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## Transportation Librarians Roundtable

**Date:** March 12, 2026 **Duration:** 58m 56s

### Alleman, Rosalyn (OST-R) started transcription

**Bob Cullen:** And to start off, I'd like to go ahead and just share a brief bio of Megan. Megan Minta is the collection development librarian for the library services and content Management unit of the US government publishing office (GPO). Since 2017, Megan has conducted outreach to federal agencies to increase compliance with the statutory mandate to furnish GPO with publications for distribution through the Federal Depository Library program and the inclusion in the cataloging and indexing program.

Meghan also works to expand collections available through GPO's system of online access, GovInfo. She has an MSLS from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and started her federal librarianship career as a presidential management fellow in 2011. Prior to joining GPO, Megan was an electronic resources librarian for the Veterans Health Administration Library Network Office and the VA Central Office Library at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We're very fortunate to have Megan serve as our speaker today. Unless I'm forgetting somebody or something, I believe that Megan is actually the first TLR speaker we've had in at least a year and a half or so who comes from outside of the transportation libraries community. We're very honored to have her here in that context. Certainly we're very honored to have her here to help get further up the learning curve and leave the TLR smarter than we were when the hour began. So without any more delay on my part, I'd like to now figuratively hand the microphone to Megan. Here she is.

**Minta, Megan:** Thank you so much, Bob, and thank you so much for the invitation to speak today. I'm really pleased to be here. Before I get started, I just want to confirm that my slides are displaying.

**Hysong, Gabi:** Yes.

**Minta, Megan:** OK. And I'm gonna go ahead and I've hidden my screen and the chat's off, so just go ahead and interrupt me if at any point my audio drops out, just to let me know. Thanks.

So again, thank you so much for having me here today. My GPO colleagues Jessica Fomalont, Oksana Osbourne and Jessica Tiemann presented on the government publishing office's library services in 2022 and today it's my pleasure to share the developments undertaken over the last four years as we move to a digital first federal depository library program. I'm going to provide a brief overview of the government publishing office and the public information programs of the Superintendent of documents before focusing on the future direction of the Federal Depository Library program. I look forward to hearing what questions you have at the end of the session.

Government publishing Office is a federal agency in the legislative branch. We're located on North Capitol Street near Union Station in Washington DC in the same location the Government Printing Office opened its doors on March 4th, 1861. We just celebrated our 165th birthday. Proximity to the US Capitol building was essential in those days when GPO delivered materials to Congress by horse and wagon. By 1940, around the time of this photograph, GPO had grown to four physical buildings and 33 acres of total floor space. The building has a lot of unique spaces to accommodate the size and weight of printing presses. Congress enacted legislation in 2014 to change our name from the Government Printing Office to the government publishing

Office to reflect the increasingly prominent role GPO played in providing access to government information in digital formats.

GPO's mission is to publish trusted information for the federal government to the American people, and our vision is an America informed. So what does GPO do? We produce and distribute information, products and services for all three branches of the federal government. This includes official publications of Congress, the White House and other federal agencies in digital and print formats. Something that surprises people is that GPO produces passports for the State Department, and we actually have for the last 100 years. The other thing that surprises people is that we do not print currency. That seems to surprise a lot of people.

We provide for permanent public access to federal government information at no charge through the Federal Depository Library program and our digital repository, GovInfo. And we operate distribution centers in Laurel, MD, and Pueblo, CO that fulfill orders for government publications. Machines shown in the top photo are letterpresses circa 1950 and the bottom photo is a picture of bindery women—the actual job title in the 1930s when this photo was taken—hand sewing frames and joining signatures. GPO still has a bindery unit with extremely talented craftspeople who still bind, stamp and marble publications and other printed materials by hand.

