



A Brief Guide to

# Government Documents



University of Missouri-St. Louis	•	<a href="http://www.umsl.edu/library">http://www.umsl.edu/library</a>
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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:

**Government Printing Office's Federal Digital System**

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>

**Library Catalog (via the Libraries' Home Page):**

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

## 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 page 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 those below. Keep in mind that many of these items are freely available online:

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](#) (2003-2007)

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

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](#)  
Older years available on level 3.

GP 3.22/2: [Subject Bibliographies](#)  
Older years available on level 3.

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  
[Budget of the United States](#)

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.**

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## LINKS TO FREQUENTLY USED GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: <https://www.cfd.gov/>

Code of Federal Regulations: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionCfr.action?collectionCode=CFR>

County and City Data Book: <http://www.census.gov/statab/www/ccdb.html>

Constitution of the United States : <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/constitution/>

Crime in the U.S.: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/ucr>

Economic Report of the President: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/cea/economic-report-of-the-President>

Federal Register: <http://www.federalregister.gov/>

North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS): <http://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/>

Occupational Outlook Handbook: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

Supreme Court Decisions: <http://www.supremecourt.gov/>

United States Code: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionUSCode.action?collectionCode=USCODE>