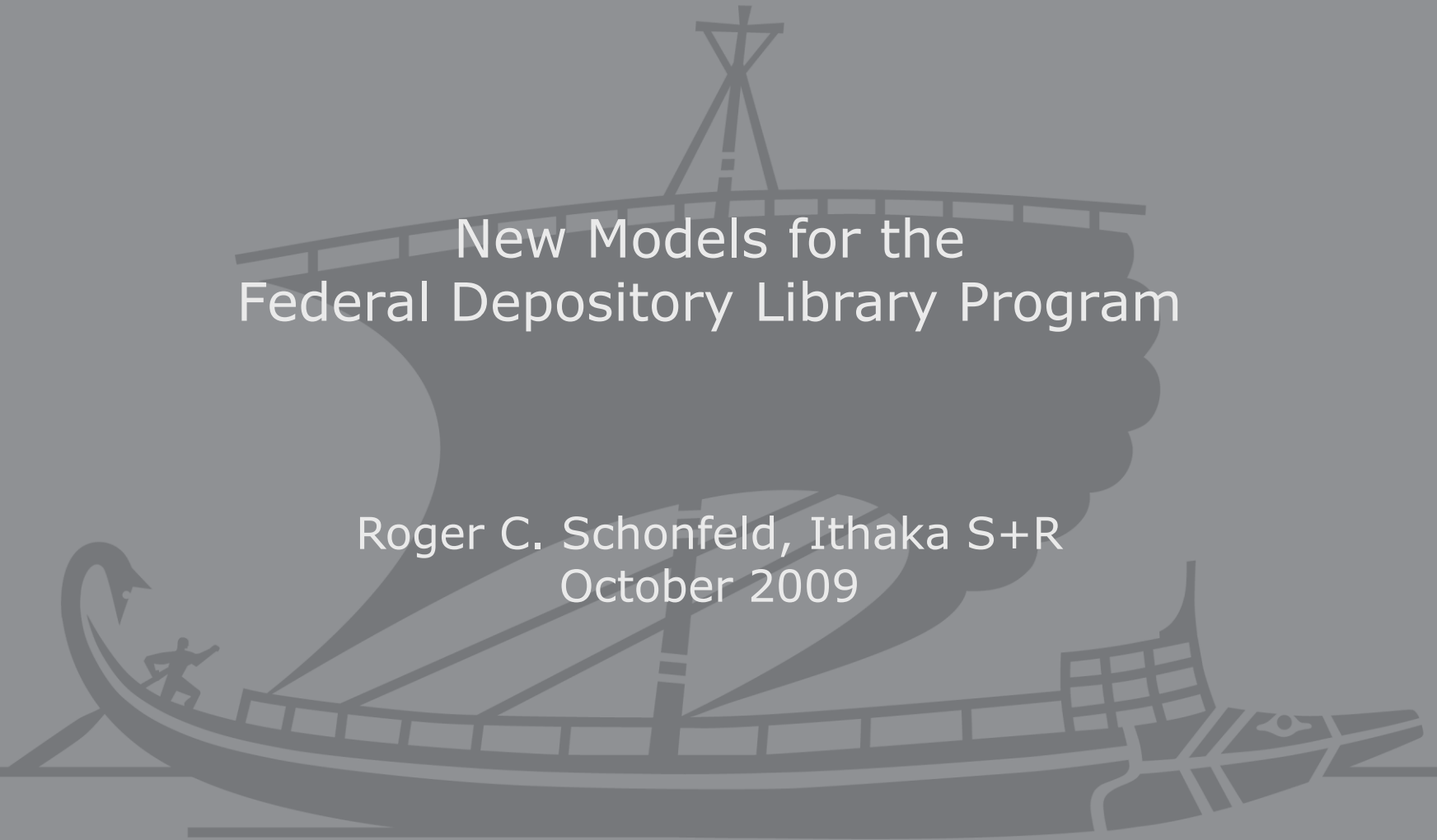


ITHAKA S+R

New Models for the Federal Depository Library Program

Roger C. Schonfeld, Ithaca S+R
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A word about Ithaka S+R

