

ahead of other segments. Dates before 2000 are written as 3 digits with the initial “1” dropped, as in 997 for 1997. Dates from 2000 and after are written with 4 digits. In summary, numbers without a dash (or are “blank”) are filed first, followed by dates, then letters, then numbers. Remember it alphabetically: blanks, dates, letters, and numbers. The following SuDoc numbers are in order:

**S 1.2:B 19**

**S 1.2:B 19/956**

**S 1.2:B 19/A**

**S 1.2:B 19/2**

The SuDoc number is found on U.S. government publications  
in the upper left corner or  
on the spine of bound volumes or  
on the upper left corner of the inside front cover or  
on the upper left corner of a microfiche.

#### References

Federal Depository Library Program. “An Explanation of the Superintendent of Documents Classification System.” Available from [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/pubs/explanation.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/explanation.html). Internet; accessed 16 July 2005.

Revised October 12, 2005,  
Federal Documents Section  
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## **The Superintendent of Documents (SuDocs) Classification System**

is designed to group together publications by the same government author. The purpose of this system is to uniquely identify, logically relate, and physically arrange each publication so that all publications of a single agency or department may be found together. However, because the classification system is based on the current organizational status of the government author, it changes as the organizational structure of the federal government changes. Thus, publications of some issuing agencies may be located in different places in the system. For example, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) was an independent government agency prior to the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and its publications started with “FEM 1”. After it became a subordinate agency within the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA’s SuDocs author symbols changed to “HS 5”.

The Superintendent of Documents at the U.S. Government Printing Office assigns SuDoc numbers to every U.S. Government document.

