Federal Depository Library Conference
Arlington, VA

Hunting Down Fugitives
and What to Do with Them
Once You Found Them

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What is a Fugitive?

Government publication, as defined by 44 U.S. Code, Sec. 1901, is "informational matter which is published as an individual document at Government expense, or as required by law."

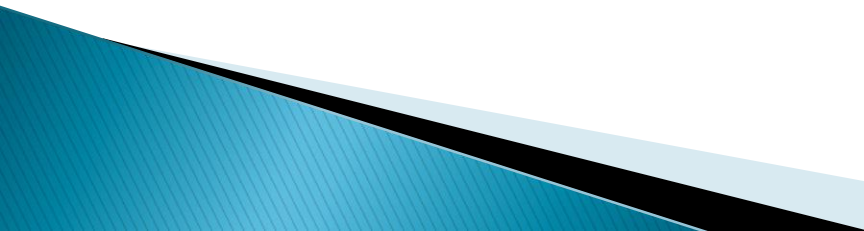**But there is no legal definition of a fugitive document.**

What is a Fugitive?

…a document published by the Federal government which disseminates information that is produced at taxpayer expense but not made available to depository libraries from the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

How do docs get into depository program?

GPO Content Acquisition Specialists—

- Check agency websites
- Maintain contact with agency representatives
- Subscribe to notification services from agencies
- Receive Document Discovery notifications from agencies (via agency web form)
- Review "Intent to Publish" forms from agencies
- Review new titles from GPO Sales or printed through GPO Express (FedExOffice/Kinkos)
- Check for on-line titles from print request forms (SF1)

What is not included in depository program

As defined by 44 U.S. Code, Sec. 1902:

*Documents created for "official use only"
     Example: *Internal forms, internal memos*

*Documents that "have no public purpose or educational value"
     Example: *Signs, passports*

*Documents classified for national security reasons
     Example: *Wiki Leaks documents*

What is not included in depository program

- Commercial publishers
  - Example: *Bernan, ProQuest*

- Materials produced primarily without government funds (i.e., funding from outside sources such as endowments or associations)
  - Example: *Smithsonian, National Archives, Library of Congress, National Park Service*

- Publications from quasi-government agencies
  - Example: *Federal Reserve System*

What is not included in depository program

- CRS Reports for Congress
- Decisions of Federal district courts
- Components within titles, e.g. individual speeches, press briefings, etc.
- Reprints of articles
- FOIA materials
- ".org" web sites publications, even if they have government affiliations
- Non-governmental titles in ERIC or other governmental databases

Finding Publications

USING A SEARCH ENGINE:

▸ Search.USA.gov (http://search.usa.gov/)

▸ Google   (http://www.google.com/)
--add .gov or .mil to search strategy

Limits suggestion: "file type=pdf"

Finding Publications

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES' WEB PAGES

- Publications   NCES
- Resources   DOJ
- Research   Educ
- Reports   GAO
- Newsroom   USDA
- Media Room   VA
- Library   CIA
- Collections   NPS

Finding Publications

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLICATIONS:

- **Alerts**
  Example: *GPO Bookstore*

- **Agency newsletters**
  Example: *JUSTINFO*

- **RSS**
  Example: *NHTSA*

- In the **news**

- In **bibliographies**

Finding Publications

KEEPING TRACK OF PUBLICATION WEB SITES:

- **Bookmarks** on web browsers

- **LibGuides**
  Example: *Gov Docs: Training Resources*
  (USA Marx Library)

Determining if a Document is a Fugitive

- First, determine if the publication is a U.S. Federal document.
    --Make sure the document has been issued by a legitimate government agency and not just an organization located in Washington, DC.

- Second, determine if the publication is copyrighted.
    --If it is, the title may not have been produced with federal funds, but may only be associated with a government agency.

Determining if a Document is a Fugitive

CGP--Catalog of U.S. Government Pubs

When a title is classified and receives an item number (whether it is a tangible or electronic publication) it becomes part of the FDLP.

OCLC / WorldCat [FirstSearch]

If not listed in CGP, double-check with OCLC to see what, if any, bib record exists.

Reporting Fugitives to FDLP

Lost Docs Reporting Form
https://www.fdlp.gov/collection-tools/lostdocs

- Easy to use: just fill-in blanks
- Receive email indicating receipt of title
- Lacks ability to keep track of status
- Form lacks blanks for all relevant information

Reporting Fugitives to FDLP

AskGPO Form (aka GPO Help)
https://www.gpo.gov/askgpo/

- Receive email indicating receipt of title
- Easier to keep track of status since sometimes receive feedback from GPO
- Since reporting information is done free-form, it allows flexibility to include additional information
- But it easy to forget to include all relevant information

Reporting Fugitives to FDLP

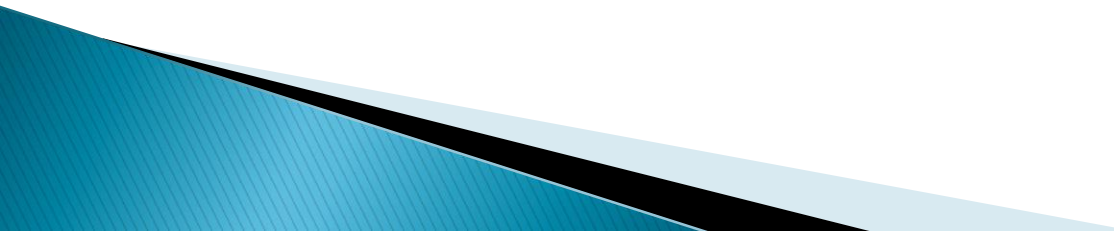**Lost Docs Project Blog**

http://lostdocs.freegovinfo.info/

"The purpose of this blog is to provide a public listing of documents submitted to the Government Printing Office (GPO)'s ."