- As the strategy and research arm of ITHAKA, we support innovation
- We develop sustainable business models for initiatives and organizations
- We conduct research and analysis on the impact of digital media, with findings broadly shared
 - Sustainability of online academic resources
 - P to E transition for periodicals: economics, preservation, policy
 - University publishing in a digital environment
 - Faculty attitudes and practices as researchers, teachers, and authors
- JSTOR and Portico are also parts of ITHAKA
- www.ithaka.org/ithaka-s-r



The project

- In June 2009, the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) asked Ithaka S+R to examine the Federal Depository Library Program
- Objective: propose a framework for FDLP that takes advantage of the opportunities presented by the digital environment to deliver services to users more effectively, more broadly, and at lower cost
- The FDLP serves a variety of needs across a number of communities, so Ithaka S+R has taken a systemwide perspective in an attempt to understand the needs of all stakeholders.
- Ithaka S+R staff spoke with more than 80 individuals, from 30 academic, law, public, and state libraries, along with GPO executives, users, and others



Vision

Government information is seamlessly available to the range of potential users without charge at their point of need and is preserved appropriately for future generations.



The state of the FDLP today

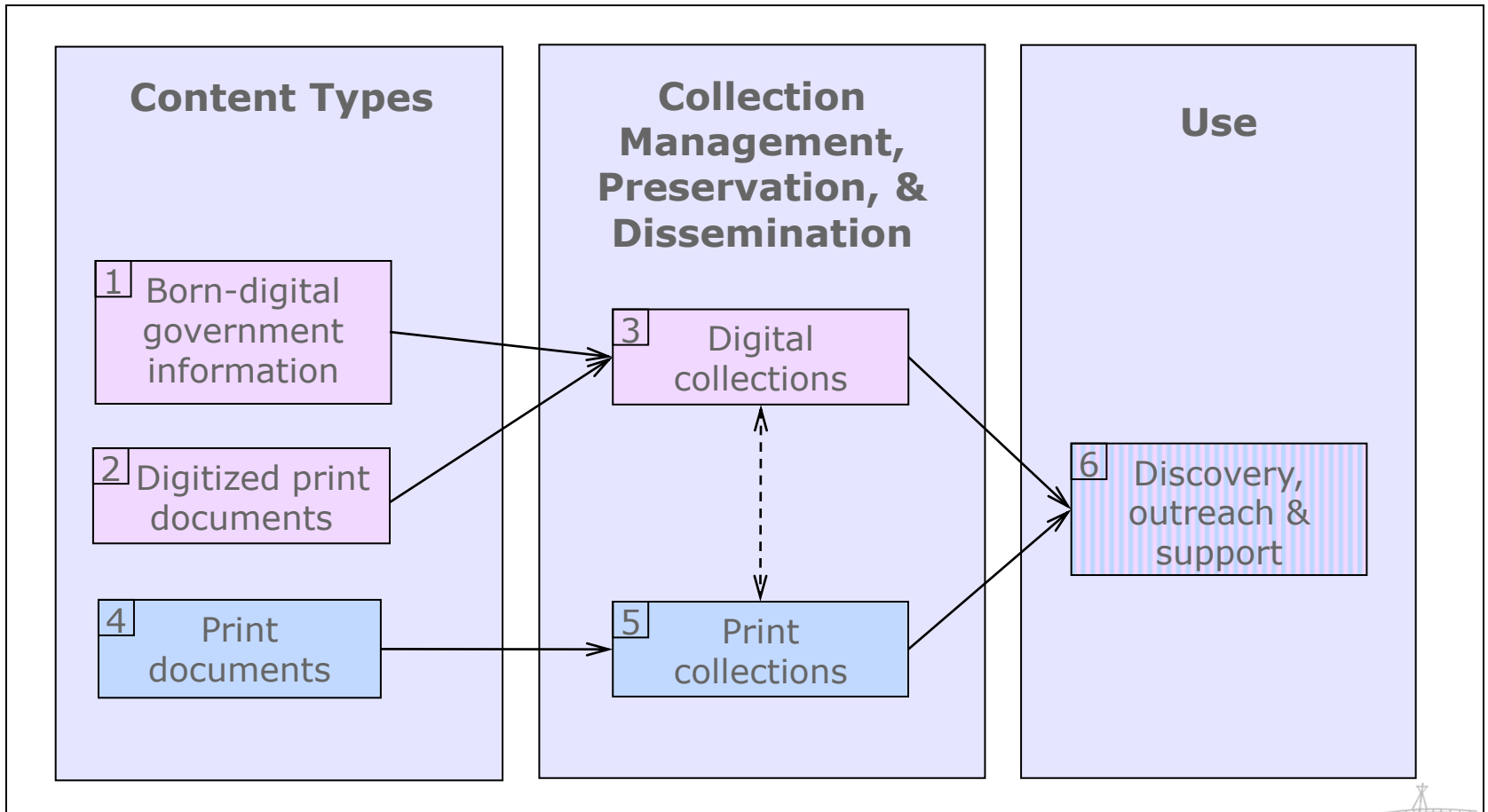


The value of the FDLP

- Valuable historical collections
- Important current information
- Services to maximize information discovery and expedite and support its use
- Access to the workings of the Government by members of the public is imperative to the success of our democracy
- The Program can play a key role in the Obama Administration's vision for a more open and transparent government

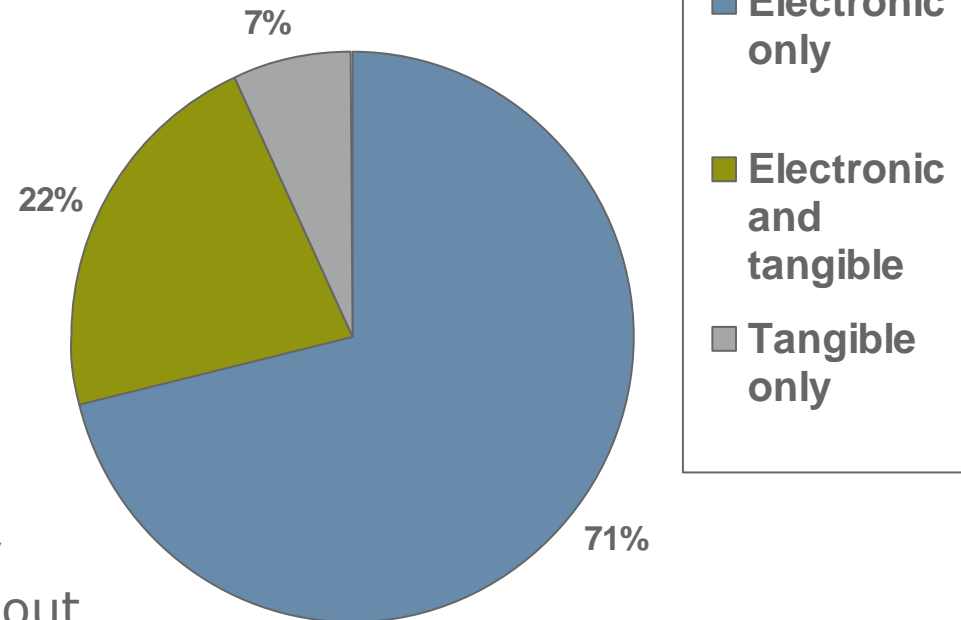


The elements of the FDLP



1. Born-digital documents

- In 2007, 93% of new government documents are available digitally (it has since grown to 97%), and 71% is available without a print equivalent
- GPO has developed mechanisms that successfully address previous concerns about authenticity of online documents
- Looking forward, the web's breakdown of formal "publications" and the increasing importance of dynamic information products



2. Digitized print documents

- Digitization dramatically enhances accessibility
 - Some of the most valuable materials are not freely available and thus do not provide permanent *public* access
 - Library-driven initiatives are digitizing important collections
 - Mass digitization projects are undertaking high-volume conversion of these collections for the first time
- Digitized collections are far from comprehensive and range widely in quality
- There is no title-level registry to enable digitization projects to focus on lacunae



