



Help! I'm an Accidental Government Information Librarian ...

Hunting Down Fugitives and What to Do with Them Once You Found Them

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What is a Fugitive?

Government publication, as defined by 44 U.S. Code, Sec. 1901, is “informational matter which is published as an individual document at Government expense, or as required by law.”

But there is no legal definition of a “fugitive document”.

What is a Fugitive?

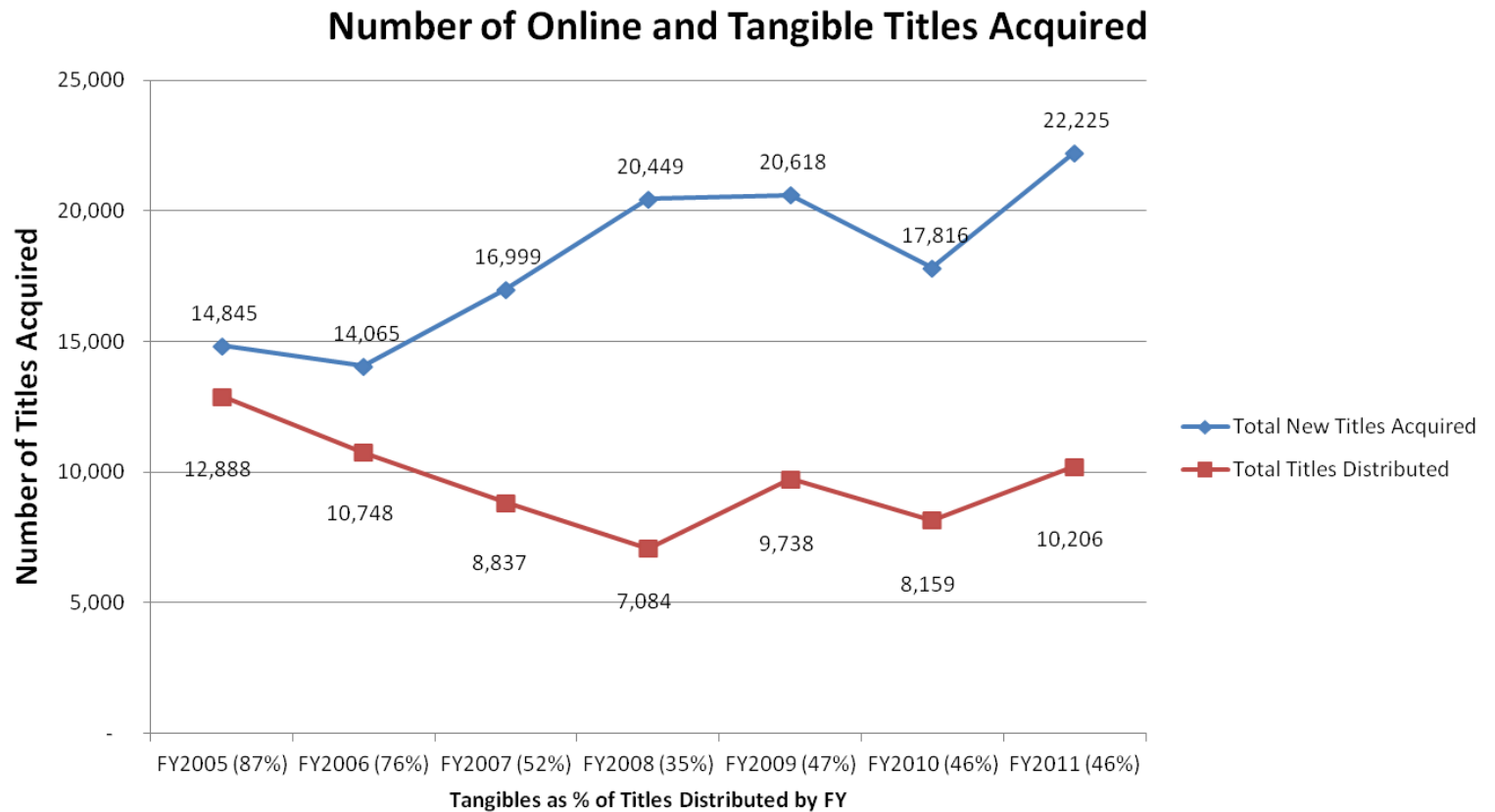
...a document published by the federal government which disseminates information that is produced at taxpayer expense but not made available to depository libraries from the Depository Library Programs.

How do docs get into depository program?

GPO Content Acquisition Specialists—

- Check agency websites
- Maintain contact with agency representatives
- Subscribe to notification services from agencies
- Receive Document Discovery notifications from agencies (via agency web form)
- Review “Intent to Publish” forms from agencies
- Review new titles from GPO Sales or printed through GPO Express (FedExOffice/Kinkos)
- Check for on-line titles from print request forms (SFI)

How do docs get into depository program?



