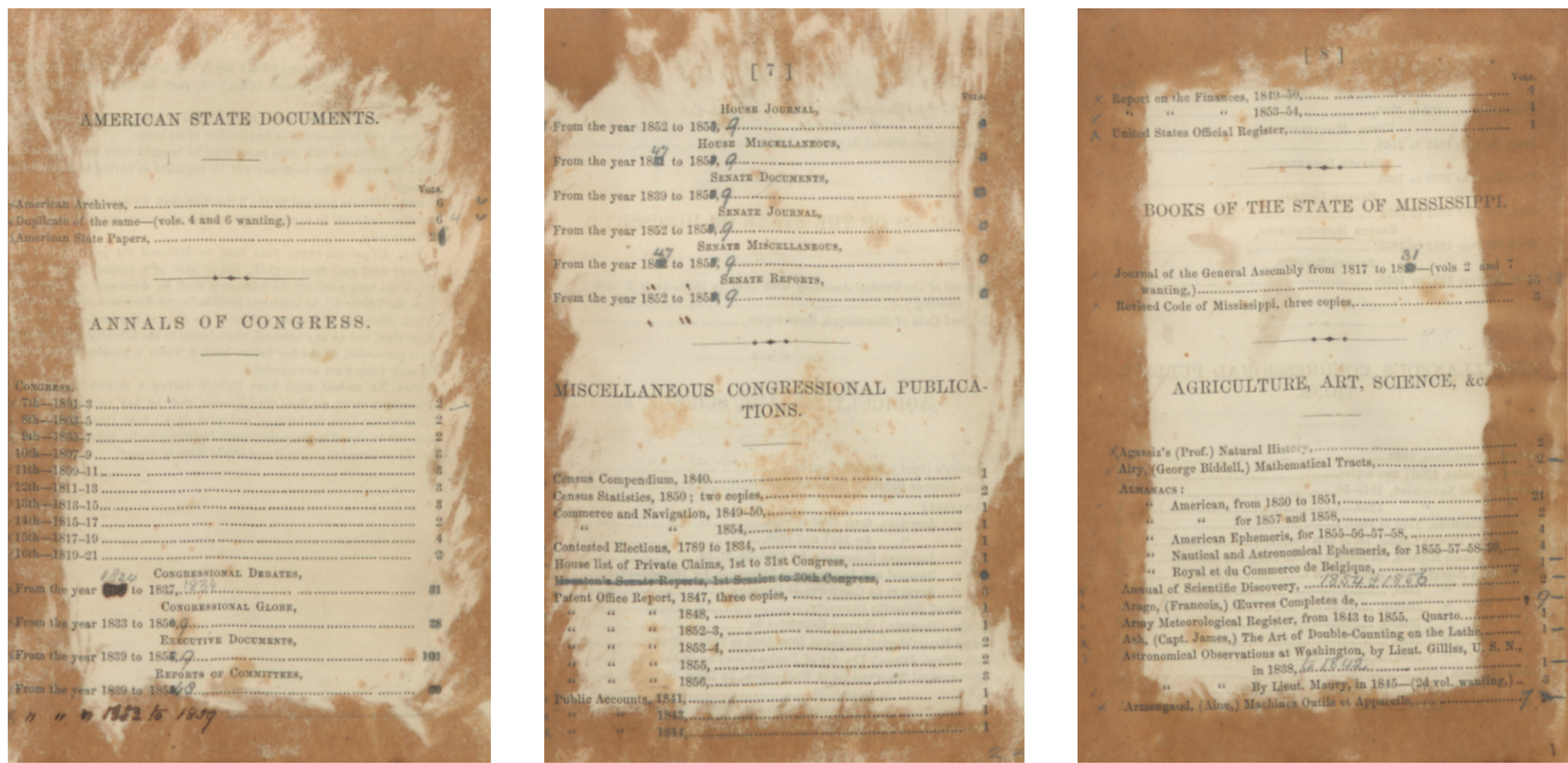


Government Documents in the Original Library of the University of Mississippi, 1849-1858

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What is the Original Library Collection (OLC) Project :

