



Locating Government Documents at Delta

A government document is information published at government expense or as required by law. It is material produced by or for the government, whatever its format. Government documents include statistics, health information, research studies, pamphlets, federal laws, legislative histories, U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and much more. Government documents are published in a variety of formats, including books, journals, maps, posters, floppy discs, microfiche, compact discs, DVD's, and electronic formats. Delta College is a selective federal depository library, established in 1963. We select some (but not all) of the documents produced by the United States Government that are made available to federal depository libraries.

ValCat

Delta's online catalog for books, audiocassettes, CD's and some government documents. Only some, but not all, of the government document collection items can be found in ValCat.

FirstSearch GPO Monthly Catalog

This online index is found in the FirstSearch database. It includes the citations to over half a million government documents available at libraries worldwide, from 1976 to present. Documents can be interlibrary loaned directly from this database, and it also contains links to many electronic (online) documents. However, this online index does not indicate all of the documents Delta actually owns. (Marcive is the best place to find out which documents Delta owns.) FirstSearch GPO Access can be searched on campus freely but requires a password if searching from outside Delta College.

MarciveWeb Docs

Marcive is another online index used for locating government documents. Marcive can be searched by document title, author, or subject. This index includes information on whether or not Delta College owns certain documents, and also contains links to electronic (online) documents. This online index covers the years from 1976 to present. It can be searched on campus freely but requires a password if searching from outside Delta College. It has a link to holdings information, which can be used to determine if Delta has a copy of a certain item.

Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP)

This online index helps locate electronic and print publications of the U.S. Government. This newly redesigned index includes comprehensive coverage of U.S. Government Documents from 1976 to present, with plans to expand coverage back to the 1800's. It is freely available from any computer without a password.

USA.gov (Formerly Firstgov.gov)

This online government search engine describes itself as "the official U.S. gateway to all government information." This site has a search engine that allows for searching of a wide range of government web sites and their contents. However, this site actually searches state, local, tribal, and federal government sites. Using the advanced search screen, a search can be limited to only federal web sites.

"Government information literacy, the ability to find and use government information for research and daily life, is the portal to a treasure trove of research material." Judith Schiek Robinson