3. Digital collections management

- GPO Access and FDsys have become key platforms for FDLR
 - Direct ingest from agencies is well established
 - Experimental harvesting strategies
 - Eventually incorporating digitized historical collections as well
- Federal agencies increasingly manage their own information systems in formal partnership with GPO
- Materials held neither on FDsys nor under a partnership agreement are not preserved
- Even FDsys and partnerships do not provide external audit and third-party custody



4. Print documents production

- Users have demonstrated a very strong preference for accessing materials in digital form
- But some content types are unwieldy as PDFs and require new formats not always yet available.
 - Visual materials such as maps and posters
 - Statistical tables
- Broadband is not uniformly available even at public libraries in certain areas of the country
- Less than one-third of new documents are produced in print
- Decision-making about print production is not sufficiently responsive to user needs



5. Print collections management

- A fast-growing share of users demands digital access and online discovery, so historical print collections are decreasingly used and dramatically under-utilized relative to their richness
- Many libraries hope to reassign the space to higher-value purposes
- Many selectives have left the FDLP or reduced their print holdings
- Regional library directors seek flexibility in collections management
- Overwhelming call for streamlined print de-accessioning practices
- In the long term, little incentive remains for most libraries, selectives and regionals alike, to participate in the Program



6. Discovery, outreach, and support

- Some librarians are deploying their expertise to support the use of government information well beyond documents and through programs well beyond the FDLP
- Government information – in both physical and digital form – is often fragmented into discrete
 - service points,
 - bibliographic infrastructure, and
 - discovery tools.
- Too many users with demand for government information do not succeed in obtaining and successfully using information that would have value to them

