

Digitization of the SD Codified Law

The SD State Library is working on a project to digitize historical volumes of the SD Codified Law. We have started with pre-1923 volumes, but for the others that are still considered in copyright, we wanted to contact the LRC and the SD Code Commission to request permission to digitize possibly copyrighted editions of those works, to archive the digital version of the works, and to make the digital works publicly accessible.

The state library has collaborated with the Secretary of State's Office to digitize the Legislative Manuals (Blue Books) from 1904. Our digital collections, which can be viewed at <http://cdm16384.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/>, also include historical governors' messages and we are currently adding historical reports from the Superintendent of Public Instruction. It is a goal of the state library to build an electronic collection of state publications. SDCL 14-1A-3 addresses the gathering of state publications from state agencies, further defined in AR 24:30:07:06.

The state library collection of SDCL books begins with a volume from 1877. The SDCL that is accessible from the Legislative Research Council site http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/default.aspx only contains current South Dakota law. Researchers who are trying to track changes in a law over several years have to contact the SD State Library, SD State Archives, or LRC to find this information in their paper collections. Digitizing this collection and making it available online would be a great asset for researchers, SD citizens, those who practice law, and others across the U.S. and world.

Digitization of state documents is addressed in the SD State Library Strategic Plan 2014-2018.

Objective 2: Build an electronic collection of state documents.

Initiatives:

- Identify, capture, digitize, preserve, and make accessible state documents.
- Maintain and promote an online portal for South Dakota state documents access.
- Annually increase volume of state document digital content in CONTENTdm.
- Write a plan and create a timeline for digitizing the State Library's state publications.

According to the State Publications Digitization Long Range Plan

<http://library.sd.gov/board/2013/110813-I->

[StatePublicationsDigitizationLongRangePlanDraft091013Rev.pdf](#), a major initiative is to create a digital repository from state publications and historical documents, with the focus on materials that would be of research and historical value.

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