U.S. Government Documents
Vision Plan 2015-2020

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Mission

The U.S. Government Documents Collection supports and enhances the University of Maryland's faculty and students' learning, teaching, and research needs through research services, information literacy instruction, and providing access to a comprehensive collection of new and historically significant government publications. As the regional Federal depository Library, the University of Maryland receives one copy of all tangible publications, provides public access and consultation services, coordinates region-wide planning, and oversees the disposal process for selective federal depository Libraries in Maryland, Delaware, and DC. We use traditional and emerging technologies to use space efficiently while meeting our users' information needs.

Vision

The U.S. Government Documents Collection will provide innovative research services, targeted information literacy instruction, and access to a comprehensive government documents collection that nurture and advance the research, teaching, and learning endeavors of the University of Maryland's faculty and students. We will explore innovative and creative solutions to make the Government Documents Collection more accessible while simultaneously reducing the footprint of the collection, expanding digital holdings, and improving discoverability. We will equip users with the skills necessary to find and use government information by providing specialized support and training via in-person and electronic platforms. We will provide access to our services and collection in a space that is inviting, inspiring, and an efficient use of resources.

Core Values

- Services – Facilitating access to information by empowering our users through information literacy instruction and research services.
- Collections - Collecting, organizing, preserving, and sharing government information.
- Spaces - Providing a space that inspires creativity, innovation, and collaboration.
- Partnerships – Collaborating with internal and external partners to solve problems and create new products in all aspects of services, collections, and spaces.
- Free Public Access – Guaranteeing free access to government information and research assistance to the general public is an essential function of a federal depository library.

Goals

Services

- We will provide excellent specialized research services by developing research guides and utilizing technology to facilitate in-person and virtual research consultations.
- We will provide specialized instruction by capitalizing on existing and emerging technologies to deliver instruction in innovative ways.
- We will work with internal and external partners to develop a program of face-to-face and online workshops to teach faculty, students, and library employees how to find and use government information.

Collections

- We will work with Digital Systems and Stewardship to address data degradation from legacy information carriers (e.g. CD-ROMs and other magnetic media).
- We will collaborate with the Libraries' Technical Services Department and Digital Systems and Stewardship to investigate ways to improve discoverability of items in the collection by providing searchable online access to an internal inventory of uncataloged materials.
- We will collaborate with the Technical Services Department to develop a long-term plan to retrospectively catalog all uncataloged materials.
- We will continue to work with the Technical Services Department and Collection Strategies and Services to transform Government Documents into a compact, high-demand, accessible collection that supports institutional mission, values, and goals by withdrawing duplicate and superseded materials.
- We will work with internal and external partners to identify and obtain funding for large long-term projects including retroactive cataloging.
- We will work with the Preservation Department to create and implement a preservation plan for historically and institutionally significant print government document materials to ensure future access to the collection.
- We will leverage partnerships with other federal depository libraries to collaborate on developing an updated and relevant State Plan for Federal depository libraries in Maryland, Delaware, and DC.
- We will cultivate a more robust digital collection to increase information access in support of the educational mission of the university by identifying gaps in our holdings using the HathiTrust Federal Government Documents Registry and filling them with electronic surrogates.

Spaces

- We will transform the Government Documents space by creating study spaces that inspire our users' creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit.
- We will pursue aesthetic improvements to the physical space occupied by the government documents collection by investigating funding sources for projects such as painting the compact shelving end caps, acquiring new furniture, and replacing the current microfiche cabinets with a more attractive and space efficient storage system.
- We will reduce the physical footprint of the government documents collection, while fulfilling our obligations as a regional Federal depository library by exploring alternate housing for low

use, but historically significant publications at off-site storage facilities or through Selective Housing Agreements with other Federal depository libraries in Maryland, Delaware, and DC.

- We will collaborate with members of the Research Commons team to ensure that the Government Documents space synergizes with the fourth floor Research Commons.