

# Government Documents for Anthropologists

Jennie Burroughs  
Government Documents Librarian, 243-4548  
jennie.burroughs@umontana.edu

## **The Mansfield Library Catalog**

<http://libcat.lib.umt.edu:8000/>

The library's catalog includes government publications (from 1976 through the present), maps, records for microfilm reels, books, and videos. The library is continually adding records for older government documents and historic maps to the catalog to improve access.

## **WorldCat**

WorldCat is useful for tracking down the SuDoc number for an older government document. Since SuDoc numbers do not change from library to library (they are usually assigned by the Government Printing Office), a SuDoc call number you find on WorldCat should be valid in the UM Library. For items printed before 1976, check the shelf before assuming we don't own it. The UM library catalog does not yet reflect all of our government document holdings.

[**NOTE:** Access this database through the "Databases: A-Z" link on the Mansfield Library website or through the "Government Resources: Federal Documents" cluster in 360 Search.]

## **Print Indexes**

There are several print indexes that warrant checking because they cover items that are not included in the Serial Set and may not be in the Mansfield Library catalog yet.

## **Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications and Catalog of Government Publications (CGP)**

**Call number:** GP 3.8: (1895-) ; Level 1 Reference and Level 1 shelves

**URL:** <http://catalog.gpo.gov> (1976-present)

The Monthly Catalog/CGP was the main index to the publications of the U.S. Government and a good indicator of what materials were sent to depository libraries. This series lists the call number necessary to find the publications on the shelves.

## **Cumulative Subject Index to the Monthly catalog of United States government publications, 1895-1899, and 1900-1971**

**Call number:** 15.73 X C9711 ; Level 1 Reference

Citations given under the subject refer to the year and either page number or Catalog.

## **Cumulative Title Index to United States public documents, 1789-1976**

**Call number:** 15.73 X L642c ; Level 1 Reference

This index provides the call numbers for historical publications.

**A Descriptive Catalogue of the Government Publications of the United States, Sept. 5, 1774-March 4, 1881 (Poore's Index)**

**Call number:** Y 4.P 93/1:G 74/1 ; Level 1 Reference

Structured chronologically, and includes an index.

**Smithsonian Institution Publications**

The Smithsonian provides some of the best resources for ethnographers. The (now defunct) Bureau of American Ethnology (BAE) was part of the Smithsonian and provides many monographs and bulletins related to anthropology. Some of the monographs will be in the library's catalog, and many are included in anthropology- or Native American Studies-related databases. There is also an index volume for BAE reports.

**Bureau of American Ethnology Publications**

**Call numbers:** SI 2.1: (Annual Reports); SI 2.3 (Bulletins)

**List of Publications of the Bureau of American Ethnology**

**Call number:** SI 2.3:200

**URL:** <http://www.sil.si.edu/DigitalCollections/BAE/Bulletin200/200title.htm>

A great index for all BAE publications.

**Smithsonian Contributions to Anthropology**

**Call number:** SI 1.33:

A monographic series published irregularly.

**Handbook of North American Indians**

**Call number:** SI 1.20/2:

"A 20-volume set planned to give an encyclopedic summary of what is known about the prehistory, history, and cultures of the aboriginal peoples of North America who lived north of the urban civilizations of central Mexico."

**Serial Set**

The Serial Set was one of the earliest means of distributing federal government information to citizens. The Serial Set includes Congressional documents (bills, reports, special investigations) and many 19th and early 20th century executive documents (special and annual reports) that were ordered by Congress to be printed.

**U.S. Congressional Serial Set**

This digital version of the American State Papers and Serial Set currently cover 1789-1908; eventually, the database will cover the Serial through 1980. For the broadest search, choose a "full text" search in the drop-down list to the right of the search box.

**[NOTE:** Access this database through the "Databases: A-Z" link on the Mansfield Library website or through the "Government Resources: Federal Documents" cluster in 360 Search.]

## **Lexis-Nexis Congressional**

Lexis-Nexis Congressional is the best means of searching the full Serial Set and other Congressional materials (like hearings). You can search by subject, title, committee, witness, or document number (to name a few options), and limit by year, Congress, or document type. The SuDoc number or Serial Set volume number listed in the records should lead you to the full document. Bear in mind, the default date setting is "previous two years," so you will most likely need to adjust the date range for successful results.

[NOTE: Access this database through the "Databases: A-Z" link on the Mansfield Library website or through the "Government Resources: Federal Documents" cluster in 360 Search.]

