

2005 Spring DLC
Educational Program
Depository Library 101



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Information Dissemination

An educational session entitled Depository 101 was held during the 2005 Spring DLC on April 17, 2005, to include the following people:

Moderator: Janet Scheitle
Presenters: Tim Byrne, University of Colorado, Boulder
Janet Fisher, Arizona State Library
Attendees: About 60 attendees were in this session, many of them new government documents librarians (by a show of hands).

Designed for new government documents librarians, Tim Byrne, University of Colorado, and Janet Fisher, Arizona State Library alternately presented the basics of being a Federal Depository Library (FDL). The program emphasized the three principles of the program and the legal responsibilities of FDLs.

The three principles were stated as:

- 1) Federal government information products shall be made available to the FDLs.
- 2) FDLs shall be located in each State and U. S. Congressional District.
- 3) Federal government information in all media shall be made available for free use by the general public.

The three legal responsibilities emphasized were:

- 1) providing free public access to federal government information products regardless of format;
- 2) providing proper maintenance of Federal depository materials entrusted to the depository's care; and
- 3) providing service to meet the government information needs of the community served.

This program also taught new librarians the basic resources available on the FDLP desktop and the basic guidelines found in the *Instructions to Depository Libraries, Federal Depository Library Manual* and its four supplements. Also emphasized were frequently used resources such as the Substitution Policy, the Superseded List, and the FDLP Guidelines. The program included a chapter-by-chapter introduction to the *Instructions* with the experienced librarians sharing their insight practical implementation by beginning government documents librarians. The program provided sufficient comment time with Question and Answers for new librarians to seek advice from experienced colleagues.

The general conclusions GPO might draw from this educational session are:

This well received session should be repeated as a topic at the Fall conference and be given a longer period of time for presentation. Additionally, this type of presentation might be captured and incorporated into the web based training GPO offers via the desktop.

New librarians are eager to learn from the subject matter experts who are in turn eager to share their experience and insights. Facilitating such an exchange of information should be a role for the GPO.

Conference training opportunities should be continued and perhaps expanded upon to attract new librarians and allow them an opportunity to become active participants in the FDLP. Also face to face opportunities where novices can ask subject matter experts questions will continue to be of benefit to all.