

# Demystifying Digital Deposit

## What It Is and What It Could Do for the Future of the FDLP

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### RESOURCES

Presentation slides with notes are located at:

<http://www.slideshare.net/reblakeley/presentations>

LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe)

<http://www.lockss.org/>

U.S. Government Documents LOCKSS Network

[http://www.lockss.org/lockss/Government\\_Documents\\_PLN](http://www.lockss.org/lockss/Government_Documents_PLN)

### **FGI Blog Posts:**

All FGI blog posts using the tag "Digital deposit": <http://freegovinfo.info/taxonomy/term/3>

Jacobs, James A. "Comment on article: Depository Library Program in 2023."

<http://freegovinfo.info/node/2706>

\_\_\_\_\_. "Selective-deposit and the technical requirements of a digital-deposit FDLP."

<http://freegovinfo.info/library/infrastructure>

Jacobs, James R. "Critical GPO systems and the FDLP cloud." <http://freegovinfo.info/node/2704>

\_\_\_\_\_. "Toward a definition of 'virtual depository'." [http://freegovinfo.info/library/virtual\\_depository](http://freegovinfo.info/library/virtual_depository)

### **Articles:**

Conway, Paul. "Institutional Repositories: Is There Anything Left to Say?." 7 Oct 2004. 8 Oct 2009

<http://www.oclc.org/programsandresearch/dss/conway.htm>

Cornwall, Daniel and James R. Jacobs. "Distributed Globally, Collected Locally: LOCKSS for Digital Government

Information." *Against the Grain* vol. 21, no. 1 (February, 2009): 42-44.

<http://freegovinfo.info/system/files/ATG-lockss-p5-7.pdf>

Hockx-Yu, Helen. "Digital preservation in the context of institutional repositories." *Program: electronic library and information systems* vol. 40, no. 3 (2006): 232 - 243. 8 Oct 2009 <http://eprints.rclis.org/7351/>

Jacobs, James A., James R. Jacobs, and Shinjoung Yeo. "Government Information in the Digital Age: The Once and Future Federal Depository Library Program." *Journal of Academic Librarianship* vol. 31, no. 3 (May 2005): 198-208. <http://repositories.cdlib.org/postprints/657/>

### GLOSSARY

Full Glossary is located at: <http://freegovinfo.info/library/glossary>

**API** - An Application Programming Interface (API) is a definition of how computer programs can interact with a particular dataset, database, web site, or other cache of information. Programmers can use an API to design ways of dynamically interacting with the target data. An API increases the flexibility of information provision because, rather than limiting users to a single interface provided by the information provider or publisher, the API allows others to program different interfaces customized for different communities or purposes. **Mashups** often use open APIs to combine data from different sources (e.g., census and crime and maps) to re-use and re-purpose what would otherwise be separate stove-pipes of information and static documents.

**Backup** - A copy of data intended to be used to restore the original after loss or corruption of the original.

**Digital Deposit** - U.S. government publications in digital format deposited in FDLP libraries. In other words, GPO sends (i.e., deposits) authentic digital files to depository libraries. A Digital Depository has a digital collection that it selects, acquires, organizes, and maintains. Note that, although a library may also maintain links to digital publications that are housed, organized, and maintained by someone else, and that this may be useful, this is not "digital deposit" because nothing is deposited.

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**Mirror Site** - "On the Internet, a mirror site is an exact copy of another Internet site. Mirror sites are most commonly used to provide multiple sources of the same information."

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mirror\\_%28computing%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mirror_%28computing%29)

**OAIS** - OAIS - Open Archival Information System (OAIS) is a document that describes the essential functions and components of a digital archive. It is widely used (Library of Congress, National Archives, RLG, Harvard, UK Data Archive, British Library, etc.) in the design and evaluation of digital archives. GPO used it in designing FDSys. OAIS goes beyond "bit preservation." An OAIS-compliant archive accepts the responsibility to ensure that information will be *usable* by a designated community.

**XML** - Extensible Markup Language (XML) is specification for creating custom markup languages intended for use on the Web. Like HTML, it allows text to be tagged or "marked up." Unlike HTML, which focuses on appearance, XML allows content to be tagged to denote *meaning*. XML is generally human-readable and therefore more easily preserved than proprietary, binary formats. It is also designed so that it can be easily parsed by computers and so is often called "machine-actionable" because it makes it possible to more easily re-use and re-purpose content. An example of a XML being used for government publications is the XML version of the *Federal Register*. This has already prompted new uses of the *FR* at [FedThread.org](http://FedThread.org). FedThread ("a new way of interacting with the Federal Register") uses the government-provided XML to create functionality that the government does not provide. This includes collaborative annotation, advanced search, customized feeds, and more.

**Virtual Depository** - This is a commonly used, but misleading term. Virtual depository is NOT digital deposit (See FGI post, "Toward a definition of 'virtual depository'": [http://freegovinfo.info/library/virtual\\_depository](http://freegovinfo.info/library/virtual_depository)). GPO has used the term to mean the substitution/negation of actual deposit of paper documents in a depository library's collections for links in a library's online catalog to digital documents housed on GPO servers. Virtual depository is then the antithesis of digital deposit.