**Government Documents Librarianship**

New Book for Prospective and Working Government Documents Librarians Covers the Shift to a Digital Environment and Other Key Issues for the Neo-Depository Era


This informative guide for government documents librarians is the first to break down the components of this frequently misunderstood (and unjustly feared) library specialty into manageable, easy-to-understand parts. Lisa A. Ennis, a “tried by fire” documents librarian, begins by looking at career opportunities in both Federal Depository Libraries (FDLs) and nondepository libraries with government document collections. She then discusses skills and traits; networking and training options; managing and administering people, paperwork, and collections; and both public services and technical services issues.

Government documents librarianship is currently undergoing a transformation that reflects the impact of the digital age on how government documents are created, delivered, used, and archived. “As the Government Printing Office (GPO) and Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) move to a more electronic environment,” Ennis said, “their roles will continue to evolve, as will the role of government documents librarians.” In the book, she covers the latest issues faced by and emanating from the GPO and the FDLP, including the shift to a digital environment and publication of the new Electronic FDL Manual.

Formal training and regular retraining in this specialty field of librarianship is often not readily available, with the result that many librarians learn on the job and develop their own techniques for keeping current. According to Susan Copony Field, U.S. Regional Depository Librarian at the University of Georgia Libraries, “For librarians in these situations, and for others who would like to learn more about managing a federal depository library or government documents collection, this book will be invaluable.”

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Government Documents Librarianship includes the following chapters:

1. Government Documents Librarianship: The Sky’s the Limit
2. GPO and FDLP History: A Look Back Before Moving Forward
3. The Modern GPO and FDLP: The Neo-Depository Area
4. FDLP Requirements: Dragons and Beasts
5. Networking and Training: You Are Not Alone
6. Managing and Administering: The Big Picture
7. Public Services Issues: Making Government Documents Collections Sparkle
8. Technical Services Issues: The Devil Is In the Details

Additional features include a Foreword by Susan Copony Field; an Introduction and Afterword by the author; four appendices including recommended resources, FDLP’s Biennial Survey, an example of Administrative Notes: Technical Supplement (ANTS), and the FDLP’s Self-Study Template; a bibliography; and an index.

Lisa A. Ennis is the systems librarian at the Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Previously she was the government documents librarian at Georgia College & State University. She has an MA in History and an MS in Information Science. She has published articles on numerous library topics including digital reference, management, and technostress, and is a regular reviewer for Library Journal and other professional publications. Government Documents Librarianship is her first book.

Government Documents Librarianship: A Guide for the Neo-Depository Era (192 pp/hardbound/$49.50/ISBN 978-1-57387-270-6) is published by Information Today, Inc. It is available in bookstores and direct from the publisher by calling (800) 300-9868 [outside the U.S., call (609) 654-6266]; faxing (609) 654-4309; e-mailing custserv@infotoday.com; or visiting the ITI Web site at www.infotoday.com.

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