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DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Make the Connection for Governm  
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**Local Access**

***Make the Connection  
for Government  
Information at a***



**FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY**

## **Local Access to Government Information**

The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) safeguards one of our nation's strongest traditions: the public's right to know. The FDLP identifies, catalogs, and ensures permanent public access to Government publications through Federal depository libraries and the FDLP Electronic Collection. The FDLP is a program of the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) under the statutory authority of Title 44 of the United States Code. Depository libraries are housed in different types of libraries and are geographically dispersed to provide the best possible service to the public.

Depository libraries provide free local access to publications of public interest and educational value from all three branches of the Federal government. Depository library collections include documents in many formats, including print, CD/DVD and online. They are available for anyone to use at no charge and cover a wide range of topics:

- ★ **Business**
- ★ **Careers**
- ★ **Census data**
- ★ **Defense and military history**
- ★ **Laws and regulations**
- ★ **Science and technology**
- ★ **Travel . . . and much more!**

### ***Publications***

Many depository libraries have participated in the FDLP for more than 100 years and have historical collections of Federal government publications as well as current collections for the public to use.

Depository librarians build their collections to meet local needs and clientele.

While libraries recognize the special needs of their primary clientele when adding resources to the collection, all depository libraries also make available certain titles of interest to the general public.

### **Online Access**

With changing Federal agency publication patterns and increasing reliance upon the World Wide Web to disseminate publications, depository libraries provide computer equipment for library users to access online and other electronic Government information. In addition to computers, depository libraries also make available the following GPO services to help users of all ages find Federal information:

#### **★ Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP)**

**<http://www.gpo.gov/catalog>**

The CGP is a search and retrieval service that provides authoritative bibliographic records of U.S. Government information products. Use it to link to Federal agency online resources or to identify materials distributed to Federal depository libraries. Coverage begins with January 1994 and new records are added daily. The print counterpart, available at depository libraries, is the *Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications* and its predecessors, which GPO has produced since 1895.

#### **★ FDLP Electronic Collection (FDLP/EC)**

**<http://www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess/fdlp/ec>**

The FDLP/EC is a comprehensive digital library of online resources from all branches of Government. The FDLP, through its partnerships and its network of depository libraries, identifies, points to, acquires, creates metadata for, and in many cases

archives electronic publications from all agencies, and will provide ongoing free public access to the resources in the FDLP/EC. Access to the FDLP/EC is provided through the CGP and other locator tools and services available from *GPO Access*.

★ ***GPO Access***

**<http://www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess>**

*GPO Access* is one of the leading online sources of free, official Government information, and is the only such system mandated by law. Its publicly available resources, covering all three branches of Government, are available through more than 80 applications, including the popular *Code of Federal Regulations*, *Congressional Record*, and *Federal Register*. Finding Aids available through *GPO Access* link to Government electronic products in the FDLP/EC and at other Federal agency Web sites.

★ **Ben's Guide to**

**U.S. Government for Kids**

**<http://bensguide.gpo.gov>**

Ben's Guide serves as the educational component of *GPO Access* and provides learning tools for K-12 students, parents, and teachers. These resources teach how our Government works, the use of the primary source materials of *GPO Access*, and how to use *GPO Access* to carry out a citizen's civic responsibilities. Ben's Guide also provides a locator service to other U.S. Government Web sites developed for kids.

★ **U.S. Government Online Bookstore**

**<http://bookstore.gpo.gov>**

The U.S. Government Online Bookstore is the official source for Federal Government publications sold by GPO. It provides Web users with easy, one-stop access to publications from all branches of Federal Government, including secure online ordering.



## **Service**

In addition to the collections that they make available, depository libraries provide a number of services to help patrons locate and use government information products:

- ★ **Government information librarians who provide expert reference assistance**
- ★ **Computers with Internet access to obtain online government information**
- ★ **Catalogs, guides and web pages**
- ★ **Referral or interlibrary loan service for materials not in the local collection**

Since each library tailors its collections and services to its clientele, different libraries may offer additional services or activities.

## ***Locate a depository library in your area***

Whatever your Government information needs, you can make the connection at a Federal depository library!

Federal depository libraries reside within all types of libraries throughout the United States and its territories. Use the "locate libraries" Web service to find the depository library nearest you at:

**<http://www.gpo.gov/libraries>**



**Federal Depository Library Program**  
**<http://www.gpo.gov/fdlp>**

A Service of the Superintendent of Documents  
U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO)