

Researching Federal Congressional Committee Hearings - Transcript

please standby for realtime captions. at the law library of congress. Has been with the law library of congress since 2012 holds a ba in history from Duke University, a jd from the University of North Carolina school of law and a master of science and library and information science with a specialization in law librarianship from catholic University. Barbara the microphone is yours.

Yes, welcome to today's webinar, researching federal congressional committee hearings. I want to do a quick note before we get started. I got to hit the ground running. I want to note that at some point during this presentation, I'm going to be using subscription resources. Because of everything happening right now, I'm going to focus on free resources but I want you to know that you might want to check with your own library or local law or academic library to see if they have some of the subscription resources. There can be helpful options with subscription resources. A lot of things are available for free. I'm going to use a sample request as I go through my slides today. You are going to see a lot of screen shots so I'm not going to go live as much during this presentation because I wanted you to have the screen shots on your slides in your notes so you can remember after we get off of this webinar how to maneuver within these resources. The examples I'm going to be using today is my supervisors asked me to find any hearings related to the national forest system trails stewardship act. That was an act that passed and became law during the 114th of congress. Now that we got that taken care of, let's begin. I like to start presentations with an overview of where we are going so you can pace yourself in your head about where we are in the presentation. We are going to have three steps to this presentation. First we are going to talk about what are the documents created during the legislative process and when are they created. We are going to focus on congressional committee hearings today. Next we are going to go into what are the types of congressional committees and where can we find more information about them and what types of hearings can we expect to see in our research. Next I want to delve into the publication of hearings. When are hearings published and how are they published and finally I want to bring this information together and come up with a game plan for doing hearings research. What information do we have to collect that's the most helpful before we start our research. How do we kind of begin to find these hearing on our own using free resources and if we have access to subscription resources, how would we use the resources to find more information. Let's start with our background information. Now I know probably there is some familiarity already with the legislative process. It's helpful to have a super quick overview of the legislative process to kind of place hearings within that process. This is kind of the basic generalized path for how a bill might become a law. When a bill is introduced, it's almost immediately typically sent to a committee. You can find information about the sponsor of the bill and what committee it was referred to in the congressional record focused on that day in congress. But as noted by crs, in the house, bills are typically referred by the speaker of the house on the advice of the houseparliamentarian -- jurisdictions over the provisions of the bill. In the senate, bills are typically referred to committee in a similar process r but in almost all cases, the bill is referred to only one committee, the committee with the jurisdiction over the issue that predominates in a bill. Not every bill has to be referred to a committee but it's very rare for them not to be and many procedural steps that members have to go through to avoid having it sent to committee. Once the bill is sent to committee, the committee can hold hearings, sometimes mark up sessions and if you are confused about what mark up sessions are, I'm going to talk about them later in the presentation. Then, they can also create a report on the bill and report the bill out to the floor of which ever chamber they are in. I want to note here quickly, many bills never make it out of committee and can die there at the end of a congress. Bill renumbering between congress, if a bill doesn't make it out of committee and get passed by the house and the senate, it dies and it has to be reintroduced not necessarily with the

same number in the next congress. If they want to consider that bill in the future. But if a bill does make it out and reported to the floor of the chamber it can be debated, floor amendments can be submitted and voted on and a vote on the bill or amendments can be taken. If the bill passes, the end grossed version of the bill goes to the next chamber and we go through a similar process in the other chamber. I do want to note 11 thing, in the house and senate versions are not the same, the differences have to be resolved before the bill can become law and that agreed upon version is passed by both chambers and sent to the President for signature. Sometimes to get to an agreed upon version of the bill rather just agreeing to the other chamber's version, the bill is sent to conference committee. Conference committees are temporarily made up of senators and representatives that are formed just in relation to a specific bill and only with the purpose of negotiating a proposal that can be agreed on by both houses. I wanted to touch on this, because it can get confusing. People might want to look for hearings created by a conference committee. They will print a conference report if they come to an agreement on a version of a bill. I'm not going to touch on conference