

Gov Docs 101 Legislative History Research

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Good afternoon. Welcome to the webinar today. We will be getting started in about five minutes.

Good afternoon. Welcome to FDLP academy webinar. Gov docs 101. This is Kathy Carmichael. And here with us is Chris Brown. Before we get started, I'm going to walk you through a few housekeeping reminders. If you have any questions you'd like to ask the presenter, or if you have any technical issues, please feel free to use the chat box which for people on desk top computers is located in the bottom right hand corner of your screen. I will keep track of all questions that come in and at the end of the presentation, Chris will respond to each of those. We are recording today's session and we will e-mail a link to the recording and slides to everyone who is registered for this webinar. We will also be sending you a certificate of participation using the e-mail you used to e-mail for today's webinar. If anyone needs additional certificates because multiple people watched the webinar please e-mail fdlp outreach and include the title of today's webinar and the name and e-mail addresses of those needing certificates. Desk top computer or laptop users may zoom in on the slides being presented. Click on the full screen button at the bottom left side of your screen. You move your mouse over the blue bar at top of the screen so it expands. At the end of the session, we will be sharing a webinar satisfaction survey with you. We will let you know when the survey is available and a URL will appear in the chat box. We appreciate any feedback you can provide after the session including comments on the presentation style and the value of the webinar. Finally, Chris may be screen sharing during his presentation today which means when he starts sharing, you will no longer see the chat box. If you want to ask a question or just watch the chat traffic as he is presenting, once screen sharing begins, just mass over the blue bar at the top and click on chat to enable a chat box. All right,ly turn it over to Chris. Chris, are you ready?

Yes, I am. Can you hear me?

very well. Thanks.

All right. Great. Hi, everybody. I am speaking to you today from the suburb of Denver. And I, like many of you have, have never even been to my library since March of last year. Our library is open. We are receiving the few depository items we still get in intangible format. But mostly online. And so I'm working as a reference librarian from home and I'm the coordinator depository at the university of Denver library. So we'll get started. Apparently there is a lot of interest in legislative history. So please ask your questions and don't be embarrassed by anything. Just ask any questions that you have. So what is Legislative History? Well, I like to define it as all the documents that surround the passage of a particular Act. In other words, law. That is limited to a particular congress. This is the focus of this presentation. This is what is known what is a form of Legislative History. And I will talk about what these documents are and flip back to the other slide. Here are the kinds of documents that might be found in legislative history. Not all of these documents would be found in a particular congressional act but maybe. Congressional debate. In other words, items containing the congressional record. Congressional bills or resolutions. History of bills. Congressional hearings. Congressional reports. Possibly congressional documents. And presidential signing statements. Not everything has a congressional signing statement. Congressional research service reports. Congressional budget office cost estimates. Congressional committee prints. Any of the above from previous congresses. Sometimes libraries have war chi value capers members of congress. And sometimes these are very difficult to find. But they can shed light on

