

Resolution on Digitization of U.S. Government Documents

Whereas the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) was designed to provide public access to government information through a cooperative network of depository libraries;

Whereas designated FDLP libraries have successfully preserved and provided access to government information for more than two hundred years;

Whereas the historic paper FDLP collections contain valuable, irreplaceable information and remain critical for concrete representation and analysis of the policies, procedures, and workings of the Federal government and the United States as a whole;

Whereas digitization technologies provide opportunities to enhance access to and utilization of printed collections;

Whereas FDLP libraries and the Government Printing Office (GPO) remain committed to providing preservation of, access to, and services for valuable government information in all formats;

Whereas the reliability, functional utility, and preservability of digitized documents varies tremendously depending on the processes used in the digitization; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. supports and encourages a national preservation plan for Federal Depository Library Program materials
2. encourages policies that promote digitization with a reasonable number of dispersed preserved copies of print FDLP materials;
3. supports technologies that guarantee long-term, robust, verifiable, complete, accurate, authentic, preservable, and usable digital formats;
4. works with the Government Printing Office (GPO) and the FDL community on developing procedures to authenticate and ingest digital and digitized content into FDsys from federal depository libraries and federal agencies; and
5. supports the creation of a no-fee, searchable, online inventory of digital and digitized government materials with downloadable metadata.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association



Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council
Tuesday, July 1, 2014, in Las Vegas, Nevada