

LIBR 289 e-Portfolio  
Fall 2008

Evidence for Competency C

LIBR 221 – Government Information Sources

Repository Investigation Assignment

June 12, 2008

## **Internet Accessibility of Depository Libraries in the State of Michigan Library of Michigan**

**Conclusion:** The library's website is merged with the one for its institutional parent: History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) which makes it for a very informational but also a very busy, and at times confusing, website. The design is aesthetically pleasing, modern, and pages appear to be dynamically generated.

From the main library page, locating government information is easy as a link to the Government Documents section is prominently featured under services. It can also be accessed through the menu choices Services and Collections and then Government Documents. Both point the user to an overview of the government depository programs as well as to government links within the library's website or electronic library. The number of available links for federal government information is scarce and only listing GPO Access, American FactFinder, US Government & Politics database, and the University of Michigan's Government Documents Center. This last one which is reviewed in this paper under selective depository is indeed a rich resource. However, it is surprising that the Library of Michigan as the regional depository has not built its own online government information collection.

It must be noted that demographics and population information specific to the community served by the library is not listed. The information retrieved is from the U.S. Census, links to which are provided in the library's website.

Information on Michigan's State Government is plentiful. An involved search under Workplace and Education Tools and later State and Local Governments offers an organized pathfinder to all state government information available within the parent website with some links pointing to the library's website.

**Depository #:** 0273      **Designated in (year):** 1860  
**Approximate percentage of depository items received:** 100%  
**Other relevant depository information:** Parent Institution - HAL  
**Location (city):** Lansing, Michigan  
**Is this library a Regional, Selective, or Law?** Regional

### **I. Community Profile:**

**Major audience:** The State and people of Michigan. It offers information on Michigan's territorial law, government documents and other items.

**Estimated Population (2007 refer to US Census):** 10,095,643

**Demographics (2000 refer to US Census):** Pop: 9,938,444; Sex: Male 49%, Female 51%; Race: Whites 80.2%, Black 14.2%, Hispanic 3.3%; Income: Median \$44,667; Employment: Employed 60.8%, Unemployed 3.7%; Top Industry: Manufacturing 22.5%; Class of Worker: Private 83.1%, Gov. 11.4%

**Book Budget or other library factors/statistics (2006):** Total circulation: 69,365,992; Total circulation cost: \$2,497,175,712; Total visits per capita: 4.9; Internet computers for public: 8,248

### **II. Web Site:**

**Does the library have a Web site?** Yes, although it's merged with the one for HAL

**Please provide the URL:** [http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17445\\_19270---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17445_19270---,00.html)

**Is the depository status readily identified?** Yes, although the user must first navigate through Services & Collections to one of two sections: Government Documents or Regional FDLP Libraries

**Does the library's Web site provide convenient links (i.e., within a few clicks from the homepage) to other Government information?**

GPO Access → Yes. Services & Collections / Gov. Documents / Fed Documents Depository Program

LOC Thomas → No

Government Information Center → Yes. Services & Collections / Gov. Documents

Census Bureau's information → Yes. Workplace & Education Tools / Library Development & Data Services / Census & Statistical Data

Patent information – No. Not a depository for patent information. FAQ refers users to USPTO's website.

State Government Web Site → Yes

International Governmental links (like the UN but including other foreign governments.) → No

**Does the library's Web site provide convenient links on any of its top 4 pages to the following commercial databases that provide major access to government information?** The ones provided are accessed through MeL (Michigan E-Library accessed from main page) under MeL Databases

Congressional Universe → No links for this or Lexis-Nexis

GPO on Silverplatter (or another version of the Monthly Catalog) –Yes through WorldCat.

