

## Cooperative Cataloging for Pre-1976 U.S. Government Publications



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There has been long standing interest in cooperative cataloging between GPO and the depository library community. Now that the ILS is in place, GPO has begun to look at how to implement such a program. A project charter and procedures and guidelines needed to establish formal cooperative cataloging partnerships are being drafted. These formal partnerships will ensure the continued quality of records in the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP) while creating a comprehensive National Bibliography of U.S. Government Publications.

Simultaneously, a request for proposal (RFP) to find a contractor to begin work on retrospective cataloging of the pre-1976 collection has just closed. It is estimated that the evaluation and procurement process will take about 90 days. This effort, GPO's own cataloging, and any cooperative cataloging arrangements must be coordinated to create a comprehensive National Bibliography and to avoid duplicating efforts.

GPO anticipates the contract to be in place before the end of the fiscal year. In the meantime, we are looking at developing guidelines, examining workflow, staffing and infrastructure implications, and possible costs of a cooperative cataloging program. As part of the development of procedures, GPO will be creating tools to assist in identifying depositories that are working on retrospective cataloging projects and to develop methods to share these records with depository libraries and the entire library community.

Library Services and Content Management recently received a number of verbal and written proposals for cooperative cataloging, which are currently being reviewed. GPO is in the process of testing its Z 39.50 gateway and hopes to open it up later this summer. Having the gateway operational is the first step in GPO's ability to efficiently exchange records with depository libraries.

A proposal template is under development and will be shared with the community soon. Each offer of bibliographic records will be reviewed, but it must meet the minimum requirements, including the following:

- Bibliographic records must be compliant with the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (AACR2).
- Bibliographic records must be in MARC communications format.
- The library must give GPO permission to redistribute the bibliographic records.
- The library must give GPO permission to make changes to the bibliographic records to bring them into compliance with GPO and Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) standards and practices.

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(cont.)

For libraries that wish to contribute to building the National Bibliography but are unable to provide cataloging records, GPO will need assistance with validating records against the tangible piece to ensure the integrity of the data. There may be other opportunities to assist in cooperative efforts that will be identified as GPO begins the development of cooperative cataloging projects.

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