Electronic is beautiful!
Improving access

- E-Government Act of 2002
- Multiple digitization efforts
What to consider when considering format

- It’s all online
- Unreported publications
- Legal issues
- Quality
- Reproducibility/ease of use
- Copyright
- The Abyss
- Items as artifacts
- To weed or not to weed?
When someone says

"everything is online"
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>PURL</th>
<th>No PURL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Defense</td>
<td>10,450</td>
<td>58,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>18,283</td>
<td>68,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>7,780</td>
<td>16,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>18,796</td>
<td>44,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASA</td>
<td>10,474</td>
<td>45,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>1126</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you Stephen Kharfen!
Sud=x AND/NOT wur=http?
Digitized content

Great databases- can you afford them?

- Readex Congressional Serial Set: $70,000 purchase plus annual fee
- HineOnline: $3750.00 year

Free sites

- HathiTrust
- Internet Archive
- Library of Congress
- National Archives
- Some agency
We're experiencing technical difficulties.

But we're working on it and we should be back soon. Please try again in a few minutes.

Repairing government trucks [...] garage (1937)
Harris & Ewing, photographer
Unreported publications

• State/federal hybrid
  • EPA
  • Army Corps Engineers
  • Transportation

• Operation animal mutilation: report of the district attorney first judicial district, state of New Mexico Kenneth M. Rommel
Legal*

- PACER
- U.S. Reports
- United States Code
- United States Statutes at Large

*Depends on the requirements of the specific court
Online ≠ quality
Reproducibility / Ease of use

- Level of detail - does it translate?
- Intended purpose?
- Is the online version easier to use?
  - Congressional Record Indexes
Formats

Left Eye Images

Right Eye Images
Formats
Is it the content you want?

Editions:

Congressional Record v Daily Digest
Revised publications
Copyright

- ERIC
- Congressional Record
- Special publications
The abyss

- Ephemeral
- Limited interest
- Uncommon/ missed
- Challenging medium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>W/ URL</th>
<th>No URL</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900-1909</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>18,829</td>
<td>19,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910-1919</td>
<td>778</td>
<td>4,632</td>
<td>5,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920-1929</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>5,764</td>
<td>14,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930-1939</td>
<td>2,861</td>
<td>11,564</td>
<td>14,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940-1949</td>
<td>1389</td>
<td>20,243</td>
<td>21,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950-1959</td>
<td>2,979</td>
<td>32,550</td>
<td>35,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-1969</td>
<td>5,215</td>
<td>49,748</td>
<td>54,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-1989</td>
<td>15,801</td>
<td>196,411</td>
<td>21,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-1999</td>
<td>31,883</td>
<td>163,723</td>
<td>159,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2009</td>
<td>83,095</td>
<td>37,802</td>
<td>120,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2019</td>
<td>73,997</td>
<td>58,087</td>
<td>132,084</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

wyr=XXX? AND/NOT wur=http?
Includes later issues of microfiche, reprints
Item as artifact

- Items that are important to regional/local history
- Items with meaning beyond the content
- Materials for displays
- "cultural artifact"
  - Does the item connect the viewer/user to a time and place?
To weed or not to weed?

- Is it unique or uncommon?
- Can it be used in a digital format?
- Has it been digitized?
- Can you digitize?
- Does it fill a need?
- Are you likely to use it?
- Does it have value as an artifact?
Questions?
Thank you!

Susanne Caro
Government Information Librarian
North Dakota State University
Susanne.caro@ndsu.edu