



A Brief Guide to

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS



The United States Government is the nation's largest publisher. A large number of these publications, often referred to as "government documents," are available in libraries that have been designated as government document depositories under Title 44 of the U.S. Code. The University of Missouri-St. Louis was designated as a depository site in 1966. The Libraries receive documents in paper, microfiche, tangible electronic formats (CD-ROM/DVD), and as online-only resources. We currently receive about 92% of the materials available for distribution through the Federal Depository Library Program.

Generally, government documents in the Thomas Jefferson Library are housed separately from the regular book and journal collections. **The vast majority are housed on Level 2 in the large room in the southeast corner.** A few government-published periodicals are located with the regular journal collection materials on Level 5. A small number of federal tax publications are located in a special **TAX AREA** on Level 2.

All documents issued by the U.S. Department of Education (SUDOC class "ED") are housed in the Ward E. Barnes Library on South Campus.

Records for many documents published since 1991, including many recent online-only resources, may be located by using **the Library Catalog**. Records for items published from 1976 to the present may also be identified by using electronic databases available in the **Library Research Commons** or **via remote access**. The following may all be searched by author, title, subject or issuing agency:

GPO Access Monthly Catalog:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cgp/index.html>

Library Catalog (via the Libraries' Home Page):

<http://www.umsl.edu/library>

Older government documents may be identified using the **Monthly Catalog of U. S. Publications**. This set is located in the northwest corner on Level 3.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

In the Thomas Jefferson Library, Superintendent of Documents classification (SUDOC) numbers are used to locate most government documents. The system is used to shelve the documents by the issuing agency. The organizational structure of the United States Government is followed - that is, subordinate divisions and bureaus are grouped with the parent agency or department. Each parent department is assigned a letter symbol, such as:

A	Agriculture Department	J	Justice Department
C	Commerce Department	SBA	Small Business Administration
HE	Health and Human Services	Y	Congress

A strict number sequence is used in the SUDOC scheme; they are arranged by whole numbers, not decimals.

Example: "J 1.8" will be shelved before "J 1.14"

Some documents are shelved in special locations because of subject matter. **Census materials** are shelved at the beginning of the government documents collection on Level 3. Various documents and guides relating to federal laws are shelved in the **REF LAW** section on Level 3.

The list of locations on the following pages indicates where the various numbers may be found.

LEVEL 3 GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS STACKS

SUDOC classifications and some specific items which are housed in the northwest corner of Level 3 include:

All **AE**'s - except*

AE 2.106: Federal Register

AE 2.106/2: List of CFR Sections Affected

AE 2.106/3: Code of Federal Regulations

AE 2.110: Public (slip) Laws

AE 2.111: United States Statutes at Large

D 2.8: and **D 2.14:PG-** Pocket Guide for Countries

D 101.22:550 - Area Handbooks/Country Studies

GP 3.8: Monthly Catalog of U. S. Government Publications

GP 3.22/2: Subject Bibliographies

HE 20.6210: Vital Statistics of the United States
(Older volumes under previous SUDOC numbers also shelved here.)

HE 20.6223: Health United States
(Older volumes under previous SUDOC numbers also shelved here.)

All **J**'s

PrEx 2.8 through **PrEx 2.8/10** – U. S. Budget Materials

All **SBA**'s

Please Remember

The majority of government documents shelved in the Thomas Jefferson Library are located on Level 2 in the southeast corner. If you have difficulty finding an item, please see a Reference Librarian.

* These items are shelved on the **REF LAW** shelves.

SPECIAL LEVEL 3 LOCATIONS OF FREQUENTLY USED

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance	PrEx 2.20	REF RESERVE # 126
Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)	AE 2.1016/3	REF LAW
County and City Data Book	C 3.134/2:C88/2/yr	REF Desk
Constitution of the United States	Y 1.1/3:	REF LAW
Crime in the U.S. (Uniform Crime Rpt)	J 1.14/7	REF Desk
Dictionary of Occupational Titles	L 37.2:Oc1/2/yr	Career Bookcase
Economic Report of the President	PR... (varies by president)	New Ed. at REF DESK
Federal Register (& index)	AE 2.106:	REF LAW (6 mo.)
Federal Register: What it is and ...	AE 2.108:F31	REF LAW
List of CFR Sections Affected	AE 2.106/2:	REF LAW
Major Legislation of Congress	LC 14.18	REF LAW
North American Industrial Classification System Manual (NAICS)	PrEx 2.6/2:In27/997	REF Desk
Numerical List and Schedule of Volumes (shelved with Z 1223 .Z9 C65)	GP 3.7/2	REF bookcase #22
Occupational Outlook Handbook	L 2.3/4:	REF RESERVE #483
Official Reports of the Supreme Court	Ju 6.8/a	REF LAW
Public Laws (slip laws)	AE 2.110:	REF LAW
Standard Industrial Class. Manual (SIC)	PrEx 2.6.2:In27	REF LAW
Serial Set Catalog (shelved with Z 1223 .Z9 C65)	GP 3.34	REF Bookcase #22
Statistical Abstract of the United States (older editions in Docs. Stacks, Level 3)	C 3.134:	REF Desk, REF RESERVE #263
Subject Bibliographies	GP 3.22/2:	Level 3, NW corner
Supreme Court Decisions (Slip opinions)	Ju 6.8/b:	REF LAW
United States Code	Y 1.2/5:	REF LAW
United States Reports	Ju 6.8:	REF LAW
United States Statutes at Large (1790-1963 on microfiche, ask at REF Desk)	AE 2.11	REF LAW