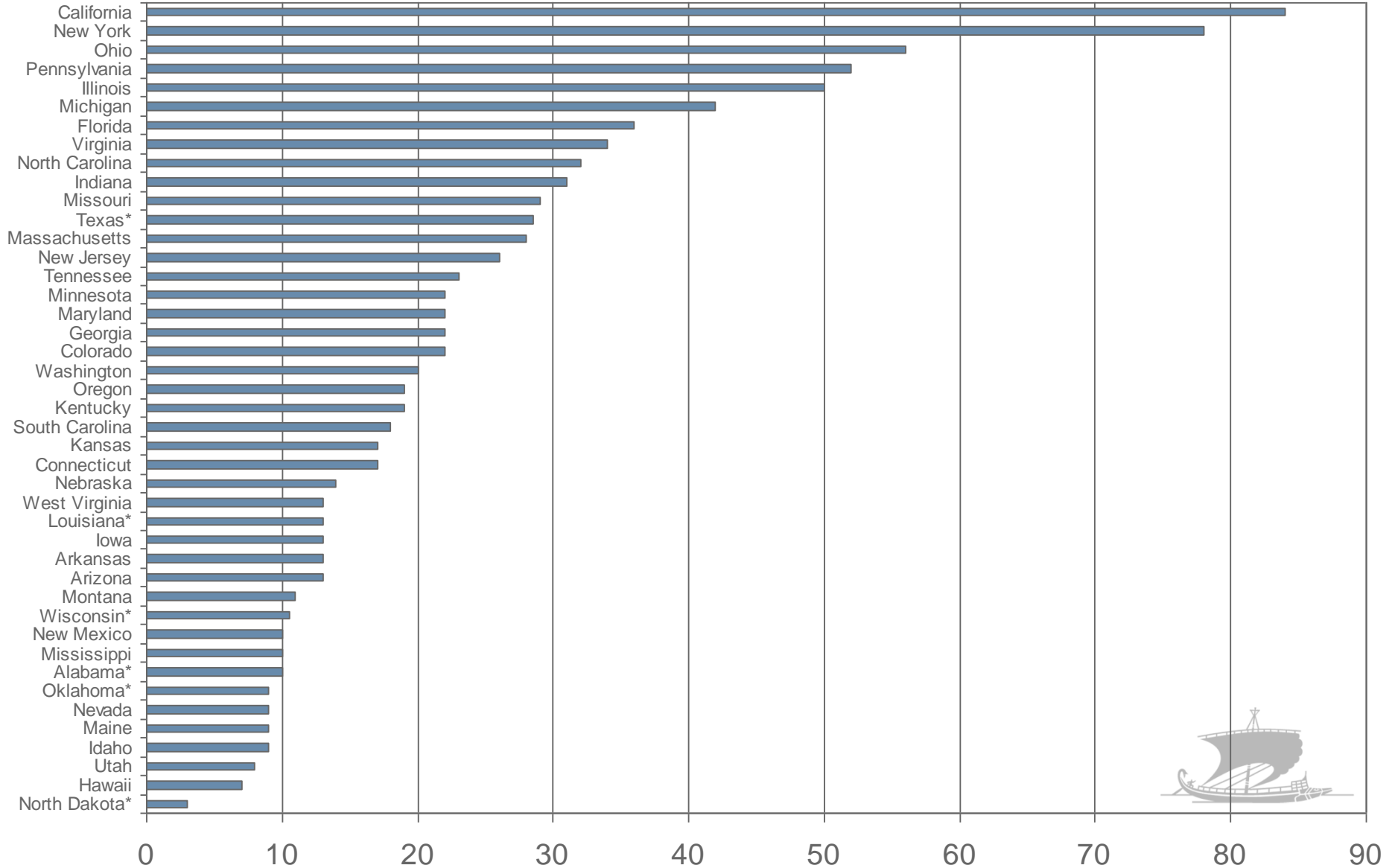


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