

# FDLP Libraries Feature Interesting and Historic Collections

This is the second article in the FDLP Libraries Featuring Interesting and Historic Collections. You can read the first article in the Winter 2022 issue of *Typeline*.

The State Library of Pennsylvania, located in the state capital in Harrisburg, was designated along with other existing State Libraries, as a Federal documents depository in 1858. The State Library has been dedicated to preserving government documents and other materials since its beginnings in 1745. The library's Rare Collections include colonial imprints, early newspapers and pamphlets, and some rare U.S. Government publications, such as the proceedings of the first and second Continental Congresses held in Philadelphia. These Federal publications are so rare that fewer than ten libraries have cataloged them.

"The staff of the library is proud to be part of the FDLP Preservation Steward program to keep these documents for future users," said Kathy Hale, Government Documents Librarian for the State Library of Pennsylvania. "The documents we elected to preserve are a little out of the ordinary, but these are the ones most of the researchers have the hardest time finding."

Moving west to another library. A year before Nevada statehood in 1864, the Nevada State Library joined the FDLP, making it the 17th oldest known depository. The library's most noteworthy publications include the 1860 Census, the first census taken in Nevada, and Nevada's

mining history, with collected USGS surveys dating back to 1886, among many other USGS publications.

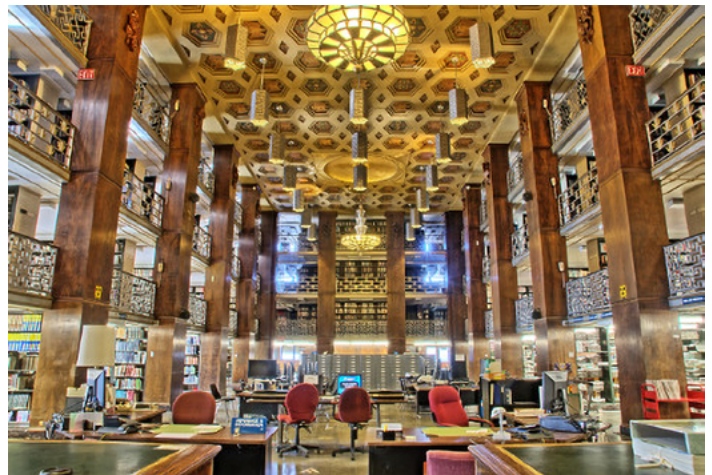
Nevada State Library's primary documents from both the War Department and the Department of Defense would please any military historian. The library has the papers from the Civil War (War of the Rebellion, including the Confederate papers) through the Vietnam War. The most used publications are the topographic maps. Patrons regularly use these maps for prospecting and for historic, and recreational purposes. Given this rich content, it is still necessary to weed. "This year, thanks to the sharp eyes of Utah State University Libraries Regional Librarian, Jen Kirk, we were able to send about 80 years' worth of Congressional Directories to FDLP for digitization," said Kelly Robertson, State Cataloger and previous Federal depository coordinator at the Nevada State Library. "The treasures we have waiting to be discovered in our depository never fail to amaze."

A third library we are headlighting is the Los Angeles Public Library. In 1986 the Los Angeles Public Library's Central Library, a Federal depository since 1892, was the site of a catastrophic arson fire, which became the subject of the bestselling *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. The fire had a significant impact on the Federal depository resources, especially affecting the library's section on *Fugitives Wanted by Police* (September

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The State Library of Pennsylvania publications from their Rare Collections Library.