I work in library services and content management which leads many people to picture working in a physical library. The public documents library, which is pictured here circa 1905, was comprised of one copy of every publication of Congress, the White House and federal agencies. The public documents library collection was transferred to the National Archives as an archival unit in 1972 and not having an onsite tangible collection has made many of the projects undertaken by LSCM 50 years later significantly more challenging. This is the last of the fun historic photos I have in my slides, but each of these photos was from a publication called *Picturing The Big Shop*. So if you're interested in GPO history or have an interest in printing processes, it's a great publication to check out.

If we don't have a library, what does library services and content management do? We have 80 dedicated and passionate staff members that are organized into three divisions. My division, metadata and collection services, is the largest of the three. We are responsible for acquiring publications for the public information programs, creating metadata to represent each acquisition and facilitate discovery and access, and we undertake a lot of data integrity efforts to ensure the quality of our metadata.

Products and systems includes our digital conversion team, preservation specialists and staff that undertake archival management activities, and those include both transfer of our agency records to NARA and also archiving federal publications for long term preservation and access. Our system team keeps our systems and websites up and running. And then Federal Depository Support Services provides support to our depository libraries. This includes direct support for depository operations, which could be anything from helping a library adjust what they receive in a tangible format, or figuring out how to put catalog records into their local systems to providing guidance if a library sustains a natural disaster and has to temporarily suspend their public access. They also provide education and training opportunities to information professionals to help them navigate the wide-ranging world of government information and help the public find resources.

Library services and content management is organizationally under the Superintendent of documents who also has responsibility over the sales program, which sells publications of the US government through the GPO Bookstore. The Superintendent of documents has responsibility for several statutorily mandated public information programs. The cataloging and

indexing program endeavors to create a comprehensive index for all public documents issued or published by the federal government that are not confidential in character. Catalog records are made available through our catalog of U.S. government publications.

GPO is required by law to provide copies of certain tangible publications to select federal agencies and others as directed by Congress. GPO's library services and content Management Unit maintains mailing lists for by-law distribution of specific publications, and ensures that the Library of Congress receives copies of every government publication that comes through our programs. GPO distributes tangible government publications to foreign governments as part of the International Exchange Service. In return, those foreign governments agree to send to the United States their similar publications for the Library of Congress's collections.

The Federal Depository Library Program's mission is to provide no-fee permanent public access to federal government information now and for future generations. We distribute information products from all three branches of government to a network of 1,088 libraries nationwide. Federal Depository libraries are designated by law or by their representative or senators. I'd like to show a map that shows the location of each of our depository libraries. It shows you where the highest density areas are, particularly on the East Coast as well as in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam and the Federated States of Micronesia.

I mentioned earlier that GPO opened its doors on March 4th, 1861, but the depository program has roots much earlier. Congress authorized distribution of select congressional publications to universities, historical societies and state libraries in 1813. The responsibility fell under the Secretary of State until the position of the Superintendent of public documents was created in the Department of the Interior in 1869. It wasn't until the printing act of 1895 reformed the rules for printing and expanded GPO's authority over all three branches of the government. The Superintendent of documents and administration of the depository program was also moved to GPO with the 1895 Printing Act.

Prior to 1962, every library in the depository program had to accept and retain a copy of every publication. The Depository Library Act established the concept of regional depositories. They receive every publication of the US government, as well as selective depositories. They could select from classes of publications. A simplistic example might be that a land grant school could choose to focus their collecting in agricultural areas. The Depository Library Act also significantly expanded the scope of the depository program by including publications not printed by GPO. If an agency prints external to GPO, they are now required to supply GPO with sufficient copies to fulfill distribution, and they also had to bear the cost of printing those copies. For print jobs handled by GPO, GPO pays to ride that print job to cover distribution copies. That's a benefit to the agencies to print through GPO.