older legislative actions. And sometimes court cases. So generally what we are interested in is, all the documents that surround the passage of an act from a particular, from the congress that we are in now or the congress in which it was passed. But at times we need to look at previous Congresses. So a legislative history might be all of the above but including similar legislation and background documents from previous Congresses. This goes beyond a form of legislative history to a general public that spans multiple congresses. So why might this be the case? Think about it. A Congress is two years. But it takes a long time for major acts to build up background and steam and interest in Congress. So many times there will be a hearing or a report that is very in-depth and substantive but that law never really went the full distance in a previous Congress. So it gets reintroduced in another fashion in the next Congress and maybe this happens several Congresses in a row until it finally gets passed. This usually happens with major monumental pieces of legislation. And so it's necessary in these cases to tie together the reports from the previous Congresses. What is the thing we're trying to get to with legislative histories? What we're trying to get to is, what were they thinking? What were they thinking? What was their data? What was the input that they were considering at the time of passage? Sure there is political considerations, but there is also statistics and data. Sometimes maps. That kind of thing. So all of these things might be considered parts of legislative history. So why do users want legislative histories? Well, these are just some reasons that came to mind. To understand ambiguities in legislation. Believe it or not sometimes legislation, laws aren't clear. To discover what motivated lawmakers to pass legislation. To understand where legislation fits into a public policy issue. To understand successes or failures of outcomes of legislation. And to understand the social or cultural influences upon legislation within a particular slice of time. And of course, I didn't put on the slide, but one question that, one reason that users want legislative history is to do a home work assignment. This is probably, at least to me as an academic library, and the most common way these legislative history questions come my way. Is students in a class, not necessarily a public policy class. It might be an education class or psychology. Many majors, under graduate, or graduates have policy classes in their curriculum. And so they have students do legislative histories on an issue of interest within their field. Another reason that legislative histories are interesting to some people is the legal aspect. Lawyers. Lawyers just have a little bit different interest in legislative histories. And we'll talk about that as we go along. So where do we find legislative histories? Well, we can find them in many different places. Published books and journal articles. This is especially true of major legislative histories. And you can often find these published books and journal articles on Hein online. And I realize that many of you may not have access to Heinonline. If you have a law school connected with a university near you or your university you may have access online through the lawsuit education. Another resource that actually Frankly is quite expensive is perhaps the best resource for finding legislative history work is ProQuest legislative insight. I might do a demo of that at some point, if you would like it. It gives the most exhaustive in several ways. But it also goes back to previous congresses. Another resource from ProQuest that some of you have access to is ProQuest congressional. It has not only legislative history things, but also things that didn't make it to a public law. So it combined with legislative insight is a very powerful pairing. But even if you don't have legislative insight, you can still find a lot of legislative histories in proQuest congressional. I will not focus on these subscription based materials so much today because I want to show you what you can do through the free resources at congress.gov. So this is my conceptionalization. Not of a chronology, you should not use this as a history of a bill. That is whatnot what this is. It's about how to think about the documents as it comes up. It's a little bit crane logical because we have the bill on the right and the statues at large and the U.S. code on the right after and we have some materials that may show the outcome of legislation further on the right. And we have the other things in the middle. But it's not to say that hearings come after reports or documents come before committee. That is not the point of this representation. The first thing to notice here, that will be of interest to you, those of you that are documents librarians, is that reports and documents have a bigger box around them. Because I'm trying

to show that these are contained in the congressional serial set. That is why there is a box there. That used to be really important when a lot of us had the serial set but it's in remote storage. So just pay attention to the main parts of this. Bills. We'll talk about how they are important to the legislative history process. When bills get introduced, they are recorded in the congressional record. And then reports are where we find legislative intent. What I will try to show today is that this is the goal. You want to go for the goal when you are helping students or anybody work with legislative history. This is the easiest and quickest way to find legislative intent. Why a bill became a law. Why someone introduced this. Documents are sometimes important, but usually not. Hearings are important because they contain testimony. However, attorneys general I don't look at hearings. How do I know they don't consider hearings important? Because the attorneys main source of legislative history is a title with UC CSN. In USCAN they have a big issue on legislative debates and reports but they don't make any reference to hears. So we as Gov librarians we would be interesting in what on the history of legislation and what the lawmakers were thinking when they passed. Committee prints which are also wide forus as hearings are. Sometimes are important because they maintain a long history of actions in a certain policy area. It's rare when there is a committee print that is relevant to a legislative history. But when there is something, you will want to know about it. And finally, if the votes are there and the it passes both house of congress, the house and the senate, it becomes law. U.S. statues at law or public laws. This is what I call the law as passed. And the next box is the law as amended. That is the U.S. Code. And that arranged in topical order. That is the law as amended. So when a student comes to me and says I want information as civil rights act of 1964, you know what my first question to them is? Okay. Do you want to find the law as passed. In other words, what was the law that was passed in 1964? Or are you interested in how it stands today? The law as amended. In other words, how it exists in the U.S. code? So when they are interested in legislative history research, they are interested in all of that. They probably want the law as passed, but they also want to see what the bills were that were introduced. What debate there was in the congressional record, and the legislative intent. And the hearings. Okay. Let's look at this from a legislative history perspective. So from the perspective of a legislative history, we're standing from the perspective of the law as passed. Either in the statues at large, or the U.S. Code years later. But we are looking backwards. We are looking backwards at all of these other documents. The bill, the debate, the reports, and the hearings especially. I mean the reports especially and the hearings I should say. That is what we are really looking back on. And a few other elements I don't have on this chart which I will talk about. And that is the presidential signing statements. But hopefully that gives you a moring of where we are going with this. So ProQuest legislative insight, it is the best tool for legislative histories. It's best for several reasons. It goes back, they are not finished with it yet, but adeally it goes back to the first congress. If and when this tool ever gets finished, it could have legislative histories going back to the first congress. And they have things from every congress. They are just really have a lot more research to do on the other congresses. And you can imagine we're now in the 117th congress. And it takes awhile for legislative history to be researched and completed. So don't expect a law that was passed last week is going to show up in a tool, in any legislative history tool. Because it takes a long time to compile. Compile these things. So let me just take a diversion here and share my screen with you. So hopefully you can see this. This is ProQuest Legislative Insight. I just pulled up the -- it shows all the bills. And all the various versions of bills going back to previous congresses. This is the inacted bill from the 109th congress. But you notice related bills that didn't make it existed from the 105th Congress. 106th, 107th, 108th. This is TMI actually. Too much information. Probably the only people that would use this kind of information would be Congressional staffers that are the ones that are going to write to legislative. I have not, I have yet to see a time when I needed this. Maybe some of you will find students that need this, but it's very much in the weeds. Also then, you will find the debate. Just picture that chart in your mind. The congressional debate. The Congressional Records. I would take the S off of that. The Congressional Record. So you will see things from previous congresses where this