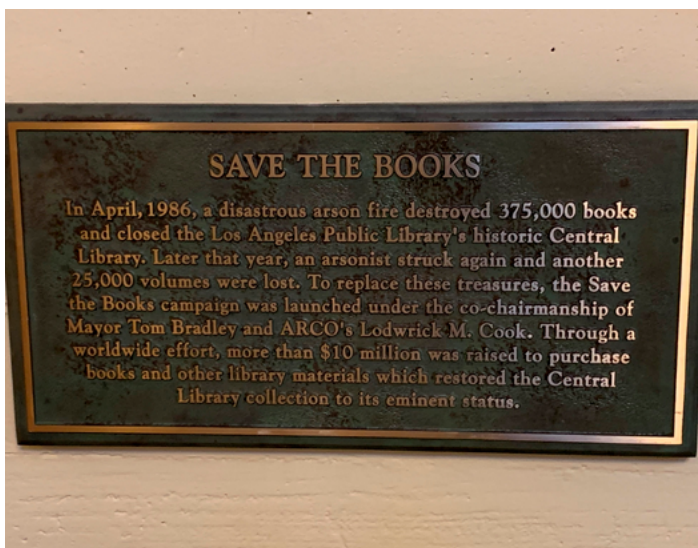
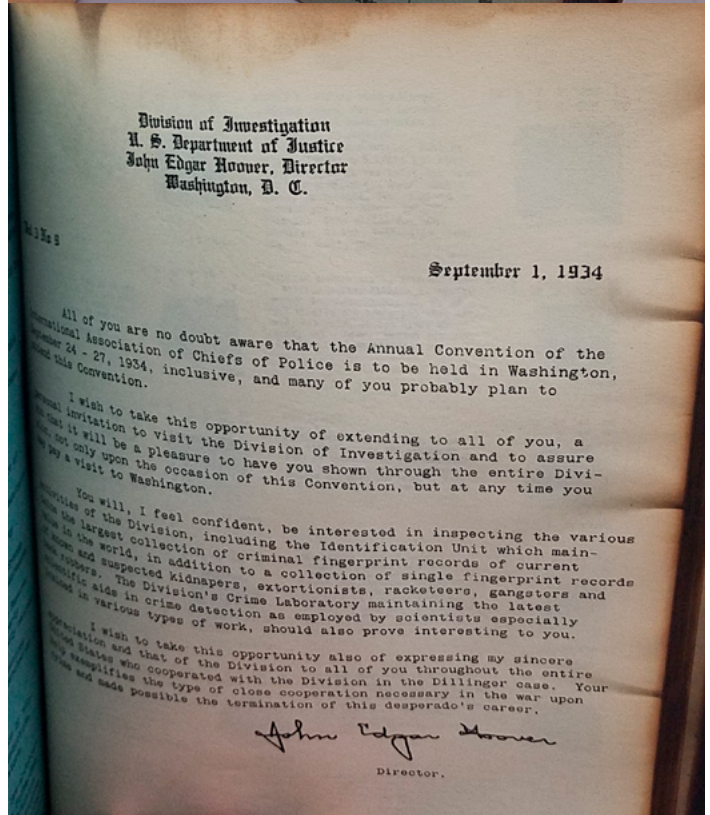
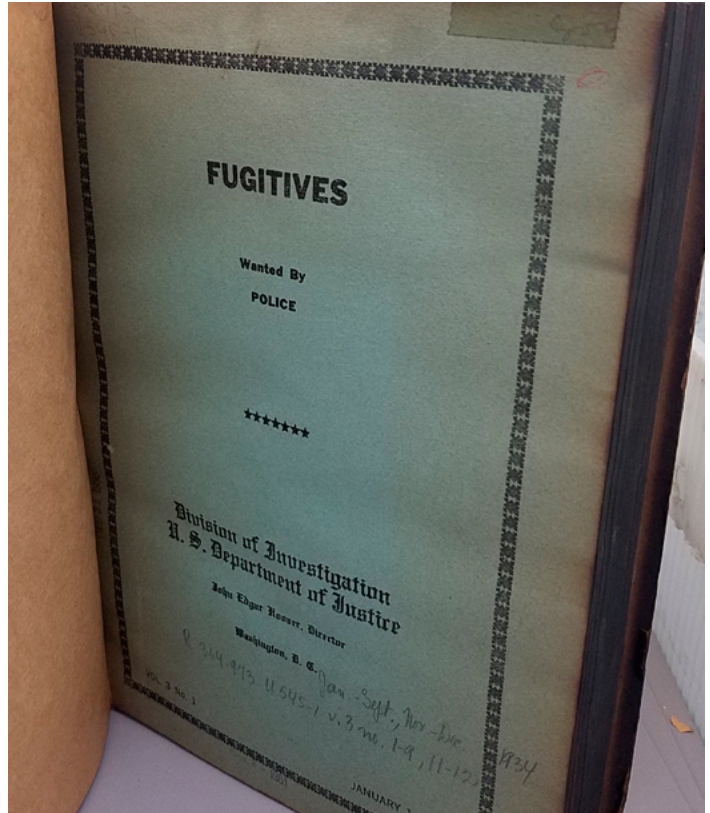
The State Library of Pennsylvania Reading Room.



The room in the Nevada State Library known as the "vault," includes original records and manuscripts of the territories tracing Nevada's heritage.



Library Services and Content Management (LSCM) employees Abby McDermott, Kathryn Bayer, and Suzanne Ebanues visited the Los Angeles Public Library in March 2020, prior to the library's closure from COVID-19.



In April, 1986, the Los Angeles Public Library's Central Library was the site of a catastrophic arson fire.

1934 publications of *Fugitives Wanted by Police* that sustained damage from the fire of 1986.

# FDLP Interesting and Historic Collections

*continued from page 1*

1932 to September 1935) and the *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, beginning with 1935 issues. The various issues were bound together by year, and they still show the sooty edges from the fire. The 1959 volume of *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* is stored in a phase box, so the smoky smell is still evident when you open the box!