- Strictly volunteer web site.
- Site can be used to find out what titles have already been reported, and their status.
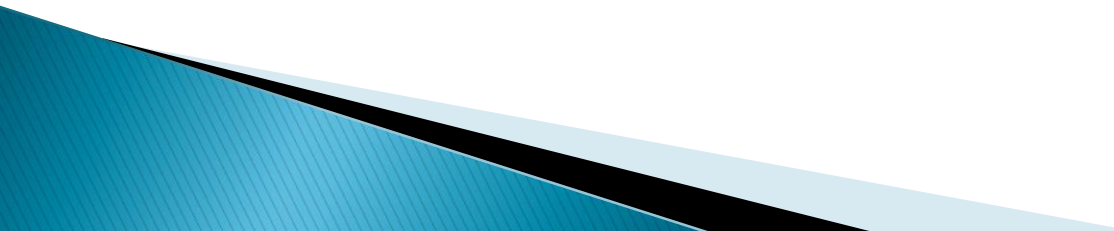
Reporting Fugitives to FDLP

BASIC LESSIONS LEARNED

✓ Don't report a web page full of titles.

Each title needs to be reported separately, this includes monographic series.

✓ Serials are difficult to get cataloged.

Not all serials (annuals/periodicals) are neatly listed on a summary page.

Reporting Fugitives to FDLP

BASIC LESSIONS LEARNED

✓ Be selective about what you report to GPO.

Choose those titles you would want in your catalog if they were tangibles.

✓ Do your due diligence before submitting titles or resources to GPO.

Make sure your information is as accurate as possible.

Reporting Fugitives to FDLP

My results of reporting fugitive titles
(as of 9/30/16):

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total Titles
Cataloged in CGP	120	68	45	34	3	36	**306**
Not cataloged in CGP	18	15	13	4	5	89	**144**
Temp record in CGP	1	1	3	3	0	3	**11**
Totals per Year	139	84	61	41	8	128	**461**
% Cat. per Year	86%	81%	74%	83%	38%	28%	**66%**

Let's get started

▶ Find a document

  LibGuide: Spies, Intelligence, & Cryptography
  LibGuide: Training Resources / Acquisitions

▶ Verify a document

  CGP
  OCLC/WorldCat (via USA Library Home Page)

▶ Report a document

  Lost Docs Reporting Form

Congratulations!

You have now qualified to be an official a Fugitive Hunter.

Happy Hunting!

References/ Web Resources

- **44 U.S.C. Ch.19**
  U.S. Code, 2006 ed., Title 44, Chapter 19, pt. 55-58

- **"Document Discovery"**
  FDLP Connection, v. 2, no. 5 (May 2012)

- **"Reporting Fugitive Documents to GPO"**
  Lost Docs Project Blog (posted July 26, 2009)

- **SOD 301: Dissemination/Distribution Policy for the Federal Depository Library Program**
  FDLP website. Effective date Sept. 28, 2006

- **OMB Circular A-130/Rev. (Trans. Mem. No. 4)**
  SUBJ: Management of Federal Information Resources (Nov. 28, 2000)

Further Readings / Articles

- Baldwin, Gil. "Fugitive Documents—On the Loose or On the Run" Administrative Notes, v. 24, no. 10 (Aug. 15, 2003) p. 4-8

- Bower, Cynthia. "Federal Fugitives, DNDs and Other Aberrants: A Cosmology" DttP: Documents to the People, v. 17, no. 3 (Sept. 1989), p. 120-126.

- Martin, Mary. "Fugitive Documents? Or, What's Happening to Dissemination of Government Information?" DttP: Documents to the People, v. 23, no. 1 (March 1995), p. 42-45.

- McGeachy, John A. "Documents Lost: Depository Documents Depositories Did Not Receive, 1982-1986" DttP: Documents to the People, v. 16, no. 1 (March 1988), p. 24-36.

- Walters, John Spencer." 'Toy' Presses and the Rise of Fugitive U.S. Government Documents" Journal of Government Information, v. 21, no. 5 (1994), p. 413-435.

Additional Resources

- Help! I'm an Accidental Government Information Librarian presents … Fugitive Hunters: Community-Based Digital Collection Development of Born-Digital Government Information. Presented Jan. 12, 2015 by *James A. Jacobs* (UCSD) and *James R. Jacobs* (Stanford)

- Born-Digital U.S. Federal Government Information: Preservation and Access by *James A. Jacobs* for the Center for Research Libraries Global Resources Collections Forum (March 17 2014)

For further questions or assistance, contact:

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