Now the Depository Library Act of 1962 is the last significant legislative update to the Federal Depository Library program. 1993 brought the GPO Access Act, which authorized GPO to operate an electronic storage facility and a locator service. But the language in Title 44, Chapter 19 of the US code doesn't acknowledge the existence of digital formats or the Internet. So that brings us to January 2022, when at the recommendation of the Depository Library Council, the GPO Director established a task force to study whether or not the Federal Depository Library program could move to a digital program. The 23 member Task force included representation from the Depository Library Council, Federal Depository libraries of different types and sizes, federal agencies, as well as library associations. When the task force delivered its final report in December 2022, it concluded that the FDLP can and should move to a digital program.

I'm a collection development librarian, so I do focus on what a digital first FDLP means for our collections, particularly the increased focus on digital content. Preservation of and access to

tangible collections, however, remains critical, and identifying or producing online equivalents to all the tangible publications is one way we can preserve the tangible collection. I'm going to talk about how each of these four ways listed on the slide is how we're increasing focus on digital content.

As I mentioned in my bio, one of my primary responsibilities is conducting outreach to federal agencies. Federal agencies are required to notify GPO of their agency's publications for inclusion in the FDLP and the cataloging and indexing program. This requirement was really well understood when federal agencies were required to print through GPO and had designated printing officers who specialized in knowing the requirements of agency printing. But with fewer publications being printed at all, it's been really challenging to get agencies to notify us of their publications. I'm always looking for opportunities to partner with federal agencies to ensure we're not duplicating effort. So if an agency is undergoing a large scale digitization project, I'm really interested in learning about what they're covering so that we make sure that we don't plan to digitize the same thing.

Another way GPO is focusing on digital first is by expanding discovery and access to digital information through cataloging and metadata. Our catalog of U.S. government publications represents that comprehensive index of U.S. government publications that GPO is mandated to produce and it's available online at [catalog.gpo.gov](http://catalog.gpo.gov). In addition to adding records to the catalog of U.S. government publications, we catalog everything in OCLC and we also make record sets available on GitHub for libraries worldwide to import into their own catalogs in case membership with OCLC is not feasible for that library. We wanted to make sure that our records were available through many different avenues and to lower the difficulty in obtaining them. For anyone familiar with Metalib, which was a Federated search product that used to be accessible from the CGP, we recently replaced Metalib with [Discover.gov](http://Discover.gov). This allows users to search the entirety of the CGP as well as databases of other federal agencies in one place. It can be accessed at [discover.gpo.gov](http://discover.gpo.gov).

After we acquire a publication and produce a catalog record, how do we ensure long term access? GPO is increasing harvesting and preservation of digital information in several ways. In general, federal agencies don't have a statutory mandate to maintain every information product on their website in perpetuity. They're expected to curate content to provide access to accurate and timely information on their live website, so GPO takes steps to ensure access into the future when current publications become historic publications. For online versions, GPO provides a persistent URL (PURL). The target of the URL can be redirected by GPO if the location of the resource changes. For example, if an agency reorganizes its website or has a name change and migrates to a new domain, we can redirect the PURL to a new target and restore access without any library that is utilizing a GPO catalog record having to take action in their local catalog.

For live serials and integrating resources, we direct PURLs to the live agency website to ensure that a user has access to the current information. But for monograph PDFs that we don't expect to change, we actually harvest a copy to a GPO server. This has been a practice for many years, but more recently we've taken the step of migrating those harvested monograph PDFs into our repository, GovInfo.

Before fully switching gears to GovInfo, I want to share the other way we've expanded harvesting and archiving. Since 2011, GPO has had a subscription to Archive-It, a web archiving software as a service product from Internet Archive. We started with the websites of commissions and interagency task forces, and over the last 15 years, the FDLP Web Archive has grown to 227 collections, each of which has multiple seeds or target URLs. The team that works on these web archives dedicates a lot of time to quality control. It's not just setting a web

crawler in one direction and hoping to capture as much as possible, but they do everything they can to make sure that everything on the targeted domain is captured. So if you click several layers down, you're able to reach that final information product and you don't get a 404 error saying that part wasn't captured.