topic was debated. And you will also see things from -- it's just replete with information. reports. Remember I said before the reports are the gold mine. Well this is where you will find legislative intent. So if you go to the, this is too much information here. But I just wanted to show you how much value ProQuest adds to legislative history. Hearings. There are many hearings on things related to energy. And ProQuest legislative insight shows that. And we will get down here. So many hearings. I hope I'm not making you dizzy. Committee prints. So you can see how committee prints often go over big picture issues and comparisons section by section analysis and that kind of thing. And then finally, miscellaneous publications. You have congressional research service. Or CRS. Which we know how to find more easily now with CRS.congress.gov. And right on down to the presidential signing statement. So now we are back. Now we are back to the slides. So there is another way to do legislative history. This is what I call the poor man's legislative history. Not to disparage statues at large. But you may have noticed the back page of all public laws have a legislative history. This happens to be that same act. The energy policy act of 2005. And they tend to highlight some of the key dates and key documents in this process. The house report, in which case it's a conference report. Generally I find conference reports not as interesting as other reports. Conference reports just tend to bring into concord the house and senate versions of acts. And that is what they tend to do. If you are a staffer who is writing these things, you would find conference reports very interesting. If you are an attorney arguing things, you might find it interesting. But I find them not so much. I find other kinds of reports that have many things in them. More interesting. We'll talk about that in a little bit. And congressional record is when acts were introduced or major amendments were added. And then it also makes mention significantly of presidential signing statements. Presidential signing statements are generally contained in documents, congressional documents. House document, Senate document. They can be important because the president when signing a bill into law might put reservations on how the executive branch will apply that law. So this is interesting, but it doesn't have nearly nearly enough. You will see a relative report mentioned here. This is not enough. So what you have, you've got really a lot of information in ProQuest Legislative Insight and not enough information here. So let's talk about the various parts of legislative history and where to find them. And the emphasis here will be on congress.gov. And govinfo.gov. Bill text. You can get info at govinfo.gov. Govinfo.gov enabled you to browse bills. There is 80 versions of possible of bills. This is overwhelming. I find myself getting lost in these 80 versions. And you can click on that link at some point and look at that. But it is mind boggling. Congressional debate is integrated in with congress.gov in a very nice way and it links to full text within the context. This full text is taken from the official GPO version, but it's also authenticated full text. And govinfo.gov you can browse the daily info of things. Or the permanent edition from 1873 to 2015. We're going to talk in this presentation several times about hooks. You need a hook to be able to get anywhere with educate live history. By hook, I mean you need a bill number or a public law number. Those are the two hooks. Hearings. Congress.gov doesn't make reference to hearings. You need a link to a congressional report to see if there was any hearings held. And I will show an exam roll of that later. Govinfo.gov looks at reports if there was any hearings. You can search the CGP for hearings that are not in govinfo.gov. Reports, reports are included in congress.gov. And you will find those under all actions in the bill. And govinfo.gov also you can search by report number. Congress.gov rarely mentions documents. But you can search the CGP for them. And committee prints are in the CGP, but they are not easy to find. You probably need to find ProQuest Legislative Insight to find those. Presidential signing statements are sometimes in congress.gov and govinfo.gov. But the other way to find them is the American Presidency Project. The public law, this is one of the hook. You can use either a bill number as a hook, or public law number as a hook. And you can do that easily through congress.gov or govinfo.gov. We will talk later about U.S. Code and other resources. So we will move on because our time is going. All right. Bill and resolution text. Why do I say resolution? Well, it's not just a bill that can become a public law. Sometimes, rarely, but sometimes a resolution can become law. Especially for appropriations actions. And sometimes for

