



## What is the FDLP?

The Federal Depository Library Program is a public access program to distribute government information, in any format, to your constituents.

The concept of a depository program for Congressional documents started in 1813.<sup>1</sup> In 1907 Congress established the modern Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) to inform the public, promote civic engagement and protect public memory.

This partnership between Congress, the GPO, and libraries results in efficient and effective point-of-need research assistance for local constituents.

### Why is the FDLP needed?

FDLP libraries provide important services to your constituents by:

- Providing access to current and historic information.
- Providing professional assistance in locating information.
- Providing workshops and educational opportunities for the public.
- Creating guides to assist users.
- Preserving public memory.

### What are the FDLP's core values?

- Access: No fee access for anyone to use Federal depository resources or services.
- Collections: Tangible and online collections of official Federal information to support community needs.
- Collaboration and Communication: A strong depository library network built on transparent, open communication and collaboration between and among depository libraries, Federal agencies, and GPO.
- Expertise and Professionalism: Dedicated and knowledgeable staff in depository libraries; dedicated to increasing their knowledge, and to their profession.
- Service: Provide quality user-centric services; strong commitment to service.
- Stewardship: Good stewards of the resources entrusted to us by the American people.

### What changes are coming to the FDLP?

Statutory authority for this program is from Title 44, Chapter 19 of the U.S. Code, which is currently being examined (as of December 2017) by Congress's Committee on House Administration.

Any changes to Chapter 19 should acknowledge the changing landscape of government information, available in a variety of formats including digital. The core values of the Federal Depository Library Program must be maintained.

### How can the FDLP help me?

Depositories located in your state help your constituents stay informed about issues in Congress and the efforts by agencies in the executive branch. Depository specialists in your area can assist your staff in locating bills (old and new), agency reports, statistics and more.

### How can I connect my constituents to their FDLP library?

Members of Congress can promote these services to constituents by linking to the depository libraries in their district on their web site.

Find your libraries: <https://catalog.gpo.gov/fdlpdir/FDLPdir.jsp>

Contact the Superintendent of Documents (<https://www.fdlp.gov/about-the-fdlp/supdocs>) or contact your local federal depository library for more information.

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<sup>1</sup> *House Journal*, 13th Cong., 2nd Sess., 171.