

**FOCUSED DISCUSSION:
DETERMINING THE FUTURE OF MICROFICHE DISTRIBUTION**

Hallie Pritchett, Facilitator
Head, Map and Government Information Library, University of Georgia Libraries

Help identify the parameters under which GPO could discontinue the distribution of microfiche and determine acceptable alternatives to microfiche distribution.

From 12/04/13 09:15 AM To 12/04/13 10:14 AM Hawaii
From 12/04/13 11:15 AM To 12/04/13 12:14 PM Pacific
From 12/04/13 12:15 AM To 12/04/13 01:14 PM Arizona
From 12/04/13 12:15 AM To 12/04/13 01:14 PM Mountain
From 12/04/13 1:15 AM To 12/04/13 02:14 PM Central
From 12/04/13 2:15 PM To 12/04/13 03:14 PM Eastern
From 12/04/13 2:15 PM To 12/04/13 03:14 PM Indiana East

---Begin Transcript---

Lori Smith: I would be happy to see it go.

Marcus Jun: We are a selective depository and I think we receive only 1 title in fiche so the impact to us would be very minimal.

Elizabeth Psyck: As a selective it wouldn't impact me much - we've unselected most fiche options.

Tiffany Mair: I think it depends on how it is being replaced....

Dan Barkley: can you post a summary of this from the regional discussion so others know what we discussed?

Kate Irwin-Smiler: Selective here - we're losing square footage all the time but not our need for legal material.

Chris Lemery: Wouldn't affect us much if at all (we're a selective)

Barbara Miller: it would save a lot of owrk if we did not have to catalog it!

Lori Smith: Yes.

Peter Thayer: We don't have manpower to catalog it.

Alison Griffith: Selective: not at all; we are deselecting the last of our fiche

Lisa Hartman: Selectives: Wouldn't be missed. Concerned about how it would affect our regional though.

Karen Russ: Our patrons will not use it

James Jacobs: if there were other preservation options then microfiche is not optimum

Sandra McAninch: regionals would need another option than resuming paper

Peggy Jarrett: We would lose access to the official hearings which are not all on FDSys (we are a selective)

Laura Harper: For regionals need to allow electronic subs as few would have space to archive print CFR for ex. for years into the future.

Karen Kitchens: Diffult format for patrons to view. Digital alternatives much better.

Dana Breland: Our patrons do not use it

Valery King: We'd get fewer publications since space is a problem here

Marie Concannon: Selectives may be asked to assist their Regionals which do not have room to store paper (through SHAs)

Barbara Costello: Patrons don't want to use microfiche.

Jackie McFadden: It's not used\

Jan Swanbeck: I agree with Sandee

Connie Reik: we still get hearing we don't get in print and no room for more print

Kathy Amen: Minimal impact on us; I'm most concerned about Cong. Record. If it's all online that would be ok with us.

Danae Snavely: We are a regional and wouldn't have space for all the print and aren't sure if digital could be provided for all our users

Donna Daniels: It's an old technology.

Alison Griffith: Agree with Lisa; Regionals may experience space issues

Tammy Fishman: We would feel obligated to collect more print.

Dan Barkley: of course you can mulit taks

Tiffany Mair: I think that the mf is a more stable format than digital and would be sorry to see it no longer produced - regional here

Marcia Gorin: almost no effect

Dan Barkley: task

Rich Gause: Selective - it does provide a tremendous space saving when we're faced with print restrictions

Kate Irwin-Smiler: I know it's a pain to process but unless there's another way to get that material covered we'd still want it.

Martha Zimmerman: As a selective we are trying to eliminate fiche because patrons don't want to use it. I think the real impact would be on Regional depositories.

Dominick Lombardo: It depends since we use the fiche to maintain a historical run of congressional hearings

Leslie Cunningham: it would affect the need for part-time staff who file these microfiche.

ASTERIA NDULUTE: The problem is acquisition of modern viewing equipment

Connie Reik: hearings!

Leaola Brock: I am a selective and select only a few titles in the congressional Y 4's. If electronic versions are available for all item numbers/class numbers it would not matter if it disappeared.

Dan Barkley: great summary. thanks!!

Rebecca Troy-Horton: Same here Jeannie (Leaola). ;-)

Leaola Brock: Hi Rebecca! Yes it's me!

Rich Gause: Since we purchased fiche scanners where folks can create custom pdf from what they find on fiche we've seen much greater acceptance in using microfiche and microfilm.