actions involving personal people. It used to be the case that congress used private laws to make actions about people. But recently the past few congresses, they haven't done that. So they have instead used resolutions to do that. That is why I say bill and resolution text are easily retrieved from either congress.gov or govinfo.gov. In congress.gov for HR6 which is that Energy Policy Act of 2005 that we looked at. You can see all the versions of the bill. Similarly you can get versions of the bill from govinfo.gov. I have a little snippet of the screen up here so you can see we are focused on the first part of the legislative history. The bill. Debate. So in the poor man's legislative history at the end of public law, it mentions this was introduced April 21st of 2005. And I went to the congressional record and here's what was said. So this tells you in terms of legislative history why Mr. DeFazio was introducing this bill. And notice from the congress.gov you get the same kind of thing. You can get it from either place. So now we will focus on what I consider the gold mine for legislative background information and that is reports. Congressional Reports. This means a House Report or Senate Report. Legislative intent. Why was this needed? Notice as I'm get together report from the all actions of a bill. We're looking for the DNA identification act of 1994. We switched bills now. We are no longer on the energy bill. DNA identification act of 1994. It includes house report 115-117. This is very common in reports where legislative history is present. You will see a heading called background and need for legislation. Sometimes varies. It's often this exact wording. Background and need for legislation. This is some of the most clearly written verbiage you will ever find explaining why a bill was needed. And it will be clearer probably than anything you will find in the press. Sometimes if the press knows about this, they can get this. They never tell you what they relied upon. But this is the gold mine. This is the clearest place and you know where to find it. Go to a house or senate report, look at the table of contents or look for the section that says need or background or background in need for legislation and there you have it. Now hearings. Hearings like I mentioned before are not so important to attorneys but very important to social scientists, public policy people, and students writing policy papers. The problem is they are difficult to find. Because you can't go to a place that you know hears a hearing that has something on it. There is no reference to hearings in Congress.gov or congressional characters. They are not connective to legislative histories. End notes of public laws they never make reference to hearings. ProQuest legislative insight mentions hearings in the contemporary Congress and previous Congresses. So that is the place to go if you cannot but everyone can afford it. And ProQuest condition congressional lists hearings in their legislative history module. It's not as good as. Here's legislative history. Once you find legislative history hearing that is relevant to you, here are some things you can find. So this is a hearing about we are back to the energy policy act now. Here's a hearing from 2003 two years prior. Another one from 2003 two years prior to passage. Here's one from the same congress in which it was passed. It was a hearing. And here's a snippet from that hearing. It tells you key provisions and it makes reference to a conference report on HR6. Here we have a hearing giving us legislative history information. I just wanted to show you. And this is hard to find. This was not easy. So I will just tell you that reports are going to be the gold mine. Hearings if you can find it, that is great.

So how do you find references to hearings and other reports if you don't have access to the ProQuest products? This is that hook. Remember the two hooks. One hook is a bill number, another hook is a public law number. In time here, the bill hasn't passed yet. So the only hook that will mean anything to us is the bill number. So in this case, if we are looking for the girls count of 2015, the hook number is S.802. We search our info. So we search GOVinfo.gov. There is no report ounce that. No reports on S.802, the senate version. But using congress.gov for this bill, we see there was a related bill in the house. House bill H.R.2100. And we go to H.R.2100 and we see that there were, there was mention of a hearing in there. Okay. So to summarize, find out about hearings in one of three ways. Go to Congressional Reports and there is a hearings heading in the text of the report. That will often tell you if there was hearings held or not. A second separate strategy is search govinfo.gov. So you know search

