ALA COL FDLP Discussion Documents
Combined Summaries and Recommendations

DRAFT 6-17-13

Issue #1 Digitization of America's Federal Depository Library Collections
Discussion Document

 a. **Should libraries be allowed to de-accession and destroy these collections for the greater good of broader on-line access?**

About half of the respondents to the FDLP Forecast indicated that they still anticipate barriers to access to digital information in the next 5 years. Broader online access is therefore not necessarily the "greater good" yet. Libraries should have priority over digitization projects in being allowed to select and keep documents from discard lists. Large scale, non-destructive digitization is possible (ala Google Books). The community doesn't have to compromise between large-scale digitization and the retention of enough tangible copies to ensure preservation and access. Destructive digitization of non-rare materials would be acceptable as long as it can be determined that there are sufficient tangible copies remaining. The NAPA report points out that "There is a danger of permanent loss of information if a significant number of print documents are disposed of before a comprehensive preservation plan is developed." (p.32) The report also points out that LC currently recognizes only print and microfilm as preservation standards. (p.79) Digitization can assist in preservation, but is not, itself, a preservation format.

Recommendation: Prior to destruction of collections for digitization, enough tangible copies should be available and a comprehensive preservation plan is required for FDLP collections.

 b. **How can libraries coordinate digitization programs to avoid duplication?**

The GPO registry is the most logical choice for one place to determine what's been done already if a library is looking to add something new. Duplication is okay if the digitizing organizations have different goals for their digital content, but unintentional duplication is costly. According to the Forecast Study, 32% of libraries that digitize store their files locally, 20% store them at Hathi Trust or Internet Archive and 28% store them in other repositories - the files are widely dispersed. The GPO registry should be enhanced to bring all of these projects together into a more coherent whole. (This also relates to question "d" below.) The community should either consider working out a preservation system similar to the one GPO uses in which GPO archives digital documents to which they've given a PURL, or advocate authorizing GPO to add these items to their system. Recommendation #3 of the NAPA report advocates that GPO find a method for ingesting digitized documents into FDSys.

Recommendation: The GPO Registry can be a clearinghouse for digitization programs. In addition, GPO should ingest and link to digital materials.

c. How can libraries partner with commercial and private companies to advance common goals?

Partnership should not interfere with public access. Commercial/private companies should not be allowed to put a paywall around the *only* access to a government information product. If FDLP materials are used to create the product some enhancement to access should result, such as a basic no-cost version of the product being made available to the public, or the library receiving its own copies of the files, etc.

Recommendation: Commercial endeavors can advance and enhance digital collections but fee based materials cannot replace free public access to FDLP materials.

d. What is the role of the U.S. GPO in digitization projects?

GPO has indicated that they will not be doing digitization themselves. The NAPA report, however, recommends "Congress should appropriate funds for the purpose of cataloging, digitizing, and preserving the government collection." (recommendation #3). GPO should take a greater role in the coordination of digitization projects, including tracking how much is done/what's not done, standards, guidelines etc. A majority of FDLP Forecast respondents indicated that digitization guidelines would be very helpful. GPO might also be able to encourage more coordination across agencies. NAPA recommendation #1 suggests that an agency be designated for this, but does not specify GPO as the agency. The NAPA report also points out that dissemination and access are not the primary missions of Federal agencies that post digitized content (p.21). Permanent public access has traditionally been GPO's responsibility through the FDLP. The NAPA report also discusses the need for more robust planning of digitization efforts: "How digitization is carried out and the digitized products are made accessible deserve careful planning. Digitization is more complicated and costly than simply scanning documents. The digitized content needs to be searchable, discoverable, and authenticated, and there are quality control issues." (p.33)

Recommendation: GPO should coordinate and facilitate digitization projects with the goal of national progress in making federal documents available to the public.

ALA can be a key leader in the planning and discussion of FDLP digital projects. While GPO has responsibility for the FDLP, ALA can be a key partner in the planning and implementation of national initiatives to advance FDLP goals.

Issue #2 Authentication of Federal Government Information
Discussion Document

Authentication of information has emerged as an issue related to Federal information products. The printing of Federal information products has been replaced in many situations by those that are "born digital" (never issued in print). Especially when information is no longer distributed in print, there is a recognized need for a process to assure that information is what it appears to be.

