

The State and federal government documents holdings is a vast area of valuable information. The Library has been a select U.S. Government depository for federal agency and congressional publications for many years and as a result has collected and indexed thousands of reference publications in the area of social sciences, economics, law enforcement, legislative histories, and numerous other disciplines. The Maryland government documents collection is probably the most complete retrospective holdings of State agency documents available. In addition, all local governments must file copies of their codes with the State Law Library.

A third distinct subject collection and a heavily-used resource is the local history and genealogy collection. This resource, which has been actively developed over the years, complements much of the original source records researchers have access to in the Maryland Hall of Records and Maryland Historical Society. Included among the holdings are the Maryland census schedules from 1776 through 1900 with name indexes; a complete and invaluable original file of the earlier issues of the *Maryland Gazette* (1745-1838); a

complete run of the *Baltimore Sun* (1837-date); and numerous county histories, family genealogies, and research guides.

Additional items of interest are the Library's holdings of rare books, early Maryland maps and documents, including the subscription edition of James Audubon's four-volume elephant folio, *Birds of America*. Also on display in the Library are the classic lithograph prints of each of the official state birds for thirty-five states and the American Bald Eagle, commissioned by the Nature Society and painted by Richard Sloane. The State Law Library was designated as the official depository for these prints by the governor in 1970.

Finally, the Library serves as the distributing agency for the *Maryland Reports* and the *Maryland Appellate Reports* (Code Courts Article, sec. 13-504). The Library also distributes the *Annotated Code of Maryland* under the direction of the Board of Public Works. The Library publishes a bimonthly list entitled *Recent Acquisitions*, as well as miscellaneous bibliographies and a descriptive brochure on the Library.