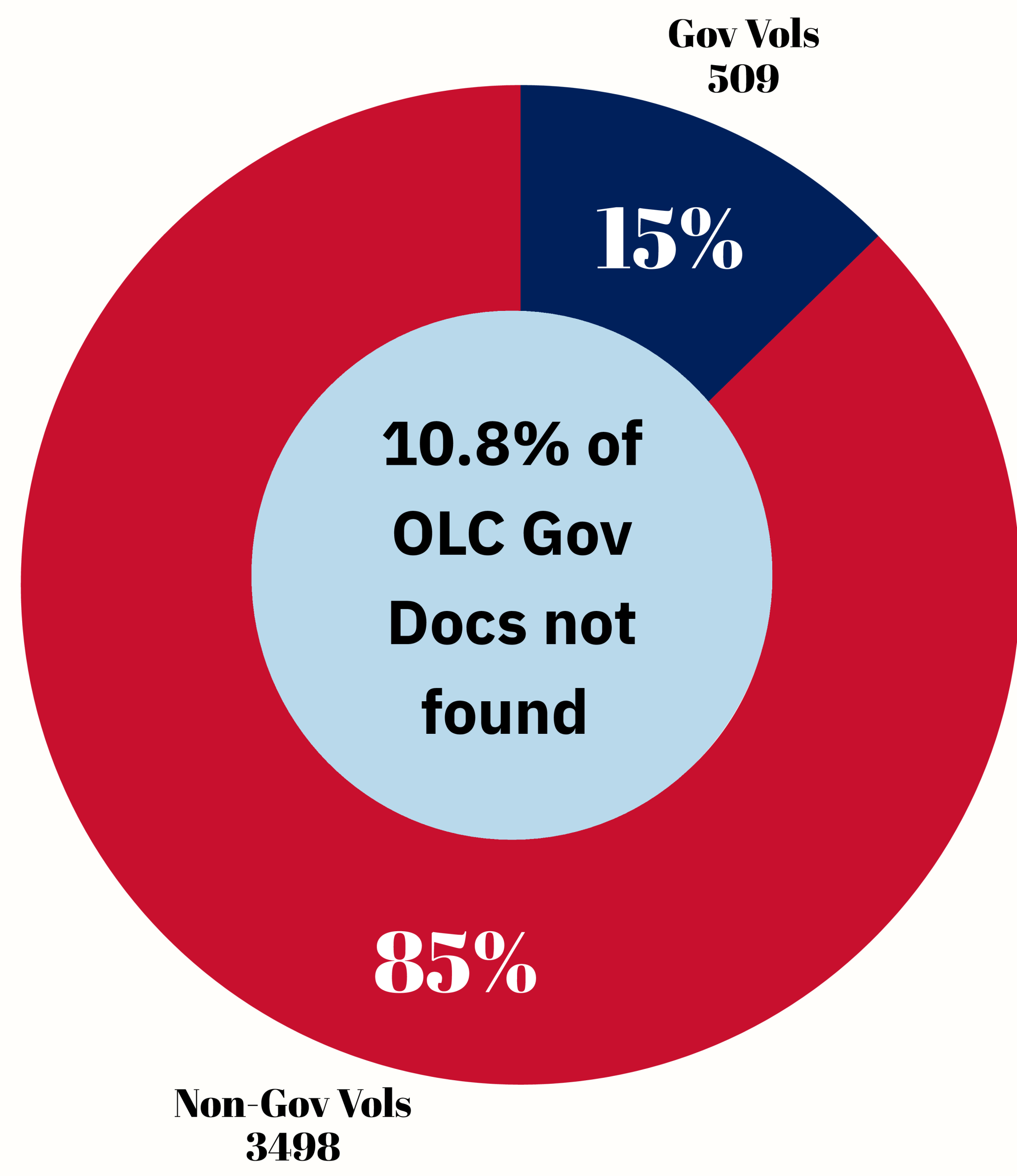
A project to assemble and display together all of the surviving books from the UM Library’s creation in 1849 until the first published catalogue in 1858.



Original Library Catalogue

Number of Volumes

Gov Vols Non-Gov Vols



What have we learned about the collection?

- Government documents were present on the UM campus prior to its designation as a federal depository in 1883.
- Although the university did not purposely set out to select the majority of these volumes, the 1858 catalogue valued government publications, granting them precedence as the first subject categories listed.
- The informational content provided by these volumes significantly enlarged the amount of U.S. history contained within the library as well as contributing works on topics of specific interest to the faculty at the time, such as geology, agriculture, astronomy, and navigation.

The first four sections of the 1858 catalogue were specifically for Gov Docs. Below are other subject categories where federal publications appeared.

How did UM Library Acquire These Federal Documents?

- direct presentation by public officials
- by order of congress
- purchase
- donations

The Serial Set:

Identifying the OLC volumes that are now considered part of the Serial Set was the most difficult part of the entire project.

