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The Times They Are A-Changin': How One Library Deselected Most of Their Print Collection While Remaining a Federal Depository Library

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library at San Jose State University is a member of the Federal Depository Library Program (the university has been a depository since 1962). Our library's recent approach to their Federal Depository Library status consists of several parts:

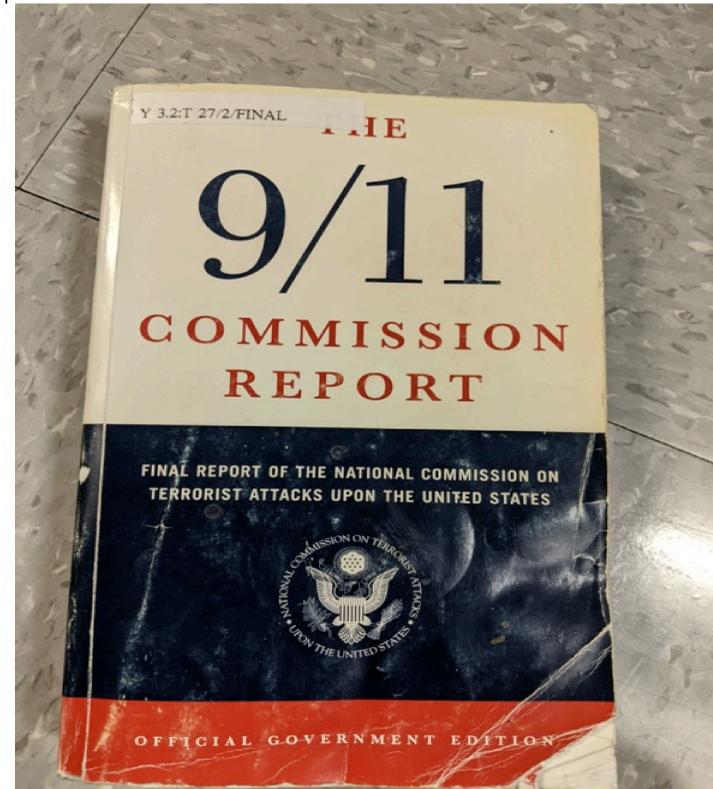


Deselection of most print materials. These items were located in the library's Lower Level in an area

somewhat difficult to find. Though the materials were shelved in SuDoc number order, it is unknown what percentage of the items were ever cataloged, although the previous Government Documents librarian estimated about 40%. This means that for over half of the materials no finding aid was available. Like many libraries, the King Library at San Jose State University concluded that the shift to online resources coupled with limited staff made it impossible to continue to properly process and catalog a large collection of print Federal documents.



Selection of giveaway materials (pamphlets, brochures, other FDLP promotional items). These need not be cataloged and will be freely available to all library patrons, hopefully via a "brochure stand" placed in a heavily-trafficked area of the library.



Print materials of historical interest may still be

occasionally selected by the Government Documents librarian. Some examples: The Mueller Report on Russian interference in the 2016 election, President Trump's budget, President Biden's budget, President Trump's impeachment proceedings, etc. Although these materials are all available online, as a Federal Depository Library, San Jose State University still has an obligation to serve the public as well, which is particularly relevant at the King Library, as the university shares the building with San Jose PL

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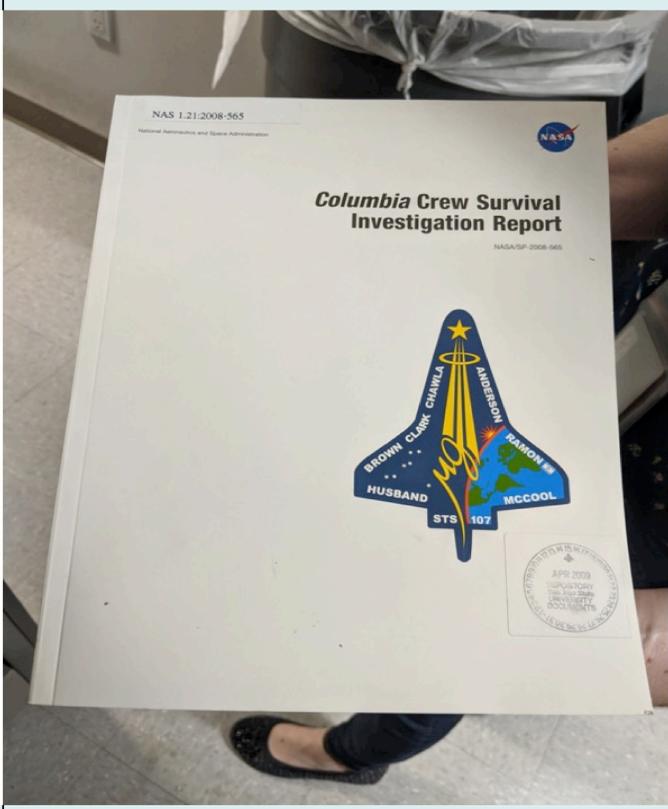
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Some patrons may not want, or be able, to use a computer so the aforementioned documents were cataloged using the Library of Congress classification system and shelved in the print reference collection.

Currently, most government information is accessed online. The King Library provides ample computer access to their public patrons and SJSU loans laptops to their students as well.

Through an arrangement with the California State University system, MARCIVE records for online government information sources are available through the library's OneSearch catalog.

Although the large FDLP sign in the Lower Level will be removed at some point, the library can place stickers near both entrances to indicate that we are still a Federal Depository Library. The FDLP logo giveaway materials as described in item #3 provide another promotional opportunity. Lastly, when the small selection of materials described in item #2 are cataloged using the Library of Congress system and interfiled with the general collection, they can be marked with FDLP stickers and/or stamps to clarify that they are Federal documents.



A Government Information librarian is available to answer questions and provide assistance.