committees going forward. You are looking for reports with regards to conference committee. I wanted to touch on that in case that is confusing in the future. If both chambers agree the a Negotiated version of the bill this enrolled version of the bill is then sent to the President for signature. Today, though, we are not interested in the other types of documents, we are interestinged in hearings. Hearings take place in the highlighted sections that you see there, when the bill is referred to a committee and the committee holds hearings on that bill. That's when we are talking about legislative hearings. next I want to talk about the types of committees that you might see in your research. I wanted to define a committee, based on the definitions we use in the glossary we have on congress.gov. We define as a panel with members from the house or senate or sometimes both, task with conducting hearings, examining and developing legislation, conducting oversight and or helping to manage chamber business and activities. You are largely going to see big picture ideas, committees based around big picture ideas, like education and labor or commerce science and transportation. We are going to talk about the exception in a moment. Procedure dictated by house and senate rules and also by committee specific rules. If you are dealing with a house committee, you are looking at rule 11, if you are dealing with the senate you are looking at rule 26 to determine committee procedure. Then you can kind of look at those as the basis of the rules of committee procedure and then typically committee rules will be placed on top of those rules. Those are going to be specific to the committee. Why do we have committees? What is the big picture purpose? Committee structures are supposed to be helpful to members of congress because it give them the ability to focus on a particular topic and gain a will of knowledge, so they can focus on certain issues rather than being overwhelmed by a huge amount of issues they have to consider day-to-day. There are three types of committees, standing, commercial or select and joint committees. Standing committees are permanent, they exist from congress to congress, there is continually 20 house committees and 16 senate committees. These committees are granted jurisdiction by the rules so house rule 10, includes a jurisdictional statement for each standing committee in the house and senate rule 25 establishes jurisdiction for the standing rules committee in the senate. There is special or select committee s this is the exception to our rule about how committees are based around huge big picture ideas sometimes the spell or select committee can be based on a specific topic or idea. They are typically created to conduct studies or consider measures on a, specific topic, not necessarily renewed on a permanent basis. Typically these committees are given a limited time period to conduct navigations or studies or consider their measures. Current examples are the that special committee on aging, or the house select committee on the climate crisis, two that exist right now. Finally joint committees, joint committees have house and senate members. They typically lean on conducting studies rather than considering measures. And they have more of kind of an oversight role rather than a legislative role. You will see there is continually four. I have to first note the joint committee of congress on the library. There is also the joint economic committee, the joint committee on printing and the joint committee on taxation.

Each of these committees is going to have a committee chair, from majority party of each chamber testimony rules of the committee will dictate whether and how the chair position is rotated between the chamber. The committee chair has the ability to set the agenda for the committee. They are able to identify which bills are going to reef formal committee attention during the two-year typically two-year session of congress. now that we know what types of committees we are looking at, let's think about types of hearings that those committees might hold. These are, there are kind of nearby hearings that might be held particularly like field hearings and things like that but the general types that you are going to see on a day-to-day basis are oversight hearings and investigative hearings and legislative hearings. Oversight are dealing with how government tall money is being spent and how governmental group like agencies are being run. Investigative committees, most of us soon these, on the news, they focus on what some members might think is wrong doing but a pen or group that might be remedied by legislation in the future. Skipping to two types of senate committee hearing as this you might see. These hearings are held in the senate As part of they Constitutional advice and consent power. You are going to hear about confirmation hearings, like judge Jackson's hearings right now. These hearings are typically held for high level executive and judicial committees. You can sometimes see ratification hearings, that he is hearings are held regarding treaties, again As part of the advice and consent power of the senate. I want to focus on legislative hearings, those are the ones you are going to see the most in your research. These hearings are held on a specific bill or grouping of bills on a topic or held on a topic that a committee is expecting to consider legislation on in the immediate future. Maybe the bill hasn't yet been introduced yet but expecting it any minute now. The main ones you can see there, five main ones, if you see field hearings Where they have a hearing out in the field this a different place other than capitol hill. Those are very rare and probably not going to run into it in basic research. If you want