BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO: THE CONSEQUENCES OF RELINQUISHING FEDERAL DEPOSITORY STATUS

Elizabeth Elmwood
Metadata Librarian, Xavier University
March 28, 2014
INTRODUCTION

Xavier University relinquished its federal depository status in June of 2013. Its reasons were the same ones many small depositories cite: limited resources and a duplication of effort.
Top 5 reasons cited for relinquishing depository status

- Electronic access to documents
- Staffing priorities
- Space constraints
- (TIE) Proximity to older, larger depositories
- (TIE) Time spent meeting FDLP requirements
- Indirect costs of ownership

XAVIER’S LOCAL CONDITIONS

- HBCU, est. 1925 by St. Katharine Drexel
- Emphasis on health sciences
- 3,121 students (631 in Pharm.D. program)
- Became a depository library in 1991, < 20% selective
- GNO area has 10 other depositories
- Little public use of library overall
- New library director hired in 2013
It’s not you, it’s me: Xavier’s reasons for relinquishing depository status

- Tangible item use was low
  - Less than 1 item per month re-shelved
  - Technology requirements barely met

- Limited staffing
  - 1 librarian with other duties
  - No support staff, spotty student worker coverage

- Use of space
  - Library reconfiguration in progress
  - Extensive print weeding of entire collection

- Cost of ownership versus use of collection
REASONS FOR KEEPING DEPOSITORY STATUS

- Intrinsic value of an informed citizenry
- Enhances library prestige and is unique to libraries
- Your docs collection may have its own specialties
- Your collection supports a department, major, or program of instruction
- Leaving the FDLP doesn’t yield instant savings in space, labor, or money
THE WITHDRAWAL PROCESS

- After consulting with your regional, relinquishing depository status is as easy as writing a letter to the Superintendent of Documents.
- Expect to list everything as usual in the ASERL Documents Disposition Database.
- Consider regional depositories’ workloads when submitting to the ASERL DDD submissions.
- Pulling data from your ILS into an editable file can save time with DDD input, but cleanup is inevitable...
MARC-TO-ASERL DOCUMENTS DISPOSITION DATABASE CROSSWALK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARC field &amp; subfield</th>
<th>ASERL DDD field name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>086</td>
<td>SuDoc Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>245</td>
<td>a,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>245</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>260</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Possible identifying fields for fed docs: 008/28, 074, 086

Caveats:
• You will likely have to remove records for non-depository federal publications in your collection.
• Years and/or full SuDoc numbers for continuing resources will have to come from data in the item and/or holdings records.
• The GMD (245 |h) doesn’t match the required values for Item Format, but it makes sorting easy and can be quickly replaced in a spreadsheet.
Should I Stay or Should I Go?
Other trade-offs to consider

Cost of maintaining print titles after leaving FDLP

Effects on reference, instruction, and program support

Continued commitment of space and staff time

Photo credits – l&r: unsplash.com, middle: www.flickr.com/photos/eflon (Creative Commons license)
**Electronic-only Depositories: A Possible Compromise**

- Library retains depository status
- Records for electronic resources maintained in catalog
- Library can also maintain other guides (web pages, LibGuides, etc.) as access points
- 5-year retention period still applies for tangible material
- LSU Eunice is currently the only all-electronic depository in Louisiana
**Xavier Library after withdrawal**

- Collection remains on shelves during the disposition process
- Government documents librarian transferred to Metadata Department
- Unclaimed documents are incorporated into regular collection, offered as free items to Xavier community, or recycled
- Student workers perform physical removal
- Government information accessible via [LibGuide](https://libguide.xaveriuniversity.edu)
RECOMMENDED READING


Questions?

Elizabeth Elmwood
Metadata Librarian
eelmwood@xula.edu