Ella Shurr: we have been deselcting fiche we also get in electronic format-space is an issue. Although patrons still use it occasionally we have had instances where the students don't even know how to view them!

James Rhoades: Selective; Might require more open access computers if move is to electronic

Kate Irwin-Smiler: Rich - here too. My patrons tend to be scared but find it easier than they expect.

Karen Russ: our visually impaired patrons complaining about lack of ADA accessibility unless we print it and then scan that due to equipment restrictions

Kate Irwin-Smiler: for the law libraries - alternative page image format would be an acceptable substitute.

Alison Griffith: Ella- us too and our machine is old and essentially unusable but not a priority to update or fix

ASTERIA NDULUTE: I am selective and they are being used here

Rich Gause: Fiche content was one of my lifesavers in several cases during govt shutdown.

Leaola Brock: We have a nice scanner/printer with the option to email to patrons and students (I'm at a university) are not so scared of fiche anymore.

James Jacobs: fiche mor stable than digital though

Christopher Brown: We no longer receive fiche but we do use what we have received in the past. It's all about having a good machine.

Tiffany Mair: It is still more stable than a website that disappears

Cindy Etkin: GPO sends diazo not preservation level

ASTERIA NDULUTE: I agree with stability argument

Carl Olson: Our fiche and film machines work but we strive for pdf only.

Kathy Amen: Having to upgrade viewing/scanning machinery has been an issue for us; too much \$\$ for too little use

Ellen Bonacarti: I echo what Christopher Brown said. We no longer select but the old (esp. hearings) still get used. We have a decent reader/printer.

Marie Concannon: Agree with Chris Brown - it's not so much the fiche as it is the quality of the machine that reads it. A machine that turns one piece of fiche into a multi-page pdf with one button click would make all the difference

Jackie McFadden: We can

Dana Breland: very true Marie

Tammy Fishman: it is still polyester film which is very stable

Leaola Brock: Not only quality of machine but quality of fiche...some of my old fiche says that it "is the best copy available" and is difficult to read

Peter Thayer: None

Barbara Miller: Would not need room or maintenance for readers/printers..

Laura Harper: Would reduce workload.

Karen Russ: space saving when it comes to cabinets

Rebecca Troy-Horton: Catalogers would have a celebration party if microfiche was to vanish.

Stewart Chun: Dropping tangible access to essential titles.

Arlene Weible: Have to adjust cataloging record profiles with Marcive ...

Chris Lemery: Very little.

Kathy Amen: Since we've been gradually been paring down MF selections it wouldn't affect us too much.

Kate Irwin-Smiler: I think it depends on what the replacement is!

Vickie Mix: Less staff time

Marcus Jun: We wouldn't receive the microfiche shipping lists and no one would have to go through it to find missing items to claim.

Peggy Jarrett: we'd still have to work with it since we have 30+ years of hearings in fiche!

James Jacobs: +1 Kate

Karen Kitchens: Very little.

Lori Smith: We have deselected most of the microfiche we used to get so it would have very little impact on workflow.

Leslie Cunningham: Yes-- fewer claims!

Leaola Brock: not much change processing doesn't take long at all

Barbara Miller: No more filing of fiche!!!

Marie Concannon: Agree with Leaola

Karen Russ: mis-Filing of fiche Barbara

Barbara Costello: Reduced workflow often the catalog record doesn't show up for a while after the fiche comes in so we wouldn't need a "holding area" for fiche anymore.

Peggy Jarrett: possibly more ILL needed for titles not available digitally

Kate Irwin-Smiler: agree re: "holding area"

Rebecca Troy-Horton: We may deselect most of the mf soon anyways though. Something to discuss with staff. We rely on FDSys to be honest.

Lisa Nickum: Processing fiche shipping lists.

ASTERIA NDULUTE: Marcive will have to make the changes at extra cost

Karen Russ: we have deselected most fiche and weeding heavily

Rebecca Troy-Horton: FDsys for hearings senate/house docs etc instead of the mf version of those types of docs

Rebecca Troy-Horton: yes

Rebecca Troy-Horton: yes current ones

Jan Swanbeck: We duplicate fiche for other libraries but our machine is dying - do libraries lend fiche on ILL as we are beginning to do

Jackie McFadden: Our staff has been greatly reduced and fiche gets backed up in processing

Beth Downing: would need to know which committees are not available on FDsys

Kate Irwin-Smiler: more sending public patrons to commercial product for this kind of material.

