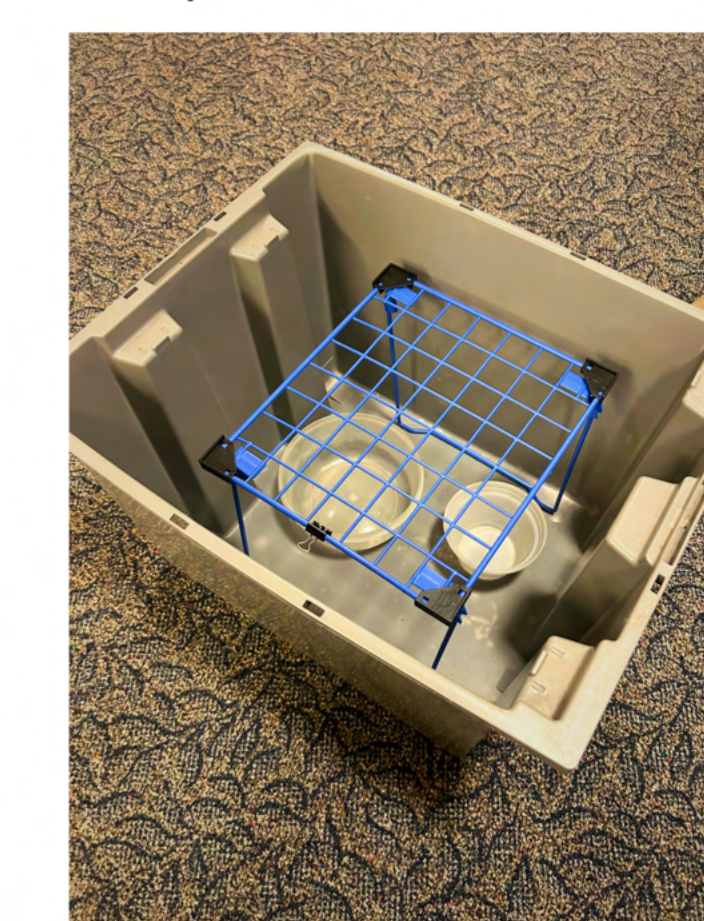


Photo of the humidification chamber.



Photo of the document being placed in the humidification chamber (with special assistance from Ben).

