Public Papers of the President

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21 AUGUST 2019
What We Will Cover Today

• Introduce the Office of the Federal Register and its duties
• Explain the Public Papers of the Presidents (PPP)
• Describe the PPP digitization project
• Explain of the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents / Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents (DCPD)
• Demonstrate how to find these publications on govinfo
Office of the Federal Register

- Part of the National Archives and Records Administration
- Created in 1935
- Federal Register was OFR’s first publication in 1936
- Code of Federal Regulations came soon after
- More publications added over time
- Additional duties
  - Electoral College
  - Constitutional amendments
# OFR Publications

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Public Papers of the President

• Papers, speeches, and remarks given by the President during a six-month period of the administration

• Also includes
  • Photo of the President at the start of the book (frontispiece)
  • Foreword from the President
  • Photo portfolio in middle of book
  • Three indices (subject, name, document categories)

• Is considered a special edition of the Federal Register
PPP History – Predecessors

- James D. Richardson compiled the messages and papers of the Presidents covering the period 1789 to 1897
- Published under congressional authority between 1896 and 1899
- Other private compilations were issued later
- By mid-20th century, many Presidential papers were only available as mimeographed White House releases or as reported in the press
PPP History – NHPC

- National Historical Publications Commission recommended the establishment of an official series of publications that would contain Presidential writings, addresses, and remarks of a public nature.
- The Commission’s recommendation was incorporated in regulations of the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register.
PPP History

- The OFR first produced the Public Papers of the President in 1957 in response to the NHPC recommendation
- Administrations prior to 1957 were published retroactively
- In the past, some years had 1, 2, or 3 books – now the standard is 2 books per year
- During the Carter administration in the 1970s, the PPP expanded to include additional material from the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents:
  - Digest of Other White House Announcements
  - Nominations Submitted to the Senate
  - Checklist of White House Press Releases
  - Presidential Documents Published in the Federal Register
- PPP first placed online in December 2009
PPP Digitization Project

- GPO performed a quality check then digitized the following PPP books:
  - Herbert Hoover (4 books – March 4, 1929 to March 4, 1933)
  - Harry Truman (8 books – April 12, 1945 to January 20, 1953)
  - Dwight Eisenhower (8 books – January 20, 1953 to January 20, 1961)
  - Lyndon Johnson (10 books – November 22, 1963 to January 20, 1969)
  - Richard Nixon (6 books – January 20, 1969 to August 9, 1974)
  - Gerald Ford (6 books – August 9, 1974 to January 20, 1977)
- Available govinfo in July of 2019
Compilation of Presidential Documents

- The Compilation of Presidential Documents is composed of the Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents and its predecessor the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents
- Documents are edited for accuracy and annotated with additional information to provide an authoritative record of the Presidency
- It is considered a special edition of the Federal Register
Documents in the DCPD

- Proclamations, Executive orders, memorandums, and other Presidential documents originally published in the Federal Register
- Speeches and remarks
- Press conferences
- Communications to Congress and Federal agencies
- Statements regarding bill signings and vetoes
- Appointments, nominations
- Reorganization plans
- Resignations
- Retirements
- Acts approved by the President
- Nominations submitted to the Senate
- White House announcements
- Press releases
WCPD / DCPD History

• Code of Federal Regulations Title 1, Chapter 10
• Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents first published in 1965
• Provided a broader range of Presidential materials on a more timely basis
• The Weekly Compilation, a print publication, was superseded by the online Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents on January 20, 2009
Production Process

**DCPD**

**Receiving**
- Includes only documents issued by the White House Office of the Press Secretary (OPS).
- OFR assigns each document a number based on chronology and document type. The DCPD number is found at the end of each document and is used to identify documents on govinfo. Sample DCPD Number: DCPD201900509.
- OFR White House editor loads text received via email from OPS into custom DCPD template; composes headings, subheads, and text notes; transmits to OFR editors to perform editorial work.

**Editing**
- OFR editor checks remarks against audio/video recording and amends OPS transcript as needed. Signed documents are checked against the original, when available. Each document reviewed by a second editor.
- Documents are edited for style (spelling, capitalization, hyphenation, etc.) according to GPO Style Manual and in-house guidelines. Grammatical or other verbal missteps are NOT corrected unless indicated by OPS. Documents reflect the President’s words as originally spoken.
Production Process

DCPD (cont’d)

**Research/Composition**
- Editorial notes included for identification, clarity, and to indicate time and location of remarks. Times noted are local times.
- On a weekly basis, OFR editors research and compose Digest of Other White House Announcements, a running schedule of the President’s activities, including travel, meetings, and phone conversations, based on statements and materials made public by OPS.

**Indexing**
- Each document is indexed by OFR editors according to subject, name, and document category.
- Index terms are compiled at the end of each document as online search aids, and are the genesis of the PPP indexes.

**Publishing**
- OFR generates completed document in Word, PDF, and HTML formats.
- OFR transmits digital document package to GPO staff for uploading to govinfo.
Production Process

Public Papers

Book Creation

- DCPD items (excluding Pres Docs published in Federal Register) uploaded weekly into FrameMaker desktop publishing software to build Public Papers volumes.
- FrameMaker converts DCPD index tags into Subject, Name, and Category indexes at back of each volume.
- Four appendixes added, including App. D: table listing Pres Docs published in Federal Register.
- Foreword signed by President uploaded to frontmatter, highlights achievements from 6-month period.

Editing and Photos

- All text and indexes reviewed by OFR editors for stylistic consistency, accuracy, comprehensiveness, and formatting.
- OFR editors select photos from White House flickr account, compose captions, and work with GPO graphic designers to create 8-page photographic portfolio (approx. 20 photos) and frontispiece.
Production Process

Public Papers (cont’d)

- Upon completion of editorial process, OFR submits PDF of entire book to GPO for printing and binding. OFR performs inspections at each stage of publication process.
- In addition to clothbound public copies, a personalized, handcrafted leather volume is delivered to the President.
- OFR editors create XML version of entire book; create digital package including PDF book, XML book, and photographic portfolio and captions; submit to GPO for online publication.
DCPD and WCPD on govinfo

• www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/CPD

• Available online
  • Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents 1993 – 2009
  • Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents 2009 – 2019
PPP on govinfo

- www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/PPP

- Volumes of the Public Papers of the Presidents from 1929 (Herbert Hoover) to 1991 (George H.W. Bush) are digitized files

- 1992 and subsequent are “born digital”

- Note: The Public Papers for President for Franklin D. Roosevelt were not published by the National Archives but by a private printer (before the commencement of the official Public Papers series) and are not currently available on govinfo