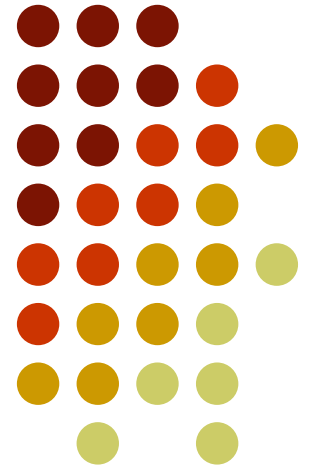


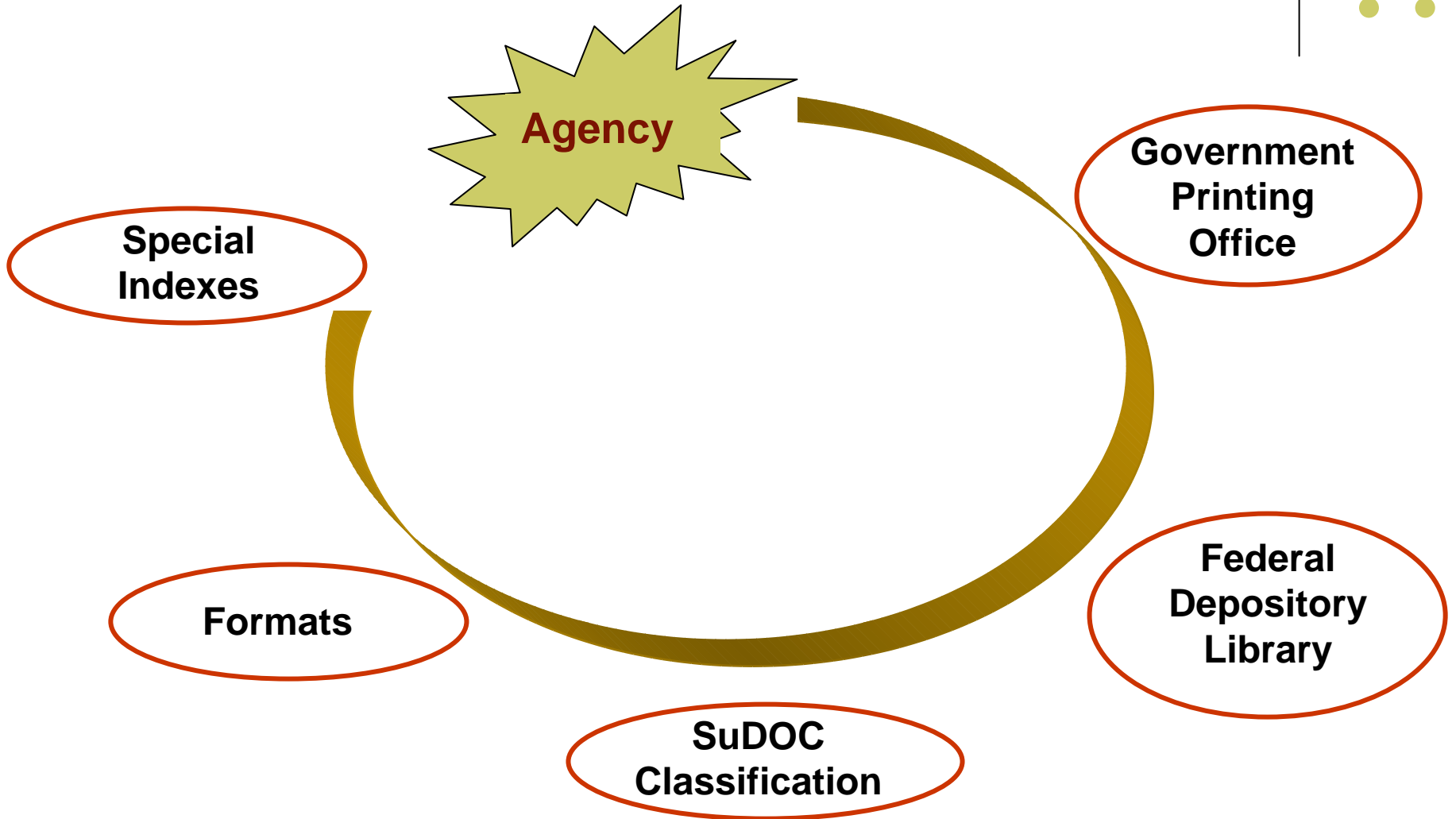
Teaching Government Information

Comparing a Traditional Approach
and the Information Cycle

Stephen Woods
The Pennsylvania State University



Traditional Model



Traditional Model



How do we
Access
Government
information?

What is
Government
Information?

How do we
Acquire
government
Information?

How do we Organize
government information?



