

# Finding Government Information



**UNITED STATES FEDERAL DOCUMENTS** - Blackwell Library, a Federal Depository Library since 1965, currently has a 30 %+ selection rate for federal documents in print, microform and electronic formats. The library also serves as a conduit to most **current** federal government information sources, approximately 90% of which are searchable online (UM College Park is a full depository back to 1965 and a partial since 1925 and some documents may be borrowed). To search for U.S. government information, try the following methods:

**1) Check our library catalog for print, microform and online documents**

Many current federal documents in our catalog can be found online and will have a link to the actual document. Many older documents (and some newer ones) are in paper/micro-form format and can be found on our shelves or in microform cabinets. While we are gradually adding some older documents to our catalog, the catalog generally only lists our federal documents back to the early 1990's, so please ask for assistance to find the others.

**2) Access our 'Government Information' subject guide for online information**

Click the 'Government Information' link on the left-hand navigation bar of the library home page. Some good places to start are **USA.gov** which offers a wide variety of government resources and **FDsys** (see below).

**3) Check out some select library database resources** (via the 'Government Information' guide)

**FDsys**, GPO's Federal Digital System, contains the authoritative digital full-text of a huge variety of government resources including the Congressional Serial Set and official legislative, federal regulatory and judicial documents. (Click on Fdsys next to "Good places to start" or type in <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>)

**GPO Monthly Catalog** provides bibliographic citations and locational information for all types of government documents. Some documents are available at SU, many are online and others may need to be ordered from other libraries (Coverage: 1976-present). (Find in the A to Z Resource List)

**USA Trade Online** provides current and cumulative U.S. export and import data for over 18,000 export commodities and 24,000 import commodities. (Found in the A to Z Resource List, full access is granted only within the library and requires a logon - see Research Help Desk staff)

**4) Do a web search, such as through Google**



**MARYLAND STATE DOCUMENTS** - Blackwell Library has been a "full" depository for Maryland government documents since 1983. The Maryland documents program is much less structured than the federal documents program, so we have received Maryland documents in a more random fashion. To search for Maryland government information, try the following methods:

**1) Check our library catalog for print materials**

This will yield limited results as many Maryland documents are not indexed in our catalog. To increase your find rate, please contact the government documents librarian or visit one of our research librarians at the Research Help Desk.

**2) Access our 'Government Information' subject guide for online information**

Click the 'Government Information' link on the left-hand navigation bar of the library home page, then click on the Maryland tab. A lot of Maryland government information is now available online.

**3) Do a web search, such as through Google**

NOTE: There is a lot of potentially useful information to be had from the U.S. and Maryland governments which publish information on just about any topic imaginable. The United States Government is particularly prolific when it comes to publishing statistics, so please take a look at our Government Information subject guide at <http://www.salisbury.edu/library/subject/govinfo/>.

For questions, contact Gaylord Robb, at 410-543-6234 or [grob@salisbury.edu](mailto:grobb@salisbury.edu).