

Northwestern University Library Collection Development Policy Statement

Federal Documents Collection

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I. Brief overview of the collection

A. History of the collection

Northwestern University Library has been a depository for federal documents since 1876 and serves the 9th Congressional District in the state of Illinois. As a selective depository (around 80%), the library receives most publications available on deposit from the Library Programs Service of the Government Printing Office (GPO). The collection in the Government Publications Department numbers over 1.5 million items in paper format and over 1 million sheets of microfiche.

B. Broad subject areas emphasized or de-emphasized

The depository collection emphasizes a broad range of subjects areas, including demographics, education, labor, law, foreign relations, and trade

C. Collection locations

The main body of the collection is located in the Government Publications and Maps Department. A small portion of the collection is located in the Science and Engineering Library and in the Transportation Library. Approximately one quarter of the paper collection is located in Lower Level Storage

II. Purpose or objectives

To support all levels of research and teaching on campus, to provide information on public affairs to the University community and the general public, and to make the collection available to local citizens, industries, and businesses.

III. Library unit or title of the selector responsible for this collection

Both the Head of Government Publications and the Federal Documents Librarian are responsible for the collection.

IV. Scope of the subject coverage

A. Language

Primarily English.

B. Geographical scope

Any area relating to the United States. Selected series are limited to publications related to the state of Illinois or the Mid-West Region.

C. Chronological scope

Emphasis on current materials.

D. Publication dates collected

Current

E. Formats and genres

1. Inclusions

Monographs

Periodicals

Reports

Pamphlets

Braille publications

Video recordings

Floppy disks

CD-ROMs

World Wide Web - a number of federal agencies make depository pieces available on the Web.

2. *Exclusions*

Posters

Dated calendars

Forms

Agency issued rules, regulations, and instructions

V. *Acquisitions procedures affecting collection policies*

A. *Standing Orders*

Standing orders are maintained for several titles which supplement the depository Collection, such as CQ Weekly Report, CIS index, ASI microfiche, UPA microfiche, and West legal publications.

B. *Approval plans and blanket orders*

N/A

C. *Gifts and exchanges*

Publications issued from a federal agency which are not included in the depository program are accepted as gifts

VI. *Duplication with other NU library units*

Duplication with other NU libraries is not a concern, as there is no charge for depository pieces. In several cases, depository pieces are sent to Transportation and the Science and Engineering Library and housed in these locations. For basic reference sources and certain other heavily used publications, there is duplication between the Law Library and Government Publications

VII. *Expensive purchases*

The purchase of expensive titles is considered on a case by case basis and it is dependent on the availability of funds. Expensive purchases would include publications produced by the federal government which are not included in the depository program. These tend to be large microfiche sets produced by private vendors. At times these have been partially or entirely funded by Library Board of Governors funds.

VIII. *Interdisciplinary collections*

Overlap with other NU libraries is not a concern, as there is no charge for depository pieces. In several cases, depository pieces are sent to Transportation and the Science and Engineering Library and housed in these locations.

IX. *Purchases with endowed funds*

No endowed funds are associated with the depository collection.

X. *Cooperation with other libraries*

A. *Other resources, including local, regional or national libraries*

Other resources, including local, regional or national libraries

N/A

B. *Consortia*

As an ILLINET member, the Library receives and provides interlibrary loans free of charge to Illinois libraries

XI. *Policies for purchasing journal article reprints or electronic files on demand*

n/a

XII. *Other factor of local importance*

n/a

XIII. Collection levels

Population	4	
Health and medical services	3	
Vital statistics	4	
Education	4	
Income, expenditures, and savings	4	
Labor, employment, and manpower	4	
Vocational rehabilitation	4	
Social services	4	
Federal grants and services	4	
Construction and housing	4	
Banking and finance	4	
Commerce and trade	4	
Production	4	
Transportation, public utilities, and communication	4	
Natural resources and physical environment	4	
Agriculture	4	
Fisheries	4	
Mining and mineral products	4	
Properties and taxation	4	
Public safety and justice	4	
National defense and veteran's affairs	3	
Government	4	
Foreign relations	4	
Foreign trade	4	
Statistics	4	
Money, credit, and securities market	4	
National economic accounts	4	
Law	4	
Science and technology	4	

<http://www.library.nwu.edu/govpub>