**Focus is on the Publication
Process!**



Instructional Goals (ACRL)

- Knows how information is formally and informally produced, organized, and disseminated (Outcome 1.2.a)
- Identifies the value and differences of potential resources in a variety of formats (e.g., multimedia, database, website, data set, audio/visual, book) (Outcome 1.2.c)

Instructional Goals (ACRL), Continued



- Uses various classification schemes and other systems (e.g., call number systems or indexes) to locate information resources within the library or to identify specific sites for physical exploration. (Outcome 2.3.b)
- Uses various search systems to retrieve information in a variety of formats. (Outcome 2.3.a)

Instructional Design

Question - Answer



- What is Government Information?
- How is it disseminated?
- What subjects does it cover?
- What formats are disseminated?
- How is government information organized?
- What tools can be used?

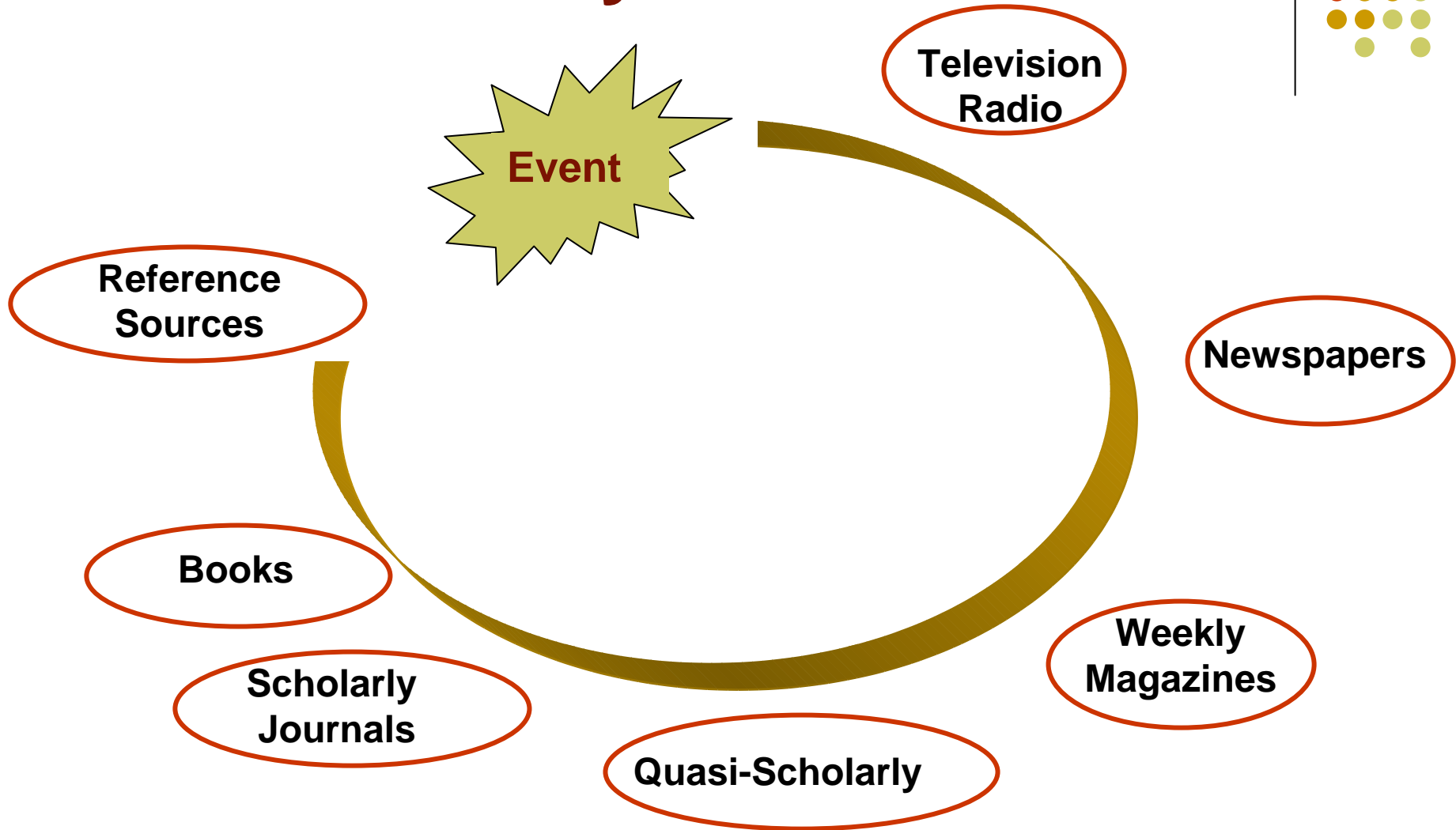
See Separate Handout

Comments on the Approach



- Strengths
 - Comprehensive framework
 - Great for disseminating information to large audiences
 - Good for short sessions
- Weakness
 - Not a lot of time for hands-on experience
 - Doesn't often relate to the users needs (research strategies, information need, etc...)

