

***Government Records and Information:
Real Risks and Potential Losses***

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BORN-DIGITAL U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION: PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

PREPARED FOR THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH LIBRARIES
GLOBAL RESOURCES COLLECTIONS FORUM

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3stages.org/crl

Two Themes

(1) This is Not about Technology

Technology is a tool



Two Themes

(2) This is about Value of Libraries

Value  “Assets”

Value  (Collections + Services)

Gaps in what we know

- no list of born-digital government information
- no list of all government websites
- no list of preserved born-digital gov-information

What we know (1)

FDLP libraries successfully preserved millions of volumes of non-digital government information

Information Life-cycle	Responsible Institution
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Creation

Individual agencies

Production

GPO

Preservation

FDLP Libraries



What we know (2)

Most born-digital government information is not held, managed, organized, served, or preserved by libraries

1983

INS v. Chadha, 462 U.S. 919

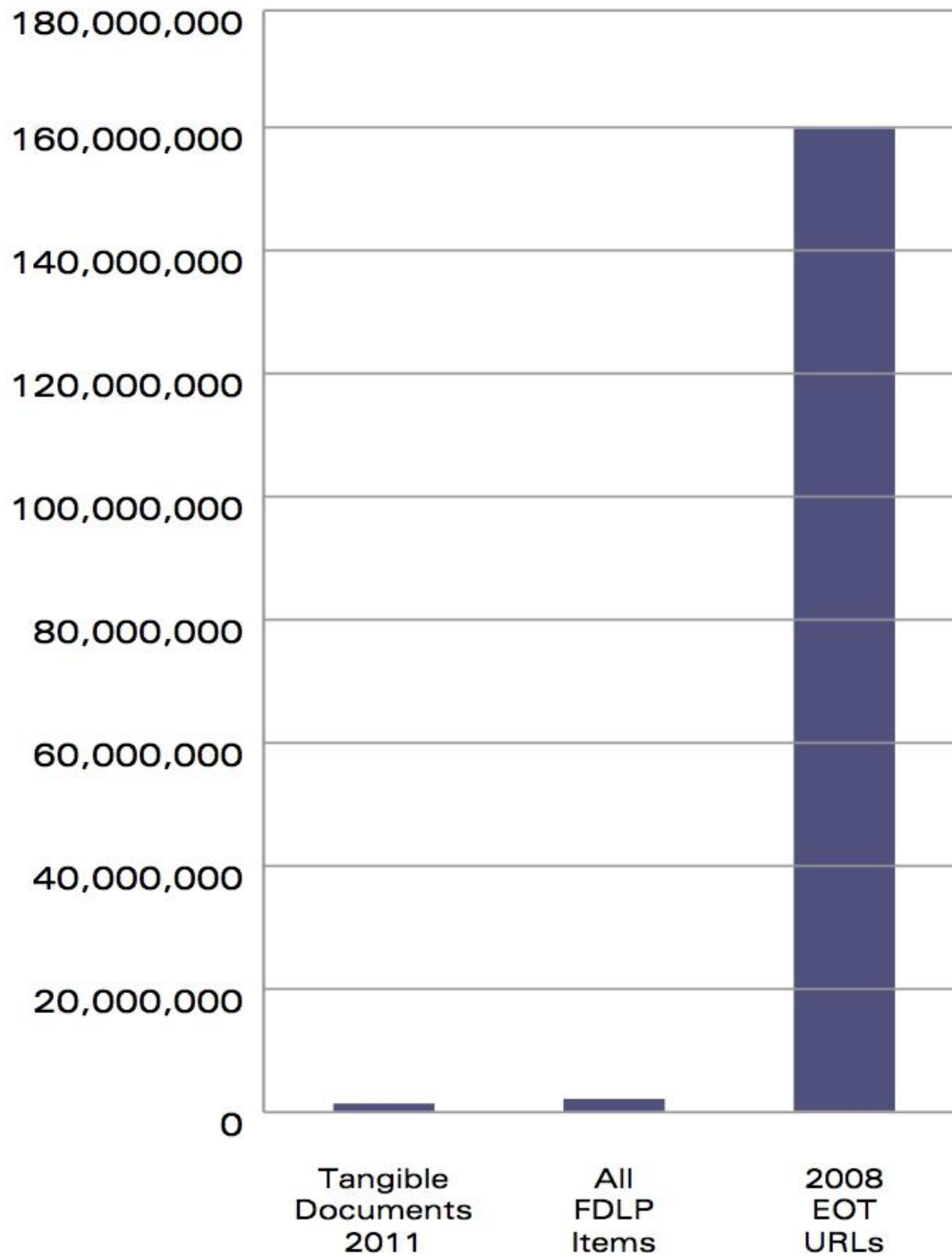
*- Keeping America Informed
The U.S. Government Printing Office
150 Years Of Service To The Nation.*

1993

Public Law 103-40
The Government Printing Office
Electronic Information Access
Enhancement Act

What we know (3)

The scope of born-digital government information being produced far outpaces what is being preserved



The simple fact is:

no one knows how much born-digital U.S. Federal government information has been created, or where it all is, or how much of it is being preserved.

Issues

- Versioning
- The need for persistent URLs
- The need for temporal context
- E-government issues
- Relying on government for preservation (and free access)
- Selection
- Collections need Services

Who Should Preserve?

- Government alone
- Government with non-government partners
- Non-government without government cooperation

Methods of selection

- Broad web harvesting
- Focused selection
- Digital Deposit

Framework

- Preservation and Access
- Collections and Services
- Focus on user-communities first
- Unique collections for unique communities
- Participation of every library
- Cooperation and Collaboration

Summary

- We can:
 - Preserve born-digital government information (the technology exists)
 - Every library can participate (the entry-cost is low)
 - We can add value to the information by building collections of use to our communities.
 - We can add value to our libraries by providing collections + services for our communities.