Statistical Universe → No links for this or Lexis-Nexis Statistical

Stat USA → No

WNC → No

PAIS → No

Academic Universe → No links for this or Lexis-Nexis Academic

Other(s) of importance to Government information: InfoTrac Criminal Justice, LegalTrac, Military & Intelligence

**Does the library have a separate page about finding government publications?** Yes

**Read through this or any general information to determine the following:**

**Are documents cataloged and included in the library's catalog?** Yes for documents post-1989. Pre-1989 are accessed through GPO

**Are there librarians there who specialize in government information?** Unclear. Assistance is available at reference desk

**Is the library a depository for any other governments or governmental bodies besides the U.S.?** Yes. For the State of Michigan

### **Internet Accessibility of Depository Libraries in the State of Michigan University of Michigan**

**Conclusion:** From the main library's website the user can easily reach the Government Documents Center (GDC). The GDC a central reference point for government information, whether local, state, federal, foreign or international. Its pages are a reference and instructional tool for any type of information related to government, political science, statistical data, and news. Besides being a selective depository for U.S. Government, it is also a depository for the State of Michigan, the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Asian Development Bank, the South Pacific Commission, and the Government of Canada.

What the GDC lacks in eye catching design it makes up in an astonishing volume of information available. Once in the main page, the user can navigate through any of 8 sections: Government, Related Disciplines, Class Assignments, Special Projects, Databases, Documents Center Information, University Library, and News. Each section is further subdivided in categories which aid the user in conducting a targeted but thorough and detailed search. At the top of the page the most used links have been listed offering the user who knows what she is looking for a quick way to navigate the site.

This website is a veritable cornucopia of government information and its navigation is intuitive which turns government research into a fun activity and a true pleasure. It is also very well organized and in the author's opinion, it is better suited to be the website of a regional depository than the Library of Michigan's.

**Depository #:** 0278      **Designated in (year):** Fed. Dep. in 1884, Selective Dep. in 1962  
**Approximate percentage of depository items received:** 75-85% tangible format; 100% over Internet  
**Other relevant depository information:**  
**Location (city):** Ann Arbor, Michigan  
**Is this library a Regional, Selective, or Law?** Selective

### **I. Community Profile:**

**Major audience:** Faculty, students, staff, and administrative units of the university as well as citizens of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Michigan

**Estimated Population:** 10,095,643 (2007 refer to US Census); 38,103 (2000 student enrollment)

**Demographics (n.d. City of Ann Arbor):** Pop: 114,024; Median Age: 28.1 years; Race: Whites 75%, Black 9%, Asian 12%; Major Employers: Pfizer (pharmaceuticals), Borders (bookstore), Edwards Brothers (publishing), and Proquest (book publishing and microfilming).

**Book Budget or other library factors/statistics (2006):** Circulation: 1,401,699; Collections Volumes: 8,414,070; Professional Staff: 162; Materials Expenditures: \$20,521,937

### **II. Web Site:**

**Does the library have a Web site?** Yes

**Please provide the URL:** <http://www.lib.umich.edu/>

**Is the depository status readily identified?** It is identified but not easily. About the Library / MLibraries / Government Documents Center

**Does the library's Web site provide convenient links (i.e., within a few clicks from the homepage) to other Government information?** Yes. About the Library / MLibraries / Government Documents Center  
 GPO Access → Yes

LOC Thomas → No

Government Information Center → Yes

Census Bureau's information → Yes

Patent information → Yes. Government Documents Center / Fed. Gov. Resources on the Web / Patents

State Government Web Site → Yes. Government Documents Center / Michigan State & Local

International Governmental links (like the UN but including other foreign governments.) → Yes

**Does the library's Web site provide convenient links on any of its top 4 pages to the following commercial databases that provide major access to government information?** Yes. At the top of the library page there's a search drop down menu with a Find Databases option. Can browse or type DB name. Also accessed readily through Government Documents Center

Congressional Universe → Yes

GPO on Silverplatter (or another version of the Monthly Catalog) → Yes

Statistical Universe → Yes

Stat USA → Yes

WNC → Yes

PAIS → No

Academic Universe → Yes

Other(s) of importance to Government information: AccessUN, CQ Congress Collection, TracFed

**Does the library have a separate page about finding government publications?** Yes

**Read through this or any general information to determine the following:**

**Are documents cataloged and included in the library's catalog?** Yes

**Are there librarians there who specialize in government information?** Yes

**Is the library a depository for any other governments or governmental bodies besides the U.S.?** Yes.

For the State of Michigan, United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Asian Development Bank, South Pacific Commission, and the Government of Canada

**Internet Accessibility of Depository Libraries in the State of Michigan  
The Brennan Law Library of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School Library**

**Conclusion:** This website is simple, both in content and design. Information on the depository is not easy to find and not abundant. The navigation is straightforward.

