



FEDLINK RESEARCH AGENDA
2012-2016 PROPOSED PROGRAM AREAS

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Changing and Growing

Earlier this year, FEDLINK and FLICC merged under the heading of FEDLINK. In planning this merger we carefully reviewed the history and function of FLICC. We knew there were valuable aspects to FLICC and we worked to incorporate these into the new FEDLINK structure—all of this is outlined in our 2012-2016 Business Plan.

One of the goals we set forth in our business plan was to create a research agenda. Research is fundamental to our success because accurate information and data are essential in making sound, smart investments. Research provides the knowledge that we need to understand what is possible, what is not, and the best way to proceed in our efforts.

We see this research agenda as one of the most valuable things we can offer not only to the federal community, but to the larger information community. In this document, we identify six research areas as priorities for innovative investment. While we will continue to grow and improve our FEDLINK procurement vehicles, we are also working toward fulfilling our commitment to leadership.



New Challenges, New Opportunities

FEDLINK is positioned as a critical node in the information community. We have the ability to coordinate activities across the federal enterprise and within the larger information community, not only avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort, but also creating a platform for collaboration.

Research coordination across the federal enterprise is important and to that end, FEDLINK, in collaboration with its members and other national organizations, will be working together to provide relevant education and training about current trends and issues facing the information community.

We are all too painfully aware that libraries and information centers across the country face shrinking budgets. While budgets are getting smaller the need for good information and data has not diminished, nor has the need for professionals who can navigate and find such information. The skills that library and information science (LIS) professionals possess are relevant and valuable. FEDLINK will work to not only promote the value of LIS professionals within the federal government but we will also work to provide training opportunities for LIS professionals to learn about emerging trends so they remain relevant and knowledgeable in new areas of practice.

Cost benefit analysis. Evidence based practice. Comparative effectiveness research. These are models which help stakeholders identify value. You can count on us to provide valuable, objective, and rigorous research.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blane Dessy". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray background.

Blane Dessy
Executive Director

FEDLINK RESEARCH AGENDA

FEDLINK (Federal Library and Information Network) is a consortium that provides federal libraries and information centers nationwide with expertise and other resources that the library and information science (LIS) community uses to make important decisions about their services and programs. FEDLINK does this by:

1. Identifying trends among members, vendors, and LIS thought leaders;
2. Identifying priorities for research and inviting collaboration;
3. Creating a research agenda base on identified trends and priorities;
4. Conducting research consistent with these priorities and agenda; and
5. Providing the federal community and larger LIS community with useful research information.

FEDLINK has prioritized six research areas. These focus on information that LIS professionals need in order to make sound, smart investments.

FEDLINK's proposed national priorities in LIS are:

- ***Demonstrating Value.*** This research goal is to identify and promote the skills and value LIS professionals bring to their organizations.
- ***Collections Management.*** Focuses on ways to improve the way we handle information, such as digital curation.
- ***Information Marketplace.*** Looks at ways we acquire information.
- ***Information Technology.*** Introduces and explores the way technology has changed the way we do business.
- ***Management Tools.*** Assures that we are being effective in using our resources.
- ***Cross Cutting Areas.*** Explores the ways in which can collaborate and work on issues that affect multiple groups or institutions.

FEDLINK's Proposed Research Agenda

This is the first version of the FEDLINK Research Agenda. FEDLINK expects to learn and update this document as we move forward.

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment: How You Can Help

FEDLINK encourages bold thinking about research projects. This means that FEDLINK is looking to you— librarians, information professionals, researchers, thought leaders, the general public and other stakeholders —for help in shaping its national priorities and research agenda. Here are ways you can help:

Provide comment by email. You can email fliccfno@loc.gov between now and October 30, 2012.

Attend the FEDLINK Advisory Board Meetings. These business meetings are held several times a year at the Library of Congress in Washington DC. The next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2012 in the Montpelier room. A dial in number is available if you cannot attend in person.

