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U.S. Congressional Documents and Resources

The United States Congress

Database Access Key:

Consult IUCAT for print locations or **eBooks**	Access **ProQuest Congressional** via proxied link
Free/government databases are linked directly	Access **ProQuest Legislative Insight** via proxied link
Access **HeinOnline** via proxied link	Jerome Hall Law Library **Online Resources**

Resources for Congressional Documents: Indexes & Full Text Databases

Congress.gov: Presented by the Library of Congress, Congress.gov is the official website for U.S. federal legislative information. The site provides access to legislation (bills, resolutions, and laws) the *Congressional Record*, member profiles, information on the legislative process, and a Legislative Glossary.

- Consult "About Congress.gov" for more information and Coverage Dates for Legislative Information for the specific update schedules and start date for each collection.
- Learn about Search Tools.
- Register for a Congress.gov account to save a search or set up an alert.

GovInfo.gov: GovInfo provides free online access to official Federal Government publications (Congressional bills, calendars, committee prints & documents, Congressional hearings, directories, *Congressional Record* and "History of Bills and Resolutions," committee and conference reports, U.S. Constitution, Rules & Manual for both House and Senate, journals, public and private laws, U.S. Code, *U.S. Statutes at Large*). Read the "about" information for each collection.

- See "About Us" for more information.
- "Finding Information" (search tips for Basic, Advanced, and Citation searching, and Browsing)
- "Tutorials and Handouts" (includes short video tutorials and downloadable handouts)

HathiTrust: Public access digital library (by partnership of major research institutions) containing collections of government documents. Features: advanced catalog search, full-text search, browse collections, mobile website.

HeinOnline: provides full-text (PDF) access to a large collection of U.S. Congressional documents, including the complete *Congressional Record* Bound version, as well as the daily version back to 1980, *U.S. Statutes at Large*, Congressional hearings (early 1900s-present), the U.S. Congressional Serial Set (House and Senate Documents, House and Senate Reports, the American State Papers), and a library of compiled legislative histories (*U.S. Federal Legislative History Library*).

- Knowledge Base
- Training Guides

Lexis+: Access legislative history content through **Explore**: **"Content" tab:**

- **From Content tab >** choose **Statutes & Legislation >** under the **"Content Type" category** you can select Bill Text, Bill Tracking, *Congressional Record*, "Legislative Histories," Public Laws/ALS

  - **Under the Content Type category, choose "Legislative Histories" to access a collection of compiled legislation histories, plus research tools (indexes) and the full text of Congressional documents**:

    - **Full text collections of U.S. Congressional documents include:** Committee Prints, Committee Reports, Congressional Documents, Congressional Hearings, CRS Reports, House and Senate Docs, Voting Records, IRC Legislative History, Tax Legislative Histories. Coverage varies by collection.

    - **Research Tools:**
      - **"CIS/Historical Index"** (1789-1984): provides access to bibliographic records for U.S. Serial Set, including Reported Bill Numbers (1789-1969); Senate Executive Documents and Reports (1817-1969); U.S. Congressional Committee Hearings (1833-1969); Unpublished U.S. Senate Committee Hearings (1823-1972); Unpublished U.S. House Committee Hearings (1833-1958); U.S. Congressional Committee Prints (1830-1969)
      - **"US-CIS/Index"** (1970-current): provides abstracts of Congressional committee hearings, prints, reports and documents published by active House, Senate, and Joint committees and subcommittees. Also contains compiled legislative histories of all Public Laws enacted since 1970, (except for purely technical and ceremonial laws). The histories provide a summary of the Public Law along with references to all Congressional publications that are part of the law's history. Unpublished hearings are found in the CISHST (US-CIS/Historical Index) file.

ProQuest Congressional: a comprehensive resource for U.S. Congressional publications providing indexing, abstracts, and full text (PDF's) for legislative documents dating back to 1789.

Documents include bills, House and Senate committee reports, House and Senate documents, committee prints, hearings, Public Laws, *Statutes at Large*, *Congressional Record*, the *Serial Set*, compiled legislative histories and more.

- Look at ProQuest Congressional Guides (look at "Congressional Basic" and "ProQuest Congressional & Executive Branch Documents") for information on Congressional documents and how to use the resources in ProQuest Congressional.

ProQuest Legislative Insight: a database of compiled legislative histories for enacted Federal laws. Contains digital full text publications created by Congress during the process leading up to the enactment of U.S. Public Laws. Coverage dates back to 1789 (see the Guide).

Westlaw Edge: Access legislative history content through **"Content types" tab** > under the **Specialty areas** category > select **Legislative History**

- **Under the Federal category you can select**: *Congressional Record*, *U.S. Code Congressional & Administrative News* (contains public laws & select committee reports), U.S. Congressional Testimony (transcripts from Congressional committee hearings)

- **Westlaw's two compiled legislative history collections are:**
  - U.S. GAO Federal Legislative Histories: Compiled histories of most U.S. public laws enacted between 1921 and 1995.
  - Arnold & Porter Legislative Histories: Thirty legislative histories of well-known acts, 1972 to current.