to get more into the nitty-gritty details of committees and processes and who belongs to certain committees right now in the current congress, I wanted to give you options on where you could find that information and these are the main site that I go to find my information regarding hearings. Congress.gov committee's page, we will talk about this later this more detail but it provides you with links to landing pages for each committee in the current congress with information about their web sites, contact information and the bills they considered going back to 1973. Gov Info, has the house rules and manual and senate manual, I linked you to both there. That has great information about committees and you can look up the rules I talked about earlier. Beau the house and the senate have information about their continue committee assignments, I wanted to point you to their faq, fast facts and faq's, so you can see a little bit more information about the unique forms of the house and senate committee. Check out these web sites if you need more information. But, now that we know more about these committees and what hearings they might hold, we can talk about how they are published. How you might be able to find the transcripts of the hearings, videos of the hearings, the preprepared statements of witnesses, et cetera. Let's talk a little bit about that particular I want to start with published versus Unpublished hearings. If you find a citation or you are looking for a hearing that is Unpublished, I don't want you to think that it's a lost cause. You might still be able to find it and I want to talk about how we can find it. Committees are generally expected to keep record of their actions in they offices until they ultimately send them to the national archives to be archived. Committee hearings are the official publication is published by the committee itself and dictated by the rules of that committee. Ultimately the committee has control over the publication of hearings. An interesting thing about hearings is that historically they weren't necessarily considered kind of public documents, in fact, transcription of congressional committee hearings was not required until 1946 with the passive of the legislation reorganization act. Historical hearings can be hard to find, but for Unpublished hearings from kind of the late 1800s, forward, we do have collections that you can use. I want to note a couple of things I have listed here, there is, there are two print resources for house on published hearings and senate on published hearings, they take you up through in the senate 1964, in the house 1972, and

printed indexes which can link you to the cis printing of the Unpublished hearings. I usually get asked, okay, well, that gets me through the 60s and 70s, but what do I do from that point on. The good news is, there are a lot of online resources that you can use. Four hearings recently held, it's not maybe first on this list, it's first in my heart, committee web sites are a great place to look. If the hearing was just held and you are looking for the witnesses preprepared statements or maybe looking for the video of the hearing, the committee website for the committee that held that hearing is going to be a great place to look. They usually keep that up for a long period of time as well. Another really great resource are prepublished hearing transcripts which you can find in subscription databases like coquest congressional, they sent a person over to transcribe the hearing and assuming the committee will do a printing of that hearing but tying you over until that hearing comes out. Some other places you can look if you are looking at house hearings, the house committee repository is a great place for that. Congress.gov, we collected a lot of hearings particularly from the the early 2000s to the present on congress.gov. Videos as well as transcripts. Also c span is going to be an invaluable resource for you and it's free. The only kind of down side to c span is it's selected videos. It might not have the video you are looking for but I think it's a really good place to look for hearing as this might not necessarily have gotten an official publication. Assuming the committee hearing has been published, again, these hearings are published by the committees not chamber. Some practices may vary. I hate to give people a rule of thumb of when a hearing will be published because kit vary greatly. I would say typically published within a couple of months or within the year. But, there have been cases in the past and currently cases, where the hearing might take several years to get published. That could be for a number of reasons, it could be national security concerns or could be privacy concerns, things mentioned in the hearing and it could be they are waiting on witnesses to respond to questions that they were given time to respond to outside of a hearing. Typically published within the year, but some hearings might take several years. Hearings generally will include the things that I list here. A table of contents with information about the witnesss that were invited to speak at the hearing. The prepared statements of those witnesses, so they will usually submit a couple of pages of a statement to make sure that some things they want to say that they might not get asked questions are on put into the hearing record. You will have an edited transcript of the testimony given on the day of the hearing and the questions asked on the day of the hearing. There will be other supplemental information. Sometimes you will see things like letters that were sent in on different groups interested even if they didn't send a person to testify at the hearing. Sometimes if they are talking about a journal article or a newspaper article or even a report