"GPO defines authentic content as the complete and unaltered representation approved or published by the content originator or an authorized derivative with a trusted chain of custody to that representation. This definition creates a model for assuring the authenticity of electronic government information, regardless of changes in technology." p. 4: Authenticity of Electronic Federal Government Publications. (2011). [1]

a.   Should digitized collections of Federal information products be authenticated to ensure that the digital copy is official government information?

Digitized collections of Federal Information products should be authenticated, and libraries and their patrons should have access to trusted sources for this material. One of the FDLP "Principles for Government Information" is that Government has an obligation to guarantee the authenticity and integrity of its information. One of ALA/GODORT's Key Principles of Government Information includes "Government information policy must ensure the integrity of public information. Just as the government has a responsibility to collect and disseminate information to the public, the government must also guarantee that information collected by the government is presented to the public in its entirety, without editing or omissions that may change content or interpretation."

Recommendation: Knowing that not everything can be authenticated in a timely and cost efficient manner then priorities should be developed. ALA could convene groups to identify which items must be authenticated and the priority order. In addition, GPO could deputize or authorize other agencies/organizations as trustworthy agents. (see below)

b.   Should libraries and their patrons have trusted sources for access to this material?

FDLP libraries fit into the chain of custody as Trustworthy Repositories/Depositories or as some type of recognized partner. FDLP libraries receive verified content in print through the Government Printing Office. A plan or guidelines should be developed so that any print publication that has been entrusted to an FDLP library could be digitized, with content verified, and then content designated as authentic in its digitized form. GPO can provide guidelines for this digitization to ensure trustworthy repository/depository or recognized partner status is maintained by the digitizing libraries.
[These guidelines will support Recommendation Three of the NAPA Report

which asserts that GPO should "develop and adopt a policy that recognizes the authenticity of digitized content submitted by federal depository libraries that have entered into a formal agreement with GPO, and ingest this content into FDsys" (pp. 43-44).]

The figure below is the trustworthy chain of custody from page 4 of GPO's "Authenticity of Electronic
    Federal Government Publications (2011)."
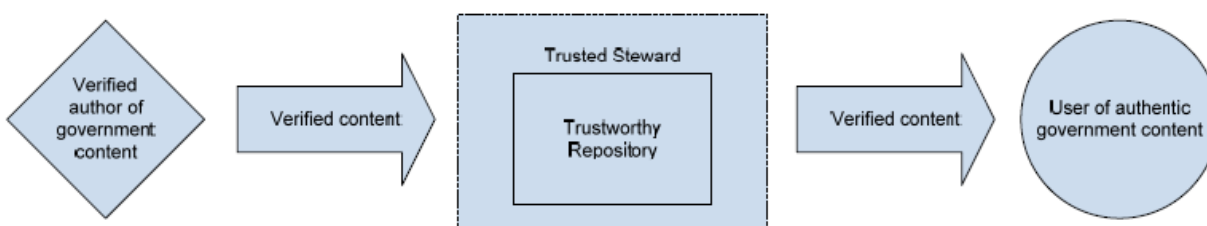
Recommendation: Documents will be digitized by libraries, consortiums, and other initiatives. GPO cannot do everything so partnerships are encouraged. The documents community is available to contribute to the process and support GPO in this massive endeavor. ALA could work with GPO on guidelines so it is clear to the community who can become a trusted steward.

c.   Is it acceptable to have commercial sources that charge for access to government information as a trusted digital source?

Commercial sources repackage and enhance government information products and sell them to libraries. There is a concern that all future digitized documents could belong to commercial sources if this trend continues. Many libraries will not be able to afford the commercial services. ALA/GODORT's Key Principles of Government Information include that "the role of private publishers should complement government responsibilities in the collection, storage, and dissemination of public information. Private sector involvement does not relieve the government of its information responsibilities."

Commercial sources charging for access should not be substituted for free access to government information through FDLP libraries. It is anticipated that more libraries would drop their depository status if private publishers (subscription rather than free access) became the trusted digital source for government information. The official sources of government information should remain with the government and the government should continue to provide freely available government information to the public.

Recommendation: It is possible for commercial sources to be trusted sources but these should be free to users and follow the FDLP guidelines for substitution. GPO cannot

put the onus on FDLP libraries to purchase commercial products.