for the bill number. Make sure you go to the right congress and him the hearings. That can help you. Or go to the House or Senate committee website. This won't be available for really old things, but for more recent things the house and senate committee can tell you if there is hearings hold. Now for documents or committee prints. These are often not associated with legislation. But sometimes they are. So there is usually no hooks to connect them. You have to forage around by subject or topic. If you are look for something on energy, you would have to find energy from that congress or congresses immediately proceeding the issue that you are looking at. As an example, the ProQuest Legislative Insight for PL 115-141 has several documents. There are over 40 committee prints are listed in proQuest Legislative Insight but no hooks. Since time is going, I won't give you a demo of that. But I could. So U.S. Code. If something gets passed into law, the law has passed A ebb then it will be codified or cut and pasted into the relevant sections of the U.S. code. So usually U.S. Code citations, at least the initial one, can be found in the short title in the public law. Or later in the law. So here again back to the energy policy act of 2005. It wants us to look at 42 United States code page 15801 note. In that note it will tell some things about how it's split up. But the ultimate way to get to how it's all Paesed into the code is to go to the U.S. code itself. Now of course we know the GPO, Government publishing office, the official place to get the U.S. code. But there is another kind of official. It's the people that actually write the code, the attorneys that put the code together. That is the house office of law revision consulate. And what I typically do, I cone even remember this URL. I just go to Google and type House U.S. Code. And U.S.code is one word and it will take you to this URL. It will tell you where the public words are codified in the U.S. Code in table three. And if you wanted to, our time is going so I will not do that right now. But realize that if the code only includes permanent laws of the United States. Temporary laws such as appropriation actions, special laws, such as the naming of a post office, are not included in the code. Okay. Here's some examples you can click on later to find out as an example why the U.S. code would be interesting. I gave an example of a simple codification and a very complex one. The Energy Policy Act. Let's take a look at two case studies that show us how a legislative history might be done. Let's take a look at this. One. The Rapid DNA Act of 2017. This is actually the end. The statues at large site. I just wanted to show you that it's public law 115-50 from the 115th Congress.And it has the enactment clause there and tells you where it's codified. So let's look at the hooks. We haveth beginning hook, H.R. 510 from the 115th Congress. And the end hook public law 115-50. And you will see on the chart here these are the two things. Now we want to research this information in the middle. Okay. Meet bill text. Going to congress.gov we put in our hook H.R. 510 and we go to the appropriate cop. We can see we get the appropriate version. And we can get the same things from govinfo.gov down below. So that is bill text. As I said, I don't really use bill text much when I'm working with students. Because not much value in the different versions. Maybe you can research amendments and what parties someone was from that wanted this change or that change. That is really difficult to do. And very time consuming for those of us that are not really following all of that. So it's there and I show it to you. But I'm going to go for things like the debate and the congressional record and the reports for the legislative intent. So here's an example from the rapid DNA where I found starting with congress, congress.gov. I found this reference and I could find it either on congress.gov or gpo.gov. I found legislative intent here. Rapid DNA testing. So it goes on. You can see in the congressional record, we have juice any stuff that can be used in papers. Legislative background from reports. This is the gold mine. This is the related part we want. So our hook was H.R. 510. But we didn't see any reports there. So there is a related bill. Notice that in the heading for congress.gov we see the heading related bills and there is a one there. If we go to that, we see there is a related bill that mentions House Report 115-117. It's in the related bill that we see the juicy part. This tells us background and need for legislation. And it's telling us again why this is needed. And so here is another way we can look for reports. This is the House Report 115-117. But here it has headings hearings. It says the judiciary committee held no hearings on HR 510. However, there were hearings on a related bill H.R. 320. So we can go to that and get hearing information that might be

relevant to this bill. And so here's that hearing. It's a house hearing, rapid DNA act. And notice that we have in the table of contents we have witnesses that will give various points of view on the hearing. And we have submitted materials on the appendix. And now we will do case study. We are finished with that one. There was no signing statement. We talked about most of these aspects here. There wasn't as much on that one. This one has a little bit more. Check Clearing act for the 21st Century Act. Here we have the public law. Notice in the margin it tells us where it's codified. 12 USC 5001 note. It tells us where it might be cited. It gives us two options there. Okay. So here's our hooks. We have the bill as a hook H.R. 1474 from 108th Congress. And public law 108-100. Now we have some debate in congress and we get that from congress.gov. And here we can see a relevant section for the legislative history. Today is coson or, I'm proud to announce the introductions.

