National Plan For Access To U.S. Government Information

A user centered approach for providing permanent public access to the Federal Government's information.

The National Plan will:

- expand access to Government information,
- increase digital content,
- provide easy-to-use discovery tools,
- ensure expert assistance, and
- guarantee continued access for future generations.

Users can be confident the digital Government information they access is official, authentic, and complete, just as they have been assured by the presence of the words "United States Government Printing Office" inside printed publications since 1861.

MISSION AND VISION

The mission is to provide readily discoverable and free public access to Federal Government information, now and for future generations. The vision is to provide Government information when and where it is needed. The National Plan for Access to U.S. Government Information gets right to the heart of the people's right to access their government's information and ensures an informed citizenry.

IMPLEMENTATION

The National Plan will be implemented through three programs: the **Federal Depository Library Program**, the **Cataloging & Indexing Program**, and the **Federal Information Preservation Network**. These programs are under the purview of the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO).

FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM (FDLP)

More than 1,160 libraries of all types and sizes make up the FDLP. By tradition and law, no-fee public access to Federal Government information is the foundation of the program which provides free public access and expertise to assist users. With the National Plan, the FDLP will become outcomes-based, enabling evaluation and improvement of the impacts depository libraries will have on their users.

CATALOGING & INDEXING PROGRAM (C&I)

The C&I Program is statutorily mandated to acquire Federal agency content and to develop a comprehensive and authoritative national bibliography of U.S. Government publications. Beginning in 1895, the national bibliography was issued as a printed catalog and replaced in 2004 by an online searchable catalog, the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP). Current and future cataloging efforts will focus on meeting the needs of online users and apply new technologies and methods to enhance discovery of Government information.

FEDERAL INFORMATION PRESERVATION NETWORK (FIPNet)

FIPNet guarantees the public long-term access to the Government's publications and information from libraries, Government entities, coalitions, and organizations working to ensure free access for future generations. This collaborative network will help preserve the National Collection of U.S. Government Information. The National Collection is a distributed collection of the corpus of Federal Government information dissemination products, paid for with Federal funds regardless of format or medium. Materials that are classified for reasons of national security, or that have privacy concerns, are not included within scope until such time as they are declassified or privacy considerations expire. Permanent public access to the National Collection cannot be guaranteed unless it is preserved. FIPNet partners contribute to the preservation of both tangible and digital Government information.