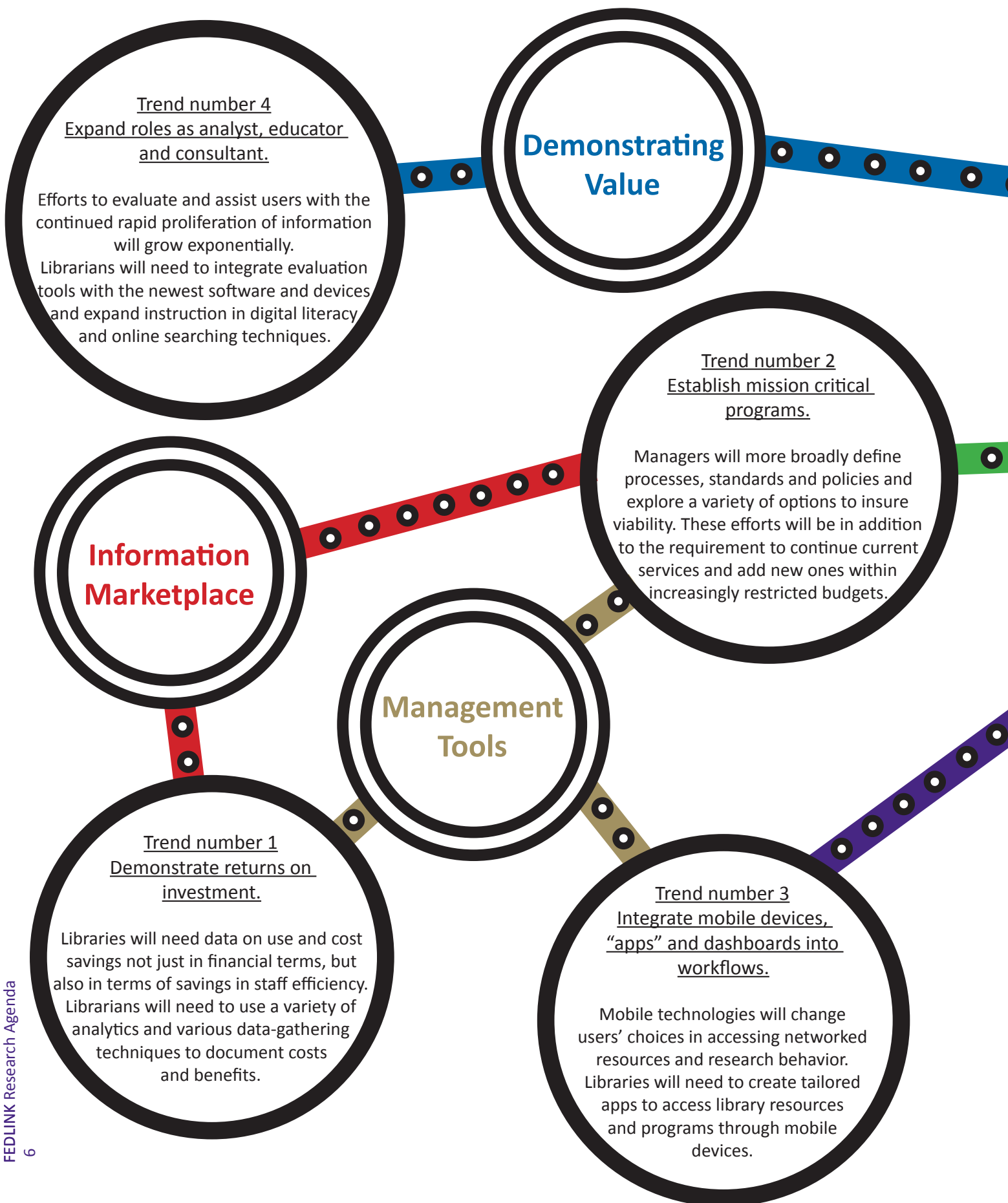
Learn more. You can find more information at the FEDLINK Website, www.loc.gov/flicc.

Thank you for your interest in FEDLINK. Together, we offer the LIS community information they need to make important decisions.

Questions about the Proposed Research Agenda may be directed to FEDLINK by email at fliccfno@loc.gov.



FEDLINK RESEARCH AGENDA



INTEGRATION MAP

Trend number 7
Collaborate via knowledge transfer and information sharing.

In tandem with the previous trends, libraries will need to discover forthcoming agency efforts and package their services to serve the project mission. Librarians will need to merge information from various groups and identify information available from external sources.

Collections Management

Cross Cutting Areas

Trend number 6
Customize and personalize information to meet the needs of users.

With the proliferation of mobile technologies, the semantic web and other web searching technologies, patrons will want information compiled so that it is immediately usable and tailored to meet a specific need. Libraries will need to balance the costs required for more complex, customized services and develop effective ways to deal with diverse users who may not be onsite.

Information Technology

Trend number 5
Cultivate use of the Semantic Web, cloud computing and Web 3.0.