[1] definition of authentication:
"An authentic text is one whose content has been verified by a government entity to be complete and unaltered when compared to the version approved or published by the content originator. Typically, an authentic text will bear a certificate or mark that conveys information as to its certification, the process associated with ensuring that the text is complete and unaltered when compared with that of the content originator. An authentic text is able to be authenticated which means that the particular text in question can be validated, ensuring that it is what it claims to be."
Cited by: State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources. (2007). Chicago, IL: American Association of Law Libraries. Access to Electronic Legal Information Committee and Washington Affairs Office. http://www.aallnet.org/Documents/Government-Relations/authen_rprt/authenfinalreport.pdf
Cited by: Authentication of Primary Legal Materials and Pricing Options. (2011). Office of Legislative Council. http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/records/legislativerecords/docs_pdfs/CA_Authentication_WhitePaper_Dec2011.pdf
Cited by: Authentication of State Online Primary Legal Material: A White Paper. Minnesota State Historical Society. (2008). http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/records/legislativerecords/docs_pdfs/authentic_2_001.pdf

Other notes gathered on this topic:
- The FDLP Libraries Forecast indicates that one of the anticipated barriers to access is "lack of authentication and quality control"
- The FDLP Libraries Forecast indicates that preservation themes include "an authentic and reliable preservation program" and "continue to focus on authentication, digitization and preservation of documents both current and historical"
- One of the FDLP "Principles for Government Information" is that Government has an obligation to guarantee the authenticity and integrity of its information. (http://www.fdlp.gov/home/repository/doc_download/2206-fdlp-forecast-study--methodology-study-phases-a-state-forecast)
- ALA/GODORT's Key Principles of Government Information include "Government information policy must ensure the integrity of public information. Just as the government has a responsibility to collect and disseminate information to the public, the government must also guarantee that information collected by the government is presented to the public in its entirety, without editing or omissions that may change content or interpretation." http://www.ala.org/advocacy/govinfo/keyprinciples
- ALA/GODORT's Key Principles of Government Information include that "the role of private publishers should complement government responsibilities in the collection, storage, and dissemination of public information. Private sector involvement does not relieve the government of its information responsibilities."

http://www.ala.org/advocacy/govinfo/keyprinciples

• AALL's Government Relations Policy states "information published on government websites must be trustworthy and reliable, and, therefore, governments should implement appropriate safeguards to protect the integrity and authenticity of its digital information." (http://aallnet.org/main-menu/Leadership-Governance/policies/PublicPolicies/policy-government.html)

• According to the NAPA GPO report, providing permanent public access to authentic government information remains a critical government responsibility. As access to government information is the foundation of a democratic government, and it is the responsibility of the government to provide permanent public access to information, the federal government will need to take immediate measures to make authentic digital government information discoverable and prevent the continued and permanent loss of information. NAPA report 2013 page 17.

• GPO is the only federal agency that authenticates digital content for public consumption. However, guidelines on what should be authenticated would be useful to other agencies. With print documents, authentication was less necessary because it was fairly safe to assume that any printed document with a federal agency logo had not been altered. It may be necessary to reevaluate which publications should be authenticated and set priorities now that the public often receives government information through emails or unofficial websites and has no way of knowing if the information is authentic. The RLG-NARA Task Force on Digital Repository Certification25 has developed Trustworthy Repositories Audit and Certification: Criteria and Checklist, which are digital authentication standards. NAPA report 2013 page 20-21.

• Trustworthy Repositories Audit and Certification: Criteria and Checklist, B1.3: Repository has mechanisms to authenticate the source of all materials. The repository's written standard operating procedures and actual practices must ensure the digital objects are obtained from the expected source, that the appropriate provenance has been maintained, and that the objects are the expected objects. Confirmation can use various means including, but not limited to, digital processing and data verification and validation, and through exchange of appropriate instrument of ownership (e.g., submission agreements/deposit agreement/deed of gift). Evidence: Submission agreements/deposit agreements/deeds of gift; workflow documents; evidence of appropriate technological measures; logs from procedures and authentications.

• "GPO defines authentic content as the complete and unaltered representation approved or published by the content originator or an authorized derivative with a trusted chain of custody to that representation. This definition creates a model for assuring the authenticity of electronic government information, regardless of changes in technology." p. 4: Authenticity of Electronic Federal Government Publications. (2011). United States Government Printing Office.
http://www.gpo.gov/pdfs/authentication/authenticationwhitepaper2011.pdf

Stephen Mason asserts that the characteristics of authentication are comprised in three categories:
1. Reliability – there is evidence that records are created and captured as part of the legitimate business process, and they are subject to a corporate management process

2. Integrity – the document is protected from unauthorized alteration
3. Usability – the document is capable of being retrieved, presented, and interpreted correctly

Stephen Mason16, a barrister in the United Kingdom, "Authentic Digital Records: Laying the Foundation for Evidence" (published in the September/October 2007 issue of The Information Management Journal).

