



GETTING STARTED WITH GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

FINAL POINTS TO CONSIDER

- Government documents are not difficult to use because the federal government does not want you to have access to them -- GPO sees its mission as critical to the sustaining of the American democratic tradition -- that said, a majority of government documents are primary sources, making them more challenging to analyze
 - Both CUL Reference and the Government Information Resources staff are there to assist you -- don't be afraid to ask questions
 - Government documents are only one component in a grander public information design -- there is always more to learn on this subject see the **American Library Association's Government Documents Roundtable** website (<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/GODORT/>) for more information
 - Clearly, as a government agency, GPO is not immune from government laws, regulations, policies, and administrative oversight -- post-9/11, government documents, if anything, have become more susceptible to larger social, political and economic forces -- government documents are both our collective heritage and our collective responsibility as American citizens
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"The Government Information and Map Resources Department (CUL / SMU) : Getting Started With Government Documents : Final Points to Consider"

http://www.smu.edu/cul/gir/getting_started/final_points.html