Here I've highlighted just two of our Web archive collections: the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has been archived since March of 2012, and [globalchange.gov](https://www.globalchange.gov), which is an interagency initiative, has been harvested since September 2016. If you navigate into the [globalchange.gov](https://www.globalchange.gov) collection, this is what the homepage looked like the day of our first web harvest. And this is the last successful harvest of the homepage on June 6, 2024. Web harvests provide a snapshot of the agency website on the day that it was harvested and we aim to re-harvest every collection at minimum once a year and more frequently if it's an agency website that changes frequently.

Last but certainly not least, let's look at how we're growing collections on GPO's system of online access, GovInfo. A little background: the GPO Access Act required GPO to establish a system of online access and in 1994 GPO Access was launched. After that came the more robust Federal Digital System and now we have GovInfo, accessible at [govinfo.gov](https://www.govinfo.gov). The GPO Access Act required GPO to provide online access to the Congressional Record and Federal Register, and other appropriate publications as determined by the Superintendent of Documents. That was the entire scope of the legislation. The legislation also stipulated that, to the extent practicable, the Superintendent of documents shall accommodate requests from the head of a department or agency to include their agency's publications.

What started with a mandate to provide the Congressional Record and the Federal Register has expanded to over 3 million packages. Each package roughly corresponds to one bound volume or serial issue. While GPO may assist agencies with producing and printing materials that are intended for internal or administrative use, the scope of GovInfo and the FDLP is all public information. You won't find records, classified information or materials intended for administrative use that are internal to an agency in our GovInfo system.

As the publisher of the official publications of Congress, we do have a large amount of congressional material. You'll find publications of congressional committees as well as the House and Senate journals, congressional bills and congressional reports and documents. As Congress's producer of both digital and print formats, online versions of official congressional publications are published first on GovInfo. If you click on the committee name from the committee browse, you can access all the Bills, reports, hearings, documents and committee prints that originated in that committee. Not only does GovInfo have congressional bills, but you can trace legislation from introduction in the House or Senate through enactment as a public or private law to the statutes at large and see it codified in the US code. All iterations of legislation are available in one place and you'll find linkages between the different iterations.

Let's take a look at a specific example: Public Law 117-263, the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023. The annual National Defense Authorization Act is a popular vehicle for passing legislation that's actually unrelated to appropriations. If we navigate to the related documents tab, you'll find bill versions, bill history, related congressional committee prints, congressional reports, presidential signing statements and remarks, and where this law is codified in the US code. Expanding the US code node, you'll see all 34 titles of the US code that were changed by this law.

Now you may be wondering why I would pick the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023. The answer is that I've spent an inordinate amount of time with this legislation because it happened to include the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act. This act

requires federal agencies to submit their congressionally mandated reports for publication on GovInfo. With limited exceptions, this is the first time that federal agencies have had a statutory mandate to deposit born digital publications in GovInfo, ensuring long term preservation and access to the reports required by Congress. GPO was given one year from the date of enactment to build a submission portal and launch a public access collection on GovInfo, and we came in 12 days ahead of schedule.

The congressionally mandated reports collection can be browsed by agency and by topic. Agency submitters self-assign topics from a list of legislative subject terms on Congress.gov. The congressionally mandated reports collection is a good example of the rich metadata that powers the search and discovery on the GovInfo platform. The legislation is very prescriptive about what metadata had to accompany each report—not just title, government author and publication date, but also a citation to the law or congressional report that requires the agency to produce the report. Also, if available, the House Executive communication number or Senate executive communication number that are printed in the congressional record as a recording of when either the House Clerk or Senate parliamentarian processed the submission. In addition to all of this metadata attached to the digital object in GovInfo, our library services and content Management Unit ensures that each report is described bibliographically in the Catalog of US Government Publications.

