

# Information Dissemination Pilot Projects Update - October 2003



## **1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROJECT**

GPO is developing a pilot project to help libraries in economically disadvantaged areas that remain in the FDLP to focus their collection and services on government publications that are specifically applicable to community economic development. GPO will combine that recommended collection with specialized training on utilization of the resources and seek training and other assistance from agencies with responsibility for small and minority business development. GPO is looking at other incentives to such as providing workstations.

Progress: Staff are working with the Pine Bluff, Arkansas public library to develop this pilot project, and have also had discussions with the following agencies: Census, Dept. of Commerce, Stat USA, Economic Analysis Bureau and Minority Business Development.

## **2. KIOSK PILOT PROJECT**

GPO plans to define one or more pilot projects using the kiosk so we can learn more about how this technology might assist us in the sale and delivery of government publications. The kiosk will have links to GPO Access, the Catalog of Government Publications, the Online Bookstore, Ben's Guide, locating a Federal Depository Library and other Federal information sources. It will also include a telephone that can be used to call the GPO Access user support team or a reference librarian in a depository library. Also it will have a credit card reader for purchases or to pay for printing on the printer that is part of the unit.

Progress: GPO demonstrated a kiosk prototype at the Reno Council meetings, and is in discussion with Public Information Kiosk, Inc. and several libraries about how to scale the project up. We are interested in testing the use and usefulness of the kiosks in both library and commercial settings.

## **3. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PILOT PROJECT**

The Department of Energy, as part of the Information Bridge, has developed two new capabilities that they would like to test on the depository libraries. One is a means to establish a profile based on search strategy or list of key words, so that every new document that is added to the database that matches the profile of the library will result in an e-mail notification of availability with a link to review or retrieve the document. The other is a means to identify categories of documents, much like the categories that were previously used to select subsets of the DOE microfiche. All electronic documents fitting the category would be placed in a holdings area from which the selecting library could FTP the copies to store and use locally. These items would be placed in a pre-determined folder at regular intervals and held for several days to provide an opportunity to the library to download the files.

Progress: The Department of Energy Office of Scientific Information (OSTI) is currently working with a group of depository libraries on a test of the first of these services, the so-called

“Rolling Window” Service, although the progress of the pilot had been slightly delayed by the retirement of the key contact at OSTI and other staff changes. The pilot project participants will meet at the Federal Depository Library Conference with OSTI and GPO staff to review progress. The results of the test should be available in the near future, at which time we hope to make the service more widely available. A pilot of the other service should be forthcoming shortly.

#### **4. UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA PILOT PROJECT**

The University of Arizona is working with GPO to identify electronic counterparts for all the physical items that it has selected and systematically substituting an electronic format. This will allow it to become the first all-electronic selective depository library. This in turn will allow GPO to examine the characteristics and service requirements of an all-electronic depository. Arizona’s conducting evaluations of the acceptability of the electronic formats with various user groups. The one-year pilot was completed September 1, 2003.

Progress/Outcomes: The University of Arizona has decided, based on its evaluation and user acceptance, to become an “all-electronic” Federal Depository Library.

GPO Cataloging examined each submission from the University of Arizona for its possible addition into the program. When the electronic version meets the requirements of SOD 71, the document is PURLED, archived, classified, and cataloged. This activity resulted in several hundred electronic titles being added to the FDLP.

#### **5. ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARY PILOT PROJECT**

GPO is seeking one or more academic law libraries for a project similar to the University of Arizona Pilot Project to test the feasibility of an all-electronic academic law depository library.

Progress: We have had face-to-face and telephone discussions with AALL members to gauge interest in the project. Three libraries are definitely interested, but we will need to revisit our discussions them to evaluate. GPO staff will meet with interested libraries during the Federal Depository Library Conference.

#### **6. ENHANCED ROLLOUT OF GPO ACCESS**

Project is to help State libraries and consortia treat *GPO Access* and *Ben’s Guide* the same way that they treat commercial databases and e-journals that are licensed under statewide contracts. Although the State Library doesn’t have to pay for *GPO Access* and *Ben’s Guide*, they have been paid for with appropriated funds. We would like to develop and test a rollout package that can be supported with literature and training, so that *GPO Access* and *Ben’s Guide* can be available to the public in every school and public library in the test states.

Progress: Preliminary discussions of the concept have been held with representatives from COSLA (Chief Offices of State Library Agencies).