- Several sources have cited the U.S. Government Printing Office's Authentication white paper Authentication. United States GPO. (2005). http://www.gpoaccess.gov/authentication/authenticationwhitepaperfinal.pdf

Issue #3   Geographic Distribution of Federal Information Resources
Discussion Document

One of the strengths of the Federal Depository Library Program was that it distributed official government information to a broad geographic area, allowing all Americans to have access to the products of their government, typically within a reasonable travelling distance.

a.   With the availability of federal information products on-line, is it necessary to continue to maintain the same broad geographic distribution?

Broad geographic distribution aids in preservation as well as access. The FDPL community should not think of narrowing geographic distribution until a comprehensive preservation plan is created and implemented. As the NAPA report points out: "There is a danger of permanent loss of information if a significant number of print documents are disposed of before a comprehensive preservation plan is developed." (p.32) Geographic distribution of expertise is also important. While much government information is available online, users should still have access to expert assistance at the local level.

Recommendation: The FDLP should not move to a significant reduction of FDLP geographic distribution until a comprehensive preservation plan for legacy, tangible materials is created and implemented. A comprehensive preservation plan would enable a discussion of a revised geographical distribution plan. ALA could be a strategic partner in the development and implementation of a preservation plan.

b.   Could the network of Federal Depository Libraries develop a broader network that provided better services to a larger geographic area?

Yes. Cross-border or multi-state regional shared collections should be considered, where geographically logical, as a means of improving service, preservation, and cost reduction. De-duplication of Regional collections is not recommended at this time, due to the lack of a preservation plan, but, as part of their increased cooperation, the networks could identify duplicates and prepare to de-dupe once a preservation plan is under way.

c.   Could the network include non-depository libraries to expand access to electronic content?

Depositories already network with non-depositories, but these connections could be strengthened through marketing and/or formalized agreements that strengthen the relationships between FDLP and other libraries. There are no obstacles for non-depository libraries to provide access to electronic content but FDLP libraries can provide additional guidance, education, and information to non-depository libraries to assist them in these efforts.

Recommendation: ALA can assist with and support education for all libraries on the value of federal information.

d.   What is the priority to maintain these legacy print collections when today's program is distributing very little material in print?

The priority given to legacy collections varies with individual libraries: given that geographic distribution of existing tangible collections is still desirable for the reasons state in question a, the FDLP community should strongly advocate for implementing recommendation #3 of the

NAPA report: "…GPO should work with depository libraries and other library groups to develop a comprehensive plan for preserving the print collection of government documents. This plan should include cataloging, digitizing, and preserving tangible copies of government publications, a timeline for completion, and options for supporting the effort financially, as well as a process for ingesting digitized copies into the Federal Digital System. Congress should appropriate funds for the purpose of cataloging, digitizing, and preserving the government collection." Carrying out such a plan will assist those libraries committed to maintaining their legacy collections and lift the burden from those libraries for which the legacy collections are no longer useful.

e.   Should there be a digital deposit program that distributes electronic content geographically?

To hinder hackers and back up content in case of disaster, there should be a system for geographic distribution of digital content. According to the FDLP Forecast Survey, however, most depository libraries do not wish to host digital content. The FDLP community will need to determine if there are enough FDLP libraries for adequate geographic distribution of digital content. The FDLP community may need to look for other partners to provide geographic distribution of digital content.

Recommendation: ALA can partner with GPO in determining the appropriate geographic distribution as well as guidelines for potential partners to ensure digital storage, preservation, and access.

Issue #4   Supporting the Users of Government Information
Discussion Document

Federal Depository Libraries have never simply been a collection of government information distributed geographically to serve a mandate. These collections have provided a variety of services to their users and to all residents from broad geographic areas. Depository Libraries have provided a dedicated workforce of professionals trained in providing access to the large and complex information collection that is government information.

a. How will users receive support and services if Federal Depository Libraries change their mandate and approach?

Support for users is achieved through a service commitment of the depository libraries' administration, of librarians, training for library staff and the public, and search tools and support from the Government Printing Office.

