All Hands on Deck – Publishing the Congressional Record

Agenda

• History of recording the debates
• Work performed by the Official Reporters of the House and of the Senate
• Work performed by the Government Publishing Office
• Supplementary publications
  – Congressional Record Index
  – Bound permanent edition
Where to find the early record of debate in Congress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Congress</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annals of Congress</td>
<td>1 thru 18-1</td>
<td>1789 – 1824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register of Debates</td>
<td>18-2 thru 25-1</td>
<td>1824 – 1837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congressional Globe</td>
<td>23 thru 42</td>
<td>1833 – 1873</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*reconstructed from newspapers and journals retrospectively
*first to allow Congress to edit statements prior to publishing
*first reporters to use Pitman Shorthand method
*first to publish debates as first-person narrative
*first to attempt measure by measure coverage of proceedings
*first daily editions required by law in 1865

Problems of early publications:
- Accuracy
- Completeness
- Bias
- Shorthand writing invented 1840s
- Expense

* The Library of Congress Web site "A Century of Lawmaking" has online versions of these titles at:
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/

Predecessors

March 4, 1789
Annals of Congress

March 4, 1826
Register of Debates

March 4, 1834
Congressional Globe

Source: "A Century of Lawmaking" Web site
Where to find the record of debate in Congress today

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Congress</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congressional Record</td>
<td>43 to present</td>
<td>1873 - today</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

March 4, 1873
Congressional Record (bound edition)

March 4, 2015
Congressional Record (daily edition)

The Congressional Record is...

- “Substantially verbatim account” of the remarks made on the floor of the House and Senate.
- Congress and the American public needs an accurate, comprehensive, and unbiased account of floor activities.
- Note that Members of Congress can edit their statements.

House floor
Source: http://www.house.gov/

Senate floor
Source: https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/index.html/AllWomenSenateFloor.htm
Timeliness of the daily edition

- Printed at GPO overnight
- Distributed to House and Senate chambers and offices
- Loaded onto FDsys
- Electronic copy sent to Library of Congress and other vendors
- Also distributed in print to subscribers and Federal Depository Libraries

Compiling the CR

- Text is compiled by House Official Reporters and Senate Official Reporters
  - Statements spoken on the floor
- Some content comes from other offices under the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate.
  - Amendments submitted
  - Reports of committees
  - Public Bills and Resolutions
House and Senate Official Reporters

Phonetic shorthand systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SHORTHAND ALPHABETS</th>
<th>Plimsol</th>
<th>Gregg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sample Stenographic Machine keyboard

Source: http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/541788/shorthand#ref512828

Source for above and to the right: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-13035979

In the Senate, the Official Reporter moves around the floor next to the speaker

In the House, the Official Reporter sits in the "Well" of the floor

Source: http://houselive.gov/?view_id=2&clip_id=11018
http://floor.senate.gov/?view_id=2&clip_id=1406

Example of a modern stenographic machine
Workflow of Official Reporter (Senate)

Transcribe
- Team of eight work in 15-minute relays on the floor of the Senate

Translate
- In office, use personal dictionary to translate shorthand

Edit
- Reporter ensures transcription accurately reflects intended statements
- Put in proper procedural terminology
- Shift/insert content in logical place
- Peer review for spelling, grammar, and GPO Style Manual

Transmit
- Electronic file or ‘slug’ is transmitted to GPO
- Manuscript received from floor staff or Member staff, and hard copy of transcription picked up by GPO courier

Goal: to record the work done on the floor and aspects of parliamentary procedure in the Congressional Record

GPO Begins Work

- Files are transmitted electronically
  - ASCII text, XML, PDF, MS Word, Word Perfect, …
  - Known as ‘slugs’

- Hard copy manuscripts are picked up by GPO messengers
  - Paper, CD, floppy diskettes

* Hard copy remains “king” or official version if there are discrepancies
Pre-Press Work

- **Markup**
  - Establishes pagination according to instructions from the Hill
  - Marks up hard copy with typesetting codes

- **Proofreading**
  - Ensures text matches manuscript word for word
  - Verifies that text conforms to Congressional Record style

