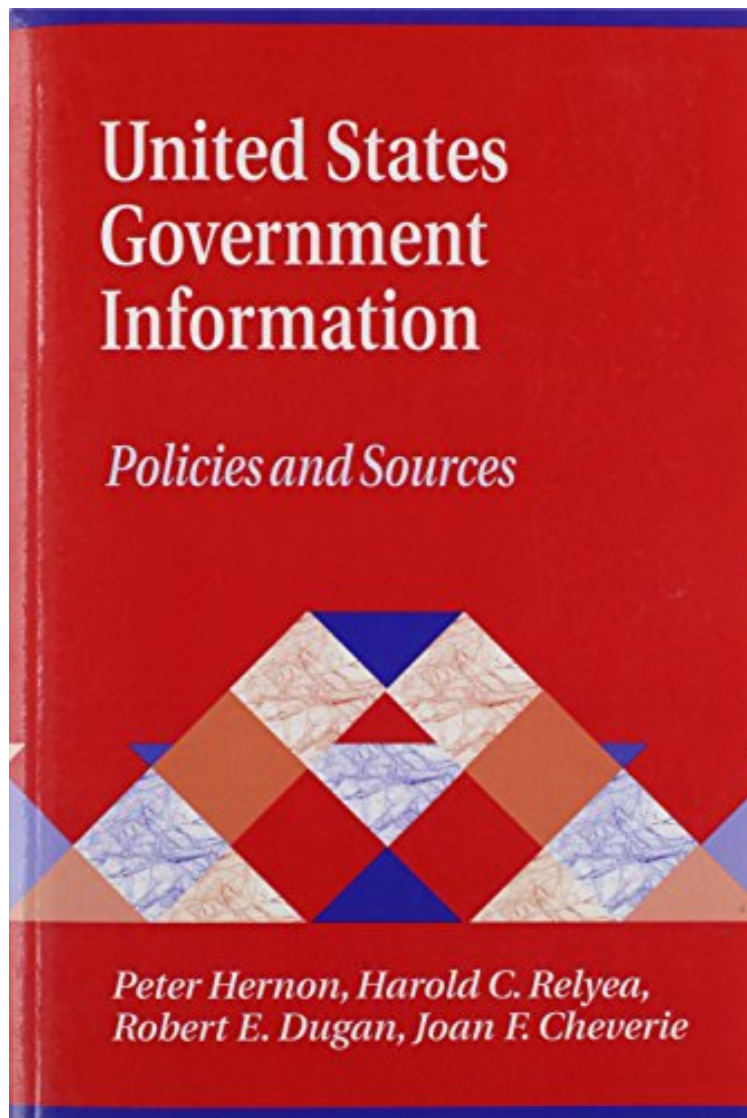


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United States Government Information: Policies and Sources (Library and Information Science Text Series)

