Collective Digitization and Management of Documents

The Committee on Institutional Cooperation proposes to take collective action toward the digitization and management of federal government document collections held in member institutions. This comprehensive initiative will build on CIC's partnership with Google for collection digitization and the creation of the Hathi Trust to secure and make accessible the resulting digital files. To help guide this initiative, a Steering Committee will shape and guide the processes for: a) digitizing print collections of documents; b) securing and organizing the resulting digital files; c) making them accessible to users; and d) making recommendations for the management of print once the digital files are in place.

Project Goals & Principles
The project will be guided by overarching goals and principles. Specifically:
1. The primary goal of the project is access to comprehensive, managed collections of government information (digital and print).
2. Open access to federal government documents is essential.
3. CIC is committed to archival stewardship of digital copies and a coordinated framework for management, preservation, and retention of an adequate number of print copies.
4. CIC is committed to adhering to quality standards, recognizing that technology will evolve and enable improvements over time.
5. The project will support a flexible framework and processes that can adjust as new technologies, new partners are identified.
6. The project will enable new models of services in support of government information, leveraging the expertise of the government documents community.
7. The project will develop a near- and long-term model for ensuring the financial and organizational sustainability of the coordinated program.

Project Components

The project's components present a series of inter-related activities. While there is a logical sequence to the effort, the dependencies between each component will require attention to the entire framework.

Selected issues are highlighted here.

Digitization
Framework for contribution
Readiness, Sequence
Diverse formats
Authenticity of digital files
Digital archive

Access & Discovery
Access, cataloging framework
Enhanced tools (e.g., Mo Cat)
Multi-volume works

Collection management
Comprehensive content aggregation
Print retention, preservation
Shared storage infrastructure

Sustainability
Policies: access, retention, sharing.
Financial model
Hathi policies
GPO policies