Catalog Course Description: acquaints students with the basic reference sources that provide access to the publications of governmental organizations. United States government publications are stressed. Topics include the basic catalogs and indexes; depository systems; acquisition, selection, organization, use, and on-line retrieval of government publications.

Interpretation of Course Description: This course introduces students to government publications; their development, organization, access, and use; and issues surrounding the provision of and access to government information. Emphasis is on the use of USA federal documents but also includes an introduction to state, local, tribal, and international government publications.

Audience: MLIS and MSKM students

Expectations: Prior to the start of class, the student should be able to:
• Use Desire2Learn including accessing news and contents, participating in discussion boards, submitting assignments through folders
• Access and use email, including sending and receiving email attachments
• Identify, access, and use web sites
• Access documents in Adobe Acrobat Reader
• Word process documents
• Access and create PowerPoint slides
• Access podcasts and videocasts
• Use a style manual.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
• Describe the nature, organization, and use of publications of the U.S. Federal government.
• Identify and locate similar publications by state, local, tribal, and international governments.
• Use basic reference tools (both electronic and print) that provide access to the various publications of governmental organizations.
• Explain issues and trends that affect the provision of and access to government information.
• Explain the reference and research value of government information.
• Acquire a basic understanding of what is expected of professional documents librarians in the field of government documents.
• Understand how non-documents reference librarians, non-librarian academics, and others can effectively use government documents for research purposes.

Topics:
• Access to government documents and resources
• Transformation of government information
• Government information and knowledge technology
• Government information infrastructure
• Government information policy and regulation
• Intellectual property
• International, state, local, and tribal government information and policy

Opportunities for Utilizing Relevant Technology: Use D2L communication technologies; use basic word processing; use cloud computing for document editing; participate in online discussions; use electronic information finding aides and resources

Course Last Offered: 2010 Document prepared by: Tommy Snead, Fall 2011

Disclaimer: This summary represents the course as it has been taught in past semesters and is provided for the convenience of students and advisors. No guarantees are expressed or implied about current and future course offerings.