A Century of Lawmaking: U.S. Congressional Documents & Debates (1774-1875). "*A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation* consists of a linked set of published congressional records of the United States of America from the Continental Congress through the 43rd Congress, 1774-1875. It includes the *Journals of the Continental Congress* (1774-89); the *Letters of Delegates to Congress* (1774-89); the *Records of the Federal Convention of 1787*, or *Farrand's Records*, and the *Debates in the Several State Conventions on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution* (1787-88), or *Elliot's Debates*; the *Journals* of the *House of Representatives* (1789-1875) and the *Senate* (1789-1875), including the *Senate Executive Journal* (1789-1875); the *Journal of William Maclay* (1789-91), senator from Pennsylvania in the 1st Congress; the debates of Congress as published in the *Annals of Congress* (1789-1824), the *Register of Debates* (1824-37), *Congressional Globe* (1833-73), and *Congressional Record* (1873-75); the *Statutes at Large* (1789-1875); the *American State Papers* (1789-1838); and congressional bills and resolutions for selected sessions beginning with the 6th Congress (1799) in the House of Representatives and the 16th Congress (1819) in the Senate. A select number of documents and reports from the monumental *U.S. Congressional Serial Set* are available as well."

- These optically scanned documents are not full text searchable, but they do have various indices as "navigators" to the system.
- When researching the legislative history of public laws before the 20th Century, these early debate records were often the only sources that might explain the legislative intent of Congress in enacting a particular law or one of its provisions.

Additional Indexes and Catalogs

Congressional Record. Washington, D.C.: GPO. The *Congressional Record* has its own index, which is arranged alphabetically by subject, name, and title of legislation.

- The index for the permanent edition is published annually and is cumulative for the session.
- The non-cumulative index for the daily edition is published biweekly and is available on GovInfo dating back to 1983, and on Congress.gov dating back to 1995.
- The indexes for both the daily and permanent editions are available in print.
- Digitized versions of the indexes for the daily and permanent editions are online at HeinOnline (U.S. Congressional Documents library > Congressional Record > select *Congressional Record* or *Congressional Record Daily* > the index is the penultimate part of a volume).
- The separate Senate and House "History of Bills and Resolutions" (published in the *Congressional Record* index volumes) lists the bills introduced in a congressional session and summarizes their legislative history, including citations to page numbers where activity can be found in the bound *Congressional Record*. The History of Bills and Resolutions for the daily edition of the *Congressional Record* is a separate collection in GovInfo.

Library and government documents catalogs: Many Congressional documents, such as hearings, committee reports, and committee prints are cataloged by libraries. Try searching the following catalogs: IUCAT; WorldCat; Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP) (1976 to current).

Numerical Lists and Schedule of Volumes of the reports and documents of the ... Congress ... session: Lists numerically (including a brief title), all of the Senate and House Documents and Reports issued during a Session of Congress. The Numerical List also indicates the specific volume of the Congressional Serial Set in which each Document and Report is bound. [Print and online].

United States Congressional Serial Set Catalog. GPO. (Print resource). Beginning with the 98th Congress (1983-1984) GPO produced a catalog volume for all documents and reports issued each Congress, entitled *United States Congressional Serial Set Catalog* and in the preliminary pages of each volume was a finalized "Numerical List of Documents and Reports" and a finalized "Schedule of Serial Set Volumes." After the 105th Congress (1997-1998), the Serial Set Catalog was replaced by the online Congressional Serial Set Catalog. For more information, see "An Overview of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set," at the *LLSDC's Legislative Source Book*, especially the section on Indexing.

Laws, Statutes, and Codes

Public Laws, Congress.gov: Indexing, 93rd Cong. (1973-1974) to current. Full-text, 103th Cong. (1993) to current.

Public and Private Laws, GovInfo: 104th Cong. (1995) to current.

United States Code, current version: United States Code website (Office of the Law Revision Counsel)

United States Code, official version. Washington: GPO. 1926 to current. The official United States Code is published every six years and is updated annually. [Print; GovInfo; current and superseded editions at HeinOnline].

United States Code Annotated (USCA). Thomson Reuters. [Print; *Westlaw*].

United States Code Service (USCS). LexisNexis. [Print; *Lexis*].

United States Statutes at Large (*U.S. Statutes at Large*). Washington: GPO. 1789- . [Print; *ProQuest Congressional*; HeinOnline; GovInfo].

Research Guide

Federal Legislative History Research: The legislative process, the documents generated by each step, and resources for finding Congressional documents (IU Jerome Hall Law Library)