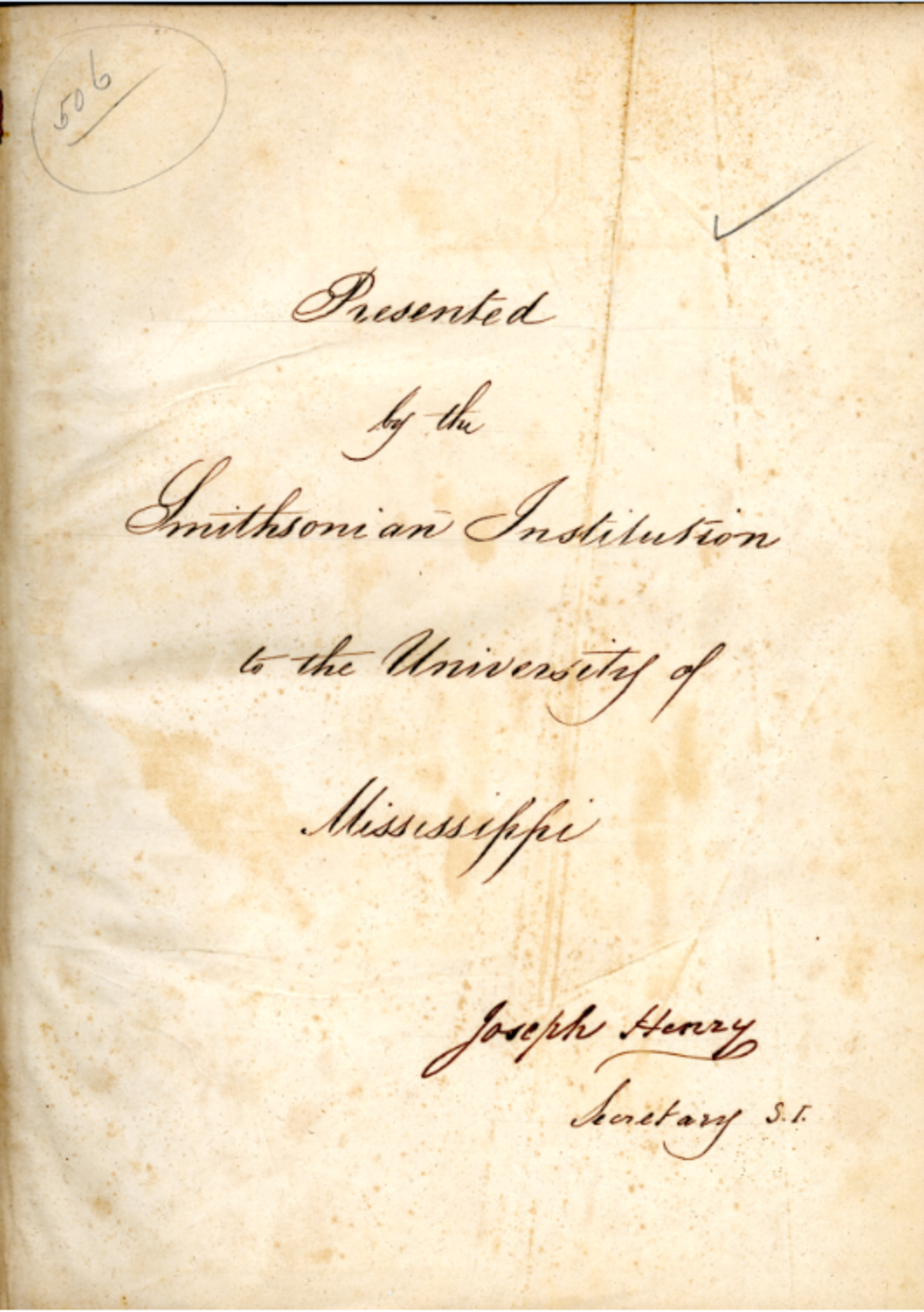
The 1858 catalogue (see above) only listed document types and the number of volumes in each one with a total of 246 serial set volumes overall. However, within the timeframe covered by the catalogue there were 452 possible volumes.

How did we determine the OLC items?

- a small number of volumes contained dated presentation inscriptions
- dismissed if a bookplate, stamp, or notation indicated gift or exchange
- a 19th century bookplate indicated a volume was present during the relevant century
- accession numbers on a bookplate might be used to reject an item if it was wildly out of sequence with the surrounding volumes
- ownership notations of members of Congress whose tenure postdated the catalogue were cause for dismissal
- binding similarities as well as sequential numbering on spines were considered
- finally candidates for selection were cross checked with entries in a 1901 library ledger of Gov Doc holdings



Pages 6, 7, & 8 from the only surviving copy of the *Catalogue of the Library of the University of Mississippi* [1858] pasted into an 1868 library ledger. ➡



Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institute, 1848. Vol. 1.

Presentation inscription by Joseph Henry, the first Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute (1846-1878).

42

Agriculture, Science, Art, &c.

16

Geogrpahy, Books of Tr...

9

Essays, Be...

7

History &c.

5

Maps

4

Military