This support can be provided through several efforts:
    *The Government Printing Office and professional librarian organizations (state, regional, national) and other groups of librarians (depository councils or interest groups) are encouraged to provide training programs for librarians and initiate projects and/or programs for the public to learn or to get connected to the resource information they seek.;
    *Library schools are encouraged to include government information search tools in their introductory (and advanced) courses. This training will provide all graduates with a well-rounded outlook on available resources.
    *Libraries and institutions that make up the FDLP must maintain their commitment to the program and follow FDL guidelines. The FDL libraries and institutions must provide adequate resources to support the program, including up-to-date equipment for the public.
    *FDL Librarians will continue to provide service and access to users, regardless of any changes to mandates or the changes in approach taken by the FDLP and FDL depositories. The network that exists within the FDLP makes meeting these information needs that much easier and it can appear seamless to the patron.

Recommendation: ALA accreditors should ensure that appropriate training/information on government information is provided in ALA accredited library schools.

b. What impacts are users experiencing today with the changes that have already occurred in the program?

FDLs should endeavor to support non-depository libraries and contribute to training – Government Document librarians can present a variety of topics at non-document library gatherings. Training is often driven by selective or regional FDL depositories, or through questions received and needs of non-depository librarians. Opportunities should also be found or created to provide training directly to the users. This can be done through various mediums (face-to-face or webinar, or anything in between).

Recommendations:
ALA should continue to partner with GPO and supplement GPO training for a robust professional development program for FDLP and non-depository librarians and library staff.

The ALA competencies should include government information expertise, especially to focus on instructing library users in the reliability and authoritativeness of government information. The competencies can be developed by ALA GODORT similar to other specialized competencies and/or included in Library Support Specialists Certification program. The LSSC competencies can be found at http://ala-apa.org/lssc/getting-started/which-competency-set-should-you-achieve/.

c. How can Federal Depository Libraries support non-depository libraries and contribute to a broader region for training needs?

 Users are already accessing publications online and many prefer that information is available online. The Government Printing Office currently has the Federal Digital System (FDsys) and this system or its successor should be a "living system" with a look to providing a usable system for all.
   *FDsys should continuously upgrade and improve
   *FDsys should add more functionality (more search options and easier navigation, for example)
   *Information on all federal government documents should continue to include cataloging and/or indexing to help in its discoverability

Recommendations:

ALA can be a strategic partner with GPO in its efforts to expand content and functionality for FDsys.

ALA has robust infrastructure for communication, advocacy, and professional development. This includes units who actively support and advance government information such as GODORT and the Legislative Assembly. These components can be utilized to advance training and knowledge of government information tools and resources not just for FDLP librarians but for all ALA members. Due to ALA's openness, these efforts will also be available to the library profession advancing the goals of the FDLP.

Issue #5   Establishment of a Coalition of Interested Parties
Discussion Document

Currently, Federal Depository Libraries are hosted at a variety of disparate institutions (e.g. universities, colleges, state libraries, public libraries, law libraries) that each had different reasons for joining the program sometime in the past. Today these institutions all have to make difficult choices about how to use scarce institutional resources to support their individual missions and priorities.

       a) How should these institutions engage one another as well as the myriad of institutions that rely on their participation in this program?

       b) Does the depository and library community need an ongoing, broad-based group of leaders and experts that can build support for productive, necessary changes to the Federal Depository Library Program to ensure its viability in this century?

       c) Do we need to ensure that every Federal Depository Library commits to a sustainable future for free and easy access to federal information products in the life of every American?

Goals of a Coalition

A coalition of interested parties could facilitate and assist national conversations about the current and future FDLP. The FDLP has been successful in attracting a variety of libraries located throughout the U.S. and FDLP librarians and directors are from a variety of types of libraries. The coalition would primarily represent these and other major advocates. The coalition would be a non-partisan organization representing the professional member associations and others whose aim would be consensus.
Benefits:

- As the FDLP transitions to a more electronic program, libraries would speak with a united voice in assisting with the transition.
- Congressional leaders and GPO could turn to a single coalition for feedback.
- A coalition could facilitate national coordination of projects.
- A coalition could work with the U.S. Depository Library Council and ensure representation of the broadest range of views, timely discussions and ultimately, unanimity on the major issues and concerns.