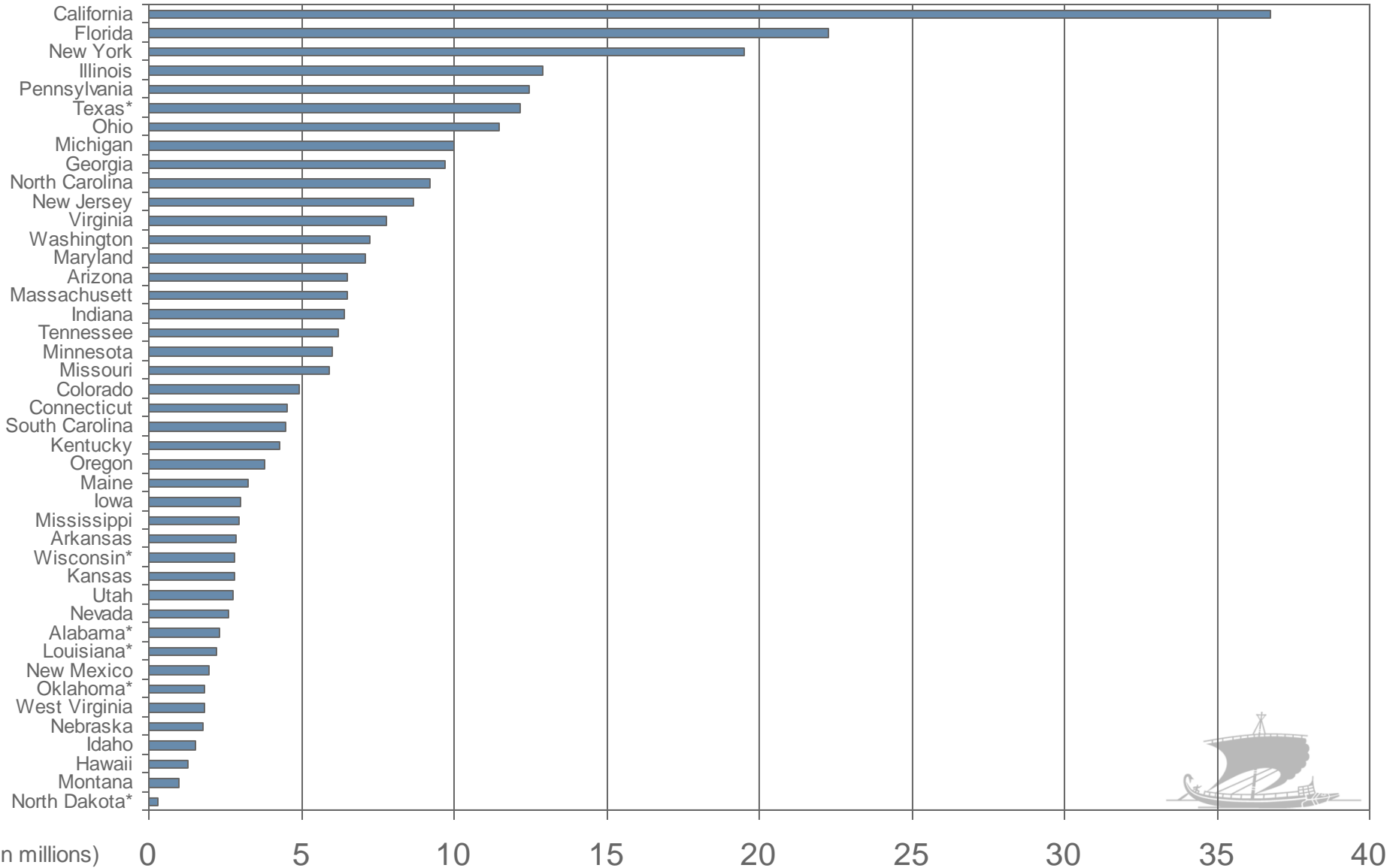
System is organized around regional depository libraries