Information Cycle Model



*Note: From Information Cycle by Bichel, R., & Cheney, D., n.d.,
retrieved March 10, 2004 from <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/instruction/infocycle.htm>. Adapted with permission.*

Questions you might ask?



- How often is the media distributed?
- What is the audience for the media?
- What is the style & language used?
- What decisions were made regarding the content published?

Instructional Goals (ACRL)



- Examines and **compares information from various sources** in order to evaluate reliability, validity, accuracy, authority, timeliness, and point of view or bias. (3.2.a)
- Recognizes the cultural, physical, or other **context within which the information was created** and understands the impact of context on interpreting the information. (3.2.d)

Instructional Goals (ACRL) Continued



- Identifies the **purpose and audience** of potential resources (e.g., popular vs. scholarly, current vs. historical) (Outcome 1.2.d)
- Uses **various search systems** to retrieve information in a variety of formats. (Outcome 2.3.a)

How can you use the model?





Compare and contrast

- Congressional Record vs. New York Times
- FDA Consumer vs. Newsweek
- Trade publications vs Committee Prints and Reports (trade publications of congress).
- Scholarly Journals & Books
- Reference Sources

Interpreting & Finding Government Information in Media



- How often is government information mentioned in different types of media?
- How do different media types use government information?
- How do you determine it is government information that they are using?
- How do you retrieve what they are citing?
- Did the author use the information correctly?

Comments on the Approach



- Strengths
 - Great for focusing on “Current Events” and policy
 - Builds on the students previous knowledge
 - Potential for active learning rather than lecture
 - Can address users need
- Weaknesses
 - Not a perfect analogy
 - Students have to understand the metaphor

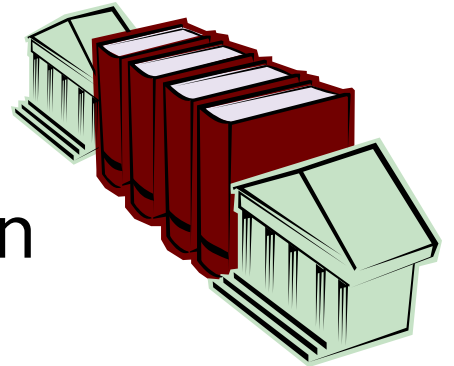


Traditional Model

An Example

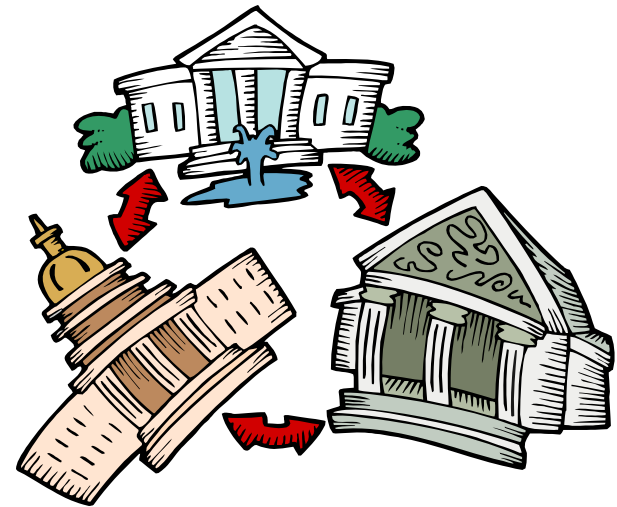
Introduction to Government Publications

Stephen J. Woods
Government Documents Librarian
Idaho State University



Forms of Government

- Federal
 - Legislative (Congress & Senate)
 - Judicial (Supreme Court, District Courts)
 - Executive (President)
- State
 - Legislature
 - State Courts
 - Governor





Forms of Government

- Local (County or City)

- Council
- Municipal Courts
- Mayor



- Foreign Governments

- <http://www.library.nwu.edu/govpub/resource/internat/foreign.html>

- International Government Organizations

- <http://www.library.nwu.edu/govpub/resource/internat/igo.html>

Dissemination of Government Information

- Federal Depository Program
- State Depository Program
- United Nations Depository Program



Federal Depository Program

"A popular Government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it is but a Prologue to a Farce or Tragedy; or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: and a people who mean to be their own Governors must arm themselves with the power that knowledge gives." James Madison

- Guiding Principles
- Enabling Legislation
- Types of Material





Guiding Principles

- Public has the right of access
- Disseminate and provide broad public access to its information





Guiding Principles

- Guarantee the authenticity and integrity
- Preserve its information.
- Information created at government expense.



