

THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO  
LAW LIBRARY  
Information Series



Government  
Documents



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

## GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

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

## SuDoc Classification System

The Superintendent of Documents (SuDoc) classification scheme is an alphanumeric 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.

Title: United States Reports  
SuDoc: JU 6.8:536  
Stem: JU = Judiciary  
6.8 = Supreme Court decisions  
Book number: 536 = Volume 536

The majority of the government documents collection is shelved on the 12<sup>th</sup> Floor in SuDoc number order.

## FINDING AIDS

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### Catalog of U.S Government Publications

[www.gpoaccess.gov/cgp/index.html](http://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

[www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html)

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](http://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.

## **GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS ONLINE**

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FirstGov.gov

[www.firstgov.gov/](http://www.firstgov.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**

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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)

The Complete Guide to Citing Government Documents: A Manual for Writers & Librarians (REF Z 7164 G7G37)

Citing Government Documents

[www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/usgd/citation.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/usgd/citation.html)

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

## **REGIONAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES**

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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](mailto:govinfo@sloma.state.oh.us)

## **ASSOCIATIONS**

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Government Documents Roundtable

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/GODORT/index.html>

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/](http://www.wooster.edu/library/gov/ohgodort/)

Ohio GODORT promotes the effective use of information that is issued, published or distributed in any format by all levels of government.

## **BLOGS AND LISTSERVS**

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Government Information: What's New

<http://woodocs.blogspot.com/>

Links to government resources. Blog provided by the College of Wooster Libraries.

GOVDOC-L

<http://docs.lib.duke.edu/federal/govdoc-l/index.html>

GPO-FDLP-L

<http://listserv.access.gpo.gov/>

LISTSERV®-based electronic discussion forums about government information and the FDLP.



This 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 [mercerd@sconet.state.oh.us](mailto:mercerd@sconet.state.oh.us).*

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1. Ohio Case Law: Where to Find It
2. Legal Periodicals: Print, Microform and Online
- ▶ 3. Government Documents
4. Ohio Legislative History
5. Federal Legislative History
6. The U.S. Supreme Court
7. Law Library Collection Guide
8. The Online Catalog
9. Ohio Legal Research
10. Reading Room Murals
11. History of the Rule of Law Oil Paintings
12. The Ohio Constitution
13. The Supreme Court of Ohio
14. Ohio Practice Materials
15. Reading Room Art: Chihuly Sculptures



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Law Library  
65 South Front Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3431  
614.387.9680 phone  
614.387.9689 fax  
[www.supremecourtohio.gov](http://www.supremecourtohio.gov)  
[libref@sconet.state.oh.us](mailto:libref@sconet.state.oh.us)