Sandra McAninch: have to find a selective housing site for paper

Peggy Jarrett: But not all hearings and house/senate docs on FDsys!

Rich Gause: We've picked up some Energy and NASA fiche from discards for our ASERL Center of Excellence and our commercial subscriptions are stored here so we would still be processing some.

Kathy Amen: Make sure everything that was in fiche is digital with PPA

Rebecca Troy-Horton: Good point - have to be careful to determine what is on FDsys and what isn't

Peggy Jarrett: work with agencies/Congress to get digital versions

Lori Smith: I think a digital deposit system could replace fiche for some libraries.

Leaola Brock: agree with Kathy

Karen Kitchens: Yes make sure fiche docs are digital.

Jackie McFadden: How can digital be made more secure?

Barbara Miller: Make sure to notify depositories about distinction between current and backfiles

Lisa Hartman: Provide those documents in a more stable digital format

Marie Concannon: We've gotten patent and census info on CDs and DVDs. Although I know they are not preservation quality they are "tangible" and would satisfy the requirements of Title 44

Kate Irwin-Smiler: and address preservation of digitized versions

Lori Smith: Send electronic copies to libraries for storage on local servers.

Karen Russ: CD are not stable either - access software gets old and inaccessible

Laura Harper: Agree with Marie

James Jacobs: yes Lori Smith!

James Jacobs: Lori you shuld join lockss-usdocs

James Jacobs: ;-)

Sandra McAninch: I agree with Marie since digital copies are not an option for Regionals

Mark Thomas: we have more problems with CD's than fiche; often don't work with newer OS comes out

James Jacobs: digital = micro format IMHO

Tammy Fishman: Make more agency publications available through FDsys

Tiffany Mair: Many libraries may not have the server space available

Karen Russ: maybe time to make digital an option for regionals

Lori Smith: Sadly my library wouldn't want to be a digital depository but I know others would.

Jackie McFadden: How much server space would be needed?

Christopher Brown: I agree with Marie. The Regionals pull all the weight here; selectives are lucky. CDs/DVDs although not preservation level would meet the tangible requirements.

Rami Attebury: As a regional I'd also agree with Marie about getting CDs or DVDs to help with our lack of space to house paper

Rich Gause: It might be wonderful to receive a tangible hi-density DVD each year archiving the digital content for each agency/group of agencies but I guess be careful what I wish for.

Dan Barkley: CD's not an option here as it still costs \$\$ for cabinets which my administration would also like to see disappear

Marie Concannon: My IT dept downloaded software that allows us to view CDs that require Windows 95

Kathy Amen: Oooh Rich that sounds neat!

Kate Irwin-Smiler: It'd be wonderful until we couldn't read the DVDs from 10 years ago....

James Jacobs: LOCKSS-USDOCS at @ 1.3TB and harvests all FDsys collections

James Jacobs: server space is cheap

Cindy Etkin: That's correct

Sandra McAninch: titles that are currently coming in fiche all have paper counterparts

Tiffany Mair: Yes Kate

ASTERIA NDULUTE: DVD is preferred

Rich Gause: I assumed GPO would handle forward migration of format and would create multi-year aggregations.

Steve Beleu: Remember that Regionals are required to maintain software to read older CD-ROMS such as Census Test Disk 1 from prior to 2000 that no longer can be read with current software.

Lori Thornton: I don't believe courts will accept digital copies. So GPO will have to either come up with a digital water mark or provide paper copy to both regionals and law libraries.

Barbara Miller: Think old Census on dvds

ASTERIA NDULUTE: Following up Digital content may be overwhelming

Marie Concannon: GPO could make out jump drives with all the content from a year's time

Tammy Fishman: Daily continual alerts to depositories for announcing publications from agencies.

Cindy Etkin: yes in response to Hallie

Lisa Nickum: Of course GPO needs to ensure preservation but having cataloging of all current and past microfiche is important as well..

Kate Irwin-Smiler: Lori I think that's in flux. There would need to be authentication but states are coming around.

Jackie McFadden: jump drives can fail but i'm interested in having the information on our server.

Rich Gause: I've still got one old PC to access 1990's CD-ROMs - no other software and not connected to the internet. Of course my systems folks cringe everytime they look at it.

Tammy Fishman: That might require cooperation from our federal agencies in working with GPO

Kate Irwin-Smiler: It sounds like we need to find the technology with the least rate of failure and the longest time before obsolescence.

