Why Use Government Information?

- **Reliability** - Government Information can be the product of research at the highest level and it is often the most current information available on an issue.

- **Primary Sources** - Much government information - such as hearings and court cases - is considered primary source material.

- **Authenticity** - Many electronic government publications come with authentication seals.

- **Comprehensiveness** - With a few exceptions, research in almost any subject area is incomplete without consulting government sources.

- **Responsibility** - As citizens of a democracy, it’s our duty to be informed about governmental actions.

- **Economy** - Almost all government information is freely available to all users, not just Nicholls students. You have already paid for government information through your tax dollars so make use of it!

Ellender Memorial Library has been a selective depository for Louisiana state government publications since 1960 and a selective depository for the United States Federal Depository Library Program since 1962.

The library serves the 6th Congressional District of Louisiana and provides free access to the public.

The library has an extensive collection in a wide variety of formats including paper, microform, maps, CDs, kits, and online documents.

Some areas in which the library’s collection is particularly strong include:

- Agriculture
- Business
- Education
- Health
- State and Federal Regulations

For quick access to many government information resources, check out the department’s webpage and view our resource guides.

*Information Sorted By Colleges*—Resources are divided by college to provide quick access for students.

*Recommended Websites*—Comprehensive listing of both federal and state government websites sorted alphabetically.
Federal Documents

The federal government is the largest publisher in the world.

Publications from the federal government cover many areas including: research, statistics, standards, current events, laws, consumer information, history and much more.

Federal government publications can be used for a wide range of assignments such as speeches, research papers, legal/law studies and career action plans.

A quick way to browse what government information offers is to visit:

This site is the U.S. government’s official web portal and makes it easy to access government information and services on the web.

Louisiana Documents

The Louisiana Public Document Depository Program provides access to publications from over 200 state governmental units which have a legal responsibility to provide their documents to the public.

Louisiana documents provide statistics on topics such as levels of health, education, and employment for the state’s residents.

Examples of highly utilized publications/sites include:

Louisiana Employment Projections
Louisiana Career Planning Guide
Parish Health Profiles
Louisiana Revised Statutes
Louisiana Census Data Center