

FDLP Rules and Instructions

Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP)
U.S. Government Publishing Office

Wednesday, July 15, 2026



Agenda



What the FDLP Rules and Instructions is



Why these requirements apply to your library



How to contact us



The Legal Foundation



Public access to government information is rooted in Federal law

Title 44, Chapter 19, §1901 - §1916



Depository designation comes with statutory obligations



Superintendent of Documents is charged to uphold FDLP requirements



The R&I is grounded in federal statute and make depository obligations operational



Why the FDLP Rules and Instructions Was Created

2018

The Legal Requirements and Program Regulations of the FDLP is the governing document

February 2023

GPO Director mandates implementation of a digital FDLP

February 2024

Limited print distribution framework implemented; regionals no longer required to select titles distributed after this date

RESULT

RESULT:

The 2018 LRPR needed to be replaced to reflect the reality of current library operations.



What Happened to the LRPR Requirements?



GPO reviewed all previous LRPR requirements

Much of what was not carried into the Rules and Instructions will be incorporated into future guidance and best practices.

Examples of topics you can expect to see addressed elsewhere:



Library operations:

- Cooperative efforts with other depository libraries
- Collection development plans



Compliance & administrative updates:

- Continuing to follow ADA and local laws
- Notifying GPO of shipping address changes



What is the New FDLP Rules and Instructions Document?

- 1 The new governing document for the FDLP
- 2 Supersedes the 2018 Legal Requirements and Program Regulations of the Federal Depository Library Program
- 3 One document for all depository libraries

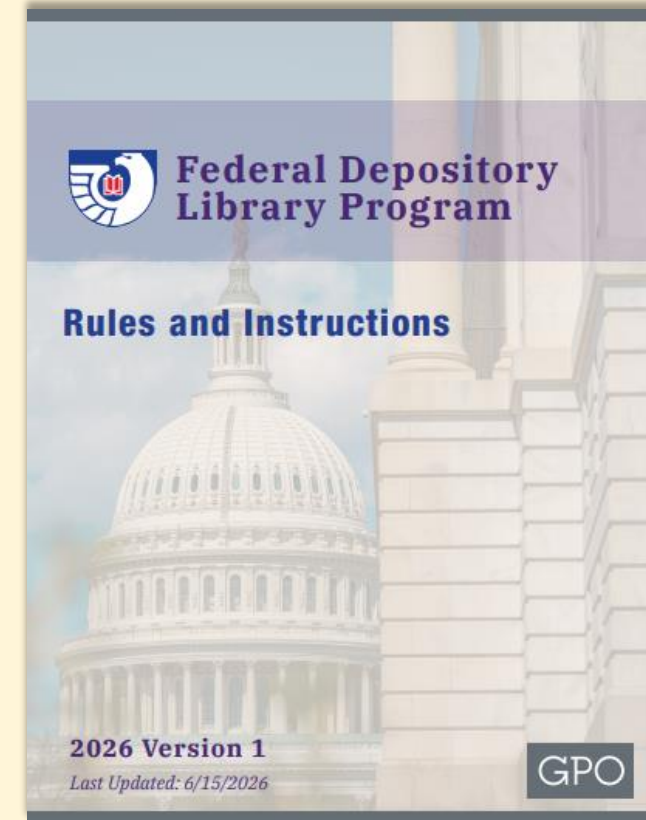


Image: [FDLP Rules & Instructions](#)



How the Rules and Instructions is Organized

Part I Background

Part II Introduction

Part III Rules of the FDLP

Part IV Instructions

- A. Depository Library Administration
- B. Public Access and Services
- C. Physical Format Collection
- D. Table Appendix:

Table 1: Access Challenges and Workarounds

Table 2: Weeding Eligibility Based on Receipt Date



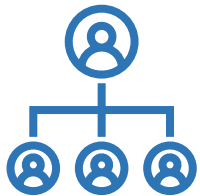
*“Free, permanent public access to
Government information remains the
driving force of the FDLP.”*

FDLP Rules and Instructions, 2026



Depository Library Administration

“The library director agrees to abide fully by the laws, rules and instructions, and Superintendent of Documents public policies and guidance documents governing officially designated Federal depository libraries.”