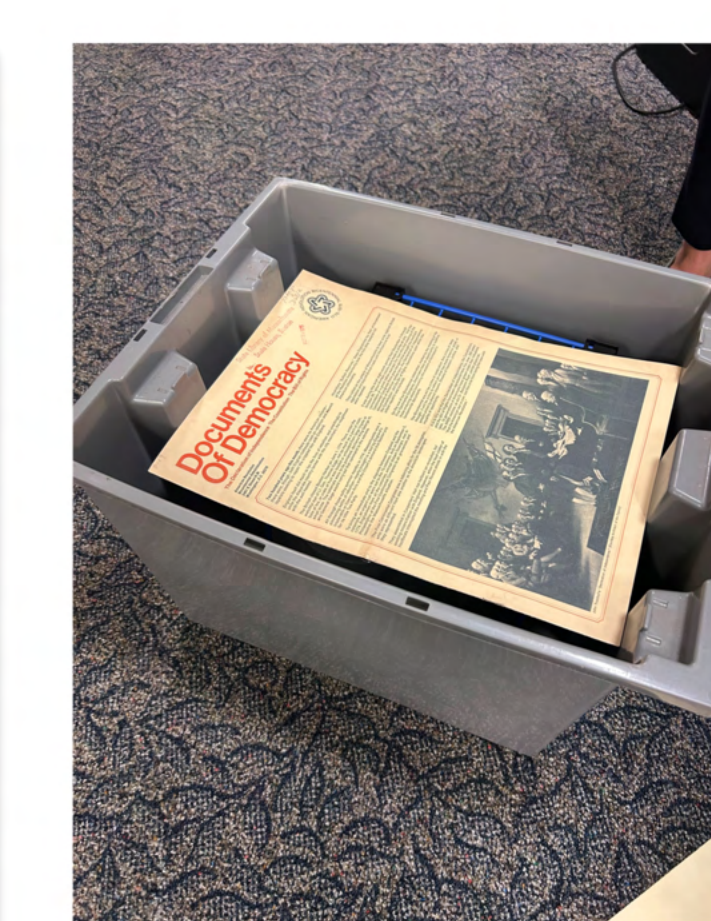
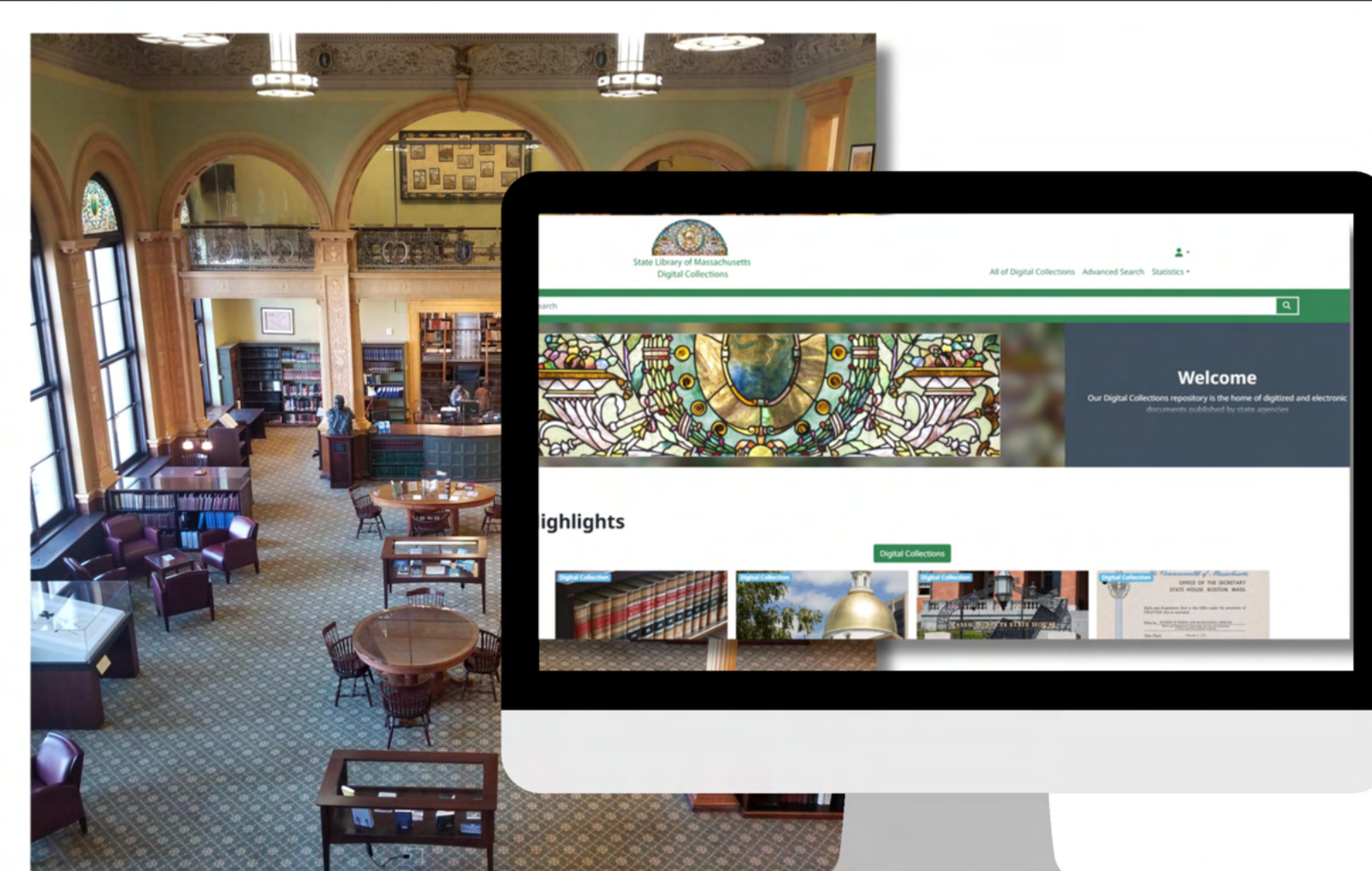


Photo of the the document after 24 hours.

Next Steps

Providing access to both current and historic documents is at the forefront of our priorities. To meet the needs of an increasingly digital-forward world, we recently upgraded our digital repository to Dspace-GLAM. We hope to integrate more of our federal documents into this new platform and utilize its dynamic features to assist our patrons with their research. Patrons can access these materials onsite using our public access computers or from anywhere else with an internet connection.

We are looking forward to celebrating Constitution Day this September. By advertising this event through social media posts, we hope to draw in a crowd and use this in-person event as an opportunity to educate patrons about our federal materials and GovInfo resources. Along with our supply of Pocket Constitutions, we will also be handing out other GPO and FDLP promotional materials such as FDLP bookmarks. Later this year we hope to work with nearby institutions to showcase our older federal materials during our next Archives Crawl!



Left: Photo of the State Library of MA reading room. Right: Homepage of our digital repository.



Social media post promoting Constitution Day 2025.