Staying on the west coast, a former Government Documents Librarian at Western Washington University Libraries, Rob Lopresti, created a quiz for library users to match Government publication titles with the Government agency that published them. He also developed a web page to highlight one Government publication from each year of the first 50 years that the library has been a depository.

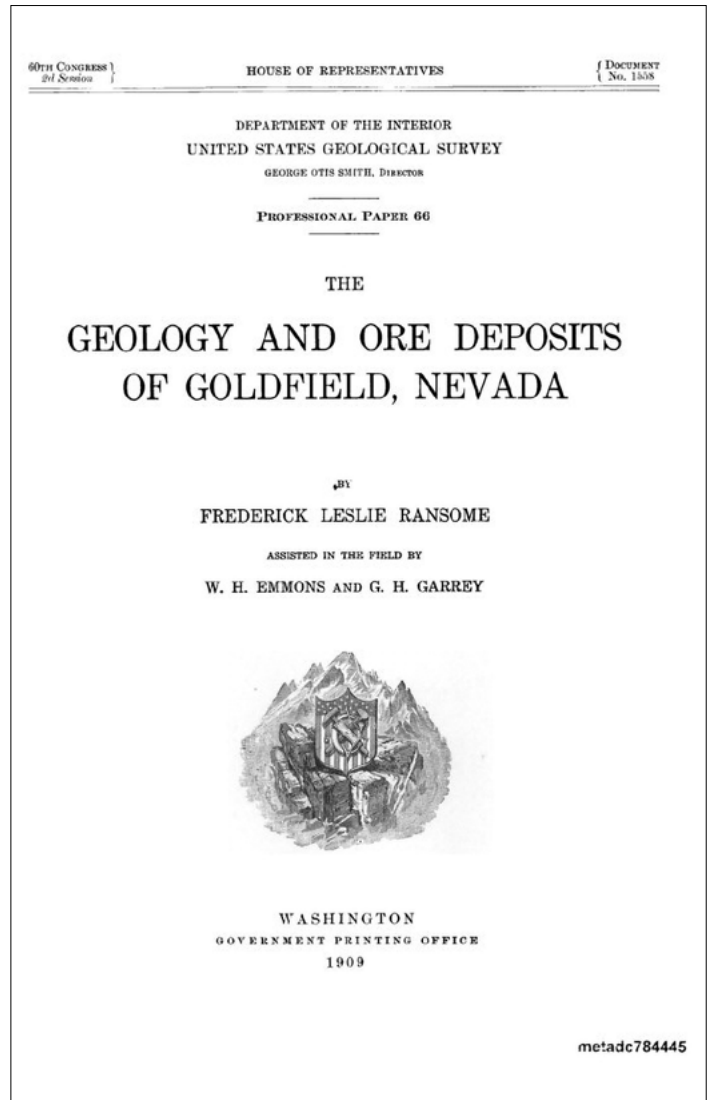
Finally, traveling across the Pacific Ocean, an ongoing one-minute video series, "What's in the Stacks" was created by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Library during the pandemic to promote their collections during a time when access to the building and collections was limited. The library is the regional depository for Hawaii, Guam, and the Federated States of Micronesia, so the videos also help reach their geographically dispersed audience throughout the Pacific. UHM Library and Information Science Program interns and other Library staff serve as guest voiceover artists to help promote the collections to library colleagues too.

Gwen Sinclair, the Chair, Government Documents

and Maps Department and regional Federal depository coordinator at UHM shared, "As we handle these documents in our daily work, we keep a running list of documents, subjects, and categories of material to highlight." Currently, the available videos feature topics or collections, such as juvenile delinquency, military insignia and uniforms, braille publications, Congressional chartered organizations, and U.S. Government Agencies' Toys, Activities, and Games.

"I really enjoy my work supporting our depository libraries and the National Collection of U.S. Government Public Information," said Abby McDermott, College Management Librarian, Library Technical Services, LSCM. "I frequently review the FDLP eXchange database for publications that our depositories are weeding so I can determine if any of those titles and SuDocs call numbers match to FDLP collection development needs. When applicable, I'll facilitate transfer of depository publications, helping them crisscross the country between libraries."

For more information on the FDLP libraries along with their amazing and historic collections of material, please go to the Federal Depository Library Directory at <https://ask.gpo.gov/s/FDLD>.



Nevada State Library's USGS collection: The Geology and Ore Deposits of Goldfield, Nevada (authored by Frederick Leslie Ransome, USGS Professional Paper 66, 1909).



University of Hawai'i Mānoa Library, from the video series What's in the Stacks?, toys, activities, and games created by U.S. Government agencies.