



Basics for Newcomers: Navigating Government Information

Panelists:

Jen Kirk, Utah State University

Ashley S. Dees, University of Mississippi

Hayley Johnson, Louisiana State University



**Western
States**

Government
Information
Virtual
Conference

Introductions

Introductions - Jen

- Utah State University - Regional FDLP Depository
- Government Information Librarian
- How long have you been in your position?
 - Almost one year
- What is your primary role/focus?
 - Providing reference service for government information, managing collection acquisitions and maintenance, overseeing a two full-time staff and three student staff members

Introductions - Ashley

- University of Mississippi – Regional FDLP Depository
- Research & Instruction Librarian/Regional Depository Coordinator
- How long have you been in your position?
 - 4 yrs as R&I Librarian- just over 1 yr as RDC
- What is your primary role/focus?
 - To provide research and instruction services for the School of Business, Department of Economics, & in the areas of Federal and State information; manage collection acquisitions and maintenance; assist selectives within the state; and coordinate with 1 full-time staff, supervise 1 graduate assistant, and 1 undergraduate student

Introductions - Hayley

- Louisiana State University, Regional FDLP Depository
- Head of Government Documents & Microforms
- How long have you been in your position?
 - Almost one year
- What is your primary role/focus?
 - Supervise management of depository collection and microforms (processing, collection maintenance, etc.); support Selectives and administer ASERL disposition process; provide reference services; supervise one general librarian, one staff person, and 5-7 students



How do you define
government information?



Need to Know Resources & Tools

Resources/Tools #1

[Govinfo.gov](http://govinfo.gov)

- GPO's official online repository for materials produced by all three branches of government. Valued for its user-friendly design and free access to materials.
- This site features full-text searchable access to select digitized historic materials.

[Technical Report Archive & Image Library \(TRAIL\)](#)

- This website/project is a digital library that provides access to a variety of reports related to technology and science. Over 57,000 reports are available in full-text.
- Began as an effort by science, engineering, and government documents librarians to find and preserve technical reports produced prior to 1976. Now has a variety of criteria TRAIL members use to evaluate series for digitization.
- Especially helpful for patrons with technical needs and place to find items your depository may have never collected.

Resources/Tools #2

[Data.gov](#)

- The federal government's open data site. It aims to make government more open and accountable.
- The site federates data from hundreds of [sources](#), including federal government, cities, counties, states, and universities.

[Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology](#)

- FCSM is an interagency committee dedicated to improving the quality of Federal statistics.
- The site provides links to various governmental entities who compile statistics and issues news releases when these entities release new data.



Resources/Tools #3

- State Census Data Center (SDC) Program
 - 1,800 agencies - providing guidance and access to Census data
 - Economic and Demographic Data Resource
- <https://sdcclearinghouse.com/>
 - Area profiles
 - Data mapping / Data query tools
 - Presentations and Webinars

And so much more!

Local Focus

How do you provide access to local resources?



Local Resources

- State Depository Collections
- State Archives
- State Agency Librarians
- Past experience with state or local government (county, city, municipal, etc.)
- Public Records Laws
- Special Collections
- Public Libraries
- Historical Societies



What's the best advice you
have received?

Looking to learn more about
depositories and/or their
resources?



Recommended Professional Training Opportunities

- New Depository Coordinator Training (offered in the Fall)
- Federal Depository Library Program Coordinator Certificate Program (previous sessions included Fall and Spring cohorts)
- Recommended Webinars:
 - [Help! I'm an Accidental Government Information Librarian](#)
 - [FDLP Depository Operation Training Series](#)
 - [Variety of in-depth community webinars](#)

Questions?

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2018

Accessing,
Discovering,
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