The LOCKSS Program
Digital Federal Depository Library Program
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why does the LOCKSS-USDOCS program call itself the "digital FDLP?"

A: Our use of this term is purely descriptive and not meant to imply that LOCKSS-USDOCS is part of the Federal Depository Library Program, see our disclaimer, below. There are three characteristics of the program that taken together, add up to a truly "digital FDLP":

- LOCKSS-USDOCS is the *only* library program that is systematically dealing with the preservation of born-digital government documents and doing so in a collaborative, distributed way similar to the way the FDLP is currently organized. For more on the FDLP, see https://fdlp.gov.
- LOCKSS-USDOCS is a collaborative network that is "tamper evident" -- a critical piece of the paper FDLP transferred to the digital realm.
- LOCKSS-USDOCS is a program that empowers libraries to work collaboratively on behalf of their constituent citizens.
- Disclaimer: The term "digital FDLP" is purely for descriptive purposes to contextualize LOCKSS-USDOCS within the historic work of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). LOCKSS-USDOCS is a grassroots effort in which the Government Publishing Office (GPO) is fully cooperating. LOCKSS-USDOCS is not an official program of the GPO, as no legal paperwork or memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed.

Q: How big is LOCKSS-USDOCS?

A: LOCKSS-USDOCS has about three dozen partners in the US and Canada and the program is growing! Please contact Digital Federal Depository Library Program Network Coordinator James Jacobs if your institution is interested in participating.

Q: Is LOCKSS USDOCS sanctioned by the Government Publishing Office (GPO)?

A: LOCKSS-USDOCS, with the express written consent of and in full partnership with the GPO, is currently harvesting and preserving ALL collections hosted on GovInfo. LOCKSS-USDOCS is much more than a simple mirror site for GovInfo -- something that the depository community has been asking GPO to provide for many years.Participating libraries have independent custody of and control over the content, thus assuring tamper evidence of depository materials in the same manner that paper materials are protected by the over 1100 FDLP libraries. Future collections outside of GovInfo (but still within scope of the FDLP) will be added based on collective decisions. As noted above, even though GPO is an active participant in the project, we have not as yet signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) making LOCKSS-USDOCS an official GPO partner (for more on GPO partnerships, see https://www.fdlp.gov/about/partnerships).

Q: What sort of files does LOCKSS-USDOCS preserve and how much disk space does it take?

A: LOCKSS-USDOCS is preserving all available file types and metadata from GovInfo. The current collection, with content from ~1800 to present, is approximately 10TB and

growing. Because born-digital files are smaller than digital files of scanned paper (typically .tiff files), the space requirements for the future may not be as high as the requirements for the digitized files of the past. This and the trend of ever decreasing hardware and storage costs make storage for a serious collection affordable.

Q: How much will the GovInfocollections grow in the future?

A: GPO staff state, "growth estimates for current GovInfo content collections are about 380 GB per year, but this doesn't include growth from the addition of new collections." LOCKSS USDOCS members will work on a consensus model for the addition of new collections. If you would like to suggest other collections within scope of the FDLP but outside GovInfo, please contact Digital Federal Depository Library Program Network Coordinator James Jacobs.

Q: Do members get to select what content they want to preserve?

A: For the FDLP, libraries may select items of importance to their local communities (for more see https://www.fdlp.gov/requirements-and-guidance/collections-and-databases). For LOCKSS-USDOCS, technically, member institutions can also pick and choose specific years of material from GovInfo collections which are available for preservation in the network, and we strongly recommend that libraries preserve all items in order to assure redundancy in the network.

Q: What sort of hardware and storage will I need and how much should my institution expect to pay?

A: We recommend that participants have the equivalent of a system with 12 TB. Future hardware configurations will allow us to expand storage to meet the needs of the program. Some Universities, (e.g., University of Michigan) are running their system in a virtual server environment. The cost of the hardware varies tremendously with approach and configuration, but on average partners are reusing and upgrading older machines. New machines built to LOCKSS Program specifications are approximately $1,500.

Q: Are there other costs that my institution should know about?

A: LOCKSS Alliance libraries participate in the program at no additional cost. Non-LOCKSS Alliance libraries are asked to pay a token support fee of $1250/yr or $750/yr if they bring an additional library into the program. Hardware and software upkeep is very minimal (less than 1hr/month for 1 IT staff). Staff time for document librarians is less than 15 hrs/year, which includes periodic conference calls and selection of new archival units as they are included. In short, participation in terms of hardware, software, and staffing is extremely cost-effective, flexible, efficient, and scalable.

Q: Where can I find more information?

See the web page for the Digital Federal Depository Library Program, or contact us at lockss-support@lockss.org for technical support, or contact Digital Federal Depository Library Program Network Coordinator James Jacobs for program information.