The Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library
Information Series

1. Ohio Case Law: Where to Find It
2. Legal Periodicals: Print, Microform & Online
3. Government Documents
4. Ohio Legislative History
5. Federal Legislative History
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The Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library is a congressionally designated depository for U.S. government documents. Public access to the government documents collection is guaranteed by public law. (Title 44, United States Code).

For more information, contact Government Documents Librarian Diana Mercer at Diana.Mercer@sc.ohio.gov.

ASSOCIATIONS

Government Documents Roundtable
www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rtsg/dort/index.cfm
A unit of the American Library Association, GODORT provides a forum for government-documents librarians to exchange ideas and promotes the availability, use and bibliographic control of government documents.

Government Documents Roundtable of Ohio
www.wooster.edu/library/gov/ohgodort/
Ohio GODORT promotes the use of government documents and advocates free public access to government information.

LISTSERVS

GPOLISTSERV
http://listserv.access.gpo.gov/
Electronic discussion forums about government information and the FDLP.

For more information, contact Government Documents Librarian Diana Mercer at Diana.Mercer@sc.ohio.gov.
Congress established the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) in the mid-1800s to provide free public access to federal government publications. Administered by the Government Printing Office (GPO), the FDLP collects, organizes, distributes and preserves information produced by the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the federal government. Published in a wide variety of formats, including print, online, microfilm, microfiche, DVD and CD-ROM, government documents include information on a broad range of subjects, such as:

- Agriculture
- Business & Economics
- Crime
- Energy
- Foreign Relations
- Health
- Immigration
- Labor
- Military History
- Patents & Trademarks
- Population
- Science & Technology
- Taxation
- Transportation
- Weather

**SuDoc Classification System**

The Superintendent of Documents (SuDoc) classification scheme is an alphanumerical system designed to group publications by the same government author. The SuDoc number is composed of two parts: the stem, which designates the issuing agency and type of publication, and the book number, which identifies each document as a unique publication.

The majority of the government-documents collection is shelved on the 12th Floor in SuDoc number order.

**Finding Aids**

**Catalog of U.S Government Publications**

www.gpoaccess.gov/cgp/index.html

Bibliographic records of U.S. government documents. Indexes records by agency, title, subject, keyword and SuDoc number.

**GPO Access**

http://catalog.gpo.gov/F?RN=949766788

Free electronic access to government information resources, including the Code of Federal Regulations, the Congressional Record, the Federal Register and the United States Code.

**Guide to U.S. Government Publications**

(REF Z 1223 Z7A5)

A comprehensive, annotated guide to important series, periodicals and reference tools published by U.S. government agencies.

**U.S. Government Manual**

www.gpoaccess.gov/gmanual/index.html

The official handbook of the federal government. Provides a brief history of each government agency and contact information. Available on GPO Access from 1995 to the present.

**Regional Depository Libraries**

There are 53 regional depository libraries in the United States. Regional depositories receive all of the federal government publications distributed each month. The State Library of Ohio is the regional depository for the state of Ohio, as well as a repository for Ohio documents.

State Library of Ohio

274 East First Avenue

Columbus, Ohio 43201

Government Information

614.644.7051

govinfo@sloma.state.oh.us

**Government Documents Online**

USA.gov

www.usa.gov

The U.S. government’s official Web portal to all federal, state and local government Web resources and services.

LexisNexis/Westlaw

Subscription-based databases contain a wide variety of government information, including administrative decisions, case law, codes and statutes, court rules, federal legislative histories and public laws.

**Citation Formats**

The following sources provide information on how to cite government documents.

The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (KF 245 B58)

The Chicago Manual of Style (Z 253 U69)


Citing Government Documents

www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/usgd/citation.html

Short bibliography of guides to electronic and print citation formats for government documents.

**Government Documents**

The Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library has been a federal government depository since 1973. It is a selective depository, which means it does not receive all of the resources published by the federal government. The library receives about 12 percent of the federal government publications distributed each month.

**Scope of the Collection**

The documents collection is tailored to the specific information needs of the library’s legal community. It contains materials from each branch of the federal government, including:

- Agency rules and regulations
- Codes and statutes
- Judicial court decisions
- Legislative materials
- Periodicals
- Reports
- Statistics
- Treaties and other international agreements.