

2008

Review of Government Documents Librarianship: A Guide for the NEO-Depository Era

Schuyler M. Cook
Cleveland State University, Schuyler.Cook@law.csuohio.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/msl_facpub

 Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!

Publisher's Statement

(c) 2008 Taylor & Francis (Routledge)

Original Citation

Cook, Schuyler. M. (2008). Review of Government Documents Librarianship: A Guide for the NEO-Depository Era. *Technical Services Quarterly*, 26(1), 85-86.

Repository Citation

Cook, Schuyler M., "Review of Government Documents Librarianship: A Guide for the NEO-Depository Era" (2008). *Michael Schwartz Library Publications*. 70.
https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/msl_facpub/70

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Michael Schwartz Library at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Michael Schwartz Library Publications by an authorized administrator of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact library.es@csuohio.edu.

1-1-2008

Review of Government Documents Librarianship: A Guide for the NEO-Depository Era

Schuyler M. Cook

Repository Citation

Cook, Schuyler M., "Review of Government Documents Librarianship: A Guide for the NEO-Depository Era" (2008). *Library Faculty Publications*. Paper 1.
http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/msl_facpub/1

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Michael Schwartz Library at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Library Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact b.strauss@csuohio.edu.

Schuyler M. Cook

**GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS LIBRARIANSHIP: A GUIDE FOR THE
NEO-DEPOSITORY ERA**

This article was originally published in:

Cook, Schuyler. M. (2008). Review of Government Documents Librarianship: A Guide for the NEO-Depository Era. *Technical Services Quarterly*, 26(1), 85-86.

Post-print prepared by MSL Academic Endeavors, the imprint of the Michael Schwartz Library at Cleveland State University (2012)



GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS LIBRARIANSHIP: A GUIDE FOR THE NEO-DEPOSITORY ERA. Lisa A. Ennis. *Medford, NJ: Information Today, Inc., 2007, xvii, 174 pp., ISBN 978-1-57387-270-6, \$49.50.*

The author delivers what she promises with this title; a thoughtful survey of the management responsibilities faced by a Federal Depository Library Program (hereinafter FDLP) coordinator. After describing in the Foreword her own history in her position, Ms. Ennis' Introduction tells the reader what her book is not (neither a step by step manual of how to administer a government documents department nor a bibliographic instruction text on how to use government documents) as well as what it is. Her first chapter offers a brief general overview of government document librarianship combined with an enthusiastic pitch urging the reader to embrace any opportunity s/he might encounter to work in the field.

After a short history of the parent organization, the Government Printing Office (hereinafter GPO), Ms. Ennis attempts to explain the present situation in the world of government information including the move from tangible to electronic sources and the resulting issues of permanence, preservation, and authenticity of the information provided by the federal government. Her message of hope continues with a chapter on networking, letting the reader know that s/he is "not alone" in the struggle to maintain effective patron access. The remaining three chapters break down the topic into Managing and Administering, Public Services, and Technical Services. This is appropriate as knowledge of all three areas will determine the success of a coordinator.

Each chapter contains a "From the Trenches" list of practical bits of knowledge and/or advice, written from the author's "been there, done that" perspective. Several extremely useful appendices, her bibliography and index complete the title.

Ms. Ennis avoids the temptation to wax political during her discussion of the GPO and its present predicament of economically moving from tangible to intangible formats while maintaining its promises of free permanent public access to government information. Her text, presumably due to its brevity and survey nature, does not delve into the specific timetables put forward by various Public Printers which later were not fulfilled nor into the necessary foresight of the various Congresses to fully fund the lofty goals expected from the GPO and the FDLP community.

Instead, Ms. Ennis succeeds in her quest to inspire the reader to realize the level of professional growth any librarian can achieve while maintaining what Thomas Jefferson might have termed the government information infrastructure. Government documents librarians and staff (new and seasoned) should take the time to read this book. Highly recommended.

*Schuyler M. Cook
Head, Technical Services/Government Information Librarian
Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Library
Cleveland State University
Cleveland, OH*