Following is a sample list of potential partners -

Potential library-related coalition partners:

- Divisions and roundtables within ALA such as its Legislative Assembly, ALA Committee on Legislation, ALA Committee on Legislation's Subcommittee on Government Information, ALA Committee on Legislation's Subcommittee on E-Government, ACRL, GODORT, PLA, ALAWO, ALA Council, etc.
- Depository Library Council
- Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
- Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL)
- American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)

- Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC)
- Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)
- Federal Library and Information Network (FEDLINK)
- Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA)
- International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)
- Medical Library Association (MLA)
- Society of American Archivists (SAA)
- Special Library Association (SLA)

Potential U.S. Government Partners:
- Depository Library Council
- Library of Congress
- National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
- Presidential Libraries
- U.S. Joint Committee on Printing (JCP)

Potential Content Partners:
- FDLP Partnerships
- Digital Public Library of America
- Hathi Trust
- Internet Archive
- Technical Report and Image Library (TRAIL)
- Center for Research Libraries (CRL)
- Law Library Microform Consortium (LLMC)
- The American Presidency Project, UCSB

Potential Advocacy Partners:
The Coalition may also consider communicating with and including the following entities as specific issues arise or as appropriate:
- Center for Effective Government
- Coalition for Networked Information
- Electronic Privacy Information Center
- Federation of American Scientists
- Free Government Information
- iSolon.org
- James Madison Project
- PEW Internet
- Project On Government Oversight
- Right-to-Know Network

We believe that an ongoing coalition would be beneficial and the work of coalition may shift over time depending on current issues and needs of the FDLP. The coalition would need broad support of the members as it will require financing and staff support. An initial meeting would not only identify immediate issues to focus on but would need to secure finance and staffing for the coalition. The initial meeting will likely require ALA

to be the lead organization in planning and hosting the coalition requiring a commitment of ALA to fund and staff the meeting.

Recommendations:

A & B
ALA should host a town meeting for all interested parties to assess interest and support for a potential coalition and determine the composition of the coalition.

The initial meeting will outline a formal communication mechanism to facilitate discussions among partners in the coalition.

The initial meeting will outline 3 to 5 specific, critical issues to focus on as a starting point for working together.

A progress report on these specific issues will be made available within a 3-month period following the date of the initial meeting to all interested parties.

An annual report will be distributed each year's of the coalition's existence.

C
The FDLP agreement outlines the requirements for FDLP libraries to commit to the program. At this time, additional requirements are not required in an online environment.

Issue #6   Technologies Including New Online Tools Simplify and Expand Access to Federal Government Information
Discussion Document

1.   Technologies including new online tools simplify and expand access to federal government information.

FDLP member libraries look to GPO for tools to access, maintain and preserve government information. Currently GPO offers a variety of online tools that assist member libraries in providing access to government information. These include FDsys, the Catalog of Government Publication and the MetaLib Federated Search. In addition to offering its own products, GPO partners with federal agencies to expand FDLP member access to government information. Partnerships with the National Climatic Data Center allow access to the NCDC Online Document Library. Access to the Homeland Security Digital Library, Public Health Reports, and USA Trade*Online* is also made available through GPO partnerships with federal agencies.

GPO uses online technologies as a way to connect and communicate with member libraries. The main communication tool for member libraries is the FDLP Desktop. The FDLP Desktop provides member libraries with the communication, collection tools, and statutory requirements and guidelines needed to maintain depository collections. Also contained within the FDLP Desktop is a social site for member libraries known as the FDLP Community. The FDLP community site, likely an underutilized tool, is a social media site where members can connect, network, and create discussions spaces.

When member libraries need to communicate directly with GPO they are encouraged to use AskGPO. AskGPO is a nonexclusive tool, meaning it is not exclusive to FDLP member libraries but is accessed and used by other clients and customers of GPO. The tool is formatted in such a way that questions and answers become part of a searchable data bank that benefits all potential users. When questions are submitted, GPO staff answers within 24 hours.

A variety of commercial tools and free access repositories are available to assist library's (FDLP or not) expand access to government information. ProQuest, Bernan, ParaText, and HeinOnline are only a few vendors that offer databases or print materials. Marcive provides cataloging assistance. Resources such as TRAIL, HathiTrust, and FRASER at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis provide free access to digitized government. Commercial and open source discovery tools also provide an opportunity to integrate GPO resources such as Metalib facilitating discovery of government information within commercial sources. Expanding access through a variety of discovery platforms provides for multiple paths to government information.

