

Finding SuDoc Numbers

The Classical Listing

Checklist of United States Public Documents, 1789-1909 – [GovInfo](#)

Contents of the Public Documents Library listed in SuDoc order. Errata is available in the May 1912 Monthly Catalog.

Congressional materials are identified by Serial Set volume. Front matter includes “the most complete” explanation of the SuDoc classification scheme at the time.

For those needing to class individual Congressional documents prior to the 97th Congress, see Sources below.

Bulletin 15: New Classes Assigned in the Public Documents Library, 1910-1913. (1913). For SuDoc stems introduced after the Checklist to 1913. <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008430434>

Bulletin 17: Outline of revised classification for publications of the Interstate Commerce Commission as adopted by the Public Documents Library. (Dec 1914). “This classification supersedes that given in the Checklist ... and bulletin 15.” [MoCat listing: v.19, Jan. 1915 p.377].

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.b3120106&view=1up&seq=49>

Depository Invoices from Nov. 1913. New and canceled SuDoc stems began in 1913. Item numbers were added in 1933.

DI's were available on subscription for non-depository institutions wanting SuDoc information.

Add to this list:

Monthly Catalog - from July 1924 forward. [Gov Info](#)

Cumulative title index to United States public documents, 1789-1976. Compiled by Daniel W. Lester, Sandra K. Faull and Lorraine E. Lester. United States Historical Documents Institute; 1979-<1982>. Cumulative title index with classification.

Guide to U. S. government publications. By John L. Andriot. Cumulative listing of SuDoc stems. Front matter includes an explanation on how the classification system works and how it has changed.

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/102435912>

Documents Office classification numbers for cuttered documents, 1910-1924. By Mary Elizabeth Poole and Ella Frances Smith. Very useful. <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/001175906>

Administrative Notes (1983-2009) - [GovInfo](#)

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/005411663>

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/102215025>

Administrative Notes: Technical Supplement (ANTS) (1994-2008) - [GovInfo](#)

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/102113719>

[WebTech Notes](#)

Sources for generating Congressional accession number SuDoc:

Prior to the 97th Congress (1981), Congressional materials included in the serial set (Documents, Reports, Misc. materials, etc.) were not classed. They were accessioned. This number became the default SuDoc in the 1970s.

Explanation of the Superintendent of Documents classification, 1955, p.6. About old style Congressional SuDoc.

<https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.b3909714?urlappend=%3Bseq=16%3Bownerid=9007199256388765-14>

[Explanation of X prefix and new Y class SuDoc]. Andriot (1987), p.xx, section 3.

<https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uiug.30112101618194?urlappend=%3Bseq=24%3Bownerid=115765852-28>

Error corrections and New/Canceled Numbers:

There is no single resource that lists all corrections from all sources.

MoCat:

- Errors in the listings were noted at the front of the issues, though not always in a formal section. The most recognizable section was called "Corrections from previous Monthly Catalogs."
- Corrections could be made at any time from all previous issues – last month to several decades ago.
- New/Canceled Number listings were added in 1942 after Depository Invoices were canceled.
- In the late 20th century, these lists were often cumulated in the Annual Index.

Depository Invoices / Shipping Lists:

- Errors were corrected on the list similar in format to MoCat corrections. Notes would appear on the last page citing the flawed list number and data to be corrected.
- Later, special correction shipping lists printed on pink paper were sent out.
- For lists dated 1998 forward, see the [FDLP listings](#).

Other locations -

Government Publication Highlights (1973-1983) – [GovInfo](#)

Monthly newsletter produced by LSCM predecessor. It ran to 1983 and had the occasional correction notice. Searchable through GovInfo. <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/102113745>

Administrative Notes (1983-2009) - [GovInfo](#)

Successor to Highlights. Features correction information. Searchable through GovInfo.

Administrative Notes Technical Services (ANTS) (1994-2008) – [GovInfo](#)

Spin off from Administrative Notes that began in 1994. It existed to communicate new or canceled numbers, publication information, and shipping list corrections. This was the precursor to WebTech Notes. Issues are available online and searchable through GovInfo.

[WebTech Notes](#) - Online from FDLP, this is the current error correction and classification announcement organ. The database has existed since 1998, but multiple crashes and other software related events have compromised coverage. Data is missing and not all of ANTS has been added.

A WebTech Note is required for all new SuDoc/Item numbers and for materials that appear on a Shipping List. Changes on EL publications, or on non-distributed materials, do not require a WebTech Note. Traditionally, does not include corrections to MoCat errors.

086 \$z or 074 \$z - OCLC records will sometimes feature a 074 \$z or 086 \$z. These are "corrected from" (incorrect) forms. Not all SuDocs that are corrected have a \$z. Not all \$z are for public errors. There are extensive rules about when and how to format a \$z entry for Congressional materials.

Resources Internal to GPO –

Historic Shelf-list – Sometimes referred to as the HSL, this is what remains of the old card catalog that ran 1895 to 1992. It covers about half of the total collection of materials.

Checklist of United States Public Documents, 1789-1976 – Commercially produced microfilm copy of the Historic Shelf-list. The set includes cards for all classed materials, including Old File material missing from the HSL.

ACSIS (Automated Acquisition, Classification, and Shipment Information System) – This command line driven, mainframe database was implemented in 1992 and remained in use until 2011. It contains information on materials received, formats, distribution status, shipping lists, SuDoc number and corrections. For some materials, ACSIS is the only source for this data.

[FDLP Digitized Shipping List Archive](#) – for Depository Invoices (1923, 1927-1941) and Shipping lists (1951-2002).