The **director** makes the formal, legal commitment.



The **coordinator** makes this commitment operational day to day.



GPO supports libraries in meeting their obligations.



Public Access and Services



In-person access required

- Walk-in, appointment, or other facilitated access model
- If using a modified access model, publicize on website and at building entrance
- If ID is required, government-issued ID must be acceptable



Digital access required

- Access to digital and online Federal government resources



Publicize depository status

- Library website and building entrance
- All users can access services and collections free of charge

See Appendix Table 1: Access Challenges and Workarounds for a lookup of specific access situations and solutions.



Public Access and Services

What Has Changed



No longer required:

- FDLP Basic Collection
- Comparability of access across different user groups
- Timely access*



More flexibility allowed:

- Appointments acceptable
- Mediated access and referrals acceptable

**The expectation hasn't disappeared. How libraries can meet it has changed.*



Government Information Expertise and Reference Services

Depository libraries must have staff with government information expertise



- Continues from the 2018 LRPR
- Not limited to the coordinator
- Professional development or continuing education in gov info topics
- Library staff should be familiar with the library's policy and practices supporting free public access



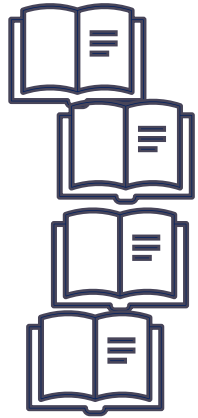
All public service staff should be able to assist patrons

- Known item searches
- Referral to a staff member with gov info expertise when needed



Physical Format Collection

Still in Effect



Section for libraries with any physical holdings

- Acquiring publications
- Maintaining custody
- Managing collections
- Weeding, if desired, and when eligible



Reminder: access to all collection formats

- The right to access has not changed



Physical Format Collection: Management of FDLP Receipts from 2024 Onward



Weeding Moratorium: Feb. 2024 – Feb. 2029

- Not permitted: weeding, supersession, or substitution

After February 2029



- 5-year rule resumes (same standard as pre-2024)
 - *Material becomes eligible to weed once your library has held it for 5 years*
- Weeded materials must be offered nationally through FDLP eXchange
- Substitution is no longer an option

See Appendix Table 2: Weeding Eligibility Based on Receipt Date for a look up of what's eligible before and after 2024



Physical Format Collection: More to Know



Continue to notify GPO and your regional:

- If materials are lost due to theft or irreplaceable damage
- When you find badly damaged material while weeding
- When you create or dissolve a Shared Housing Agreement



Best practice, no longer required:

- Developing contingency plans for temporary service disruption
- Notifying GPO of disasters (*but publicize any impact on access*)



Physical Format Collection: Contacts



Contact GPO directly for:

- Duplicate material received
- Claims for missing or damaged receipts
- Stopping limited Print Distribution Titles



Contact your regional depository directly for:

- Current procedure in your state or region for weeding material received through 2023
- Questions about the publications being offered



LET'S WALK THROUGH IT TOGETHER

**Your library received a publication
distributed in March 2024.
Which of the following applies now?**

- A** You may supersede or substitute, if eligible.
- B** You may not weed this material until March 2029.
- C** You may contact your regional depository library for weeding authorization.
- D** You can offer it in FDLP eXchange if no longer needed.



LET'S WALK THROUGH IT TOGETHER

Your library received a Print Distribution Title (PDT) or Special Selection Offer distributed in March 2024.

A

Weed through supersession or substitution.

There is a moratorium on supersession now. Substitution is no longer an available FDLP weeding option.

B

Correct! You may not weed this material until March 2029.

In 2029, you may supersede, if eligible, or weed through the 5-year rule in FDLP eXchange once the weeding moratorium ends.

C

Contact your regional depository library for weeding authorization.

Your regional coordinator can explain the weeding procedures for pre-2024 receipts.

D

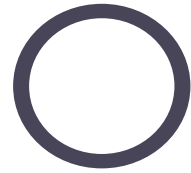
Offer in FDLP eXchange if no longer needed.

