Digital Collections at the Law Library of Congress: Past, Present and Future

Jennifer González
Stephen Mayeaux
Chris Ehrman
Introduction

• Law Library of Congress
  Established by Congress in 1832. The world’s largest law library with over 2.65 million volumes of primary and secondary sources from nearly every jurisdiction in the world.

• Digital Resources Division (DRD)
  Facilitates online access to the Law Library collection through digitization and digital collection management
Today’s Agenda

• **Past**
  American Indian Constitutions and Military Legal Resources
  Federal Register [1936-1993]

• **Present (Ongoing)**
  Statutes at Large [1789-1950]
  U.S. Treaties [1795-1984]
  U.S. Reports [1754-2013]
  Current Legal Reports
  Legal Report Archive
  *Herencia*: Centuries of Spanish Legal Documents

• **Future**
  U.S. Congressional Serial Set
American Indian Constitutions

Mapping American Indian Constitutions and Legal Materials

Select a Region: Alaska

Regions:
- Pacific Northwest (Old Oregon Country)
- North Central and Northwest Regions (The Old Northwest Territory)
- New Southwest
- Former Indian Territory
- South (Old Southwest)
- Northeast Atlantic New England
- Alaska
- Hawaii
# American Indian Constitutions

**US South**: Comprising Virginia, and West Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, and the old Southwest (Louisiana, Arkansas, Indian Oklahoma, and Texas), and the historical Indian Territory. See also the US South section of the Indigenous Law Portal.

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American Indian Constitutions

ORDINANCES

OF THE

TOWN OF TAHLEQUAH

INSTITUTED BY THE

TOWN COUNCIL

AND ORDERED TO BE

Compiled and Printed

FOR

General Information, 1890.

TAHLEQUAH

TELEPHONED PRINT.

1890.

TOWN OF TAHLEQUAH.

ORDINANCE XXIX.

CARRYING A POLICEMAN'S WHISTLE.

Any person found with the implement commonly known as and called a "Policeman's Whistle," without authority to have and carry such implement, shall be fined for such act—which is hereby declared to be unlawful—not less than two nor more than ten dollars, at the discretion of the Court.

ORDINANCE XXX.

FEEDING TEAMS ON THE STREETS.

The feeding of live stock on any street of this town is hereby forbidden; and any person violating this ordinance shall be fined not less than one nor more than five dollars, at the Court's discretion.
Military Legal Resources

The William Wirtsworth Memorial Library at the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center & School in Charlottesville, VA, holds extensive collections of primary source materials and publications in the field of military law. Selections from these collections are now being made accessible via the Law Library of Congress.

JAG Legal Center & School Materials

- Annual Commandant Documents
- JAG Legal Center Deskbooks and Other Publications
- The Army Lawyer
- Military Law Review
- The Advocate
- Judge Advocate Journal
- Scholarly Articles, Monographs, Scrapbooks, and Theses
- Lieber Collection (19th century personal library of BG Lieber)

Historical Materials

- Organized chronologically:
  - Indian Wars
  - Civil War
  - World War II
  - Korean War
  - Vietnam War
- Military Law Historical Monographs, Studies, Texts, and Treatises
- U.S. Army Regulations, Manuals, Circulars, and Pamphlets

Military Law and Legislative Histories

- Articles of War (1912-1920)
- Uniform Code of Military Justice (1946-1951)
- Manual for Courts Martial

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Federal Register
United States Reports

United States Reports is a series of bound case reporters that are the official reports of decisions for the United States Supreme Court.

A citation to a United States Supreme Court decision includes three elements that are needed to retrieve a case. For example, Chevron U.S.A. Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council Inc., 467 U.S. 837 (1984). 467 indicates the volume in which the case is reported. U.S. indicates the abbreviation for U.S. Reports, 837 indicates the initial page number of the case, and 1984 indicates the year the case was decided.

Early reports of U.S. Supreme Court decisions were named for the clerk who compiled them. U.S. Reports includes the content from these nominative reporters. You can translate a citation from a nominative reporter to a volume of the U.S. Reports by using this chart:


This collection spans 1754-2003 or volumes 1 through 542. Later volumes and more current cases may be found at the Supreme Court Website by:

- **Bound Volume**
- **Case Citation Finder**
- **U.S. Reports by Volume**
- **U.S. Report by Authoring Justice**
- **U.S. Reports by Major Case Topic**
Search Results: Metadata and Facets

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Contributor: Supreme Court of the United States - Taney, Roger Brooke
Date: 1856