- **Keyboard**
  - Ensures proofing and coding on text is transferred to electronic file
  - Converts, codes, and outputs content received directly from other sources

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**Galley Output**

**Page Output**

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_government printing office_
Assembling Content in the Correct Order

1. Incoming content from the Hill
2. Corrections from the Hill
3. Assembled for delivery
4. 2-3 page extensions
5. Signatures

Work is measured in inches

- Newspapers record column length
- Average night’s worth of hard copy
- Condensed down to a daily issue

Above – January 13, 2015 issue
Content that must be included

- Submitted amendment text (Senate)
- Constitutional Authority Statements (House)
- Conference Reports – a matter of public record
  - If the size of the report or schedule constraints prevent the report from being included in that day’s Congressional Record, GPO will scan a hard copy of it and post it online on FDsys
Too little content

Can happen because a chamber has:

• Adjourned
• Recessed
• Held a pro forma session
  – Chamber cannot adjourn for more than 3 days without other chamber’s consent (Constitution)
  – Prevent presidential pocket veto
  – Prevent recess appointment

Combining Multiple Days of Content

In print – content from multiple days may be merged into one issue

On FDsys – the same content is divided onto appropriate days
Press Work

Plate Room (technically ‘pre-press’)
• Imposes files
• Creates plates for press

Press Room
• Prints the signatures

Bindery
• Keeps track of signatures
• Cuts, folds, & glues or ‘binds’ issues

Delivery
• Delivers the issues to the Hill

Imposing the Pages

Pages are imposed in layout

So after printing, the paper can be folded and cut in the proper page order

Source:
http://www.des.wa.gov/SiteCollectionDocuments/PrintingMail/Printing/16_page_range.gif
Plate Room

Plate room's laser plate setter  Plate processor ‘bath’

A laser will flash text on the chemical coated aluminum plate in the chamber - burning the chemical on the plate. Chemical that is not heat-set is washed away in a bath. The final plate is coming out of the bath.

Above: Mike Duley and Jeffrey Apple - Offset Platemaker Strippers

Print Plates Ready for the Web Press

Printing plates
Press Room – Hantscho Web Press

Web Press – control panel

Web Press = ‘web of paper’

Typical Offset Press Diagram

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offset_printing#cite_note-kipphan130-144-9
Running Through the Web Press

Ink is added to the printing plate that is wrapped around a Plate Cylinder in the web press. Ink is rolled onto an offset cylinder or blanket – which is transferring the ink to the paper.

Final Web Press Steps

Paper must be folded and cut. Signature rolling off the web press.
Staging the Signatures

Compressing the signatures for staging

Putting signatures on a pallet

Above: Calvin Trice – PPW (Web Press)

Paper

Paper rolls weigh 1,693 lbs.

Rolls get dropped down this chute

Above:
Alan Scott – Web Offset Pressperson (left) & Leon Wilkins - Second Web Pressman (right)
Moving Paper Rolls ➔

'Bowling' lanes

Bumpers stop the rolls at the end of the lane

Close up of hydraulic dampeners

Clamp truck - used to move paper rolls

Paper elevators
Ink Totes and Drums

Large totes hold 2,758 pounds of soy based ink

Small barrels are 55 gallon drums

End of The Process – Bindery Unit

Signatures awaiting assembly are ‘staged’ to keep them in order
Adhesive Binding Machine

Signatures are put in order - one per track. On the back side, rollers grab one signature from each track – compiling the signatures into an issue. Individual issues containing compiled signatures move down a conveyor belt to have their spines cut and glued.

Final Product
Delivering to the Hill

One of GPO's trucks

GPO is just north of the Capitol

The daily run is a part of our fiber...

GPO horse stables – wagons on the right were used to haul the Congressional Record. c. 1890

GPO Baker Electric Cars at the U.S. Capitol. c. 1911
Over 140 Years Later…

‘Building B’ entrance

Loading onto FDsys

Package files created by Text Edit Processing section:

- Microcomp locator file → ASCII text format
- Postscript file → PDF format

File being submitted on FDsys
What is FDsys Metadata?

- Information that describes the content within FDsys.
  - Describes how, when, and by whom content was collected, what the content is, where it resides, and how it is formatted.
- Information about the publication, including things like the title, personal names, committee names, the date, and more.