Peter Hernon, Harold C. Relyea, Joan F Cheverie, Robert E. Dugan
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Peter Hernon, Harold C. Relyea, Joan F Cheverie, Robert E. Dugan : United States Government Information: Policies and Sources (Library and Information Science Text Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised United States Government Information: Policies and Sources (Library and Information Science Text Series):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Tired reread
By Pattee Fletcher
The book, written by noted and recognized experts in the field of government information, covers a lot of "old ground" on locating government documents. Excessive space is given to "finding aids" which is confusingly complex and an overload of information. The book certainly covers the breadth of information sources but tries too hard to add the depth to what is an already complex and complicated field of study. The authors' objectivity in presenting the range of information sources is to be commended, but with such breadth of information, a novice reader, and even someone versed in library science might benefit from some evaluative comments on the sources. An informed evaluation of printed versus electronic resources would also be in order, as the onset of electronic government has and will continue to reduce the value of the information contained in this book. The book has as its focus the U.S. federal government, and little mention is made to government information and policy at the state and local levels. The focus is understandable given the vast store of federal information and information policy. But providing brief reference to the fact that information access, "finding aids" and policies differ at state and local levels would be useful to point out to the reader. While the book is subtitled "Policy and Sources" it is slim on policy and mostly focuses on sources. Policy coverage is limited, brief, and not current. If your interest is on law and guidance for information technology, use, and management, this is not the book to read. If you want to be a government documents librarian, this is the book for you. If you are a more typical citizen looking for specific information from or about government, federal, state, local, or tribal, I would suggest going to the official government website "Firstgov." If you want to find out more about U.S. federal information policy, go to the OMB website, in specific, the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Information Inside!
By Alina J. Johnson
While this book was written in 2002, it contains a wealth of information not previously found in other government information titles, or alternately, among several gov information titles. Written by government information authorities, I became aware of this book by reading excerpts in a graduate government information course at the University of Michigan, and was amazed so much valuable and useful information could emanate from one source. In particular, there is detailed executive, legislative, and judicial branch sources and while the screenshots are old, the URLs for the most part are still useful. The book is an extremely thorough and a must-have reference source for any number of subjects including government (a) finding aids such as indexes, databases, journals, guides, monographs, as well as the physical and electronic places to locate sources, (b) laws, regulations, and policies such as FOIA, FERPA, ECPA, TCA, HIPAA, COPPA, the eGov Act of 2002, and those organizations and SSOs affecting intellectual property such as WIPO, NARA, USPTO, and LC, and (c) how to use particular aids or laws in a manner useful to you. For example, there is a section on how to submit a FOIA request, examples of the proper use of Shepard's CFR Citations, and in the chapter on IP, there is a section detailing a number of relevant cases on seminal cases including *Kelly v. Arriba* which is interesting to compare against the current copyright suit in the news, *Tennebaum and [...]* which is especially interesting to follow if you know about the constantly changing strategies of the RIAA and others in pursuing copyright infringement in the digital age. I guess if the book has any weakness, (if you could really call it that seeing it is named "United States Government Information: Policies and Sources"), it would be that it does not take an international approach towards government information and thus, is less informative than say, "Governance and Information Technology", a book by Mayer-Schoenberger and Lazar, which has a decidedly more international approach. That being said, the book is about as informative today as when it was written, which is saying a lot in the digital age. It is a frequent reference source for me in my personal library and I am glad I purchased it. You will be, too!

The first text to provide a comprehensive introduction to the information policies of the United States government and basic source material, this book provides students with an understanding of the underlying importance of policy and how it is formulated. It also shows how to locate information produced since the founding of the government in the 18th century, and traces policies and sources from that time to the emergence of electronic government resulting from the advent of the Internet. The discussion of finding aids and legislative history is reinforced with the inclusion of examples in the text as well as exercises. In addition to covering the three branches of the government, the text explains terminology and lists sources likely to provide relevant information on presidential communication and more. Chapters also cover the Freedom of Information Act and Declassified Records, administrative law, intellectual property, statistical sources, maps and geographical information systems, depository

From Library Journal
Heron (U.S. Government on the Web, Professional Media, LJ 10/1/99) and his coauthors have produced a valuable addition to the literature on federal government information. Their comprehensive overview traces the history of U.S. government information policy from its first mention in the Constitution through the changes instituted since the terrorist attacks of September 11. Government publishing is also well covered, from the first publications of the Congress up to today's transition to electronic information delivery and services. Each chapter includes source notes; additional information (including review and practice questions) is provided on an accompanying web site (accessible via www.lu.com) and CD-ROM (not available for review). There is the occasional

bit of outdated information (e.g., concerning Patent and Trademark Depository Library collections) and apparent author biases toward particular policies and their outcomes, but these shortcomings do not detract from the volume's overall value. Although other works have discussed various aspects of government information, this survey offers the best introduction to the topic for historians, political scientists, teachers, and librarians. For every collection with a substantial focus on government information.

Patrick Ragains, Univ. of Nevada Lib., Reno Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. ?The value of United States Government Information lies in its focus on both information policy and sources.?-Reference sAbout the Author

PETER HERNON is Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, Boston, Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Academic Librarianship, Founding Editor of Government Information Quarterly, Co-Editor of Library Information Science Research, and an internationally acclaimed author of numerous books in the area of government information.

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