
News Release



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LOCAL LIBRARIES OFFER GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS COLLECTIONS TO THE PUBLIC

With the gathering of the American Library Association's Mid-Winter Conference in New Orleans this weekend, area residents should know that massive collections of Government documents have been made available for the free use of the public by several libraries in New Orleans. These libraries participate in a popular Government program called the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), used by millions of Americans every year. Through the FDLP, the libraries receive Federal Government publications from the Government Printing Office and agree to maintain those collections and make them available for free public use.

In the New Orleans area, these libraries include:

New Orleans Public Library
219 Loyola Avenue
504-596-2580

Loyola University Library
6363 St. Charles Avenue
504-864-7155

Our Lady of Holy Cross College
Blaine S. Kern Library
4132 Woodland Drive
504-394-7744

Xavier University of Louisiana
Library Resource Center
One Drexel Drive
504-483-7305

Southern University
Leonard S. Washington Library
6400 Press Drive
504-286-5224

Tulane University
Howard-Tilton Memorial Library
7001 Freret Street
504-865-5683

University of New Orleans
Earl K. Long Library
Lakefront
504-280-6549

Depository libraries are established by law and through congressional designation. Currently, more than 1,300 libraries across the Nation participate in the FDLP. This program dates back to 1813 when Congress first began regular distribution of Government publications to libraries.

These days, more than half of the distribution to Federal depository libraries is electronic, through **GPO Access** (www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess), the Web site of the Government Printing Office. **GPO Access** provides more than 225,000 Federal titles to the depository libraries and the public, who download more than 31 million documents each month. Depository libraries are equipped with computer workstations to help provide public access to electronic and online Government information products.

Thousands of titles are also distributed every year in paper and microfiche. Not all depository libraries receive all of these documents. Most libraries select from more than 6,000 categories, depending on the interests of their patrons. About 50 depositories around the country receive all distributed titles, and they provide interlibrary loan services to the selective depositories in their areas, so that a patron can obtain access to any distributed document at any depository library.

Perhaps the best part about the depository libraries is the availability of Government documents librarians. Patrons who request the assistance of a Government documents librarian will tap into extensive knowledge about the very specialized and quite complex field of Government information. Government documents librarians represent invaluable resources to their local communities, providing citizens with expert knowledge of the wide spectrum of information channels used by Federal departments to communicate with the public.

Members of the public are invited to visit their local depository libraries to make use of the Government documents collections they contain. Depository libraries can be located by State, by telephone area code, and by congressional district at this Web page: www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/locators/findlibs.

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