Library use of social collaboration and interactive responsibility will combine with Web 3.0 technologies to create a Semantic Web that includes human intelligence integrated with data management where content and technology are now one. With increasingly cloudbased sources and tools, librarians will serve as a bridge to share information and support projects that cross agency lines.

Legend

○ Trends

⊙ Research Areas

FEDLINK RESEARCH AGENDA

Demonstrating Value

LIS professionals have a diverse set of skills and abilities. Combined with specialized training and knowledge they are positioned to be a real asset to any agency.

What we're thinking

The librarian profession has grown, evolved, and adapted, however there is a persistent stereotype of librarians and what kinds of work they are capable of performing. As the world of information content and management evolves, the LIS profession continues to evolve as well. We need to have quality information available about the qualifications of LIS professionals and highlight the work they are doing today. Librarians will need to integrate evaluation tools with the newest software and devices and expand instruction in digital literacy and online searching techniques. Librarians will also need to merge information from various groups and identify information available from external sources.

What we're doing

Convened an interagency HR working group

This interagency effort has LIS professionals from a cross section of the federal government. They meet regularly to discuss issues in the field, including competencies and the future of the 1410 Series.

Quantitative and Qualitative Research

FEDLINK is conducting a series of studies in Health Information Technology. Each study explores how partnering with LIS professionals can improve America's health and health care delivery system.

Membership Opportunities

- Technical Workshops
- Working Groups and Committees
- Networking Opportunities

Trends

- Trend 4 - Expand roles as analyst, educator and consultant.
- Trend 7 - Collaborate via knowledge transfer and information sharing.

FEDLINK ENCOURAGES AND PROMOTES DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIANS AND INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS.



Jim Haas

PROPOSED PROGRAM AREAS

Collections Management

Information has expanded beyond physical books. There is a need to manage both physical and digital content.

What we're thinking

In a time where all agencies are being asked to do more with less, federal libraries and information centers need to improve their collaboration and information sharing.

What we're doing

Evaluation Research of Federal Library Shared Collection Management Program

FEDLINK is using data from HathiTrust and OCLC to identify collection commonalities across the federal government. By examining the types of materials and their uniqueness, this information can be used to improve collection efforts within and across agencies.

Quality Assessment: Area Studies Collections Assessment Project

In partnership with the Librarian's Office, FEDLINK has supported a project to evaluate the quality of area studies collections and services that are provided to other agencies. This effort involved the formation of an inter agency task force as well as a formation of a brown bag series.

Facilitating Discovery – Open Access Repositories

FEDLINK is working with NARA to launch an initiative aimed at addressing this critical issue within the federal government. In the coming months, FEDLINK will conduct focus groups to gather cross-industry views on the impact of OA within the federal government; produce an issue brief; convene an expert roundtable to further explore key questions; hold a larger policy forum; and publish a more comprehensive white paper providing a roadmap on OA and its impact on innovation.

Digital Curation – research data

There is a growing interest in making e-health and e-science data more accessible with longer term preservation in mind. FEDLINK will provide opportunities for members to learn and discuss this issue.

Membership Opportunities

- Technical Workshops
- Vendor Workshops
- On-Site Briefings

Trends

- Trend 7 - Collaborate via knowledge transfer and information sharing.

FEDLINK COMBINES THE UNIQUE EXPERTISE OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND FEDERAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTERS, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, AND INFORMATION ORGANIZATIONS.



Abby Brack Lewis

FEDLINK RESEARCH AGENDA

Information Marketplace

The federal government spends nearly \$650 million annually on information goods and services. While FEDLINK has a well established procurement vehicle for agencies to use, we need to facilitate smarter acquisitions and keep abreast of new commodities.

What we're thinking

If all agencies procured information products and services through the federal government's existing strategic-sourcing program, the federal government could realize savings on purchases as well as labor and other costs associated with procurement.

What we're doing

Economic impact analysis: Strategic Sourcing

Examining the effect of strategic sourcing on the federal information marketplace. Updated quarterly reports are available.

Establishing commodity councils

Bringing together interagency groups to discuss their information needs.

Data Analytics RFP

FEDLINK developed a data analytics RFP to respond to information services. A new host of vendors will be able to offer goods and needs to the federal government in 2012.

"Best of Libraries"

An annual showcase of innovative practices within agencies, as identified by industry vendors.

Membership Opportunities

- Roundtables

Trends

- Trend 1 - Demonstrate returns on investment.
- Trend 2 - Establish Mission Critical Programs.