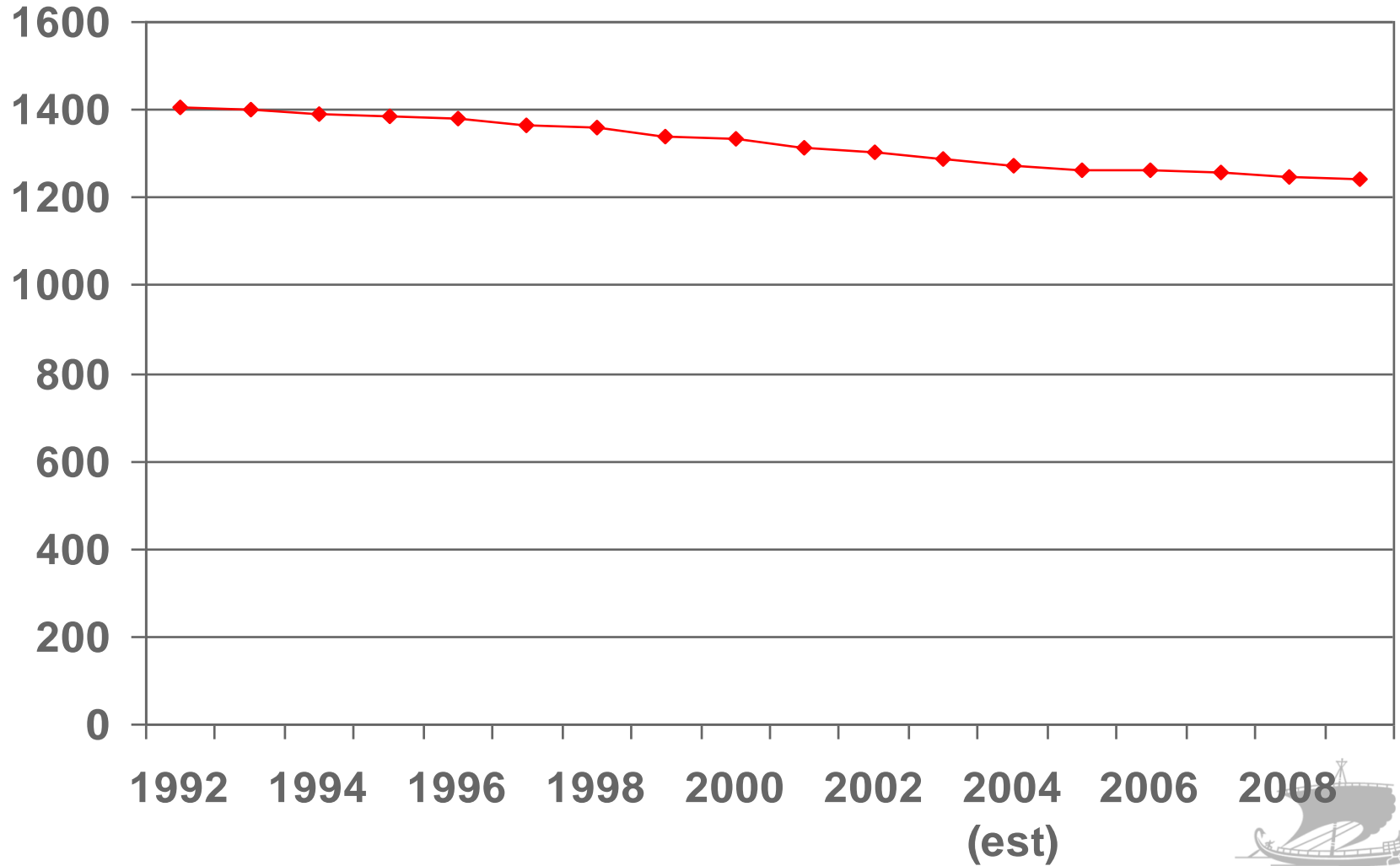
Selective libraries per regional



Population per regional



Steady decline in federal depository libraries

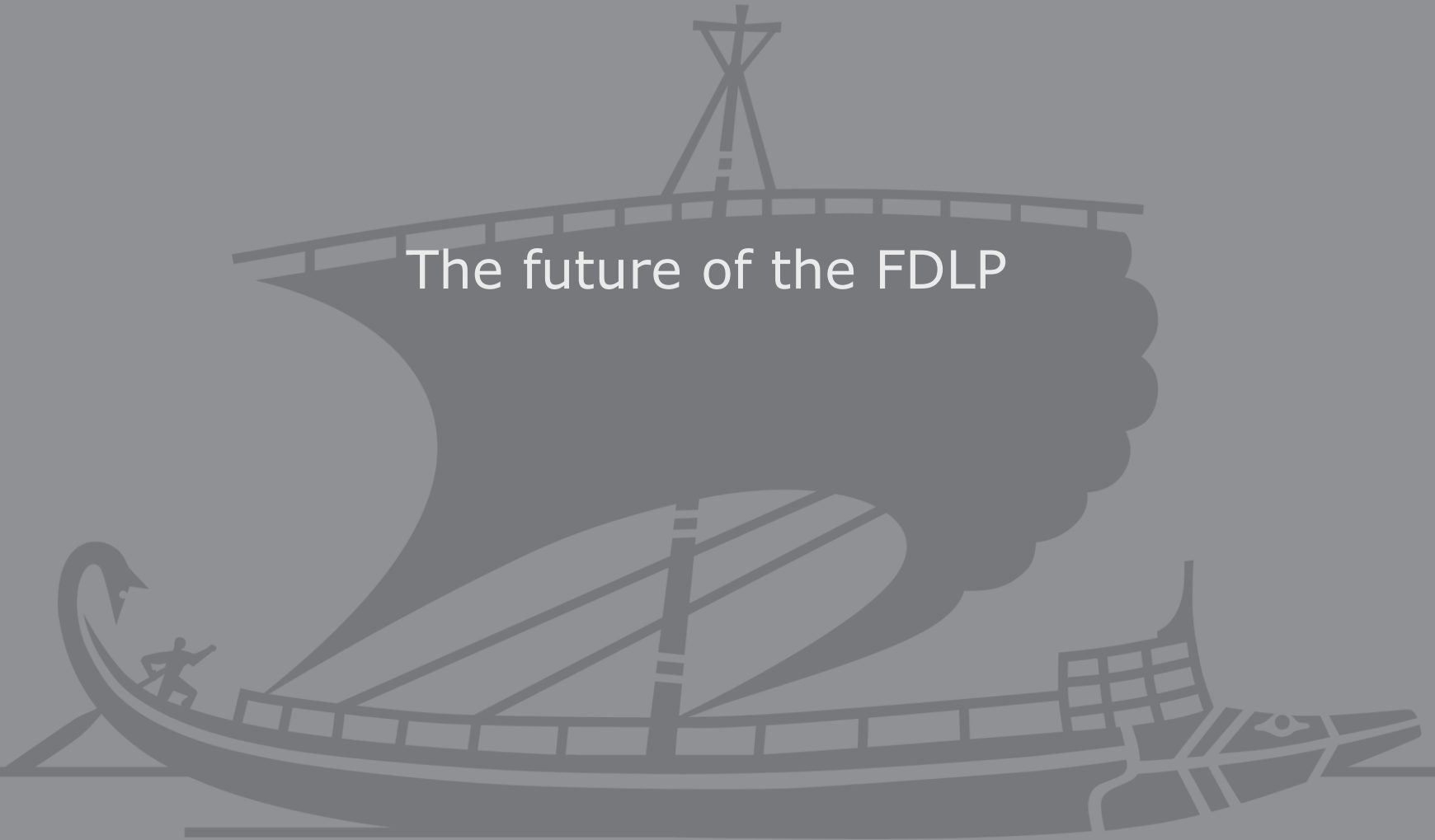


In sum, structural change is needed because:

- User needs are poorly served by the fragmented and manual discovery and service environment and the lack of digitization
- An insufficient share of born-digital government information is incorporated into the Program or otherwise assured of long-term preservation and access
- Assessment of library quality has moved from collections to services, and incentives for participation in and support of the Program are declining, both at selectives and at regionals
- Federal depository libraries will continue to leave the Program, putting at risk of loss historical collections that have not been digitized as well as government information specialists



The future of the FDLP



Principles

- Government information must be made freely available in digital form and must be digitally preserved for the long term
- The historical print collection must be preserved, even though it will play a significantly reduced role in providing access for users
- Participating libraries must reemphasize their commitment to serving user needs for outreach, discovery, and increasingly advanced forms of access and use



Historical collections: digitization and print preservation

- To remain useful, the rich historical collections must be digitized
 - Library partnerships with Google
 - Stand-alone library initiatives
 - Coordinated scanning efforts, provisions for preservation
- Once digital surrogates meet preservation thresholds, fewer print copies will be needed, with the number varying by material type
- Many selectives will continue their drawdown of their own volition; others will continue to provide print for their user communities
- In the long run, substantially fewer regionals are required, with three models for how to achieve this drawdown:
 - Individual withdrawals – highest risk, easiest to implement
 - Coordinated drawdown
 - Legislative change – lowest risk, implementation challenges



Prospective government information: preservation for born-digital, print available for relevant user needs

- The preservation of born-digital government information requires coordination by GPO:
 - Agencies should direct deposit in FDLP through FDsys
 - GPO should continue to support formal partnership with agencies especially for complex formats and begin to audit their work