FDsys Metadata

Two types of metadata:
- MODS: Metadata Object Description Schema (Library of Congress)
- PREMIS: Preservation Metadata Implementation Strategies

Example of MODS Metadata
Examples of metadata highlighted

Blue ribbon = unaltered since certification

Authentication

← GPO Seal of Authenticity
All in a day’s work

7 pm  
GPO typically receives files/manuscripts from H/S

6, 8, 11:30 pm  
2nd shift GPO staff (staggered start times) begin preparing the manuscript and galley run

11:30 pm  
3rd shift GPO staff arrive to work on completing the galleys and page proofs

12 am  
GPO typically receives final content from Congress

3 am  
Crunch time. Except for mandatory content, new content received from the House and the Senate may be sent to next day’s CR. GPO staff must decide what content will get moved to the next day’s CR

5 am – 6 am  
Signatures (okayed pages) are sent to Plate Room

6 am  
Online version is loaded onto FDsys

6 – 7:30 am  
Press room begins to prints pages/signatures

7 am  
Final signatures sent to Plate Room

8 am  
Bindery typically begins binding the book as soon as final signatures are received from the press

9 am  
Print is received at House and Senate chambers and offices

How to tell if Congress is working late

Tholos is lit = Congress is in session
Flag is flying over House (south) = House is in session
Flag flies over east and west central entrances, 24 hours a day

Image source: http://www.aoc.gov/blog/capitol-illumination
What are GPO staff looking for?

Not in night session: 

In night session: 

Sources:
http://www.house.gov/content/educate/internships.php
http://www.senate.gov/visiting/common/image/Dome_at_night.htm

Congressional Record Index

• Is a separate index – it is not in the back of the Congressional Record
• Only indexes the current year; each year is cumulated at the end

• Contains two sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Print Format (updated biweekly)</th>
<th>In FDsys Collections (updated daily)</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A to Z Index</td>
<td>Congressional Record Index</td>
<td>Indexes individuals, organization, and topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Bills</td>
<td>History of Bills</td>
<td>List of bills and actions on them</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examples of the Congressional Record Index (FDsys) and the History of Bills (FDsys)

Note the daily Congressional Record citation information

Bound Permanent Congressional Record

Page citations go from daily edition:

- H1234
- S1234
- E1234
- D1234

To the Bound edition:

- 12,345

Tip - All additional content submitted for a bill or measure (that may have been printed over several daily issues), will appear next to the original measure in the bound, permanent edition.
A very big thanks to the following:

- Patrick Renzi – Chief Official Reporter of the U.S. Senate
- Walter Wingo – Manager, Bindery Operations, Binding Division
- Darrell Mahoney – Bindery Foreperson, Binding Division
- David Camp – Manager Prepress Operations, Electronic Photocomposition Division
- Milton Conley – Foreperson, Digital Pre-Press
- David Cannon – Prepress Supervisor, Digital Prepress Section
- Marsha McRae – Press Foreperson, Offset Press Section
- Gary Evans – Press / Assistant Manager, Offset Press Section
- Eric Joyner – Supervisory IT Specialist, Text Processing
- Shelley Welcher – Plant Operations Production Manager
- Craig Cooper – Photographer, Internal Branding, Design & Web Services
- Lyle Green – Managing Director, Official Journals of Government, Congressional Publishing Services
- Sarah Rees – Senior Printing Services Specialist
- Mary Ullrich – Assistant Director, Congressional Publishing Services
- Robert Poland – Printing Specialist, Congressional Publishing Services
- Darlene Rios-Bay – Prepress Foreperson, Proof & Copy Markup
- Steven Hunter – Foreperson In Charge, Proof & Copy Markup
- Marcia Thompson – Chief, Congressional Record Indexing
- Barbara Brunson – Historian of Bills
- David Ware – Printer Proofreader/Bound Record Coordinator
In Closing…

Questions?

Use askGPO at http://www.gpo.gov/askgpo/
Select the category “Ask a Librarian”

Light’s on! We’re still at work →

Source: http://blogs.loc.gov/law/files/2013/04/Capitol_Dome_at_night_with_tholos_lit.jpg