



# Guide to Federal Librarianship



## Introduction and Acknowledgments



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### *Preface*

The *Guide to Federal Librarianship* is a project of the [Federal Library and Information Network's \(FEDLINK\)](#) Education Working Group. Committee members are primarily federal librarians and others who hold positions in federal libraries and information centers. This fourth edition of the handbook has newly revised and updated chapters.

In keeping with the charge of the original task force, this handbook is a resource tool for librarians new to the federal community and a quick reference guide for established federal librarians. Because the *Guide to Federal Librarianship* is written for professional librarians, it is not intended to be a manual on how to be a librarian. Instead, it focuses on the federal angle of otherwise standard practices and procedures of good librarianship. This edition omitted topics if it did not contain any uniquely federal characteristics. The copyright chapter is an exception to this rule because it remains a challenging and continuously developing topic for all librarians. The Education Working Group overwhelmingly favored producing this handbook in electronic format so that working group members can update it as new developments or issues emerge.

To avoid duplicating information already available elsewhere, the working group identified a large body of existing resources on these topics. Therefore, this handbook provides only brief treatment of the main points of a topic with links to additional authoritative references for detailed coverage.

To suggest additions or changes to this handbook, please send an email to [fliccfno@loc.gov](mailto:fliccfno@loc.gov).

### *Acknowledgments*

The FEDLINK Education Working Group would like to acknowledge the federal information professionals who volunteered to work on this fourth edition. While not everyone was able to devote the time required to be a member of the Handbook committee, many of the suggestions, recommendations, and referrals were essential to the completion of the handbook. The working group is also grateful to previous task force members who conceived of this book and provided a strong foundation for this edition. Although the handbook does not list many of their names, it still uses some of their original wording and organization.



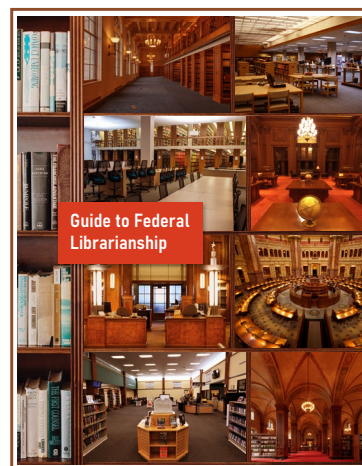
Pictured on cover:

Top row: (left) Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse Library and (right) National Library of Medicine

Second row: (left) NASA Goddard Information and Collaboration Center at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and (right) U.S. Supreme Court Library

Third row: (left) U.S. Department of Justice Library and (right) Library of Congress

Fourth row: (left) Barr Memorial Library and (right) U.S. Department of Commerce Law Library



**Special thanks to:**

**Jennifer McMahan**, who led the project to revise and update the handbook;

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