What is not included in depository program

As defined by 44 U.S. Code, Sec. 1902:

*Documents created for “official use only”

Example: *Internal forms, internal memos*

*Documents that “have no public purpose or educational value”

Example:

*Documents classified for national security reasons

Example: *Wiki Leaks documents*

What is not included in depository program

- Commercial publishers
Example: *Bernan*
- Materials produced primarily without government funds (i.e., funding from outside sources such as endowments)
Example: *Smithsonian, National Archives, Library of Congress*
- Publications from quasi-government agencies
Example: *Federal Reserve System*
- Web pages
---Though Databases may be catalogued

What is not included in depository program

- CRS Reports for Congress
- Individual issues within a serial, individual press briefings, individual speeches, etc.
- Reprints of articles
- FOIA materials
- “.org” web sites publications, even if they have government affiliations
- Non-governmental titles in ERIC or other governmental databases

Finding Publications

USING A SEARCH ENGINE:

- Search.USA.gov (<http://search.usa.gov/>)
- Google (<http://www.google.com/>)
--add .gov or .mil to search strategy

Limits suggestion: “file type=pdf”

Finding Publications

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES' WEB PAGES

- Publications [NCES](#)
- Resources [DOJ](#)
- Research [Educ](#)
- Reports [GAO](#)
- Newsroom [USDA](#)
- Media Room [VA](#)
- Library [CIA](#)
- Collections [NPS](#)

Finding Publications

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLICATIONS:

- Alerts
 Example: [GPO Bookstore](#)
- Agency newsletters
 Example: [JUSTINFO](#)
- RSS
 Example: [NHTSA](#)
- In the news
- In bibliographies

Finding Publications

KEEPING TRACK OF PUBLICATION WEB SITES:

- Bookmarks on web browsers
- Delicious.com
- LibGuides

Example: [GovDocs Training Resources](#)

(USA Library)

Determining if a Document is a Fugitive

- **CGP**--Catalog of U.S. Government Publications

When a title is classified and receives an item number (whether it is a tangible or electronic publication) it becomes part of the FDLP.

- **OCLC / WorldCat [FirstSearch]**

If not listed in CGP, double-check with OCLC to see what, if any, bib record exists.

Reporting Fugitives to FDLP

Lost Docs Reporting Form

<http://www.fdlp.gov/lostdocs>

- Easy to use—fill in blanks
- Has “Print Preview” option for verification of information and for record retention
- Receive email indicating receipt of title
- Lacks ability to keep track of status
- Form lacks blanks for relevant information

Reporting Fugitives to FDLP

AskGPO Form (aka GPO Help)

<http://www.gpo.gov/askgpo/ask.htm>

- Receive email indicating receipt of title
- Easier to keep track of status
- Since reporting information is done free-form, it easy to forget to include all relevant information.

Reporting Fugitives to FDLP

Lost Docs Project Blog

<http://lostdocs.freegovinfo.info/>

“The purpose of this blog is to provide a public listing of documents submitted to the Government Printing Office (GPO)’s .”

---Strictly volunteer web site.

---Site can be used to find out what titles have already been reported, and their status.

Further Readings / Articles

- Bower, Cynthia. “Federal Fugitives, DNDs and Other Aberrants: A Cosmology” DttP: Documents to the People, v. 17, no. 3 (Sept. 1989), p. 120-126.
- Martin, Mary. “Fugitive Documents? Or, What’s Happening to Dissemination of Government Information?” DttP: Documents to the People, v. 23, no. 1 (March 1995), p. 42-45.
- McGeachy, John A. “Documents Lost: Depository Documents Depositories Did Not Receive, 1982-1986” DttP: Documents to the People, v. 16, no. 1 (March 1988), p. 24-36.
- Walters, John Spence. “‘Toy’ Presses and the Rise of Fugitive U.S. Government Documents” Journal of Government Information, v. 21, no. 5 (1994), p. 413-435.

Further Readings / Web Sources

- [44 U.S.C. Ch.19](#)
- [“Document Discovery” FDLP Connection, v. 2, no. 5 \(May 2012\)](#)
- [LSMC Performance Matrix: Cumulative Metrics \(FY 2005-Present\)](#)
- [“Reporting Fugitive Documents to GPO”](#)
- [SOD 301: Dissemination/Distribution Policy for the Federal Depository Library Program](#)

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Session Evaluation

<http://tinyurl.com/grs-eval17>

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Upcoming Accidental Librarian Webinars

- **July 12: Mooooooore Data at the USDA! with Amy West of University of Minnesota**
- Brought to you by the North Carolina Library Association's Government Resources Section. Join us!
<http://www.nclaonline.org/government-resources>