## **Library of Congress**

### **American Memory Collection**

URL: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/>

The Library of Congress is building an extensive digital library collection. The American Memory collection includes a wide variety of materials: photographs, correspondence, manuscripts, sound recordings, motion pictures, etc. Folklife materials are included in this digital collection.

## **Census Bureau Materials**

Typically, the U.S. Decennial Census is a good way to get a statistical overview of an area; however, the Census Bureau also collects statistics at other times and on other subjects than demography.

### **Statistical Abstract of the United States (1878-present) and Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970**

URL: [http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/past\\_years.html](http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/past_years.html)

"The *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, published since 1878, is the authoritative and comprehensive summary of statistics on the social, political, and economic organization of the United States." The Statistical Abstract is one of the best places to start your search for statistics.

### **Historical Census Browser**

URL: <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/>

A University of Virginia product for extracting historical census data down to the county level.

For more detailed data, the original records of the Census (i.e., individual short- and long-form records) become available to the public after 72 years. These can be helpful for getting very specific information about cities or particular citizens. The Mansfield Library has microfilm rolls of records for Montana for the censuses of 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930. Also, if you have a Missoula Public Library card, you can access these individual Census records through the public library's subscription to the Heritage Quest database.

### **1880**

**10th census, 1880 : population schedules of the tenth census of the United States, 1880.**

**Short form records at call number:** 312.0973 U58p 1880 Index ; Level 1 Microfilm

**Long form records at call number:** 312.0973 U58p 1880 ; Level 1 Microfilm

### **1900**

**Population schedules of the 12th census of the United States, 1900.**

**Short form records at call number:** 312.0973 U58p 1900 Index ; Level 1 Microfilm

**Long form records at call number:** 312.0973 U58p 1900 ; Level 1 Microfilm

## **1910**

### **Population schedules of the 13th census of the United States, 1910**

**Long form records at call number:** 312.0973 U58p 1910 ; Level 1 Microfilm

## **1920**

### **14th census of population, 1920**

**Short form records at call number:** 312.0973 U58p 1920 Index ; Level 1 Microfilm

**Long form records at call number:** 312.0973 U58p 1920 ; Level 1 Microfilm

## **1930**

### **NARA 1930 Census**

<http://1930census.archives.gov/>

The 1930 Census is the most recent Census to become available to the public. NARA has an online database that can help you to identify the microfilm roll you need. Then, take that roll number to the microfilm drawers (**call number:** 312.0973 U58p 1930) to find the relevant reel.

## **Indian Affairs Materials**

Information on American Indians can be found in most government agencies. However, some agencies and government bodies produce more information than others.

### **Bureau of Indian Affairs**

- **Commissioner of Indian Affairs Annual Reports**

**Call number:** I 20.1: 1869-1932

- **Indians of (series):**

**Call number:** I 20.51:CT

- **Letters received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-81** [microform]

**Call number:** 970.478 U58L ; microfilm drawers on Level 1

Reports from superintendencies, agencies, and Indian schools provide rich primary source material on the relations of the Indians with white traders, settlers, and soldiers and on intertribal relationships.

### **Bureau of American Ethnology Publications**

- **Annual Report and Bulletins**

**Call numbers:** SI 2.1: (Annual Reports); SI 2.3 (Bulletins)

- **List of Publications of the Bureau of American Ethnology**

**Call number:** SI 2.3:200

**URL:** <http://www.sil.si.edu/DigitalCollections/BAE/Bulletin200/200title.htm>

### **Congress**

The U.S. Congressional Serial Set and Congressional hearings are rich sources of information related to Indian Affairs.

- **Congressional Hearings**

Locate using Lexis-Nexis Congressional

- **U.S. Congressional Serial Set**

Locate reports using the Serial Set database or the Lexis-Nexis Congressional database.

### **War Department**

#### **Commissioner of Indian Affairs Annual Reports**

**Call number:** W 1.1: 824-836

Note: These are also available in the digital Serial Set.

## **General Land Office Records & Maps**

The Bureau of Land Management has created a Federal Land Patents Database that allows you to search for General Land Office grants issued between 1820 and 1908. You can perform a basic search, where you can search by state and patentee name, or a standard search, where you can search by patentee name, by a particular location (described by county, section, township, range, etc.), or by date and land office.

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>

The State of Montana has a GLO website with digital copies of all Montana plat and boundary maps. This is a great resource for finding early, detailed survey maps of Montana: <http://glo.mt.gov/>.