Tiffany Mair: And how long will USBs be relevant? All digital/electronic options change so quickly.

Kathy Amen: I go thru New Electronic Titles periodically which probably works better than notifications which would back up really easily I'd fear

Kate Irwin-Smiler: and honestly for my money that's still microfiche right now

Connie Reik: but aren't there some agency pubs still coming on fiche? I made a list recently of what we get and there was more than what is on this list

Lori Smith: Kate I think really that's still paper.

Kate Irwin-Smiler: OK point Lori :)

Kate Irwin-Smiler: I guess I should have included the space issue.

Marie Concannon: Selectives should know that this is a problem serious enough to make their Regional exit the Program.

Jackie McFadden: Marie - What problem is making Regionals exit?

Barbara Miller: space!!!

Marie Concannon: Some Regionals have no room to take paper.

Kathy Amen: What is the status of back Congressional Records online? When I looked into it a while ago it seemed rather fragmented and I wasn't sure if all the years are available

Dan Barkley: agreed Marie

Sandra McAninch: why is GPO having trouble finding fiche vendors? There are still lots of commercial fiche coming into our library so there must be fiche capability out there somewhere.

Marie Concannon: They are currently taking fiche

Dan Barkley: not an option here to take paper again

James Jacobs: but regionals aren't required to take digital if its only format available

Dan Barkley: low bidder sandee

Cindy Etkin: Vendors -- it's a bid process and if they don't put themselves in the running ...

Connie Reik: I have 334 item numbers on this microfiche list I made from DDM 2

Cindy Etkin: And vendors have to meet our quality requirements

James Jacobs: are most fiche titles going to digital only? or are some still going to be in paper?

Lori Smith: Could all the fiche titles be added to FDSys?

Karen Russ: current fiche vendors not meeting quality requirements

Connie Reik: Energy HHSS Interior

Laura Harper: Think almost all but one currently distributed fiche titles are on FDSys

Connie Reik: hearings can't be as we have been told again and again

Stephanie Bartz: Switching all fiche to paper would be a problem not just for regionals. We select about 97%

Marie Concannon: in 2012 we received 16 full shelves of paper hearings in my Regional library. That's just the count on hearings

Peggy Jarrett: Why can't hearings be on FDSys?

Kate Irwin-Smiler: Peggy I want to know that too.

Tammy Fishman: Yes! -to Peggy

Cindy Etkin: Lots of item numbers for Y4

Kathy Amen: Threat would be gaps in collections

Lori Smith: Opportunity not to pay vendors to produce fiche threat to permanent access.

Rich Gause: In order to maintain some content might some of us need to depend on commercial vendors?

Christopher Brown: It's up to the discretion of the House or Senate committees as to when or whether to release in digital format. GPO has no control over this.

Sandra McAninch: up to committee whether to print hearings right?

Marie Concannon: Threat: Regionals exiting the Program

Cindy Etkin: yes Sandee is correct

Peggy Jarrett: But GPO could certainly work with committees . . .

Stewart Chun: Less opportunity to replace publications lost in natural disasters

Lisa Nickum: opportunities - find a format that users would use

Danae Snavely: threat would be decrease in access for the public if libraries drop regional or depository status

Kate Irwin-Smiler: threat: IF 'fiche titles go online even less unique benefit for FDLs.

Kate Irwin-Smiler: correlation: more people using them who don't have a sense of what they are & where they fit in scheme.

Lori Smith: Good point Kate. It's getting harder and harder to justify being an FDL.

Jan Swanbeck: This might force the issue of a change to title 44 for regionals

Rich Gause: In terms of needing commercial vendors for assurance of access to some content I was in part thinking of privatization of distribution by agencies.

Stewart Chun: opportunity - need access skills to get publications through catalog

Marie Concannon: Selectives historically have been the ones to block changes to Title 44 - this time we need everyone paddling in the same direction

Marie Concannon: Kansas Nebraska

Dan Barkley: Last time we had an opportunity to change T-44 it was a library association that blocked our ability to change it

Rich Gause: electronic production - I was not proposing that agencies would seek private firms to produce microfiche.

Dan Barkley: and we had all the major players in place

Cindy Etkin: Kansas/Nebraska decision was made by Joint Committee on Printing

Cindy Etkin: Based on memo from Congressional Research Service

Marie Concannon: I guess it's complicated - sorry for my oversimplification!

