

Goal 2.1 Develop and Leverage Powerful Software Solutions

GPO may wish to consider whether it is feasible to rely on existing infrastructure, rather than building software solutions in-house. ARL recommends that GPO examine existing market solutions, and prioritize leveraging these over building their own.

Goal 2.6 Expand Digital Content and Preserve Historic Collections

In implementing recommendations by the all-digital task force and prioritizing permanent no-fee public access to digital content, ARL asks GPO to consider the storage and resource capacity of libraries to store and preserve materials. As the all-digital task force completes its work, GPO may wish to identify ways to make funds available to compensate libraries for retention and preservation. ARL asks that GPO also acknowledge gaps in collections, preservation, and access.

Goal 3.4 Sunsetting Legacy Practices

ARL encourages GPO to consider the shift in the prevailing models by which libraries obtain and store information, such as subscribing to digital content and relying on cloud storage. ARL recommends that GPO rely on library staff expertise to better understand current models for building and providing access to the collection. These models may take into account the size and geographical location of institutions, as well as current thinking by library staff regarding print retention and other issues.

Finally, ARL supports comments that call on GPO to prioritize collaborations with libraries having an interest in working to collect, describe, and preserve born-digital content. Libraries must have the opportunity and incentive to partner with GPO on long-term access.

Thank you for your consideration.