

1990/95

LONG RANGE PLAN
FOR GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION
IN INDIANA

Thousands of publications in many formats containing information useful to government, business, and citizens are produced every year by federal, state and local government. The information that is found in these documents can be crucial for research, and decision making on many levels, and is available on a broad range of subjects:

- * INFORMATION ABOUT GOVERNMENT, its laws and regulations, policies, people, and activities
- * STATISTICS on population, business activity, economic indicators, agriculture, crime and hundreds of other subjects
- * REFERENCE MATERIALS such as indexes, directories, handbooks, guides, bibliographies, and special directories
- * MAPS that are demographic, topographic, and subject oriented
- * CURRENT EVENTS AND TOPICS such as drug abuse, environment, energy, space exploration, homeless
- * SPECIAL STUDIES such as television and children, toxic waste, causes and prevention of violence, education, tax reform

Both Indiana and the U.S. federal government have depository systems for making these materials available to people and business. State and federal documents are provided, through these systems, to selected public, academic and law libraries around Indiana, providing people with free and open access to government information. In addition, publications by local units of government are collected by many public and academic libraries across the state.

The Federal Depository Library System

The U.S. government is the world's largest publisher. Each year agencies of the government report their activities, publish results of their research, and instruct the public in thousands of books, pamphlets, microforms and audiovisuals and through electronic dissemination.

The U.S. depository library system was established in 1895 as a means of making these government publications more easily and widely available to citizens of the United States. Each state was allocated two depository libraries per representative district. An additional two depositories could be named by each U.S. Senator. Amendments to the law have added law school libraries and some court libraries.

Of the over 1,400 depository libraries now active in the country, 36 are in Indiana. Included are eight public libraries, 22 college and university libraries, and five law libraries. The Indiana State Library has been designated as the regional depository and as such has special responsibilities. All of these libraries make federal documents and information available for the free use of the public.

These libraries receive newly published documents on a daily basis, but not all of them receive the same ones. Over 7,000 categories of publications are offered and each library selects those categories which would best meet the needs of their clientele or communities. The regional depository and a few others receive all that are available. Depository libraries are required by law to make these publications available to the general public.

The Indiana Document Depository System

The State of Indiana also recognizes the importance of making its publications available to the citizens of the state. The Document Depository Act (IC 4-23-7.1-25) requires that an official Indiana department, division, bureau, board, commission, educational institution or other agency of state government provide the Indiana State Library with copies of its public documents.

The State Library distributes copies of materials of general use and interest to the 13 designated Indiana documents depository libraries across the state and to the Library of Congress. The Indiana depositories include five universities, seven public libraries, and the Indiana State Library. In this way, people in Indiana have access to publications of the state through their local library which may be a depository, or through interlibrary loan.

Local-level Documents

Counties, cities, school districts and other local units of government issue reports, statistical publications, comprehensive plans and numerous other publications. A few depository ordinances exist at the local level (e.g. Fort Wayne), but in general local libraries collect local documents. Indiana University Library at Bloomington has a collection of local publications from several cities around the state. Three libraries participate with the Index to Current Urban Documents in the listing of local publications.

This

→ The 1990-1995 Long Range Plan for Government Publications and Information in Indiana is a separately-issued part of the

INDIANA LONG-RANGE PLAN FOR LIBRARY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT: 1990-1995. Its purpose is to define roles and establish goals and guidelines for the Indiana State Library Advisory Council's Subcommittee on Government Documents and Information. The Subcommittee will establish an action plan based on the stated objectives.

1990-1995 LONG RANGE PLAN
FOR GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION IN INDIANA

GOAL ONE

To assure high quality reference service for government documents and information for all Indiana citizens.

Objectives:

- 1.1 The Indiana State Library will provide the subcommittee summaries of inspection reports and biennial surveys. The subcommittee will use the results to target problem areas and recommend solutions.
- 1.2 The Government Documents and Information Subcommittee will provide opportunities for reference librarians in depository libraries to increase their working knowledge of documents and document sources and address problem areas identified under 1.1 (Subcommittee will have primary responsibility to assure that workshops, etc. are provided by the Indiana Library Association Government Documents Discussion Group, the Indiana State Library, the Subcommittee, etc.).
- 1.3 The Government Documents and Information Subcommittee will encourage depository libraries to assist non-depositories in their area by providing reference and referral services (through newsletters, workshops, consultation, etc.).
- 1.4 The Government Documents and Information Subcommittee will encourage one library in each ALSA or Congressional District to coordinate depository services.
- 1.5 The Government Documents and Information Subcommittee will encourage libraries in Indiana to include government documents in their online public catalogs.
- 1.6 The Government Documents and Information Subcommittee will lobby federal and state agencies to assure the continued access to and dissemination of government information.

GOAL TWO

To provide government documents and information services in the most cost-effective manner.

Objectives:

- 2.1 The Indiana State Library and depositories in the state will assist non-depository libraries in purchasing government publications (e.g. provide information such as stock numbers, forms, etc.; purchasing to be done by non-depository library).
- 2.2 The Government Documents and Information Subcommittee will investigate FAX, document delivery systems, and electronic bulletin boards for depository and non-depository libraries in Indiana.
- 2.3 The Government Documents and Information Subcommittee will investigate the feasibility of producing and updating a Union List of Depository Selections using current and future technology. (research what other states are doing).
- 2.4 The Government Documents and Information Subcommittee will assist the Indiana State Library in revising instructions on the disposal and transfer of federal documents.
- 2.5 The Government Documents and Information Subcommittee will assist the Indiana State Library in determining the feasibility of simple disposal and transfer for Indiana documents.
- 2.6 The Government Documents and Information Subcommittee will organize a workshop on the usage of government publications by non-depository libraries.
- 2.7 The Government Documents and Information Subcommittee will investigate the possibility of using CD-ROM technology to distribute a list of Indiana documents, or the actual documents, to Indiana libraries.

GOAL THREE

To increase the role of the Indiana State Library in support of state and federal depository programs.

Objectives:

- 3.1 The Indiana State Library should provide additional financial support for staff working with state and federal documents to allow travel to depository libraries in the state and to depository library meetings.
- 3.2 The Indiana State Library should provide appropriate equipment to ensure that format is not a barrier to use of government information.
- 3.3 The Indiana State Library should provide adequate and accessible space for the documents collection on a level comparable to other collections in the library.
- 3.4 The Indiana State Library should maintain adequate staff for the timely processing of state and federal documents.
- 3.5 The Indiana State Library should automate its processing for state and federal documents and make this technical information available to other libraries in a timely manner.
- 3.6 The Indiana State Library's online catalog should be made accessible to other libraries.
- 3.7 The Government Documents and Information Subcommittee will annually monitor the Checklist of Indiana Documents and advise the Indiana State Library as needed, so that needs and requests of documents users are reflected in that announcement.
- 3.8 The Indiana State Library will update annually the Directory of Federal Depository Libraries and Librarians in Indiana.