



RESEARCHING GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

FINDING PRINT AND ONLINE
GOVERNMENT RESOURCES THROUGH
THE U OF I LIBRARY

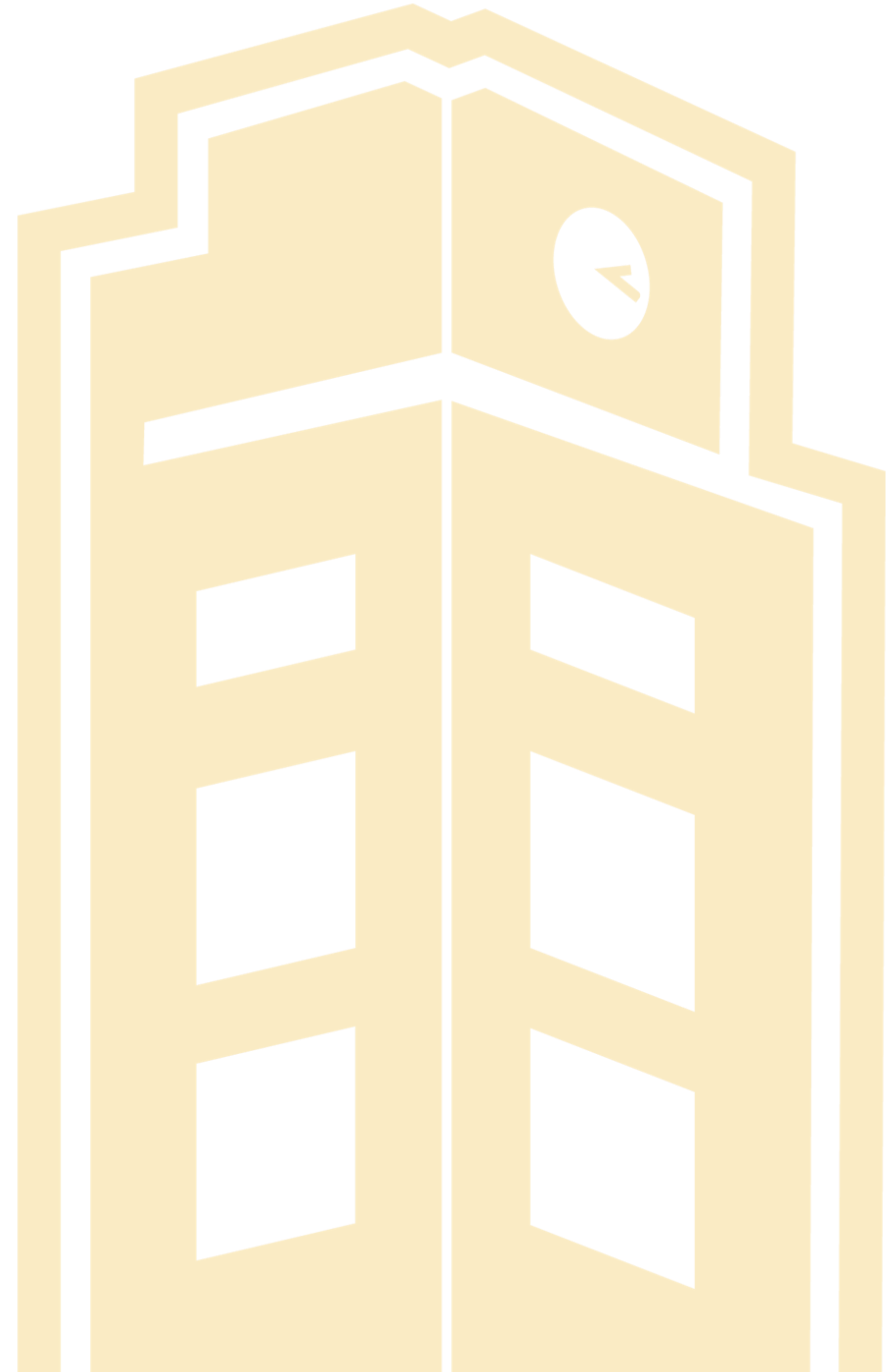
Samantha Thompson-Franklin

Collections & Government Information Librarian

sthompsonfranklin@uidaho.edu

SESSION OVERVIEW

- I What is a Government Document?
- I What is the Federal Depository Library Program and how are government documents organized?
- I Finding Government Documents in print at the U of I Library
- I Finding Government Information Resources Online
- I Wrap-Up/Q&A



WHAT IS A GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT?

I "Government documents is a blanket term used to categorize any information disseminated by a government agency. As such, material produced by government bodies at the local, state, federal, and international level, in addition to government-funded agencies and organizations, are all considered government documents." (Jennifer Morgan, Jerome Hall Law Library, Indiana University)



WHAT IS THE FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM?



- I** The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) was initiated by Congress in 1813 to ensure the American public's access to the Government's information through designated libraries. Today the Government Publishing Office (GPO) oversees the program under the authority of Title 44 of the United States Code. Approx. 1,100 Federal Depository Libraries exist across all 50 states.
- I** The UI Library joined the FDLP in 1907 and became a regional depository for Idaho in 1967; the Library acquires 100% of documents issued by the GPO.

