

Fundamentals of Government Information

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Realities

- Merged service points
- Changes in the questions asked at the reference desk (physical and online).
- Retirements, reorganizations, and budgets--doing more with less

Mindset of a Documents Librarian

- Who would be interested in creating that information?
- What is the agency's or organization's perspective or bias (e.g., legislative mandate, political caucus, religious organization, watchdog)?
- Does the agency actually ask the question (e.g. religion in the census)?
- Does the agency release the material (e.g. tax forms)?

How do documents librarians...

- * learn what we need to know?
- * stay current in the field?
- * train non-documents librarians? documents librarians?
- * place government resources in context as primary sources?
- * share the cumulative knowledge acquired by government information specialists?

How do we learn & stay current?

Learn government structure
Consult the Statistical Abstract (obligatory weepy face)
Read user guides
Learn about government processes
Textbooks, web sites, internet directories
Note loved print sources/check library webpages and links for favorites
Read books about government/governing (biographies, critiques)
Newsletters/listservs/newspaper

--From *Fundamentals of Government Information*, Chapter 2
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