by an organization, in the hearing, sometimes that report or that article will also get appended until the end of the hearing. Lots of information within a hearing. The numbering system can be a little odd, that's why I say another reason publication practices may vary. The senate had a numbering since -- the numbering of hearings in the house are left to committees and the numbering system isn't going to be as uniform, they typically will at least have a number that is a two number separated by a hyphen or end dash where the first number will be the congress in which the hearing was held and typically that second number is going to be something like a chronological number based on how many hearings they have held or something similar to that. let's look at what a published hearing looks light. Here is a first page of a published hearing. This hearing is a hearing on our particular bill of interest. It has several pieces of information here I want to point out. The first is the title. Typically the title will have the bill name of the bill being considered but like this hearing, sometimes the committee will decide to consider several bills on a particular topic and so that topic is the hearing title. In this case, legislative hearing to review pending forest service and forestry related bills is our title. Next you are going to see the committee or sub-committee that held the hearing. Under that you will see the congress and the session in which the hearing was held. Then the date or dates so there can be multiple dates on which a hearing is held. Then sometimes you will see a hearing number, underneath the date or at the top of your hearing, this was a senate hearing so there is a hearing number at the top. The good news is, the blue book or the legal

citation manual has gotten rid of the need to use a hearing number. Probably because of those issues with the numbering of hearings. This is generally what the blue book is going to have you use as the citation for a hearing. The general structure of a hearing citation. First you are going to see the title of the hearing, as well as the committee or sub-committee that held the hearing, that's going to be part of that title. Next you are going to see the number of the congress in which the hearing was held. The next, you might see some numbers, that are pointing to page numbers. If you want to site to a specific part of the hearing, you can put the page numbers there, but if you do that you have to add a parenthetical at the end of the citation, where you tell people what you are Citing to. In this case, if I were siteing to five and [Captioner on stand-by waiting for event to begin. If there has been a change, please six -- of the U.S. department of agriculture. Then before that parenthetical where you describe what happens, you will put another parenthetical with the date in which the hearing was held, just the year. I want to touch on something that we get asked pretty frequently about on the reference desk and that is mark up sessions. Mark up sessions are technically meetings rather than hearings, you will afternoon hear them referred to as meetings instead. Technically they don't fall in the same categories as hearings. I think they are very important and something that the committee is going to do kind of in between a hearing, like a legislative hearing we have been talking about and a report, the bill reported to the floor. In a mark up hearing members of the committee consider possible changes to a bill and they can offer and vote on amendments to that bill. Sometimes committees can even kind of suggest a substitute for the, like an amendment that substitutes the text of the bill, sometimes you will see that. Committees don't actually changes the text of the bill within the committee. They vote on amendments and suggest text for the bill, new text for the bill so that when that version of the bill is reported out to the floor, then the floor, the chamber can vote on that new version of the bill. These mark up sessions, they typically aren't published like you would see hearing or a report published. But sometimes you can see them appended to the end of the committee hearing, sometimes you can see them published as a print, a committee print. Those are a little rare. What I want to note here is that there are two subscription resources we use at the library of congress that do have mark up reports that we will walk you through the changes that are made to a bill during a mack up session. We use cq.com or congressional quarterly. Those are third party resources. They have a lot of mark up reports. If you are looking for those, look at the committee hearing and see if it's appended to the end or look in one of your subscription resources. Now that we know what kind of document we are looking for, how it is cited, now we have to figure out how to find these hearings using the information available to us. I'm going to start with free resources, again and go into subscription resources. I want to take a moment here to talk about where to begin and it might seem like I'm going off course. There is definitely reason for it. Where you begin your research depends on where you start information. As a librarian, I'm typically given one of these or sometimes two of these pieces of information that you see here. The popular name of a law, a U.S. code citation or a public law number. All of those are great and you can use them as jumping off points to do your research. From my personal research and personal experience, it is easier to find information particularly legislative history information, congressional committee information if you have the bill that the hearing or that report is attached to. If it is a legislative hearing. If it's a legislative hearing, finding the bill