

# Regional Government Information Librarians (REGIL) Meeting 2025 - Session Notes

Thursday, September 25, 4:15-5:15 ET

FDL Conference 2025

Link to slides: [Regional Government Information Librarians \(REGIL\) Meeting 2025](#)

## Breakout room discussions

- Choose a breakout room to join.
  - Return to full group room at 5:00pm (or earlier if you finish your discussion).
  - Moderators will share back highlights from the discussion.
  - Full notes document available below - everyone is welcome to help add notes from your discussions!
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## Room 1: Engagement levels within our regions (moderated by Elissa)

### Q1: How do the libraries in your area stay engaged? Meetings, professional development? How is everyone interacting? Any state concerns?

- **Arizona** has twice yearly online meetings. Dead listserv. Looking for engagement ideas.
- **Georgia**: We have a listserv; haven't had an annual meeting in a few years but we do have 1:1's. Doesn't seem to need community among the state selectives beyond weeding. Would love to see NCSA steering committees organize meetings for the region.
- **Idaho**: Periodic emails to selectives. Not super engaged but open to ideas.
- **Ohio** has 1-2 meetings a year, in-person, pre-COVID.
- **Maryland/DE/DC** has a bunch of federal agencies which complicates things. Listserv. Annual meetings attempted but didn't happen in 2025. Not a lot of chatter on listserv. Too busy. Most contact is re: weeding.
- **New Mexico** has a listserv and an annual meeting. Caro wants to start a series of PD webinars. Real issue w/people having time to do this outside their regular work and travel. Caro sends out weekly emails so the selectives know she's alive. It also goes to state doc depositories and library directors.
- **Ohio/Elissa**: Wondering if the role of the Regional needs to be retooled in light of the digital first FDLP and NCSAs. Still value to the role but the role is evolving. What should that look like?
- **Tennessee** has quiet listserv. Monthly touch base and annual fall meeting for the state following FDL.

- **Texas** has an annual meeting. Had listserv but most weren't interested. Lots of individual library interactions, but mainly weeding related. Previously had three regional doc groups, but all are either defunct or low activity.

**Q2: How has the GPO transition to the digital first model impacted engagement at your library or in your region? Do you see more? Less? Typical transition time period in material formats?**

- **Arizona:** Lots of weeding. Quiet since the digital first initiative.
- **Maryland/DE/DC:** Less engagement. But uptick in engagement about cataloging the gov docs following MARCive's exit.
- **New Mexico:** Getting more weeding. Suspect people feel the tangible is less necessary.
- **Tennessee:** Discards are steady or increasing.
- **Texas:** Many selectives were moving to digital already, so it's been steady. More weeding, more selectives going digital, which has actually prevented some libraries from withdrawing.

**Q: What is it looking like for most libraries, post-MARCive?**

- **Alaska:** FDM is great. The spreadsheet allows for quick scanning of titles. All depositories are part of joint Alaska Library Catalog, great for records but not great for PURL stats.
- **Arizona** is still struggling with knowing if they are or aren't getting shipments, but good workflow with FDM for record ingestion.
- **Maryland/DE/DC:** Also moved to Alma. Using OCLC for gov docs but is time consuming.
- **New Mexico:** How many people have consortiums that can share records? Thinks Illinois has been doing a lot with shared records. Getting so little now. Only six tangible titles.
- **Ohio:** Share records via OhioLink and work with academia. They just switched over to Alma/Primo ecosystem and can't search external records by SuDoc, having to narrow via other methods.
- **Tennessee:** Didn't know how much MARCive was doing until they had to learn it for themselves. Thankful for the FDLP Manager. Ashley Dahlen has been helpful in proving explanations, thanks to her! Some libraries are still struggling with records.
- Miss having more consistent shipments and knowing in advance what's coming.

**Q3: What barriers to participation or engagement do you see?**

**Alaska:** Oh to have a road system! Juneau is only reachable by air and water.

**Arizona:** Would love to engage more, but don't really know what selectives need, and don't want to waste Regional time or Selectives time. Floated idea of meeting online more frequently, like office hours or coffee chat, but would people come? [Elissa: Give it a try! No harm, no foul. At least you'll have coffee] Selectives are so spread out that getting anywhere is a challenge.

**Massachusetts:** Most coordinator turnover occurred pre-COVID outbreak, so they have a good group. Within selectives, typical that someone gets the job, but there are no dedicated coordinators.

**New Mexico:** concerned about admin seeing value. Position in ND wasn't posted(?) and if a coordinator at UNM retires, they'll probably keep it at staff, and can it be filled at staff salary? Many younger people are going direct to digital.

**Ohio:** Spread too thin! GPO does a great job on contacting new coordinators and tagging their regionals, to start that line of contact. But from there, not always time to reach out personally from regional to selective.

**Tennessee:** Pretty constant stream of new coordinators. Usually have a few meetings with them to explain the unique discard process. Hard to get selectives to have piece-level counting.

**—Do some site visits! People share the tea in person.—**

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## Room 2: Working with all-digital selectives (moderated by Natalie)

- Wisconsin: reports a selective wanting to drop, but in the meeting with GPO they were convinced to move all-digital instead. Concern about being able to provide reference services. What is the role of a selective that doesn't have a collection and doesn't provide reference services?
  - How to connect patrons with electronic resources when they have limited/no access to internet outside of a public library? Very rare now to have someone who just does government documents and has time to do outreach.
  - With physical resources, such as equipment, there used to be more guidance about tools that all libraries should have. Libraries could leverage that information to acquire resources they were missing. In an all-digital world, that kind of guidance is missing as there are so many different ecosystems.
- New Jersey: reports several libraries moving to all-digital rather than dropping. eXchange has made it simpler to review lists. Having a better idea of how complete her regional collection is helps speed up discard reviews..
- New Mexico: reports several libraries move to all-digital and discarding collections due to space. Had trouble disposing of the large volume of material. Trouble with eXchange tool upload limits.
- Montana: There is a selective library that received a grant to do civic education and their program uses government documents. Cybersecurity is an issue with promoting materials as well.
- General: Space issues, how to promote digital materials on the same level as physical materials.

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## Room 3: Encouraging Preservation Stewardship membership (moderated by Crystal/Sarah)

- This is the Preservation Stewards page on FDLP.gov and the Historic Preservation Stewards Inventory Template is linked under Resources and Documentation:  
<https://fdlp.gov/collaborations-with-gpo/partnerships/preservation-stewards>
- Need for more informal chat sessions where people who are thinking about being stewards can ask questions of GPO folks and interact with experienced stewards
- Several libraries use volunteers to help create inventories.
- Important to find libraries to retain current PDT titles in addition to historical collections.

- Some libraries are looking for the ideal time to approach administrators; concern about interim administrators who may not see the value of preservation steward program participation.
  - Participants appreciate the help of Abby McDermott in facilitating the transfer of volumes from offering libraries to Preservation Stewards.
  - One way to think about Preservation Stewards is that the library is recommitting to the FDLP in the mostly-digital environment.
  - Biggest barriers: don't want to approach administration and rock the boat and don't want to try something that was scary or new.
  - Reupping the commitment to FDLP. Its not the same program that you joined, can the library agree to the 'not heavy lift' of current PDT titles or one historical title.
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Bonus Question if time (all groups): What would you like to see from REGIL?

- Loved the break-out room format!! (bh)
- Please contact any REGIL leadership members if you have suggestions or ideas for what you would like from us!