Recommendation: GPO should continue to offer a variety of tools for the community and to partner with agencies as appropriate in developing tools for libraries.

2.   How can the Federal Depository Library Program take advantage of technology to advance access to federal government information?

> The recent FDLP forecast survey and state action plans make training and education a priority. Among the training requests is a greater use of innovative technologies. As such, GPO is already providing more opportunities for online collaborative learning. In 2012, GPO offered simultaneous online and in-person sessions at the Interagency Seminar and the Fall Depository Conference and Council meeting. GPO has also offered a number of webinars on FDsys and has recently partnered with the Census Bureau to offer additional webinars. Though not greatly advertised, GPO does make their collaborative learning tool available to member libraries.
>
> Other uses of online and innovative technologies suggested by member libraries include social media, mobile apps, mentoring, wikis and virtual reference. Currently GPO has a presence on Facebook and Twitter and hosts a blog, Government Book Talk. GPO currently offers the Plum Book, Presidential Documents, the Federal Budget and the Member Directory of the 112th Congress as mobile apps.
>
> Recommendation: GPO and ALA should use technology to expand education and communication as government information is essential for our citizens.

3.   What are the core values of the Federal Depository Library Program that should be fundamental in a digital environment?

> **Keeping Americans Informed** uniquely positions Federal depository libraries through law and tradition to provide no-fee public access to current and historical Government information dissemination products. From the FDLP Desktop -- http://fdlp.gov/outreach/fdlp-value-and-options/100-fdlvalue
>
> None of the values embodied by the FDLP should be set aside simply because of format or environment. In some ways, the apparent ease of access of online information is misleading. A digital divide exists and online information is not as easy to find and access as purported. As we've seen in recent years, the loss or removal of digital information happens much faster than the destruction of print materials. These circumstances should cause member libraries to rethink, expand and embrace with greater fervency the core values of "keeping America informed."
>
> Recommendation: Our current values remain fundamental in a digital environment and remain unchanged.

4.   If the Federal Depository Library Program was created today, what would be the ideal structure?

The current FDLP structure of regional and selective libraries is designed to insure public access to current and historic government publications. Selectives are expected to maintain collections that best meet the needs of their constituents. These collections can be kept current and minimal with the knowledge that the regional is available to provide historic or broader access to materials. As library space, service models, and outside demands change FDLP libraries, especially regional libraries, are looking for ways to support the requirements of the program while meeting the changing needs of their library communities. These changing needs often require drastic changes to collection holdings. Several new models of shared collections have been proposed to balance local demand with statutory requirements. These proposals strive to maintain access while sharing the burden of housing large collections of materials. According to the FDLP Forecast Survey 76% of respondents noted a willingness to develop subject-specific collections. This illustrates a willingness of member libraries to share the burden of housing large collections. Shared-housing agreements coupled with a robust document delivery system would help to guarantee access to collections with quick turnaround time in meeting their constituent's needs. Similar models to look at for comparisons are The Western Regional Storage Trust (WEST), ASERL, and DOCLINE. These and other models suggest that "light" and "dark" archiving of government documents is essential, regardless of format, for long-term/perpetual access and preservation. Partnerships between GPO and these kinds of organizations may also provide a more robust infrastructure for digitization of legacy collections.

Another aspect of ensuring access and facilitating ease of document delivery is bibliographic control and resource discovery. It is vital that FDLP members commit to cataloging government information collections. A key partner in facilitating the cataloging of future and retrospective collections is GPO. GPO is in the process of cataloging the pre-1976 shelf list, which is a long-term project that will ultimately assist member libraries to catalog their own historic collections increasing findability. Many State Action Plans submitted as part of the FDLP forecast survey indicate retrospective cataloging or, at the very least, an adequate listing of holdings.

FROM THE FORECAST SURVEY = A NEW FDLP CONSIDERATION...
- GIO for virtual reference model
- Discovery tools
- ease of access
- education for depository & nondepository librarians
- reference referral
- marketing / increase awareness
- mentoring
- expertise/knowledge sharing
- Access to pre-1976 materials

Recommendation: The NAPA report provides suggestions for a more open and responsive program to meet the changing needs of FDLP libraries. We need flexibility within Title 44 to adapt to current needs and expectations of our citizens. ALA can be a leader in advocating for revisions to Title 44. ALA should be the leader in advocating for changes to Title 44 and facilitating discussions on the future of government legislation and regulations.