

This resolution was referred to the Committee on Legislation

Draft 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, and complement rather than replace paper copies of government documents;

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 the preservation of Federal Depository Libraries' (FDL) paper collections;
2. opposes policies that would result in the destruction of FDL paper collections;
3. supports technologies that guarantee long-term, robust, verifiable, complete, accurate, authentic, preservable, and usable digital formats;
4. work with the Government Printing Office (GPO) and the FDL community on developing procedures to authenticate and ingest digital content into FDsys digitizations that come from FDL libraries and federal agencies; and
5. supports the creation of an inventory of digitized government publications with records that include information on quality, completeness, accuracy, features, availability, limitations, costs, utility, and trusted preservation, and provide links to records in OCLC and GPO's *Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* so that libraries can download batch MARC metadata.

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