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Date: 1754

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United States Code

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Title 1: General Provisions
Title 2: The Congress
Title 3: The President
Title 4: Flag and Seal, Seat of Government, and the States
Title 5: Executive Departments and Government Officers and Employees
Title 6: Official and Penal Bonds
Title 7: Agriculture
Title 8: Aliens and Citizenship
Title 9: Admiralty
Title 10: Army
Title 11: Bankruptcy
Title 12: Banks and Banking
Title 13: Census
Title 14: Coast Guard
Title 15: Commerce and Trade
Title 16: Conservation
Title 17: Copyrights
Title 18: Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure
Title 19: Customs Duties
Title 20: Education
Title 21: Food and Drugs
Title 22: Foreign Relations and Intercourse
Title 23: Highways
Title 24: Hospitals, Asylums, and Cemeteries
Title 25: Indians
Title 26: Internal Revenue and Appendix
Title 27: Intoxicating Liquors
Title 28: Judicial Code and Judiciary
Title 29: Labor
Title 30: Mineral Lands and Mining
Title 31: Money and Finance
Title 32: National Guard
Title 33: Navigation and Navigable Waters
Title 34: Navy
Title 35: Patents
Title 36: Patriotic Societies and Observances
Title 37: Pay and Allowances (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Coast and Geodetic Survey, and Public Health Service)
Title 38: Postal Service, Postage, and Postroad Bill
# Statutes at Large

## Session 1 (1837)

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<th>Act Description</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>An Act to postpone the fourth installment of deposits with the States.</td>
<td>Oct. 2, 1837</td>
<td>PDF, 75KB</td>
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<td>An Act to authorize the issuing of Treasury Notes.</td>
<td>Oct. 12, 1837</td>
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<td>An Act to regulate the Fees of District Attorneys in certain cases.</td>
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<td>Oct. 14, 1837</td>
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<td>An Act for the relief of D. P. Madison.</td>
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<td>An Act making an additional appropriation for the suppression of Indian hostilities for the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven.</td>
<td>Oct. 16, 1837</td>
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<td>An Act making further appropriations for the year eighteen hundred and thirty-seven.</td>
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## Session 2 (1838)

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<td>1</td>
<td>An Act to authorize the President of the United States to cause the public vessels to cruise upon the coast in the winter season; and to relieve distressed navigators.</td>
<td>Dec. 22, 1837</td>
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<td>An Act to ratify and confirm certain official acts of John Pope, late Governor of Arkansas.</td>
<td>Jan 16, 1838</td>
<td>PDF, 177KB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>An Act to provide for the payment of the annuities which will become Jan. 18, 1838 due and payable to the Great and Little Osages, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight, and for other purposes.</td>
<td>Jan 10, 1838</td>
<td>PDF, 91KB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>An Act making a partial appropriation for the suppression of Indian hostilities for the year eighteen hundred and thirty-eight.</td>
<td>Jan 30, 1838</td>
<td>PDF, 91KB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>An Act making an appropriation for the protection of the northern frontier of the United States.</td>
<td>Jan 30, 1838</td>
<td>PDF, 155KB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Private Law</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Private Law</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Private Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Private Law</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
United States Treaties and International Agreement, compiled by Charles I. Bevans [Catalog record]

**Multilateral Treaties**

- Volume 1 (1776-1917)
- Volume 2 (1918-1930)
- Volume 3 (1931-1945)
- Volume 4 (1946-1949)

**Bilateral Treaties**

- Volume 5 (Afghanistan-Burma)
- Volume 6 (Canada-Czechoslovakia)
- Volume 7 (Denmark-France)
- Volume 8 (Germany-Iran)
- Volume 9 (Iraq-Muscat)
- Volume 10 (Nepal-Peru)
- Volume 11 (Philippines-United Arab Republic)
- Volume 12 (United Kingdom-Zanzibar)
- Volume 13: Index
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• Current Research on FCIL Topics
  “Current Legal Topics” and “Comprehensive Index of Legal Reports” on law.gov

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  Reports published monthly on law.gov

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*Financial Disclosure Laws for Foreign Legislatures.*
https://www.loc.gov/item/2019668661/
Herencia: Centuries of Spanish Legal Documents

• 2,400+ documents
  Approximately 70% Spanish, 25% Latin, 5% Catalan

• All documents now online
  “Spanish Legal Documents (15th-19th Centuries)” (loc.gov/collections)

• By the People (crowd.loc.gov)
  Approximately 1/3 now online for crowdsourced transcription at crowd.loc.gov

Statement issued by [...] concerning members of the Bishopric of Albarracin’s obligation to pay certain taxes called "diezmos" [i.e. one tenth] for pasturage rights. [November 26, 1734].
Herencia: Centuries of Spanish Legal Documents

• First entirely non-English crowdsourcing project at LC
  Phase 1 now online. Phases 2 and 3 coming soon.

https://crowd.loc.gov/
Serial Set Overview

• Official, bound collection of reports and documents of the House and Senate of the U.S. Congress

• Published from 1817 (15th Congress) to the present.