HOW ARE GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS ARRANGED?

- I Organized by the Superintendent of Documents (SuDoc) alphanumeric classification system.
- I Each document is classified by issuing agency (Congress, government department, agency or commission), not subject.
- I Most SuDoc numbers use the following format:

Class Stem Individual book number

A 13.150:W 64

Issuing department or agency Subordinate bureaus Series title or category of publication



GPO ISSUING AGENCIES



How to Locate a U.S. Government Publication

U.S. Government publications in this collection are arranged by the Superintendent of Documents classification number. Publications are grouped together by issuing agency. To ensure that you find all of the materials available on a particular subject, be sure to check the databases or indexes recommended by your librarian.

The example below shows how the Superintendent of Documents classification number PREX 3.15:2014-15 is constructed for the publication *The World Factbook*:

PREX	3.	15:	2014-15
Executive Office of the President (issuing agency)	Central Intelligence Agency (subordinate bureau within the issuing agency)	Number designating the title	Year of publication or coverage

Here are the prefixes from the Superintendent of Documents classification numbers for some other agencies that you may find of interest:

A	Agriculture Department
C 3	Census Bureau (Commerce Department)
D	Defense Department
E	Energy Department
ED	Education Department
EP	Environmental Protection Agency
GA	Government Accountability Office
GP	Government Publishing Office
HE 20.7000:	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
HS	Homeland Security Department
I	Interior Department
I 19	U.S. Geological Survey (Interior Department)
J	Justice Department
JU	Judiciary
L	Labor Department
LC	Library of Congress
NAS	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
S	State Department
SSA	Social Security Administration
SI	Smithsonian Institution
T 22	Internal Revenue Service (Treasury Department)
X, Y	Congress
Y 4	Congressional Committees

Your librarian will be happy to provide you with the prefixes for any U.S. Government agency and any other information that can help you find the materials you need.

Many U.S. Government publications are available online, and some are issued also in other formats. They may be listed in your library's catalog and in the *Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* at: <http://catalog.gpo.gov/>.



THE FEDERAL DEPOSITORY
LIBRARY PROGRAM



U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE
Keeping America Informed | OFFICIAL | DIGITAL | SECURE

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS IN PRINT AT THE U OF I LIBRARY



- I UI Library Government Documents physical collection consists of paper documents, microforms, maps and CD-ROMS
- I The physical collection is located in the basement of the Library and is a closed stacks collection. Please request items at the Research Help Desk or Circulation Desk.
- I UI Library has U.S. government information on a wide range of subjects.
- I UI Library Research Guide on [Government Information](#) available with more information on accessing materials.

FINDING GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS IN PRINT AT THE U OF I LIBRARY



- I To locate a specific print document in the Library, use our library catalog to find the call number or ask for help at the Research Help Desk.
- I search demo in [Primo](#) for a print UI government document
- I UI Library [Government Information](#) Research Guide provides more information on locating government documents

HOW TO FIND U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS ONLINE



- I [UI Library catalog \(Primo\)](#)
- I [DiscoverGov](#) - provides one-stop searching across multiple U.S. Federal Government databases
- I [FDLP Resource Guides](#) – includes links to various topics from many agencies (health, environment, education, civil rights, science, etc.)
- I [GovInfo](#) – search, browse, and download over 2 million U.S. government publications
- I [State Agency Databases Project](#) (maintained by GODORT)

PREVIOUS WORKSHOPS

<https://www.lib.uidaho.edu/services/workshops/resources.html>

- Tips and Tricks for Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneDrive
- Planning and Organizing a Literature Review
- Tools for Building a Scholarly Presence
- Six Questions You Need to Ask Before Publishing a Journal Article
- Web Mapping for Every Discipline – How to Use ArcGIS Online
- Drop-in Citation Management Help
- Essential Library Resources, Services, and Skills for Graduate Students
- Getting Started with Zotero
- And many more!



FALL 2025 LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

WHEN: Mondays from 1:30pm – 2:30pm

WHERE: Library Data Hub (Room 107) and live via Zoom

- **Sept. 8: Geographic Information System (GIS) Resources for Graduate Students (GSE)**
- **Sept. 15: Creating Geographic Animation Using Google Earth Studio (Tech Talk)**
- **Sept. 22: Markdown and Pandoc for Academic Writing (GSE)**
- **Sept. 29: Introduction to Citation Managers (GSE)**
- **Oct. 6: Introduction to ModelBuilder in ArcGIS Pro (Tech Talk)**
- **Oct. 13: Managing Research Data (GSE)**
- **Oct. 20: Introduction to Version Control with Git and GitHub (Tech Talk)**
- **Oct. 27: Generative-AI Capabilities and Ethics in Qualitative Research (Tech Talk)**
- **Nov. 3: Finding and Using Print and Online Government Information Resources in the U of I Library (GSE)**
- **Nov. 10: Introduction to Building Autonomous AI Agents (Tech Talk)**

QUESTIONS?





University *of* Idaho
Library

THANK YOU!