Documents Through The Decades

THE LAW LIBRARY IS CELEBRATING 35 YEARS IN THE FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM

The UW Law Library is one of over 1200 federal depository libraries in the United States. As part of the Federal Depository Library Program, the Law Library is committed to providing unrestricted access to tangible and electronic government publications for the university community and the general public. The Law Library has been a Selective Depository since 1981.

"The purpose and goals of the Federal Depository Library Program are rooted in these underlying principles:

A well informed citizenry, cognizant of the policies and activities of its representative Government, is essential for the proper functioning of democracy; information provided by government documents is a primary means for citizens to keep informed;

The public has a right to information contained in Government documents, which have been published at public expense; the Government has an obligation to ensure availability of, and access to, these documents at no cost. These documents are a permanent source of Federal information."

Sheila McGarr, Chief, Depository Services, 1994

These principles have remained the same, even as formats have changed through the decades, from paper to microfiche, computer diskettes, VHS tapes, CDs, DVDs, and online documents.

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