FEDLINK SERVES AS AN EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR INFORMATION GOODS AND SERVICES.



Barry Wheeler

PROPOSED PROGRAM AREAS

Information Technology

The ways in which we access information is changing. Patrons are driving customized and personalized information. There is a demand for immediately usable information.

What we're thinking

Libraries will need to balance the costs required to deliver customized services and develop effective ways to work with a diverse clientele. Librarians can serve as a bridge to share information within and across agency lines. FEDLINK wants to encourage technology that allows for collaboration, knowledge transfer, and information sharing across agency lines. Librarians can serve as a bridge and have the potential to create tailored apps to access library resources and programs. These services may also reach diverse users who may not have the ability to be onsite for service.

What we're doing

Detailed Technology Analysis on selected technologies:

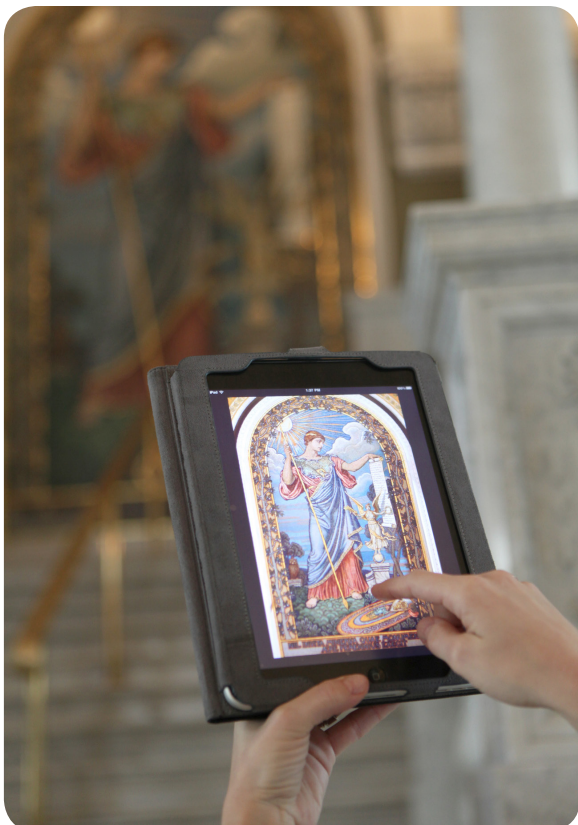
- Semantic Web
- Mobile Technologies
- Collaborative Technologies
 - Cloud Computing

Membership Opportunities

- Technical Workshops
- Vendor Workshops

Trends

- Trend 3 - Integrate mobile devices, "apps" and dashboards into workflows.
- Trend 5 - Cultivate use of the Semantic Web, cloud computing and Web 3.0.
- Trend 6 - Customize and personalize information to meet the needs of users.



Abby Brack Lewis

FEDLINK PROVIDES EFFICIENT,
COST-EFFECTIVE, SERVICES.

FEDLINK RESEARCH AGENDA

Management Tools

In today's restrictive budget climate there is the pressure to demonstrate returns on investment and establish mission critical programs. But how do we know what's working and what is a good value?

What we're thinking

Feedback provides an opportunity to make changes for the better. Quality improvement is most successful when it's based on solid data and good information. Libraries will need data on use and cost savings not just in financial terms but also in terms of savings in staff efficiency. This data can be a powerful tool when integrated with staff workflows but also in establishing mission critical programs. FEDLINK will work with members to demonstrate the value of federal libraries and information centers.

What we're doing

Using Metrics for Systematic Performance Measurement

Performance management, evaluation, indicators

Primary Data Collection and Statistical Analysis

Membership Opportunities

- Networking Opportunities
- Technical Workshops
- Policy Briefings

Trends

- Trend 1 - Demonstrate returns on investment.
- Trend 2 - Establish mission critical programs.
- Trend 3 - Integrate mobile devices, "apps" and dashboards into workflows.

FEDLINK PROMOTES BETTER
UTILIZATION OF FEDERAL LIBRARY
AND INFORMATION RESOURCES.



Joseph Brooks

PROPOSED PROGRAM AREAS

Cross Cutting Areas

There are some areas of work that span the enterprise and touch on a number of issues that affect multiple agencies.

What we're thinking

FEDLINK is positioned to foster interagency collaboration. FEDLINK will also work to strengthen ties with the larger library and information center community about issues which may affect the national and global field of library and information science. FEDLINK will take a leadership role by serving as a resource on issues that affect all federal libraries, saving each agency time and resources.

