



## **U.S. Government Publications at the Library**

The U.S. government produces a vast amount of information in a variety of formats and covering a diverse range of subjects from agriculture to zoology. As a selective federal depository library, we receive many publications issued by government agencies: Congressional reports and hearings, books, maps, periodicals, databases on CD-ROM, etc. An increasing amount of government information is available on the Internet— see the reverse side of this handout for the addresses of some of the more popular sites.

The main collection of government publications in print and microfiche is located on the ground floor of the IUSB library, and is arranged by the Superintendent of Documents (SuDocs) classification number system. In this system, publications are grouped together by the issuing agency or department. The example below shows a breakdown of the SuDocs number **C 61.48:998** for the print publication *U.S. Industrial Trade Outlook*:

<b>C</b>	<b>61.</b>	<b>48:</b>	<b>998</b>
<b>Commerce Dept. (issuing agency)</b>	<b>International Trade Administration (Bureau within Commerce Dept.)</b>	<b>Number for individual title</b>	<b>Year of publication (1998)</b>

Below are sample SuDoc number prefixes for select federal departments and agencies:

<b>A</b>	Agriculture Department
<b>C 3.</b>	Census Bureau (Commerce Department)
<b>D</b>	Defense Department
<b>ED</b>	Education Department
<b>HE</b>	Health and Human Services Department
<b>I</b>	Interior Department
<b>J</b>	Justice Department
<b>L</b>	Labor Department
<b>S</b>	State Department
<b>X, Y</b>	Congress
<b>Y 4.</b>	Congressional Committees

The great majority of government publications in paper copy may be checked out in the same way as books in the general collection. IUCAT, the IU Libraries Catalog, may be used to locate many of the government publications in this and other IU libraries (see the handout *U.S. Government Publications in IUCAT*). In addition, *GPO on SilverPlatter*, a computer catalog of all government publications sent to depository libraries, is available on the library's COMPASS database system. Don't forget that a large and growing amount of government-produced information is available on the Internet— see the reverse side of this handout for addresses and descriptions of major sites.

**See a reference librarian for assistance in locating government publications or call 237-4441 for more information.**

# U.S. Government Information on the Internet

The federal government is a leader in using the Internet and world wide web to provide fast and efficient access to all being added daily. The list of web sites below is by no means exhaustive and intended only to get interested users started on the Internet.

**General sites** for finding federal government agency homepages and information:

**Federal Web Locator** (<http://www.law.vill.edu/Fed-Agency/fedwebloc.html>). From the Villanova Center for Information Law and Policy, the service describes itself as a “one stop shopping point for federal government Web.” Search by agency name or keyword.

**FedWorld** (<http://www.fedworld.gov/>). Describes itself as an “online locator service for a comprehensive list of information disseminated by the Federal Government.” Provides simple keyword searching.

**GPO Access** ([http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/index.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/index.html)). “A service of the U.S. Government Printing Office that provides free electronic access to a wealth of important information products produced by the Federal Government, the *Federal Register*, *Code of Federal Regulations*, *Congressional Record*, and more.

**Legislative:**

**Thomas: U.S. Congress on the Internet** (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>). Includes summary, status and full text of bills introduced before Congress, major legislation, roll call votes, committee information, historical documents, and more.

**Executive (Office of the President):**

**White House Homepage** (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>). Includes information on the President and Vice President, “interactive citizens” handbook, background on the White House, and more.

**Judicial:**

**U.S. Judicial Branch Resources** (<http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/judiciary.html>). List of web resources for the federal judiciary (Supreme Court, Federal District Courts, etc.) compiled by the Library of Congress.

**Census and Statistics:**

**FedStats** (<http://www.fedstats.gov>). The Federal Interagency Council on Statistical Policy maintains this site providing access to the full range of statistics and information produced by more than 70 government agencies.

**U.S. Census Bureau Homepage** (<http://www.census.gov/>). “Your source for social, demographic, and economic information.” Search alphabetically by subject or by keyword.

**See also** the Library’s list of government web resources at <http://www.iusb.edu/~libg/resources.html#government>

*If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. Please contact Rosanne Cordell at 237-4209 for assistance.*