National Bibliography of U.S. Government Publications

GPO is developing the National Bibliography of U.S. Government Publications (National Bibliography) that fully meets the statutory requirements of 44 U.S.C. 1710-1711. By law GPO is charged with preparing and publishing a "comprehensive index of public documents," including "every document issued or published … not confidential in character."

GPO's National Bibliography is a comprehensive catalog containing descriptions and locations of U.S. Government unclassified publications in all formats. The National Bibliography describes any publication, regardless of form or format that any U.S. Government agency publishes, disseminates, or makes available to the public, as well as any publication produced for administrative or operational purposes, that is of public interest or educational value. Publications represented in the National Bibliography are acquired from official sources or sites, and are not subject to official use or security classification restrictions.

Initially the National Bibliography database will consist of GPO-produced bibliographic records representing titles cataloged from 1976 to the present. Once the ILS initial implementation is completed in spring 2005, GPO plans to expand the National Bibliography database by adding pre-1976 records, records created by cooperative cataloging partners and other institutions, as well as records converted from other bibliographic or metadata formats. Building the National Bibliography legacy database is a project that will span multiple fiscal years, while adding records for new publications is an ongoing effort.

Functionally, the National Bibliography will be a principal output of the Integrated Library System (ILS), Ex Libris' Aleph 500. GPO will develop one or more relational databases of library cataloging and other metadata records that describe and link to U.S. Government publications in a variety of formats and locations. The National Bibliography will utilize metadata resources created by GPO, by other agencies, and by partner institutions. The ILS' federated search function will provide the capability to search across a distributed set of metadata resources from other institutions and display a combined result set. The public face of the ILS will be GPO's Online Public Access Catalog.

Planning for the National Bibliography emphasized ways to improve the comprehensiveness of GPO's cataloging and metadata programs, to enhance the usability of GPO's bibliographic products and services, to operate a standards-based national library quality program, and to enhance the public's ability to identify and locate U.S. Government publications.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL OF THE NATIONAL COLLECTION

Bibliographic access to all publications in GPO's portion of the National Collection will be provided through GPO's National Bibliography and potentially by other metadata services. Cataloging records for online publications will include a persistent link to the publication. GPO's goal is that digital publications will be accompanied by preservation metadata describing their content, file type, provenance, etc.

Bibliographic control will be provided to the individual publication level for all access copies of publications in the National Collection. Applying metadata at this level will enhance the performance of federated search tools and OpenURL linking technologies. GPO bibliographic records will conform to the practices and standards established for the National Bibliography. Digital publications intended for print-on-demand reproduction and sales will also have book industry standard metadata. The metadata for digital publications should indicate the permitted access to that item if any restrictions apply. Other or additional metadata systems or elements may be applied to other portions of the National Collection.

NEW INFORMATION

To improve communication about GPO's cataloging practices and developments, ID has created a National Bibliography News page on GPO Access at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/cip/index.html.

Beginning February 1, 2005, the OCLC holdings symbols of 30 regional depository libraries have been added to the bibliographic records GPO contributes to OCLC WorldCat. Working with GPO, OCLC has developed an automated batch loading process to set the holdings, which is run daily. This project will bring improved public and library community awareness of resources available in Federal depository library collections through an increased number of bibliographic access points and facilitated interlibrary loan of tangible U.S. Government publications. Adding OCLC symbols to GPO-produced cataloging originated as a suggestion from regional depository librarians. Most recently, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and the University of Maine joined the project, bringing the total to 32 regionals participating.

At the Midwinter meeting of the American Library Association, GPO announced that the Office of Bibliographic Services would begin creating a unique bibliographic record for each manifestation, or version, of a title, at the same time that the ILS goes live. This issue was first raised in the *National Bibliography of U.S. Government Publications: Initial Planning Statement*, published in draft June 18, 2004, and was also discussed at the October 2004 meeting of the Depository Library Council. This issue engendered a large number of comments, the majority of which favored creating a unique record for each publication or version. Reasons supporting GPO's intent to create unique records include:

- More precise searching by format in the OPAC.
- Bibliographic record accuracy for libraries that receive only one format of a Government publication.
- Conformance with emerging national and international cataloging standards.
- Enables more precise version control and identification in content management systems such as GPO's Future Digital System.

KEY ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. The Integrated Library System assists GPO in building the National Bibliography. A 21st century National Bibliography can not be operated on GPO's legacy information technology (IT) platforms.

2. GPO will continue to contribute records to OCLC.

3. Initially, GPO's core National Bibliography database format will be AACR2 cataloging records in MARC21 format. As cataloging standards and metadata schema evolve, GPO's use of metadata schema and cataloging formats will also evolve.

4. Other bibliographic formats may be ILS/ National Bibliography system inputs or outputs. Possible system input or output formats include, but are not limited to:

   a) MARC21
   b) ONIX
   c) GILS
   d) Preservation metadata
   e) Dublin Core
   f) COSATI

5. When GPO performs original cataloging the default level of cataloging applied to U.S. Government publications, regardless of format, will be equivalent to OCLC "Full" level. Following applicable standards, GPO will apply different levels of cataloging in some cases, such as when converting records for older materials without the described publication in hand.

6. National Bibliography cataloging records will come from multiple sources, including:

   a) GPO original cataloging
   b) Record imports
   c) Conversion of pre-1976 GPO bibliographic records
   d) COSATI-MARC conversions
   e) Harvested metadata
   f) Metadata from content originators
   g) Records contributed by depository libraries and other partners
   h) Preservation metadata from legacy digitization projects

7. The National Bibliography will provide public access and location information for all items in GPO's portion of the National Collection.

8. GPO cataloging policies and procedures will be documented and communicated proactively.

9. GPO will continue its participation in the LC Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) Programs. These include:

   a) NACO (name authorities)
   b) SACO (subject authorities)
   c) CONSER (serial cataloging)

10. GPO will continue to assign Superintendent of Documents classification numbers to publications made available to Federal depository libraries.

11. No fees will be charged to search the National Bibliography or to link to publicly available data described therein.

12. No fees will be charged to depository libraries to download bibliographic records from the National Bibliography.

13. Location information in the National Bibliography includes persistent links to online resources and a mechanism to identify the depository libraries that hold tangible publications.

QUESTIONS

- Are the revised assumptions on the National Bibliography still appropriate, or should something be changed or added?

- Now that the plan for the National Bibliography has been revised in light of discussions with Council and other public comments, are there elements of the plan that need further refinement or need to be added?

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March 31, 2005