Whole different worderring hear. Instead of background and need, it says purpose of the legislation. And it tells us very clearly why this thing was being introduced. And of course I didn't go on to the next page. Hearings. So from the senate report, senate report on this 108-79 we see that there were hearings and I was able to pull it up. And then from the house report, I saw there was house hearings. And I was able to pull it up as well. Now for this one, there was a presidential signing statement. So this was under George W. Bush. So I could get this from the presidential -- what was that? Santa Barbara. What did I say it was? Could get it from there or get it from the weekly compilation or the compilation of presidential documents. Today I signed into law H.R. 1474 the check clearing act. And the executive branch should construe section 16B. So at times presidents will put little restrictions on how they are going to enforce it. Which is very interesting to legislative history. It's kind of like I passed it but we are not going to do this or that. So it's kind of interesting. So now we want the public law. So we have the public law as passed. That is easy. We are getting this from govinfo.gov but you can also get it from congress.gov. And here is the example. American presidency project. That is the words I couldn't get out of my mouth two minutes ago. The easiest way to find this signing statement was from the American Presidency Project because you can just go by year and find signing statements in one place. Notice the wording is the same as the official govinfo.gov wording here. Where you can find it that way as well.

So with U.S. Code, the law is amended. So we go there. This is the table three view. And we can see the references there to how the law is put into various sections of the U.S. code. Now outcomes. Remember I had on that chart the three congressional agencies that talk about outcomes? The CBO, CRS, and GAO? In other words the congressional budget office, Government accountability office, which used to be the general accounting office, and the congressional research service. So we can find that there are relevant things on the check 21 act. Both in GAO and in CRS. The new CRS interface from crs.congress.gov. So in summary, legislative histories can general lly be accomplished with freely available resources. Especially congress.gov and govinfo.gov. A few additional resources also helps such as uscode.house.gov. Hearings are the most challenging part but now you know how to find them using your hooks. And congressional reports usually contain the gold mine of legislative history background intent. And for that reason when I'm helping a student, first from the community try to understand what went into passage, that is going to be the first place, number one, because it's the easiest for me to find. And number two, because it has the most salient explanation of what is going on. Okay. So this presentation was based on chapters 3 and 4 of my book. So you're welcome to look at that. And does anybody have any questions? I think we have time left.

Yeah, Chris, we've got about 16 minutes left. So do you I do have a couple of questions. One was answered in chat. But I would like to have you answer it as well in case you want to provide any additional information. What is a committee print? And how is that different from a committee report?

Okay. Thanks. Yes, committee print, let's go to -- yeah. A committee print is interestingly enough just like hearings. In fact, if you have a depository library, you have hearings, you will see these green and brown and tan volumes. And committee prints are integrated already with the hearings. They are research pieces put up by a House or Senate of congress. And they will be on topics. They can be on anything. They can be on literally anything. And sometimes though they are interesting research pieces. So let me do this. Okay. I'm going to hit NASA here. Congressional Committee Prints. Just look at some of these titles. Compilation of space law and U.S. international space law. This is in 2019. So this is a committee print that gives like a comprehensive primary for members of congress on all the space laws that exists. Whether they be U.S. law, international space law, or other things. Engineering and limit research strategies. So committee prints are, I like to think of as almost isolated or independent research pieces. That are really proposal helpful. Sometimes they are boring as heck. But sometimes they are really interesting. Report of senator Fred Thompson on the topic there. So I hope that helps. So they are kind of research related. But they can be on anything from rules to laws to policies. All over the board. Was that covering all that question?

Yeah, I think so. I think that we scroll up and see I think Janel answered that in chat. She says it often includes research materials that a committee compiles like statistics and investigative reports.

Exactly.

Okay. And now there is another question. Do you ever use HeinOnline for legislative histories?

I think they are tremendous pieces. Yes, I do use it on occasion. I will be honest I probably use ProQuest legislative information more. HeinOnline is interesting. I can demo it if people would like. Let's see. So if we go to Hei -- so if we go to HEinOnline. You will see U.S. Federal Legislative History Library. And let's just go to the -- so these are legislative histories on individual acts. But you also have, let's see. So these are compiled legislative histories. In other words books and log review articles on various topics. So if you were looking for something at the Energy Policy Act which is what we were looking at today, you will see some 24 volumes. Legislative history of public law 109. There are 24 volumes. So it's really exhaustive. Especially for major pieces. For minor pieces, it might not be as helpful. But it is wonderful. It's almost overwhelming for students that are under grads. But if someone is really serious, I will definitely use that.

