

April 27, 2022

Mr. Hugh Nathaniel Halpern
Director
U.S. Government Publishing Office
732 N. Capitol Street NW
Washington, DC 20401

RE: Comments on the GPO Draft Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2023–2027

Dear Mr. Halpern:

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), a national organization representing 4,000 law librarians and legal information professionals, welcomes the opportunity to provide comments to the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) on its draft strategic plan for fiscal years 2023-2027.

AALL is excited that the draft strategic plan includes the GPO's goals to expand collaborations with federal partners and with libraries in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), including about 200 law libraries. These partnerships will increase access to digital government information and to legal information while preserving historic tangible collections. Public access to legal information plays a critical role in achieving access to justice.

We focus our comments on *Goal 2, Modernize and Innovate*. We hope our comments will be considered as the GPO finalizes its strategic plan.

GOAL 2, MODERNIZE AND INNOVATE

AALL strongly supports the GPO's goal to modernize and innovate to better meet the needs of stakeholders, including law libraries and their patrons.

2.3, Deploy New Content:

AALL welcomes the GPO's plans to work with its federal government partners to add more content to the *govinfo* digital repository and to improve its functionality. *Govinfo* is a great example of a website that implements the principles of open, equitable, and reliable online access described in the [AALL Guiding Principles for Public Access to Legal Information on Government Websites](#) (AALL Guiding Principles). AALL is proud that the GPO endorsed the



AALL Guiding Principles in May 2021¹ and we appreciate the GPO's commitment to further developing *govinfo*.

Law librarians and legal information professionals use *govinfo* to access official, authentic publications from all three branches of the federal government. Collaborations with federal partners to increase online access to historic agency documents, Congressional reports and hearings, and court opinions are key to ensuring that law libraries can effectively meet the legal research needs of students, faculty, attorneys, and members of the public.

2.6, Expand Digital Content and Preserve Historic Collections:

AALL supports the GPO's goals to partner with federal depository libraries to identify documents and collections for digitization, to increase access to digital government information, and to preserve tangible historic materials. Many academic law libraries and public law libraries have recently partnered with the GPO to provide access to digital legal information and to preserve legal materials in print, including the *Code of Federal Regulations* and the *U.S. Code*.

In implementing its strategic plan, AALL encourages the GPO to think broadly about partnerships that may include academic law libraries, public law libraries, and private law firm libraries that are not members of the FDLP but that may wish to partner with the GPO. AALL would be delighted to collaborate with the GPO to promote partnership opportunities to our members.

FINAL COMMENTS

Thank you for providing AALL with the opportunity to share its views on the GPO's draft strategic plan for fiscal years 2023-2027. We look forward to future opportunities for the Association and our members to collaborate with the GPO as it implements its strategic plan.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Rodriguez
President, 2021-2022
American Association of Law Libraries

¹ Letter from Laurie B. Hall, Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Publishing Office to Janet Peros, Chair, Government Relations Committee, American Association of Law Libraries, May 27, 2021. The letter is included in the AALL Executive Board Book, July 2022, Tab 10.