Because GPO is in the legislative branch, people expect congressional content and are surprised to learn that our largest collection by volume is actually the US courts opinions collection. Federal courts opt in to publishing their opinions on GovInfo. What started as a pilot program with just a dozen courts has expanded to all 13 appellate courts, 74 district courts, 76 bankruptcy courts and three national courts electing to provide public access to their published opinions on GovInfo. This is consistent with the E-Government Act's requirement for the substance of all written opinions to be made available in a text searchable format after April 16th, 2005.

I mentioned previously that GPO accommodates requests from federal agencies to include their publications, and several agencies that have needed a hosting solution or needed to migrate from another platform have worked with our GPO Agency Strategic Programs and GovInfo team to come up with a digital content solution that leverages the strengths of the GovInfo platform while also customizing to the agency's unique content. This work is done on a cost recovery basis. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is one example of an agency that publishes a series—in this case, BOEM environmental studies—directly on the GovInfo platform. In addition to having a landing page from which BOEM publications can be accessed, a search widget that focuses on unique metadata to these publications was also developed for the agency.

In addition to content deposited through GPO publishing workflows or directly by an agency, LSCM has several large digital reformatting projects in progress. Last fiscal year, we launched the US Reports collection, providing free access to the published opinions of the US Supreme Court. We added USLM XML files for volumes of the statutes at large. We added digitized congressional hearings and congressional committee prints. And we digitized executive agency annual reports to supplement coverage in the US Congressional Serial Set, which is a joint project of the Law Library of Congress and GPO.

In FY2026, we're tackling digital reformatting of the Code of Federal Regulations and that will complete the day-forward collection that is already on GovInfo. We're continuing to digitize congressional hearings and executive agency annual reports. We're going to be adding House and Senate journals to bridge when they stop being included in the serial set and when the day-forward born digital collection on GovInfo picks up. We've got a set of publications from the

Office of Education within the Department of the Interior. And we're also digitizing depository shipping lists. These are an important finding aid both for the depository community and GPO's library services and content management to determine whether a historic publication was actually distributed to depository libraries. It shows what was in each shipment to depositories.

As I mentioned, GPO doesn't have a tangible collection, so for each of these digital reformatting endeavors, I have had to reacquire tangible copies from depository libraries that are weeding their collections or relinquishing their depository designation. It is a challenge to reassemble some of these very long historic serial runs. GPO is also really fortunate to work with partners that digitally reformat historic publications to our specifications and then deposit those files in GovInfo. Digital content contributors can be depository libraries, federal agencies and any other type of institution that's committed to preserving government publications.

These contributions have varied significantly. The University of Florida digitally reformatted all of their publications in their Centers of Excellence collection, including Panama Canal, National Recovery Administration and several bureaus within the Department of Agriculture. We also work with libraries that, anytime they receive an interlibrary loan request because something isn't available in an online version, digitize to our specifications and deposit the copy in GovInfo so that it helps everyone instead of another library having to fulfill the same interlibrary loan request in the future.

Something that makes GovInfo really unique is our commitment to digital preservation. In 2018, GovInfo became the 2nd repository in the world and the first repository in the United States to be certified under ISO 16363 as a trustworthy digital repository. Certification requires a yearly surveillance audit, and we undergo complete recertification every three years. In addition to TDR certification, in 2023, GPO pursued the CoreTrustSeal certification and that has let us participate in a broader community of practice. There are far more institutions that have achieved CoreTrustSeal certification, and since it's a peer review process, GPO now participates in reviewing other repositories that are seeking certification.

In addition to our certifications, we have an extremely limited withdrawal policy. All the content in GovInfo is distributed as part of the FDLP and in order for a publication to be withdrawn, a federal agency has to petition the Superintendent of documents and meet specific criteria, such as content errors or privacy concerns. The definition of privacy has changed significantly over the years, and the federal government did not always treat Social Security numbers as a unique identifier, so we have had to do some withdrawals to protect identities. In the case of a content error, ideally, the agency or Congress plans to replace it with a corrected version, so hopefully it's a temporary removal rather than permanent.