• Previous Congress’ documents published as the American State Papers
Serial Set Overview

- Digitizing Serial Set volumes published from the 15th to the 103rd Congress (1817-1995)
  Approximately 15,735 volumes
  12 million pages

- 104th Congress (1996) – Present are available through the GPO website
Serial Set Pilot Project

• Digitized a sampling of the Serial Set volumes
  • 1,018 volumes
  • 698,802 images

• The complete set of volumes issued during the 69th (1925-1926) and 82nd (1951-1952) Congress

• Completed Winter 2019

• Being processed to match full digitization specifications
Serial Set Partnership with GPO

• **Law Library:**
  - Manages the digitization of Serial Set volumes
  - Provides accepted digitized volumes to the GPO

• **Government Publishing Office (GPO):**
  - Will provide cataloging of the Serial Set volumes and documents
  - Adding authentication to the PDF files
  - Providing Serial Set volumes that are missing or incomplete in the Library’s collections

• The digitized Serial Set will be available through both the Library of Congress and GPO websites
Serial Set Digitization

• Goal of digitizing ~750 volumes per quarter over 5 years

• Workflow
  • Evaluate volumes for completeness
  • Send for digitization
  • QR of digitized volumes

• Send accepted bags to GPO for cataloging

• Access points through Library of Congress and GPO websites
Law Library Website

Serial Set Digitization Project

The U.S. Congressional Serial Set, commonly known as the Serial Set, is a compilation of journals, reports, and documents from House and Senate proceedings as well as documents from executive departments and independent agencies. In addition to providing context for the federal legislative process, the Serial Set is a useful resource for understanding issues that have been investigated by Congress throughout history, including the geographical expansion of the United States, the nature of international affairs, national museum acquisitions, and much more. The Law Library of Congress and the Government Publishing Office are collaborating to digitize Serial Set documents published between the 15th (1817) and 103rd (1994) Congresses, thus making accessible two centuries' worth of American legislative history.

Press Releases

Blog Posts
- From the Serial Set: Congress and Territories - Bailey DeSimone - May 12, 2020
- From the Serial Set: *Memorials* and an International Copyright Law? - Bailey DeSimone - April 23, 2020
- From the Serial Set: *Peculiarities* of Life in D.C. (1880) - Bailey DeSimone - March 10, 2020
- From the Serial Set: Before It Was Presidents' Day... - Bailey DeSimone - February 18, 2020
- From the Serial Set: 180 Years of the Law Library - Bailey DeSimone - January 17, 2020
From the Serial Set: Congress and the Territories
May 12, 2020 by Stephen Mayeaux

The following is a guest post by Bailey DeSimone, a library technician (metadata) in the Digital Resources Division of the Law Library of Congress. Her ongoing blog series, From the Serial Set, shares discoveries from the Law Library’s Serial Set Digitization Project.

The House Committee on Territories was formed in 1825 during the 1st Session of the 19th Congress. Created to “examine [the] legislative, civil, and criminal proceedings” to “secure the rights and privileges of residents and non-residents” of United States territories, the Committee operated until the 79th Congress in 1946. (House Journal, 19th Cong., 1st Sess., 5 December 1825, 45.) United States territories are created through organic acts, which permit the establishment of a separate government.

Acts of territorial legislatures during the period of westward expansion were handled by this Committee. Throughout many of the early volumes of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set, we can observe the particularities of the relationships between Congress, territories, and other communities inhabiting the present-day United States in the early 19th century.
Upcoming: Story Maps

City Sketches and the Census
Life Across the United States in 1880
city of a great nation. Congress, after much discussion, located the Federal City on the Potomac River by act of Congress, which was approved by President Washington July 16, 1790. The first map of Washington was authorized by an act of Congress July, 1790. As the first step in the preparation of the map Peter Charles L’Enfant wrote to Jefferson April 4, 1791, requesting maps and data concerning London, Madrid, Paris, Amsterdam, Naples, Venice, and Florence. He states that he wishes to obtain this data not that he might copy any one of the maps, but that he might have suggestions for a variety of ideas. Streets, parks, and the sites for the President’s House and the Capitol are all shown on the map made by L’Enfant in 1791 practically as they exist today.” [2]

"By the plan of the city of Washington, in the territory of Columbia, the Capitol in that city is intended as a first meridian for the United States of America; but, in order to
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