Montana State University Library designated the first regional depository for U. S. Government publications

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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The Montana State University Library at Missoula has been designated the first regional depository in Montana for U. S. Government publications, according to Earle C. Thompson, dean of library service at MSU.

The designation was made by Supt. of Documents Carper W. Buckley on the recommendation of Mrs. Ruth O. Longworth, librarian of the State Library Commission, and Sen. Mike Mansfield.

Regional depositories for government publications were authorized by Congress in 1962, Dean Thompson said. The authorizing act provides that not more than two such libraries be designated in each state.

As a regional depository, the MSU Library will receive copies of all new and revised government publications authorized for distribution. These must be retained permanently in either printed or microfacsimile form.

The designation also means that the MSU Library will provide reference and interlibrary loan service within the region and assist the depository libraries in the state in administering their collections of government publications.

A depository library receives selected materials rather than all government publications and may withdraw or destroy materials at its discretion, the dean explained. Selective depositories exist in the libraries of Montana State College, Eastern Montana College of Education, Montana School of Mines, and the Historical Society of Montana.

"As a depository library, the MSU Library has for many years kept extensive files of a large number of selected government publications," the dean said. "As a regional depository, the MSU Library collection will be greatly enhanced by the receipt and permanent retention of many more valuable and highly useful documents. The new status will also help the library further fulfill its obligation to the University community and to the state through the augmented collection and services."

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