

*San Francisco Daily Journal, 3/28/02, p. 12.  
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## **SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY'S GOVERNMENT INFORMATION CENTER**

*by Carol Coon*

The Government Information Center is located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center. The Center brings together publications of federal, state, city, and regional government agencies with materials related to law, political science and public administration. There is an emphasis on materials for patrons interested in community activism, self-help law, political awareness and involvement at all levels - local neighborhoods, San Francisco, California, United States and global. The Center also has the Patent and Trademark Depository Library collection and the Wallace Stegner Environmental Center.

SFPL became a complete depository for California documents in 1945, but some materials pre-date this. The federal document depository started in 1889 but we have material from as early as 1789. It is one of the largest depository collections in Northern California. The library has been the official depository for San Francisco City and County documents since 1939, but, again, many items pre-date that. The goal is to collect and retain all official publications of San Francisco City and county agencies. As required by law, we post the agendas of upcoming city board and commission meetings. Resources of interest to law librarians include:

- CIS Congressional Committee Prints – 1830 forward
  - CIS Universe
  - CIS Statistical Universe
  - California Assembly and Senate Journals – 1849 forward
  - California bills - 1867 forward
  - California State Assembly File Analysis – 1975 forward
  - California Statutes – 1849 forward
  - Code of Federal Regulations – 1977 forward
  - Congressional bills – 73<sup>rd</sup> Congress forward
  - Congressional Record, Congressional Globe, and previous titles
  - Congressional Serial Set
  - Decisions, Opinions and Reports – call Reference Desk to verify what we have
  - Federal Register – 1936 forward
  - San Francisco ordinances and resolutions
  - Treaties
  - U.S. Census statistics – 1790 forward
  - U.S. Executive Orders
  - U.S. House and Senate hearings

The Center collects documents from several regional agencies of which San Francisco is a member, such as the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), BART, and the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District.

The Patent & Trademark Center is one of five California libraries designated a Patent and Trademark Depository Library. The PTC is self-service. Library staff does not perform patent or trademark searches, but is always available for instruction and assistance. There are no fees for computer searching; printing costs ten cents per page. Resources for conducting a patent or trademark search include: ·

- Complete patents, 1790-present.
  - Computer searching of patents and trademarks
  - Indexes to historical patents and trademarks
  - Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark Office, 1872 forward
  - Annual Report of the Commissioner of Patents 1790-1871
  - All current PTO forms, publications and regulations

Government documents and other reference materials do not circulate but we do offer a Special Permission loan service. At the determination of the senior librarian, most material, except San Francisco documents, can be borrowed for 24 hours. Call the reference desk for details.

Library Hours:

Monday 10 A.M. - 6 P.M.  
Tuesday-Thursday - 9 A.M. - 8 P.M.  
Friday Noon - 6 P.M.  
Saturday 10 A.M. - 6 P.M.  
Sunday Noon - 5 P.M.

Reference Desk Phone Number: 415.557.4500

E-MAIL: [docref@sfpl.org](mailto:docref@sfpl.org)

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