The content is richest as it pertains to legislature and statutes, and courts and cases, with state legislative information almost tripling federal information. The section in Additional Resources for both legal and government documents is more extensive. Links to pertinent databases are listed in this section.

It must be noted that the demographics information specific to the community served by the library is not listed in the library page. The information listed is extracted from the main university's website. The population figure is retrieved is from the U.S. Census, a link to which is provided in the library's depository website.

Overall, it is a satisfactory research website for government documents.

**Depository #:** 0277B      **Designated in (year):** 1978  
**Approximate percentage of depository items received:** Not listed  
**Other relevant depository information:**  
**Location (city):** East Lansing, Rochester, and Grand Rapids in Michigan  
**Is this library a Regional, Selective, or Law? Law**

### **I. Community Profile:**

**Major audience:** Law and university students as well as the general public and students from other law schools  
**Estimated Population:** 10,095,643 (2007 refer to US Census); 3,723 (n.d. student enrollment)  
**Demographics (n.d. University Student Profile):** Pop: 3,723; 64% from outside Michigan; Minorities: 28% Females: 47%; Age Range: 21 - 68; Marital Status: Married 28%, With Children 11%  
**Book Budget or other library factors/statistics:** Cooley Library Budget Ranking: 6<sup>th</sup> out of 189 listed by American Bar Association; 550,000 volumes; Annual Growth Rate: 16,000; 21 professional librarians on staff

### **II. Web Site:**

**Does the library have a Web site?** Yes

**Please provide the URL:** [http://www.cooley.edu/library/research\\_links/rl\\_index.htm](http://www.cooley.edu/library/research_links/rl_index.htm)

**Is the depository status readily identified?** Yes, there's a statement and the gov. logo to indicate so

**Does the library's Web site provide convenient links (i.e., within a few clicks from the homepage) to other Government information?**

GPO Access → Yes

LOC Thomas → Yes

Government Information Center → Yes

Census Bureau's information → Yes

Patent information → Yes

State Government Web Site → Yes

International Governmental links (like the UN but including other foreign governments.) → Yes

**Does the library's Web site provide convenient links on any of its top 4 pages to the following commercial databases that provide major access to government information?**

Congressional Universe → Yes

GPO on Silverplatter (or another version of the Monthly Catalog) → Yes

Statistical Universe → No

Stat USA → Yes

WNC → No

PAIS → No

Academic Universe → No

Other(s) of importance to Government information: EDGAR

**Does the library have a separate page about finding government publications?** Yes

**Read through this or any general information to determine the following:**

**Are documents cataloged and included in the library's catalog?** Not listed but implied

**Are there librarians there who specialize in government information?** No

**Is the library a depository for any other governments or governmental bodies besides the U.S.?** Not mentioned

## References

- State of Michigan. (2008). *Library of Michigan*. Retrieved June 5, 2008, from the History, Arts and Libraries Web Site: [http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17445\\_19270---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17445_19270---,00.html)
- Thomas M. Cooley Law School. (2008). *Facts at a glance*. Retrieved June 8, 2008 from the Cooley Law School Web Site: <http://www.cooley.edu/overview/factsataglance.htm>
- Thomas M. Cooley Law School. (n.d.). *Research materials*. Retrieved June 7, 2008 from The Cooley Law School Libraries Web Site:  
[http://www.cooley.edu/library/research\\_links/rl\\_index.htm](http://www.cooley.edu/library/research_links/rl_index.htm)
- University of Michigan M Library. (2008). *The University of Michigan documentscCenter*. Retrieved June 7, 2008, from <http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/>
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