Okay. Chris, someone has a same question about legislative history materials. Do you use them?

I used to be director of our law library. That was four years ago. So at that time I used Wes Law. But we don't have access to Wes Law. And so they don't have legislative histories in there. They just have basic court cases, laws, regulations and that kind of thing. So the answer to that is no, Wes Law is for the lawyers and law students. There is Wes Law campus that we don't happen to subscribe to. I don't know if Wes Law campus has legislative histories in it or not.

Okay. And sometimes one bill will contain many smaller propose the pieces of legislation. We often get people who are interested in only one section of a huge bill. We have to plow through a lot of information to see if a source talks about that particular aspect they want. Any tips for zeroing in on specifics without bogging down?

Yes, that is a big problem. Especially with the largest piece of legislation that was just passed. 5,600 pages. Remember that? H.R. 133. In fact, I don't think they have come out with the official public law

version. That is for the next COVID check will come from that. But the hint is to use a tool like ProQuest Legislative Insight. That help to navigate those pieces of legislation. Most of your regional libraries probably subscribe to legislative insight. We have alliance agreement with ProQuest where we can probably give a little bit more help to libraries that don't subscribe. If you reach out to your regional, or to me and you have one of these things, we can probably not necessarily give you the reports, but maybe give you some hints from ProQuest Legislative Insight on how to navigate these pieces. They are difficult to navigate. There is just no way around it.

Okay. And we've got a couple comments. Kaitlyn says Wes Law campus does. I guess that is an answer to that previous question.

Right. I try to change our university from, you know, to Wes Law campus. We picked one not both. I tried to change and our faculty didn't want it. I really wanted it because I really don't like Nexus Uni.

Albert says compiled legislative histories online can help with this kind of stuff too.

Great, thanks for that. That is great tip.

Okay. All right. We got another question that just came in. Lots of hearings are in library catalogs, do you ever search in world cat to identify hearings on a bill?

I sometimes do. Especially for older things. Probably I'm lazy because we have ProQuest Legislative Insight and it will include hearings from previous Congresses on the topic. So yes, that is a definite strategy if you didn't have that. Especially for older pieces of legislation. Things from the early part of the 20th century or before.

Okay. Does anyone have anymore questions for Chris? We've still got about six minutes left. Okay. Cori has shared the link for the survey. We really appreciate if you think you could take a few minutes to answer it. It's very short. Just a few questions. But we get a lot from these surveys.

I see Holly chambers is asking an extremely interesting question. Which I didn't address on purpose. What parts of legislative histories are used most in or by courts? That is an interesting thing. In the legal world, they use legislative histories in a very different way. That is because there is a notion of law called positive law. And I'm not an attorney, nor do I play one on TV. But here's how I search. House U.S. Code. If you go to positive law. Notice that -- so positive law means that a title of the U.S. code, meaning title 42, title 7, whatever is -- well, is a blessed law. In other words, when congress looks at a law and it goes to a whole big process and then instead of looking at the past, they just say whatever is in this law is law whether it's an error or not. And they, that is called positive law. And read this page and you'll understand it. So in the court of law, if I'm speaking a little bit out of turn because I'm not an attorney. But if you are not positive titles. For nonpositive law titles, you can use this legislative history stuff to make arguments that things wasn't or was interpreted correctly. If it's positive law, Yukon argue from the U.S. code. You can't argue from statues at large or from reports of legislative intent and everything like that. That is my lay understanding of positive law. But you need to each read this for yourself and decide. So that is a little bit of an answer to the question about how do courts use this legislative history stuff. But when it comes to a student, go for all of it. Because it all makes sense. In other words, you can use, whether the title of the U.S. code is positive law or not positive law, it makes no difference for a student. I hope that detailed explanation helps a little bit.

I have read it.

If any --

I need to reread it again.

I didn't talk about positive law in the book. But any way, there you just heard it.

Okay it looks like people are signing off and there is lots of thank yous coming in. And so we're going to go ahead and sign off for the day. Thank you to everyone who attended. And this should be up on our academy page within a few days. If you want to go back and listen again, you will be getting a link very soon.

Thank you, everybody. Thank you, Kathy and Cori.

And thank you, Chris. Ly be in touch, soon.

Okay, thanks. [Event Concluded]