Not yet. The material may not be weeded now during the moratorium.

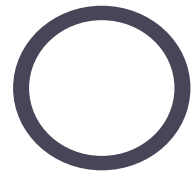


CHECK-IN POLL

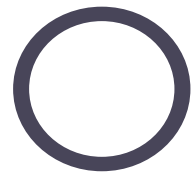
How are you feeling about the content we've covered thus far?



Got it



Mostly got it



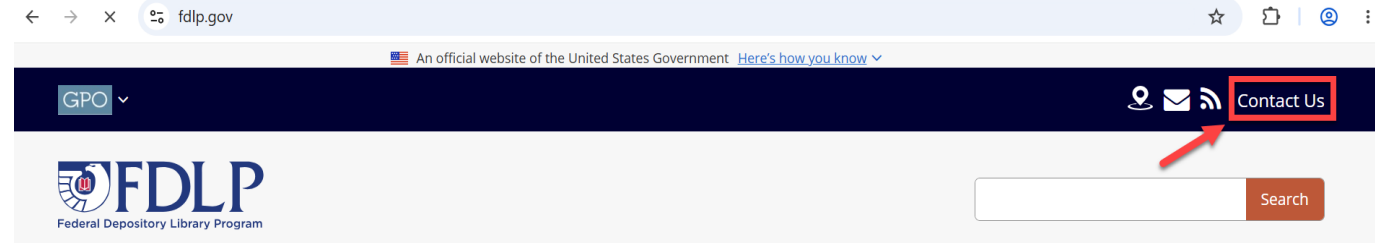
Could use a recap



Connecting with GPO

GPO Contact Us

- Reach out at [FDLP.gov](https://www.fdlp.gov)



FDLP Academy

[FDLP.gov/about/fdlp-academy](https://www.fdlp.gov/about/fdlp-academy)

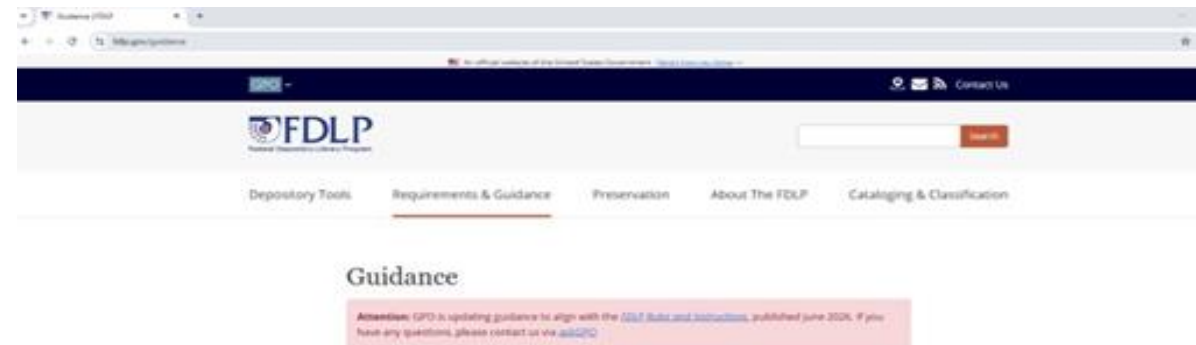
- Training & continuing education



FDLP Guidance

[FDLP.gov/guidance](https://www.fdlp.gov/guidance)

- Guidance articles are being updated



Key Takeaways

1

What is the FDLP Rules and Instructions

- The new governing document for the FDLP

2

Why these requirements apply to your library

- Free public access is rooted in Federal law

3

GPO is your resource

- Reach out with any questions
- [FDLP.gov](https://www.fdlp.gov) → Contact Us



Questions and Next Steps



Find the Rules and Instructions

- FDLP.gov → Requirements and Guidance → FDLP Rules and Instructions



Questions?

- Submit through the chat
- After the session, submit questions via askGPO



Follow-Up Office Hours

- Weeks of July 20th and 27th
- 30 minute time slots to discuss library-specific situations
- Sign up at <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/tUNPVU4xM0>

