

# Present But Not Accounted For: How the University of Kentucky Libraries Calculated the Size of the Uncataloged Portion of Its Federal Depository Collection

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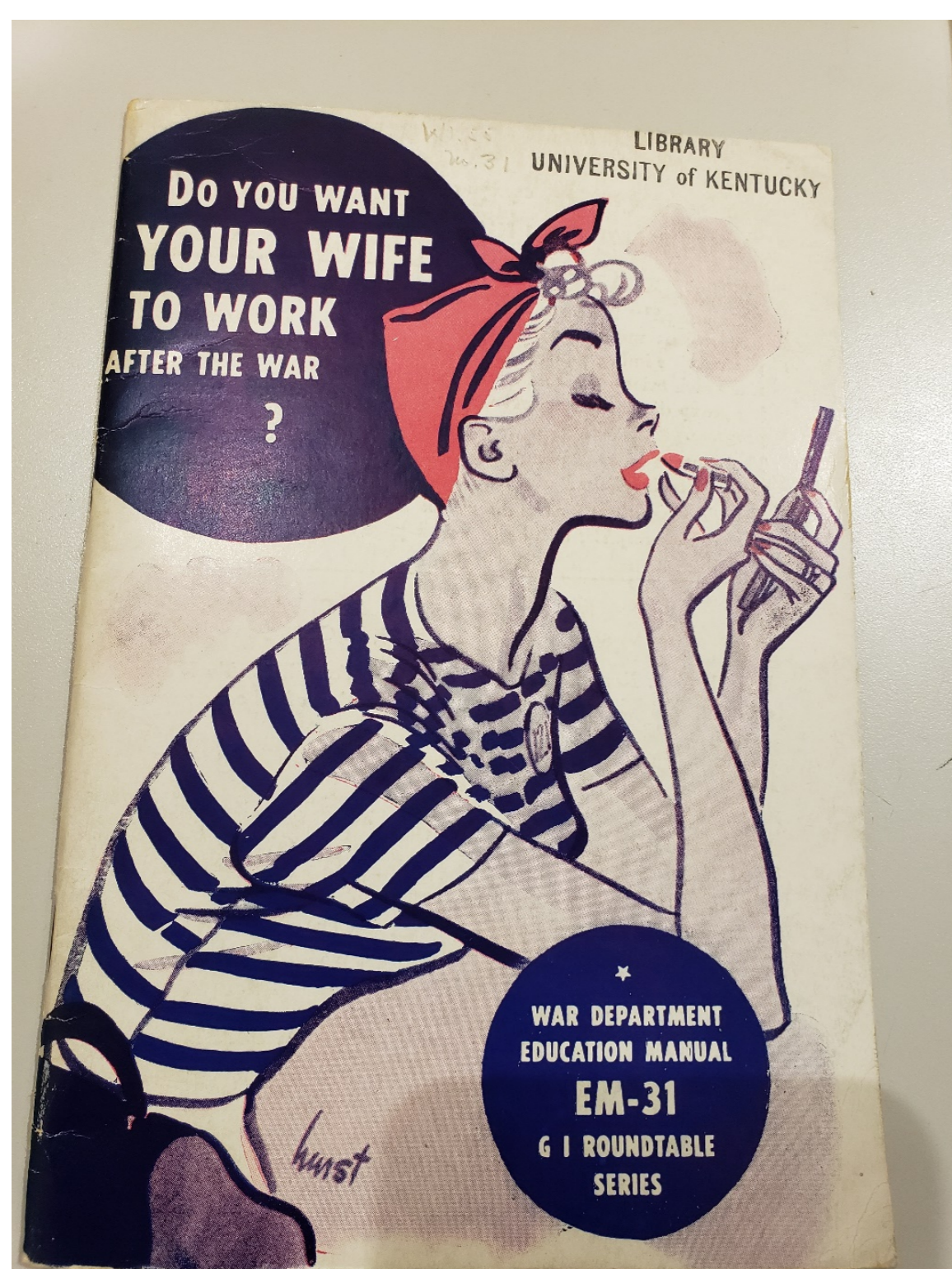
## The Problem

A third of our federal depository collection resides in closed stacks in the basement of our Science and Engineering Library and only an unknown percentage of it is represented in our online catalog. Although the materials that are not cataloged in this portion of our collection are listed in our shelflist, we want to make them more accessible so we needed to determine how much needs to be cataloged.



## What We Learned

- Approximately 61.59% of the collection is cataloged, which is a higher percentage than we originally thought
- 61% are monographs
- 39% are serials, comprising 234 separate serial titles
- There are a total of 7,035 linear feet in this collection, which translates to approximately 365,820 individual items
- Approximately 140,511 of these items are not cataloged



## The Procedure

In order to determine the size of the uncataloged portion of this collection, we created a procedure to compare the cataloged portion to the total linear measurements of the physical collection. This involved creating a spreadsheet of materials in our catalog at this location, measuring the linear feet of material on the shelves, and multiplying the number of linear feet by 52 to come up the estimated number of items, per GPO's instructions for estimating the size of a depository collection. We then divided the number of cataloged items by the estimated number of measured items to find the percentage of items cataloged.

Once we measured the collection, we decided we wanted to know the percentage of serials in this collection so we went back and walked the ranges, putting pink slips of paper at the beginning of each serial run and purple slips of paper at the end of each serial run. We then had our graduate assistant measure these serials.



## Challenges We Will Face in Fully Cataloging This Collection

- There are many duplicates and triplicates in this collection
- Because so many items in this collection are in "dead" SuDoc stems we may run into issues with verifying call numbers
- Preservation issues (brittle paper)
- Finding records for pre-1970 materials for copy cataloging
- Superseded materials that have not been removed
- Rampant mis-shelving