Kathy Amen: If assured all is online and easy to find

James Jacobs: if all titles were in FDsys and CGP

Peggy Jarrett: Only if the material was on FDsys!

Dan Barkley: rain snow sleet hurricane drought

Sandra McAninch: if regionals can substitute electronic access for paper

Kate Irwin-Smiler: (Marie I want to hear more about that some time! :))

Tammy Fishman: Only if it were no longer an option.

Tiffany Mair: Agree Tammy!

Barbara Costello: If there were a reliable digital copy.

Kate Irwin-Smiler: OH I don't need a receipt. I'm not gonna return it.

Leaola Brock: If all titles were available online and would remain there for future use.

Stewart Chun: would still like to see access to essential titles through microfiche

ASTERIA NDULUTE: Availablity on FDsys

Lori Smith: I've already given up fiche but for the system overall there does need to be a permanent way to make the content available. Ideally digital.

James Jacobs: but Sandy "access" is not "preservation"

Kate Irwin-Smiler: authenticated electronic version accessible even during a shutdown.

Karen Russ: digital reliability

Steve Beleu: Amendment of Title 44 to allow Regionals to use online titles to meet our perennial-keeping requirement

Arlene Weible: Regionals can only do this if digital copies can be substituted for tangible holdings requirement

Peggy Jarrett: Agree with Kate!

Sinai Wood: agree with James

Beth Downing: Onine is not always the best option. I am not sure I would not be able to have in house access to the Congressional Record.

James Jacobs: I would agree to digital substitution for regionals if there were a way for them to continue their preservation requirements

Lisa Hartman: Allow digital copies for regionals ensure reliability of digital copies

James Jacobs: sorry to be a broken record but there are 10 regionals in

lockss-usdocs

James Jacobs: need more

Arlene Weible: Do you really need more than 10 regional participating James? How many is enough?

Beth Downing: I am a selective and now receive it only on fiche

Rich Gause: we can't switch to paper at selectives either so content needs to have permanent online access easily and freely available and reliable - such as problem during govt shutdown.

James Jacobs: all regionals ;-)

Beth Downing: Again list of committees not on FDSys so I could make decisions on paper vs. electronic

Kathy Amen: Is it by committee or just random? That hearings aren't on FDSys that is?

Lori Smith: It would still be nice to have the older fiche digitized as well. :-)

Karen Russ: if you are interesting in getting fiche to replace your paper contact me offline kmruss@ualr.edu

Peggy Jarrett: Re: committees it seems to me that committees might prefer digital to microfiche

Kate Irwin-Smiler: agree peggy. unless they don't want us to know what they're doing!

Barbara Costello: Some committees have no publications in FDSys some committees have incomplete collections on FDSys. That's been true for years.

Beth Downing: Kathy Armed Services is an example. I do not get electronic records for these hearings so I assume that they are not on FDSys

James Jacobs: thanks Hallie and all. good conversation

Sandra McAninch: are CR and FR required to be printed?

Karen Russ: Nice job Hallie

Kathy Amen: Whoa! I didn't realize that Beth!

Dan Barkley: I believe they are Sandee

Kate Irwin-Smiler: Thanks everyone!

Blaine Redemer: Thanks Hallie!

Cindy Etkin: yes for both

Kate Irwin-Smiler: req'd to print != distribution?

Sandra McAninch: Cindy just said yes

Dan Barkley: nicely done. another conference call awaits me.

Sinai Wood: me too

Marie Concannon: Great job leading the discussion Hallie !

Perveen Rustomfram: Thanks so much!

Marcus Jun: Thank you

Jan Swanbeck: Great job Hallie!

Leslie Cunningham: Thank you

Ella Shurr: Thank you!

James Jacobs: cheers everyone

Barbara Miller: see you tomorrow!

Peggy Jarrett: Thanks Hallie - this was a great discussion

Laura Harper: Thanks Hallie!

Leaola Brock: Thank YOU great discussion

Jackie McFadden: Thank you Hallie!

ASTERIA NDULUTE: Decision Making machines followed in the past might applicable today in deciding what is to be produced in microfiche. Thank you

Jenne Turner: Thanks :)

Helen Burke: Thanks to all presenters. Great discussion.

Flora Shrode: Thanks!

Carl Olson: Thanks

Tammy Fishman: Thank you

Ashley Dahlen: Thank you everyone! 'See' you all tomorrow.

---End Transcript---