Creating a Government Information Network in Utah

Updates from the Regional Coordinator

Presented by

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Government Information Librarian
Today's Topic

• Introduction & unpack terminology
• Details about the Regional Collection and access points
• Details Regional education and outreach opportunities
• Online resources and an activity
• “Government Information Network”
  • Let’s work together!
What does Government Information look like?

Laws
Reports
Regulations
Kits
Field Guides
Historical Collections
Information about Services
Maps
Monographs
Brochures
Program Descriptions
Posters
Census Records
What's a Regional Coordinator?

Great question!
About Me

• Live in Logan
• Started at USU in August 2017
• MLIS in Archives & Records Management from the University of Pittsburgh
• Previous experience: Records Management for a non-profit
• Research interest in presidential records and presidential libraries
Federal Depository Library Program

• **Mission** - provide free, ready, and permanent public access to Federal Government information, now and for future generations.

• **Values**
  - Access for all, for FREE
  - Collections support user and community needs
  - Collaboration and communication amongst libraries
  - Expertise and professionalism
FDLP Structure

Federal Agencies → Government Publishing Office (GPO) → MATERIALS → Regional Depository Libraries → MATERIALS → Selective Depository Libraries → MATERIALS → USERS
USU's Regional Requirements

• Promote access to government information
• Provide public reference services
• Collect all materials from the FDLP in appropriate formats
• Retain materials permanently
• Assist Selective Depository Libraries in the state
Selective Depositories Across the State

- Select portions of FDLP materials relevant to their user communities
- No public libraries are currently represented
- K-12 School Libraries are not eligible for the current program
- Southern Utah has low representation
Utah Selectives

- Weber State University – Stewart Library
- University of Utah – Marriott Library
- University of Utah – James E. Faust Law Library
- University of Utah – Eccles Health Sciences Library
- Utah State Law Library
- Brigham Young University – Harold B. Lee Library
- Brigham Young University – Howard W. Hunter Law Library
- Southern Utah University – Gerald R. Sherratt Library
Coordinating the Regional Collection

GPO DISTRIBUTION

MERRILL-CAZIER LIBRARY
 Utah Selectives – FDLP Biennial Survey

• More than half report budget constraints and physical space as their library's biggest issues

• More than half are looking to selectively weed their resources

• Balancing needs to address depository status

• 6 collect various formats, 2 collect only electronic, and 1 collects only tangible materials

(A. Dahlen, personal communication, March 16, 2018)
The Evolution of Gov Docs
Formats & Access

• Tangible Formats
  • Print – 20.71%
  • Print/Electronic – 2.55%
  • “E” and Microform – 1.59% and 1.52%

• Electronic Format (EL)
  • 62.72% of current item format designations

• Unknown (or unassigned) – 9.79%

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Possible Regional Improvements

• Maintain prompt weeding review
• Provide space for materials
• Identify preferred preservation formats
• Provide free training/mentorship to new coordinators or other interested librarians statewide
About the Government Information Dept.

• Mission Statement

The Government Information Department provides access to multidisciplinary physical and digital collections produced by the U.S. Government. The department highlights materials to educate the USU community and the general public to promote understanding and awareness. Government Information staff empower our patrons to gain the knowledge that meets their needs.

• Learn more at: http://libguides.usu.edu/govinfo
Education & Outreach

• Monthly displays in the Department
  • May focuses on Soil Surveys
• Activities and Lesson Plan Integration
  • Opportunities for collaboration with K-12 curriculum
• Staff trainings
• Access to FDLP materials for a variety of age groups
• Access to Free Digital Resources
Online Resources (Free!)

- **LibGuides** from USU (Research Guides)
  - Focus on free materials
  - Clearly labeled subscription-based resources
  - Open Access Tutorials and Videos

- **Catalog of Government Publications**

- Online Reference - [https://godort.libguides.com/GIO](https://godort.libguides.com/GIO)
  - Free service provided by FDLP librarians across the U.S.

- **Govinfo.gov**
  - Replaces Fdsys
GovInfo.gov Introduction

- Govinfo.gov
- New interface!
- Great with mobile!
- More digitized material!
GovInfo.gov Tutorial

- Search Bar on each page
- Browse by
  - “Category” listing includes description with Dates Available
- Bulk Data Repository
Try it Out!

Let's look for: “Bryce Canyon”
Code of Federal Regulations
Congressional Record
Access

What are your thoughts?
Webinars – FDLP Academy

Getting Started
• Government Information Research Basics
• FDLP Operations
• Building a Digital Collection
• Joining as a Mostly Online Selective
• GovInfo Tutorial

Recommended Special Webinars
• Census Tutorial for Schools
• Federal Government Databases for State and Local Data
• Ben's Guide to U.S. Government
• What is the Federal Register?
Building the Network

• Stay in Contact via ULA’s GODORT (Government Documents Roundtable)

• Reference Questions – contact jen.kirk@usu.edu
  • Trouble-shooting your reference difficulties

• Request a presentation to learn more or promote free resources to your users
Free Materials

- Collection Information Cards
- How To Guides for Govinfo.gov
- Ben's Guide Promotional Materials for kids
- Gov Info Activities for schools (in progress)
- Trainings from the Regional Coordinator
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References