Alright, before I take questions, I did want to share a few resources that are available to anyone. The FDLP Academy is our ongoing webinar series and it's a great way to enhance government information literacy. Session topics are really wide-ranging, sometimes a deep dive into a specific publication like how the US code is compiled, or broader like Spanish language health information. All the webinars are recorded.

And then GPO, in conjunction with our Depository Library Council, does a spring virtual meeting and a fall conference every year. We just had our spring 2026 virtual meeting last week and recordings of the sessions are now all available on FDLP.gov. We had a wonderful session on the National Transportation Library's resources and services presented by Rosalyn Alleman and it got many kudos during the closing meeting. Another resource available to anyone are the FDLP resource guides. These are predominantly subject guides that co-locate information resources on a particular topic. There is a guide for each cabinet level agency with information about the department operating administrations and links to resources.

I am happy to take any questions and if you think of a question after the session, I invite anyone to reach out to me through our Ask GPO service at [ask.gpo.gov](http://ask.gpo.gov) and the question will get routed to me.

**Bob Cullen:** Great. Thank you very much, Megan. Excellent presentation. Quite an impressive set of topics and issues and facts that you've shared with us. So again, we're all the smarter now because of that, I really mean that. As Megan indicated, she's open for questions and comments during the remainder of our hour together, and I will go ahead and call on who has the hand raised. It is Amanda Carter. So go ahead, Amanda.

**CARTER Amanda J:** Hi. Hi, Megan. Thank you so much for doing this. I really appreciate it. I love government information. It's why I'm working at a state agency and also I love the FDLP Academy—I attend often. I was at the spring meeting. Lots of good stuff there, so thank you for pointing that out. I do have one question about the digital access and the guarantee for no-fee digital access. Do you take into account people who maybe can't afford the Internet itself? And how is that resolved?

**Minta, Megan:** Each of the depository libraries are required to provide access to government information, both tangible and digital. So they should be able to reach one of the depository libraries and use a computer terminal to access the digital resources there. Unfortunately, we've had some questions through the Depository Library Council at times of whether or not GPO could provide any programs to increase Internet access, and unfortunately that kind of falls out of our scope of our agency. GPO also does not have grant-making authority, so it limits what we can provide to the depository libraries in certain areas.

Computer access is really difficult and we also take internet speed into account when we're doing our digitization projects. Some of these things that we digitize create enormous digital files that are slow to download. So we have tried with those collections to break the PDFs into specific sections. For the congressional serial set collection, they are all accessible at the individual report or document level. So if somebody has a citation to a House report, they can pull the individual report instead of downloading an entire volume, which will hopefully be a more manageable file size. But that is just one of the many things that we have tried to take into account.

**CARTER Amanda J:** That's awesome. Thank you.

**Bob Cullen:** Thank you. I'll again just check for the electronic raise of hands if you'd like to ask anything of Megan. In the meantime, I'll just say I have quite a few questions because you certainly captured my attention here. I'll prioritize and ask the one that came off the top of my head.

First of all, in terms of the history of GPO, I love the photos that you were showing. I always loved looking at vintage photos anyway, but I do appreciate you providing that context about how a lot of this continues to be manual—it's not just all about push buttons or high-tech aspects. Things were done by hand. Along the lines of the historical information, you highlighted 1861 was when GPO as we know today got its start—165 years, that's very impressive.

A couple of things from the chronology: 1962, the Depository Library Act. You indicated that starting with that act, the focus wasn't just on GPO documents themselves, but also expanding the scope to include publications not printed by GPO. Forgive me if you addressed this, but what does that mean? Are you talking about other federal government documents or was it more open-ended than that? I just was wondering about some clarification.

**Minta, Megan:** It was mostly that federal agencies were starting to take their print jobs external to the government. They started using private publishers, but that meant that it circumvented GPO being able to receive publications for the public information programs. So they were trying to make sure that the agency still understood that there was a responsibility to provide those things to GPO if they were going to print somewhere else.