#### **7. DIGITIZATION AND PRESERVATION PILOT PROJECT**

GPO would like to partner with one or more depository libraries to digitize collections of documents of significant historical interest. GPO encourages depository libraries to seek digitization and preservation grants for retrospective conversion of other materials from their

Federal documents collections. GPO will work with these libraries to see that all converted items are cataloged; to establish standards for digitization that will result in searchable files; to ensure that the digitized materials are part of the FDLP and available for permanent public access; and to serve as a clearinghouse for information about digitization projects so that we can eliminate redundancy.

Progress: This project is moving forward on two fronts. GPO staff continue to investigate options and specifications for digitization and preservation projects in cooperation with depository libraries. Among the most important of roles is our ability to serve as a clearinghouse for digitization projects within the depository community, and to that end we have been in conversation with the GODORT Government Information Technology Committee (GITCO) concerning the migration of the existing clearinghouse database to GPO servers, and must negotiate an agreement for the transition of responsibility.

GPO is analyzing the requirements to replace much of the current microfiche conversion operation with digitization. Work on modification of contracts is expected to begin soon. GPO staff continue to be in contact with several libraries about digitization projects in which we may play a role for the benefit of the entire FDLP.

## **8. LIBRARY SITE VISITS/ FIELD CONSULTANTS PILOT PROJECT**

GPO is accepting proposals from regional depository libraries for a pilot project to test the concept of establishing locally based “consultants,” who would be assigned responsibility for approximately 40 to 60 depository libraries in a geographic area. They would visit each of those libraries at least once per quarter, with the duration of the visit depending on the need. They would offer training and attend local, state and regional documents meetings to speak and answer questions. The idea is to recruit from the community people who would serve in the community for a year or two and then return to work in a depository library. GPO has asked several regionals to consider providing a home base for such consultants, including office space, and mentoring/supervising them.

Progress: We have had official proposals from Michigan, Minnesota, and South Carolina and have had several other unofficial discussions. GPO is in the process of establishing position descriptions and developing policy and procedures.

## **9. LOCKSS PILOT PROJECT**

GPO is working with Stanford University to set up a pilot LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe) cache at GPO. LOCKSS creates low-cost, persistent digital caches of electronic journal content at institutions that subscribe to that content and actively choose to preserve it. LOCKSS uses the caching technology of the Web to collect pages of journals as they are published, allowing libraries to take physical custody of electronic titles. The accuracy and completeness of a LOCKSS cache is assured through a peer-to-peer polling system.

Progress: GPO is currently reviewing the technical requirements for establishing a LOCKSS cache. In addition, GPO has continued to play a role in the National Science Foundation-sponsored LOCKSS-DOCS project, and the first implementation should be available soon.

## **10. IMPLEMENT OMB PRINTING COMPACT AS IT RELATES TO DOCUMENTS**

Test procedures for FDLP and Sales Programs to “ride” Department of Labor printing orders in the iPub system. Determine and test archiving procedures for digital copies of printing files and hard copy output products.

Progress: Project began October 1, 2003. Several products appropriate for the FDLP have been identified. Working to iron out operational issues, such as response time.

## **11. PRINT-ON-DEMAND PILOT**

Evaluate print on demand pilot and establish plan for rapid expansion. Test business model for POD services.

Progress: Staff are currently evaluating potential vendors that could offer appropriate POD solutions. By the end of calendar year 2003, a business model for the rapid expansion of POD will be completed and tested.

## **12. ELECTRONIC REGIONAL DEPOSITORY PILOT**

Pilot test of proposal to establish an all-electronic regional depository library collection.

Progress: GPO has received, evaluated, and discussed a proposal for “electronic regional” from the selective depository at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Expect this test to begin later this year.

## **13. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY LIBRARY PILOT PROJECTS**

GPO and EPA are collaborating to investigate various means of identifying EPA publications for the FDLP, while also testing automated Web harvesting by rule as a means to ingest additional digital content for the FDLP Electronic Collection.

Progress: Held discussions with EPA, a vendor, and OCLC, to develop various scenarios to test automated Web harvesting, develop the rule set to guide the process, and to identify EPA fugitive documents that should be in the FDLP. Other avenues being considered or tested include human Web site mining, and a collection analysis performed by OCLC, comparing bibliographic records created by EPA, GPO, and NTIS.

## **14. CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR LIBRARIES**

Investigating possibility of making additional libraries outlets for U.S. Government information by certifying them as “Government Information Access Centers.”

Progress: Held initial discussions with PLA concerning this means of involving more public libraries in the FDLP without requiring those libraries to abide by all of the complex rules and regulations pertaining to FDLs. The principal means for participation would be as an outlet for online information.