 - Otherwise, GPO will need to develop internal capacity, or external partnerships, to harvest content from agency websites for incorporation into FDLP
- Dynamic materials will require more complex capture / preservation approaches, including partnerships
- Some continuing user needs will remain for print, especially for some non-text formats but also where poorly served by broadband, in some cases via print on demand



Digital infrastructure: preservation and discovery

- FDsys should be developed as a key platform and aggregator to ensure the integrity and preservation of FDLR materials
- To assure preservation and integrity, the FDLR community should host digital copies outside the GPO and outside audits should be conducted
- GPO should emphasize the development of APIs and bulk download methods to access materials in FDsys
- New and revamped discovery environments based around the anticipated needs of specific groups of users are needed



Outreach and use: re-emphasizing the role of the librarian

- Some librarians at the vanguard have already successfully redefined their role from *documents* librarians to take on an expanded role as government *information* librarians
 - Conserve and repurpose existing expertise
 - Raise awareness of government information
 - Train other librarians in its use
 - Develop discovery environments
 - Support users directly via online reference and advanced research support
- Every librarian a government information librarian, every library a government information library?
- For many federal depository libraries, services rather than collections will be their principal contribution to permanent public access



In Sum

- User needs and information dissemination have changed and the Program must adapt structurally to accommodate them
- Incentives that have supported the FDLP are declining and without structural change the collections as well as the librarians are at growing risk
- There are several models for the future, but they must incorporate three key needs:
 - Government information must be made freely available in digital form and must be digitally preserved for the long term
 - The historical print collection must be preserved, even though it will play a significantly reduced role for access by users
 - Participating libraries must reemphasize their commitment to serving user needs for outreach, discovery, and access



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New Models for the Federal Depository Library Program: A Study Commissioned by ARL and COSLA

Roger C Schonfeld, Ithaka S+R
rsc@ithaka.org

