

Prepared Statement of Laurie B. Hall  
Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Publishing Office  
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Hearing on Oversight of the Government Publishing Office  
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Madam Chairperson Lofgren, Ranking Member Davis, & Members of the Committee on House Administration, thank you for the invitation to speak to you this morning about the Federal Depository Library Program.

My name is Laurie Hall, and I serve as the Superintendent of Documents and the Managing Director of the Library Services & Content Management business unit at GPO. I have worked in support of the FDLP since joining GPO many years ago, and I currently oversee a very dedicated staff of 87 information professionals that help GPO administer four statutorily-mandated programs:

- The Federal Depository Library Program, otherwise known as the FDLP;
- The Cataloging & Indexing Program;
- The International Exchange Service (in collaboration with the Library of Congress);
- And the By-Law Distribution Program.

The Superintendent of Documents organization implements strategic programs and operations in partnership with 1,120 nationwide Federal depository libraries and in collaboration with colleagues at GPO, with other agency publishers, and national libraries.

The FDLP supports the public's right to access the information and workings of their Government and has legislative roots that date back to 1813. In those 207 years, the program has continually evolved to meet the needs of the public and the needs of the libraries that offer this information. In the last several years, that evolution has increased exponentially as we have shifted our focus to offer our libraries greater flexibility to meet the community needs in the digital age.

As we meet, work, and visit with our libraries, we find that many of them are facing major budget cuts, decreased staffing, and have significant space issues. In some cases, academic institutions are merging campuses, rethinking their degree program offerings, and some have even shut their doors. Other libraries are building new facilities and offering new services to their communities. And in some cases, these libraries are rethinking their role as a Federal depository library.

They tell us that they need more flexibility in managing collections in order to remain a member of the FDLP. They tell us they need more services from GPO to help identify, find, and collect digital Government information, while still requiring certain products in tangible format. Many libraries that have large, historic print collections are looking to GPO to assist in projects that preserve these national assets while helping to mitigate space and storage issues.

To meet these needs, we are implementing new programs, tools, and services. In most cases, we do this through partnerships and collaborations with our libraries, national libraries, the Library of Congress, and Federal agencies. These relationships save time, staff resources, avoid duplication of effort, and save money. Currently, LSCM collaborates with over 30 organizations. Here are some of our recent accomplishments.

1. **More Cataloging and Web Harvesting:** Our libraries want all of the materials they have in their vast collections to be cataloged and new digital information found and accessible. In FY2019, we cataloged close to 25,000 new resources. Our online Catalog of U.S. Government Publications has almost 1 million records identifying U.S. Government publications in all formats. And our FDLP Web Archive now has over 23.5 TB of data with over 200,000,000 (200 million) Government URLs crawled and harvested.
2. **More Digital Content:** Everyone wants more digitized historic content. And we have been working to do just that. Through digitization efforts, GPO continues to enhance the scope of collections available on **govinfo.gov**.
  - Three, recent, joint digitization efforts with the Office of the Federal Register have resulted in the digital accessibility of complete collections of the Public Papers of the Presidents from 1929; the Federal Register from 1936; and the U.S. Government Manual.
  - Together with partner libraries, more than 1,300 historic Congressional Hearings dating back to 1958 have been digitized, and nearly 10,000 hearings being prepped for digitization.
3. **Preserving Historic Tangible Collections:** To help ensure the preservation of historic documents in collections across the country, we developed a Preservation Steward program. Currently, 42 libraries are preserving collections of tangible material and we are providing services to those libraries to support this effort. LSCM is also establishing a pilot program for providing services to libraries for cataloging, inventory, preservation, and condition assessment. We hope to launch our first pilot in FY 2020.
4. **Regional Libraries Flexibility:** We have also been developing greater flexibility for our regional libraries. Regional libraries have vast historic collections of Government documents; they serve as coordinators, mentors, and advisors for selective libraries; and they champion access, reference, and research services for U.S. Government publications. To help them accomplish all this, we have offered new services such as regional discard, new models for shared collections, and new technology to help manage collections.
5. **Promoting Government Information:** And daily, we work with our libraries to promote Government information by utilizing social media, partnering with agency content providers, and creating and distributing promotional and educational materials. We worked closely with the Census Bureau to provide 2020 Census promotional materials to our libraries (over 250,000 copies of flyers, posters, etc.), to help our libraries answer questions about Census 2020.

LSCM has been making all these things happen while working within the current framework of Title 44. Recent efforts to revise Title 44 are welcome by both GPO and our depository library community. I believe that there are specific sections of Title 44 that if revised, could help GPO better administer the program and provide the libraries with additional flexibility, especially as it relates to digital collections and services. I will be glad to work with the Committee members and staff on potential revisions.

In closing, providing public access to U.S. Government information where and when it is needed is our motto. The FDLP embodies that sentiment, and my team at GPO, in partnership with our

nationwide libraries, is proud to serve that need. We work together to help build and maintain a comprehensive National Collection of U.S. Government Information. This work impacts researchers, students, the legal and business communities, the public, and all who seek U.S. Government information in person in Federal depository libraries or through online access.

Madam Chairperson, and members of the Committee, this concludes my remarks, and I will be happy to respond to any questions you have.