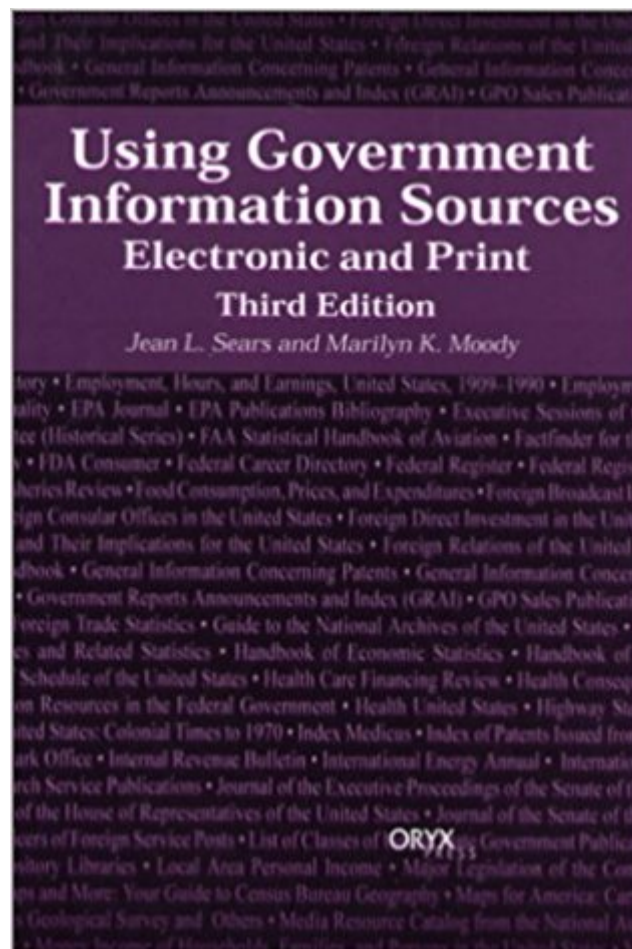


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Using Government Information Sources: Electronic And Print Third Edition



Synopsis

In the six years since the second edition of the bestselling Oryx information guide, *Using Government Information Sources*, was published, a lot has changed in the searching process. Much government information is now found exclusively on the Internet and there are many more print resources available. The new third edition, by Jean L. Sears and Marlyn K. Moody, is the extensively revised edition of this popular and useful title. Designed for beginning as well as experienced researchers, this resource will guide users to the best government information sources both print and electronic. Each chapter is grouped into four search strategy categories: the subject search, the agency search, the statistical search, and special techniques. New to this edition is a chapter on Housing and Construction Statistics.

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Customer Reviews

The U.S. government produces an enormous volume of documentation. This excellent, now-standard guide covers U.S. government information sources plus commercial services that focus on these sources. The primary purpose of the work is to guide users to the most useful. "Only the most basic and important sources are listed," chosen for their "reference value, general interest value, currentness, and availability." First published in two volumes in 1985-1986, the second edition (1994) was widely reviewed and well received. RBB praised it for its "current, concise, and expert guidance" and called it "a valuable and up-to-date resource." The third edition maintains the high

standards of the second. Since 1994, many more resources have become available via the Web, and these are noted with both URLs and PURLs (persistent URLs, when available). The volume is organized around basic types of searches: "The Subject Search," "The Agency Search," "The Statistical Search," and "Special Techniques." Known-item searches are also addressed in the introductory chapters on search strategy and the basics of searching. The 20 chapters under "The Subject Search" include not only topical searches but format searches, that is, searches for types of material such as directories, "audiovisual information," and maps. The topical chapters include the range of topics of primary interest to the U.S. government, such as foreign policy, the countries of the world, taxation, climate, agriculture, health, the environment, and astronomy and space. A chapter on genealogy focuses on the uses of government sources for this type of research. The four agency search chapters are designed to guide searches for U.S. government agencies that offer particular programs or grants or that issue regulations and decisions. The office of the president merits a separate chapter in this section. Statistics are such an important type or format of government data that they merit 17 chapters on topics about which the government collects and presents statistical data, such as population, economic indicators, housing, crime, defense, and transportation. There is also a chapter on "state and local government statistics," but in keeping with the overall scope of the work, this focuses on U.S. government statistics relating to state and local governments, as opposed to data produced by local governments. The nine chapters on "Special Techniques" focus on the approaches needed for special formats and types of data, such as legislative histories, judicial reports, treaties, technical reports, patents, and standards. The final chapters address searches for historical information and the National Archives. The typical search chapter begins with a brief characterization of the chapter's focus and a description of recommended search strategies, listing specific steps that may be helpful. The heart of each search chapter consists of checklists of publications from various sources or of various types. Checklist citations are quite complete. Each checklist is followed by a discussion of the sources, providing guidance about their use. The chapter concludes with pointers to related chapters and a list of relevant Government Printing Office subject bibliographies. The volume concludes with an appendix of "Selected Nongovernment Addresses," generally for publishers of guides or indexes to U.S. government information, and an alphabetical index. The index has several weaknesses. For example, many sources are discussed in multiple chapters, and these entries are followed by too many page references, exceeding accepted standards of index preparation. It is also weak as a subject index. The best subject approach to the volume is via the table of contents. Indexing problems aside, this is a most valuable and helpful resource for all users of U.S. government

information sources and for the librarians who help them. RBBCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

"This excellent, now-standard guide covers U.S. government information sources plus commercial services that focus on these sources....this is a most valuable and helpful resource for all users of U.S. government information sources and for the librarians who help them."-Booklist/Reference Books Bulletin..."this book is an excellent resource and would provide a valuable addition to a research library."-The Vermont Bar Journal"The new edition of this popular and useful reference has been extensively revised, with a major emphasis on electronic resources. Designed for beginning and experienced researchers, it will guide users to the best government information sources."-Business Horizons"Using Government Information Sources continues to be a work of outstanding reference value as both a refresher for those who need to keep up with the ever-changing environment as well as an introduction for the government documents novice."-American Reference Books Annual?...this book is an excellent resource and would provide a valuable addition to a research library.-The Vermont Bar Journal?The new edition of this popular and useful reference has been extensively revised, with a major emphasis on electronic resources. Designed for beginning and experienced researchers, it will guide users to the best government information sources.-Business Horizons?Using Government Information Sources continues to be a work of outstanding reference value as both a refresher for those who need to keep up with the ever-changing environment as well as an introduction for the government documents novice.-American Reference Books Annual?This excellent, now-standard guide covers U.S. government information sources plus commercial services that focus on these sources....this is a most valuable and helpful resource for all users of U.S. government information sources and for the librarians who help them.-Booklist/Reference Books Bulletin..,"this book is an excellent resource and would provide a valuable addition to a research library."-The Vermont Bar Journal

Comprehensive, somewhat dated, but easy to use and still usable. A tried and true reference work that every govt. librarian and researcher should own.

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