HathiTrust & The Federal Depository Library Program

HathiTrust Federal Documents Advisory Committee, June 2021

The HathiTrust Federal Documents Advisory Committee has created this side-by-side chart as a reference for our HathiTrust member libraries and to promote greater understanding of synergies and complementary features between HathiTrust and the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). The chart provides a high-level summary in terms of organization, policies, content and collections, preservation, access, and services related to published U.S. Federal Documents.

Organization	HathiTrust	FDLP	Notable Intersections
Format	Primarily digital, includes Shared Print Program	Historically print-based, including microformats, tangible electronic formats, now both print and digital	
Goals	Preservation and access	Publishing, disseminating, providing free access to federal government information via libraries	
Membership	Contributing and sustaining members; public and academic libraries, research libraries	Designated regional and selective libraries	Many libraries participate in both; seeking opportunities to work together
Business model	Membership funded, some in-kind support from members	Government funded, in kind support from members	Member libraries play an active role in the organization
Founding structure	Coalition	Legal foundation and regulation	
Governance	Board, Steering Committee, member groups	Superintendent of Documents (executive); GPO (departmental); Director (head); Depository Library Council (advisory)	
Geographic organization	USA + international	USA; operates under specific legal mandates for service in regions, Congressional districts & census areas	Overlap on US territories
Policies	**HathiTrust**	**FDLP**	**Notable Intersections**
Preservation	Digital preservation in HathiTrust, print preservation in libraries via Shared Print Program	Voluntary preservation stewards; range of specificity (from a few volumes to whole collection) but tends toward specific. Regionals and selectives do not have the same rules in regards to disposition. Regionals have preservation requirements.	HathiTrust Shared Print Program & FDLP Preservation Steward program both require "commitments" from libraries for print volumes

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Access	Range of access depending on digitization contracts and copyright rules. Free, public viewing access to digitized federal publications; download access for members; computational access via the HathiTrust Research Center	Free, public access to the Federal collections; information specialists available to anyone with locating Federal information.	
Collection development	Policy set by HathiTrust membership, collection priorities determined within U.S. Federal Documents Program and member groups	GPO strategy for national collection; GPO hosts needs and offers system along with a variety of possibilities for FDLP libraries to select what they will receive.	
Content and Collections	**HathiTrust**	**FDLP**	**Notable Intersections**
Content focus	Mass digitized and locally digitized fed docs	GPO-published and distributed fed docs	Both focus on federal documents, federal documents are a subset of HathiTrust's large collection
Authorship	Published by GPO and other federal government entities	Born-digital fed docs published by GPO and other federal government entities	HathiTrust contains digitized federal government publishers not under the auspices of GPO, as well as "unreported" federal documents. GPO born-digital collections include these as well.
Digitization	Digitized and contributed by members	Specific digitization projects	Many in HathiTrust are digitized from GPO print provided to depository libraries, Digitization of Serial Set, other collections
Digital Ingest	Facilitated by HT	Facilitated by GPO	
Description	Cataloging from members; digital metadata originates from print metadata	Cataloging from GPO and FDLP libraries, earlier "important" monographic documents cataloged by the Library of Congress	
Completeness	All date ranges, not comprehensive	Date ranges tend to be concurrent with "born-digital"	
Preservation	**HathiTrust**	**FDLP**	**Notable Intersections**
Digital preservation & Certification	Digital preservation of digitized collections including US federal documents. Certified as a Trusted Digital Repository via CRL TRAC audit.	Digital preservation of federal government publications. Certified as a Trusted Digital Repository meeting the ISO 16363:2012 standard	Digital preservation is a core value for both HathiTrust and GPO. Both formally certified as Trusted Digital Repositories

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Digital provenance	Digitized from print volumes held by libraries. Digital images often contain library marks, SuDoc numbers, and federal publishing statements. Multiple copies in HathiTrust are evidence of FDLP distribution	Originate from GPO with formal chain of custody and digital signature	Both have characteristics of authenticity, though the characteristics are different
Print preservation model	Shared print program for monographs	Preservation stewards program for print	
Circulation	Commit to retain circulating print copies	Commit to retain non-circulating print copies	
Duration of print retention agreement	Participating Shared Print library agrees to retain and not to relinquish ownership of any Retained Holdings prior to January 1, 2043	Understood to be in perpetuity. Preservation steward agreement can be terminated with 120 days notice to GPO.	
Duration of digital retention agreement	Understood to be in perpetuity	Understood to be in perpetuity	
Disclosure	Shared Print commitments are disclosed in local collection management systems and in the HathiTrust Shared Print Registry	Preservation Stewards are encouraged to make a retention notation in the cataloging record	
Access	**HathiTrust**	**FDLP**	**Notable Intersections**
Access mechanism	Digital library, computational access via HathiTrust Research Center.	Discovery and access for digital content via govinfo.gov and and CGP, catalog.gpo.gov Access to web-harvested content via FDLP WebArchive on archiveit	
Discovery	Searchable on hathiTrust.org, commercial discovery systems, library "catalogs", DPLA. Searchable U.S. Federal Documents Collection.	Discovery for digital content via govinfo.gov	HathiTrust's Federal Documents Registry contains links to both HathiTrust and GPO-hosted volumes. DPLA provides discovery for both HathiTrust and GPO-hosted volumes.
Usage	Members have access to HathiTrust usage data for their institution though not scoped specifically to use of the U.S. Federal Documents Collection	Each depository library can sign up for PURL reports which will show usage of GPO materials at their individual institution	Information on usage provided by each, both have privacy stance in regards to usage data
Services	**HathiTrust**	**FDLP**	**Notable Intersections**
Services offered	US Federal Documents Registry, user support and quality corrections via feedback@issues.hathitrust.org	Cataloging, support for promotion of the FDLP by libraries, education and training	Users find digital documents and then seek print