

**At The John W. King New Hampshire Law Library,
a Rainbow of CFRs Line the Shelves**



Code of Federal Regulations, shown above by Jennifer Finch, Library Associate.

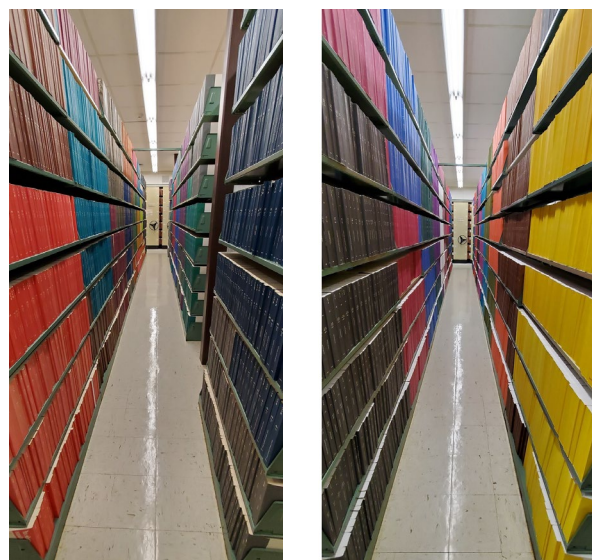
Each year, the Director of Publications and Services and the Director of the Federal Register chooses a new color for every book in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Each color represents a period of time in our Nation’s history, and the colors help students and researchers find what they are looking for. The John W. King New Hampshire Law Library’s large archive of the publication is hard to miss as it looks like one big rainbow. When the librarians receive requests for an older version of a CFR section, they can easily find it chronologically by finding the appropriate color. The CFR sections weren’t so colorful in the beginning; however, the rainbow has grown over time. “It’s interesting to see how the CFR print sets have evolved,” said Ann Worley, Technical Writer/Editor for the Office of the Federal Register. “To start, they were an imposing set of black, hardcover colors. In the 1950’s, the Federal Register switched to

a dark blue for the covers, though they were still hardbound. Blue softbound volumes began to appear in 1964, which carried on for several years. Starting in January 1970, CFR volumes were bound in paperback form with a stripe of color on both the spine and face of the book.”

The first color edition (1970) was printed in brick red. This color was used again in 2013 and is referred to in-house as “Regulatory Red.” It was chosen to appear alongside the blue anniversary logo commemorating the CFR’s 75th anniversary, forming a patriotic trio of colors.

Although historical versions of the CFR are available online, the staff and patrons of the law library still use the print versions of the CFR, especially when they’re digging into a particularly complicated regulation.

“There’s something about being able to open the books and have the different versions side-by-side that still appeals to researchers and we’re happy to be able to accommodate them,” said Jennifer Finch, Library Associate at The John W. King New Hampshire Law Library.



*The John W. King New Hampshire Law Library
boasts a beautiful historical rainbow of Government information.*

The color selection process has not been without its faults. In 2006, the CFR sported a bright yellow. Over time this yellow faded to a chalky remnant of its original hue. The result was a full year of faintly outlined white cover text, making the 2013 volumes hard to differentiate from each other while on the shelf. For this reason, pastels and other light colors are generally avoided when selecting the next year's color. Colors are sometimes repeated, but generally not within ten years of each other.