Enabling Legislation

- Title 44, Chapter 19 of the US Code
- Title 44 & OMB Circular A-130
- Title 44, Chapter 41 of the US Code





Depository Libraries (Stats)

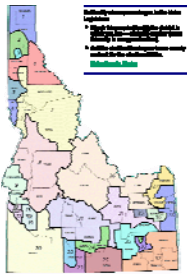
1339 Depository Libraries

53 Regional Depository Libraries

- Academic (general) Libraries 50%
- Public Libraries 20%
- Academic Law Libraries 11%
- Community College Libraries 5%
- Federal Agency Libraries 3.5%
- State Libraries 3%
- State Court Libraries 2.7%
- Special Libraries 1.7%
- Federal Court Libraries 1.22%
- Military Service Academy Libraries .4%



Idaho and UN Depository Program



- Idaho

- Mandated by [Section 33-2505](#) of the *Idaho Code*
- Distributed by the State Library

- United Nations



- Distributed by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library
- 388 [depository libraries](#) in 144 countries
- Available to the public free of charge



Types of Information

- Statistical ([Census](#))
- Periodicals ([PUBMED](#))
- Scientific reports or Technical reports ([NASA Technical Server](#))
- Proceedings ([GPO ACCESS](#))
- Hearings ([Thomas](#))
- Informational ([Pathway Services](#))
- Kids - curriculum's ([Bens Guide](#))
- Photographs ([American Memory Project](#))
- Maps ([USGS](#))



Format of Government Information

- Paper
- Microfiche (approved 1970, began 1978)
- Microfilm
- CD-ROM (began in 1987)
- Floppies
- Maps
- Internet





Superintendent Classification

- Adelaide R. Hasse (Los Angeles Pub. Library)
- Organizes Information by Agency
 - Major Agency
 - Sub-Agency
- Organizes Information by Publication Type
- Not a decimal classification system like LC

HE 20. 3000

Level One: Department of Health & Human Services

Level Two: Public Health Services

Level Three: National Institutes of Health



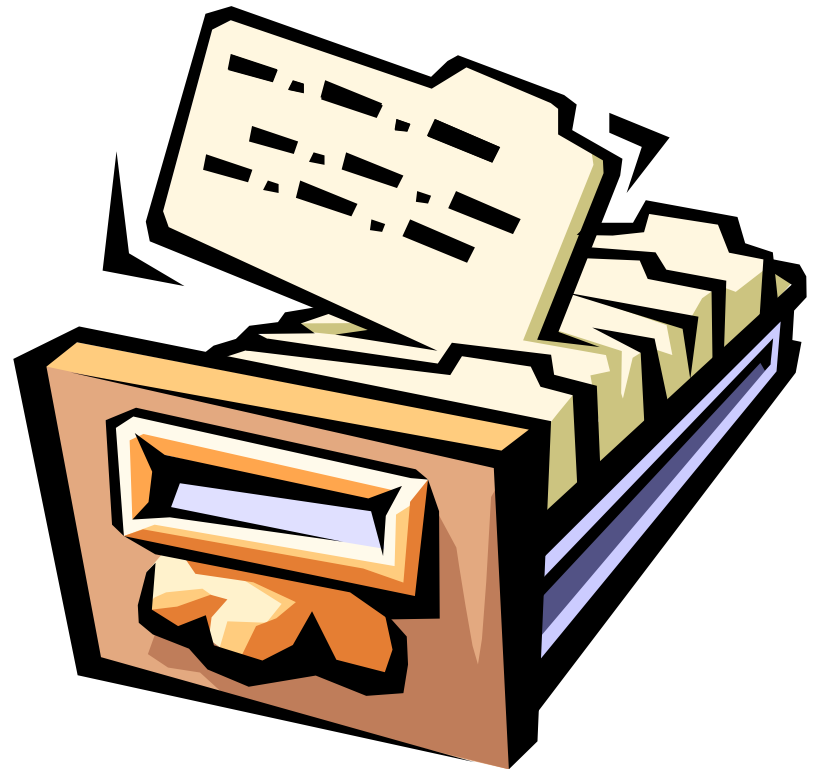


SUDOC TUTORIAL

Click on the Link to Access the
Tutorial

Indexes to Government Information

- [ELI \(Library Catalog\)](#)
- [Catalog of U.S. Publications](#)
- [Congressional Universe](#)
- [Statistical Universe](#)
- [Government Publications Databases](#)





Accessibility: Library Page

Idaho State University

Eli M. Oboler Library

[Find Books
& Journals](#)

[Find Articles](#)

[Find Government
Publications](#)

[Find Internet
Resources](#)



[Research Help](#)

[Virtual Reference](#)

[Idaho Health
Sciences Library](#)

[About the
ISU Library](#)

[What's New](#)

[Off Campus Services](#) | [Databases](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Ask a Librarian](#)

850 South 9th, Campus Box 8089

Pocatello, ID 83209-8089

Phone: (208) 282-2958

Fax: (208) 282-5847