

Digitization of the SD Codified Law

The SD State Library has digitized historical volumes of the SD Codified Law up to 2003 with the permission of the SD Code Commission (2016). The 2003 date was chosen because the publisher changed to West with the 2004 publication. The state library could easily add disclaimer wording to reflect that the volumes in our digital collection are historical law, not current law. That text could be provided by either the Code Commission or the state library.

The state library digital collections, which can be viewed at <http://sdsdl-montage.auto-graphics.com/>, include current SD state agency publications, which are supplied directly to us by the agencies themselves. [SDCL 14-1A](#) and [ARSD 24:30:07:06](#) set the law and rules for collecting state agency publications. The collection also includes historical documents, including governors' messages, Legislative Manuals (commonly referred to as the "Blue Books"), Senate and House Journals, Session Laws, and SDCL. We have a long list of historical reports and documents that will keep the SD State Library digitization department busy for a long time. Once volumes in our collection are digitized, they are returned to our library shelves. State agency publications will never be discarded, even after digitizing.

For large projects, such as the legislative documents, we contract with a company called Northern Micrographics. It would take our staff of 1.5 FTE years to digitize what Northern Micrographics can do in six months. We only use this company for projects we deem important to get online as soon as possible for the benefit of researchers and the general public.

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 contains South Dakota law from 1997 to the present. Users search this collection differently than they would if pulling a book off the shelf and paging through. The SD State Library is digitizing the entire volume as a whole, including pocket supplements. Researchers who are trying to track changes in a law over several years currently have to contact the SD State Library, SD State Archives, LRC, or the USD Law Library to find this information in paper collections. Digitizing this collection and making it available online is 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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