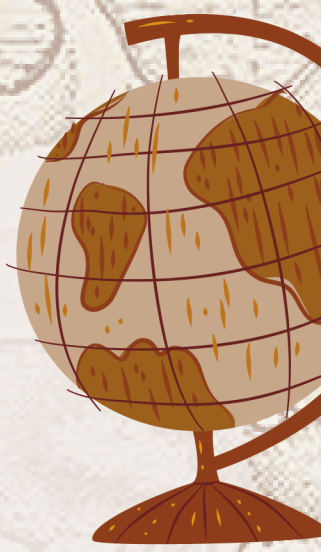


Government Documents

LIBRARIANSHIP TIMELINE



1895

PUBLIC PRINTING ACT

Public Printing Act of 1895; Adelaide Hasse conquers the chaos of govdocs and creates the classification system

1907

WHAT DO WE HAVE

Land grant universities designated as FDLs. Checklist of Government Publications (1909) Poores' Descriptive Catalogue, Ames.

1914

PROGRESSIVE LIBRARIES

Special library services in legislative, civic, and municipal reference (SLA formed in 1909); Congressional Research Service established to connect legislators to information.

1920

CIVICS ROOM

Chicago Public Library's FDLP items held in a Civics Room. They had a dedicated team, but no one with "government documents" librarian in their title.

1934

WHAT AREN'T WE GETTING

Jerome Wilcox, head of John Crerar Library and ALA pres., produces bibliography of New Deal documents. Notes the potential loss of documents

1955

SO MUCH STUFF

Early warehouse storage attempts for enormous runs of serial documents. Documents sent to basements, attics, and warehouses some without good inventories or records.

1958

57 LIBRARIANS TESTIFY

Congress' Subcommittee to Study Federal Printing & ALA Committee on Public Documents survey libraries on gov. info. needs and the FDLP, report responses of 650 libraries.

1962

WHY NOT BOTH?

Depository Library Act of 1962, a compromise ensuring "complete collections" for public access and allowing new libraries to join program.

1972/73

DOCUMENTS TO THE PEOPLE!

American Library Association establishes the Government Documents Round Table. Depository Library Council convenes.

TIMELINE

1976

UNION TO OCLC

From union catalogs (i.e., just for that institution) to shared cataloging. Local practices (like re-cutting Congressional Hearings) go from asset to pain

1985

LOFTY GOALS, LITTLE BUDGETS

Cherry picking (subject specialists choosing documents to be classed) vs. pulling docs out of Dewey collections to be classed together by SuDoc.

1990

EMBRACING ELECTRONIC

Diane and Michael Kovacs start an email discussion group Govdoc-L as a list serv hosted by Penn State. Grace York creates an electronic version of the Handout Exchange (1992).

1994

PAPER VS DIGITAL

GPO Access Act - and the great paper vs digital debate begins

2007

RECORDING HISTORY

GODORT's Government Information Living Indexes Oral History Project begins to provide a history of government information librarianship. <https://alair.ala.org/handle/11213/17178>

2010

GPO ACCESS 2.0

FDsys public website launches 6 years later (2016) GovInfo is launched

2015

SHARING 2.0

XML Bulk Data is made available; GPO joins GitHub, eCFR XML Bulk Data released. In 2016, GovInfo replaces FDsys, or Future Digital System

2017

GOV DOCS GOES TO WASHINGTON

US Congress takes up modernization for the FDLP. Librarians testify on US House session; "Transforming GPO for the 21st Century and Beyond: Part 3 - Federal Depository Library Program"

2018

ISO CERTIFICATION

GovInfo awarded ISO-16363 certification by the Primary Trustworthy Digital Repository Authorization Body

2023

30 YEARS

GPO celebrates the [30th Anniversary](#) of the GPO Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act ([Public Law 103-40](#)).

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What's next for government documents librarianship?



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