What we're doing

Native American Tribal Colleges Collection Effort

Examining federal policies for donation, exploring and establishing ways for federal libraries and information centers to share discarded resources to under-resourced libraries and information centers that serve the Native American community.

Legislative Awareness

In collaboration with the Association for Research Libraries (ARL), members will have the opportunity to hear how proposed legislation will affect libraries.

Membership Opportunities

- Policy Briefings
- Issue Briefs

Trends

- Trend 2 - Establish mission critical programs.
- Trend 6 - Customize and personalize information to meet the needs of users.
- Trend 7 - Collaborate via knowledge transfer and information sharing.



Marlena Jones

FEDLINK COORDINATES
COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES AND
SERVICES AMONG FEDERAL
LIBRARIES, INFORMATION CENTERS,
AND OTHER INFORMATION USERS.

FEDLINK RESEARCH AGENDA

FEDLINK Expositions

Throughout the year, FEDLINK will host two expositions which will feature member meetings, informative workshops, keynote speakers, and networking opportunities.

Working Groups and Committees

These committees provide a unique opportunity for members to share and exchange viewpoints with senior leaders from all sectors of library and information science on issues of mutual interest.



Mark Layman



Abby Brack Lewis

Advisory Board Meetings

Six times a year, FEDLINK hosts the FEDLINK Advisory Board (FAB). The FAB is the representational short body of the entire membership. These business sessions are open to all members. In this forum, members can hear, consider, and make recommendations to the governing body of FEDLINK.

Member Briefings

FEDLINK will provide members with a first look at our research at member policy briefings.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Roundtables

Highly interactive, professionally moderated, multi-stakeholder discussions with national experts and senior government officials focused on developing policy recommendations.

On-site Policy Briefings

FEDLINK brings our senior experts directly to our member organizations by hosting briefings at our member companies to discuss FEDLINK's research and other initiatives.



Abby Brack Lewis



Cecelia Rogers

Technical Workshops

FEDLINK offers several workshops a year on special topics of interest to the LIS community. These workshops focus on current trends as well as developing federally identified competencies.

Vendor Demonstrations

FEDLINK also hosts a number of vendor workshops throughout the year so members can learn more about information goods and services.

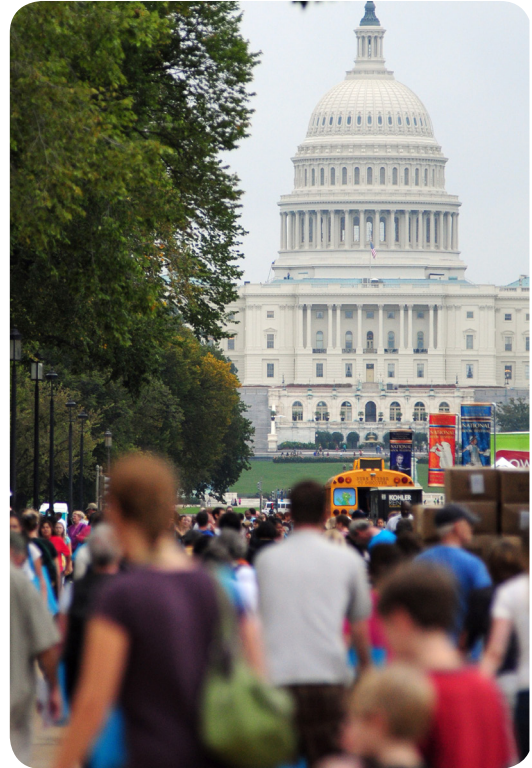


The Federal Library and Information Network (FEDLINK)

The United States government is the world's largest creator and consumer of information. The creation, acquisition, control, dissemination and preservation of information are fundamental to the operation of all three branches of the federal government. These information services therefore form a foundation for federal service work and are vital to the success of the government and its agencies. To that end, there must be awareness of and access to information, collaboration among federal libraries and information centers, and efficient and effective procurement of all forms of content, regardless of its medium.

The mission of FEDLINK is multifold:

- to achieve better utilization of federal library and information resources
- to provide the most cost effective and efficient administrative mechanism for providing necessary services and materials to federal libraries and information centers
- to serve as a forum for discussion of federal library and information policies, programs and procedures, to help inform Congress, federal agencies and others concerned with libraries and information centers



Kimberly Powell

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