



## What is the FDLP?

The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) is a public access program that connects your constituents with information produced by the United States government. More than 1100 libraries participate in this program, located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several territories.

Congress began sending its publications to libraries in 1813, establishing the concept of a depository program. In 1907, Congress established the modern FDLP to inform the public, promote civic engagement, and protect public memory. The statutory authority for this program is in Title 44, Chapter 19 of the U.S. Code.

This partnership among Congress, the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO), and libraries results in efficient and effective point-of-need research assistance for your constituents.

Official online resources through **govinfo.gov** and the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications are available to the public 24/7 and tangible resources are distributed by GPO to libraries throughout the Nation. Resources range from historic to current and include key Congressional resources, as well as resources from Federal agencies and the courts.

### The FDLP's core values are:

- Access: Libraries allow anyone to use Federal depository resources or services without paying.
- Collaboration and Communication: A strong library network built on transparent, open communication and collaboration between and among depository libraries, Federal agencies, and GPO.
- Collections: Libraries provide access to tangible and online collections of official Federal information to support the needs of their community.
- Expertise and Professionalism: Depository libraries employ knowledgeable staff who are dedicated to increasing their knowledge of official Federal government information.
- Service: Libraries and librarians that provide services focused on user needs.
- Stewardship: FDLP materials are considered property of the Federal government, and depository libraries strive to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us by the American people.

### Why is the FDLP needed?

FDLP libraries provide important services to your constituents by:

- Providing access to current and historic information.
- Providing professional assistance in locating information.
- Providing workshops and educational opportunities.
- Creating guides to assist users.
- Preserving public memory.

### How can the FDLP help me?

Depositories located in your state help your constituents stay informed about issues in Congress and the efforts by agencies in the executive branch, and will direct them to your office for assistance. Depository specialists in your area can also assist your staff in locating legislative materials, agency reports, statistics, and more.

### How can I connect my constituents to their local FDLP library?

Members of Congress can promote these services to constituents by linking to the depository libraries in their district on their web site.

Find your libraries: <https://ask.gpo.gov/s/FDLD>.

Contact GPO for more information through [askGPO](#).