I believe there have also been periods of time where an agency has to receive a printing waiver if they were going to print external to GPO. Some print jobs come to GPO and they're actually printed in-house, but a lot of them are actually contracted out by GPO. GPO handles that contracting process. There was a period when agencies that wanted to stand up their own print shops were told, "OK, but you have to still supply us with the things that fall within the scope of our public information programs."

**Bob Cullen:** Great. Thank you for the additional information. I'd like to call upon Rosalyn Alleman next. Go ahead, Rosalyn.

**Alleman, Rosalyn (OST-R):** Thanks Bob. I was just thinking about when I was working at a law firm library about 25 years ago in downtown DC, someone would periodically send me to the GPO store for some extra CFRs. I'm guessing they probably don't have a physical bookstore that you can visit anymore, do they?

**Minta, Megan:** So the GPO bookstore, sadly the last location on site at GPO headquarters, closed during the pandemic. It just wasn't sustainable anymore. Most of the business was being put through the website. I've seen great pictures where the budget of the US government used to be this big splash out where all of the media would be lined up outside of GPO headquarters to be first in line to get their copy.

**Alleman, Rosalyn (OST-R):** Those were the days. I remember having discussions with coworkers about our opinions of what the choices were for that year's CFRs—why didn't they pick something that looked better with last year's color and stuff like that?

**Minta, Megan:** For anyone who hasn't seen a collection shelved, they pick a different color for the cover every year. But if they haven't made any updates to a specific volume, they actually just distribute a new cover in the new color, and you just bind it over the old edition so that it looks correct on your shelf.

**Alleman, Rosalyn (OST-R):** I'd forgotten about that. My very first job at the USDOT was at the Headquarters library as a temp in the law library there and one of my jobs was checking in the periodicals and CFRs on the shelf.

**Bob Cullen:** Thank you, Rosalyn. Next, I'd like to call on GPO colleague Jessica Fomalont.

**Fomalont, Jessica:** Yeah. Thank you, Bob and Megan. As most of you know, I'm currently one of the technical services librarians through LSCM. I was also at TRB for a long time. I just wanted to take a minute about how I work with Megan. When we're trained on what we're cataloging, we're trained about what's in scope. Megan shows us what to look for—it specifically has to be by the federal government or else funded by the federal government. She's the one we come to when we have questions if we look at something and we're on the borderline, like if a website is put out by the government. She's very reliable anytime we have to deal with some gray areas. As you can see from her presentation, she has a relationship with several different areas both within LSCM and in the FDLP community. That's my relationship to her as one of the people who catalogs for the GPO. Thank you.

**Minta, Megan:** Thank you so much, Jessica. Yeah, we come across a lot of interesting situations where something's produced and they don't give a good attribution statement for where the funding came from. I'll find myself trawling through contract documents to see if they were given money to produce this for the federal government. You should probably have put that somewhere on the document.

**Bob Cullen:** Great. Thank you very much, Jessica. Any other questions or comments? While we're waiting for others to chime in, Megan, I'll go ahead and ask something else. Usually I wait till towards the end of the hour to bring up something related to the speaker's professional background.

I take note that you had a federal librarianship career start—I was just curious if that entailed working with a specific agency, and also how and why you ended up at GPO. I saw that your employment at the VA happened after that. I was just wondering if you wouldn't mind providing some additional detail about what got you from there to where you are now at GPO.

**Minta, Megan:** I really love this origin story. I was looking for summer jobs in the DC area. I grew up around here and I was hoping to be able to live at home for the summer and work for a federal agency. I put in a lot of undergraduate internship applications and I was plucked out of a pile because I had touched books at Barnes and Noble. The person who plucked me out became the Superintendent of documents. She took a look at that and said, "I can work with that. I can make a librarian out of that."

So I was a summer intern at GPO and fell in love with government information. That was between my junior and senior year of undergrad. I returned to college, applied to graduate school, and went to UNC Chapel Hill. I then participated in the Presidential Management Fellowship program, which at the time was an executive branch special hiring program. It was not an option for me to return to GPO while doing that program, so I had an opportunity to work for Veterans Affairs. While I was there, I served as a depository coordinator, so I got to see everything from that side—selecting what we wanted to receive in print and helping facilitate public access. Once the opportunity came up to do collection development at GPO, I applied and was really happy to return.

**Bob Cullen:** Thank you, Megan. Amanda, you're next.

**CARTER Amanda J:** Hi. Sorry, I forgot my camera the last time. So now here I am. Hello! I love your origin story. I took a federal libraries course at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and we toured 10 different federal libraries in DC and I loved it. I'm the Oregon DOT librarian now. I do have one other question. You mentioned for your digitization efforts that since you don't have an active collection anymore, you reach out to the FDLP holdings for it. I'm wondering, since you gave your collection to NARA, why don't you ask them? Why are you asking the FDLP? I would imagine they would have kept the collections together.

**Minta, Megan:** A big component of this is that initially all of our digitization was being done destructively. We weren't going to take copies of record to do destructive digitization. So the materials that were acquired from depositories are only things that libraries are weeding and intend to discard.

The discard process in the FDLP is extremely prescribed. A selective library has to offer materials to their regional library first, and then to libraries within their state or region. Finally, they offer them nationally through a system called FDLP Exchange. I am always watching for materials—maybe I'm collecting for a specific title or I see a long run of something that's been in closed stacks and is in great condition. There have been several times where I've been able to get a full run of something, like the CFR, and we pay for all that shipping. I would really like to

see us put a couple machines within a library that has space and just say, "We're going to sit here and digitize everything you have," especially now that camera technology has improved and we don't necessarily have to de-bind everything.

**Bob Cullen:** Thank you, Amanda. One of the other things that you enlightened me on was the court opinions. I somehow had the assumption that it was just US Supreme Court decisions, but it sounds like it's a whole broad swath of federal courts.

**Minta, Megan:** Yes, federal courts only. Federal courts were required to put their published opinions on their individual court websites. They worked with GPO to do that sustainably. We pull out of the same content management system that PACER does, but PACER has all of the docket material and we only receive published opinions.

**Bob Cullen:** OK. That's fine. Very impressive. We are coming towards the end of our time here. I'll just throw out this question: Let's just say one of the new benefits at GPO is that you get a magic wand to wave. What would you like to pursue in the near future with respect to things that remain to be accomplished?

**Minta, Megan:** I would want mandatory deposit of born digital publications. If the agencies just gave us everything, it would save a lot of time from having to track things down on websites. In Title 44, agencies have to provide publications to the Superintendent of documents, but that has not translated well to digital. Agencies say they don't have time for a new responsibility, but it's actually been there since the program started. We got a taste of how it works with the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act, and it's working really well. My dream would be to see that expanded to all publications of the US government.

**Bob Cullen:** Great. Megan, I can't thank you enough for being our speaker and for the insights you've shared. I'm especially grateful because I reached out to Jessica back in August for recommendations on presentations, and she wholeheartedly recommended you. I think you had been on board to speak a few years ago but had a scheduling conflict.

**Minta, Megan:** Yeah, I probably missed the 2022 one because I was on parental leave, so I'm really glad that I had the opportunity to be here today.

**Bob Cullen:** Oh, OK! Well, parental leave counts as a good excuse. It's all the more wonderful that you were able to finally give a TLR presentation. Thank you very much, and thank you all for taking the time to join us. The next TLR will be on Thursday, April 9th, with my AASHTO colleagues Lexi Berkley and Tierra Whitmore. Have a wonderful rest of the week. Take care.

**Minta, Megan:** Thanks everyone.

**Alleman, Rosalyn (OST-R) stopped transcription**