number is going to be able to let you Unlock more information in the free and subscription resources I'm going to talk about in just a moment. It's important to kind of talk about, if I'm not given the bill number, how do I get to the bill number. One Unknowledge gnat thing is you have to think about the publication of federal statutes if you are given something the public law numbering you have to figure out how to use that pub lib law number to get back to the bill or a what public laws make up that section of the code and then from those public laws which bills gave rise to those public laws. When we talk about federal statutes or the laws created by congress, we think of it in this kind of a three step process, I like to point out that the enrolled bill will ultimately become a slip law if it's signed by the President or held for 10 days and automatically made law. So when the bill becomes law it's published

as a slip law, usually in pamphlet or soft back form, at this step, it is assigned a unique public law number. Slip laws generally are not found in print form in your daily life. If you are this a library or working for a committee, you might see them there. When people see public laws they see them as they are published in the United States statutes at large. United States statutes at large is a publication that's a chronological arrangement of statutes or law as they have been enacted and the order in a session of congress. That's why your public law numbers will be like public law 113 -- 1 -- 2, -- 3 this is the first passed during the 113th congress. It's a chronological snapshot of the laws passed during that session of congress. If you want to see a snapshot of the general and permanent laws of the United States as they exist right now, you would look to the most continue addition of the United States code. United States code is continually updated subject arrangement of public laws of a general and permanent nature that are currently enforced. Amendments made from the congress are made any repealed laws are taken out, et cetera. If you wanted to look at a collection of all federal laws you had to follow in 2018, you would look to the 2018 addition of the United States code. the reason I'm telling you this, I promise there is a point, is because if you can figure out the public law citation or the statute citation, the first page of the public law as printed in the statutes at large is going to tell you the bill that gave rise to that public law. Then you can use that bill number as a key to unlock other information particularly legislative history information, about that bill. I have given you a link to the United States, the U.S. code website of the house office of law revision counselling they put together the version of the U.S. code and they give you citations to, if you have the popular name they give you the citations to the public law and statutes at large. I have blown the numbers up for you here. Our particular law of interest the national forest system trails stewardship act is public law 114 -- 245 the 245th law passed during the 114th congress, you can find that public law in the 130th volume of the statutes at large on page 990. Before I waste more time let's see what the first page of that public law looks like. Here is just a snapshot of the first page of public law 114 -- 245, published in the statutes at large. Lots of great information here. Of particular interest is that arrow on the left, the number of the bill that became the public law. We are particularly looking for hr845 from the 114th congress. If you want to find public laws available online for free, the great news is, between the law library and gov Info, you can find it available for free. From 1789 to 1951. You can also use subscription resources if you have access to them, feel free I don't know kind of where everyone stand on subscription resources so I want to focus on public resources. So, now that we know the bill number, remember, again, we are looking at the 845th, hr845, of the 114th congress. Now that we have the bill number, how can we use the resources to find the hearings that we need to find. There is also a lot of information available online for free. Particularly from about the mid-90s to the present on congress.gov, one thing I want to note, gov Info, you have done so much work on getting those hearings up and now they have selected hearings on gov Info back to 1955. Check that out. We are going to look at gov Info in a second. I think I'm focusing on congress.gov in the notes. Both of those have great resources for free congressional hearings. I mentioned before committee web sites search for the videos and prepared statements, sometimes rough transcripts there, if you are looking for stuff from the first 100 years of congress, a century of law making for a new station in is a website from the library of congress and covers the first hundred years of congress, the only thing I want to note is a lot of those resources are being moved over into congress.gov, a couple of years from now, it might not exist you might go to congress.gov for the information but now you can find whole collection on that website that I have given you there. let's first look at congress.gov. Here is an example of the home page, I particularly want to note a couple of things here. If you want to look at our help features, we have great help features on congress.gov. Look at the top of the page under support and if you click that, you can search our help articles by key words. You can also under support find that congressional glossary that I talked about a little bit earlier. I would strongly suggest setting up an account in congress.gov and the reason is, if you set up an account which is free, all we need is name and email address, you can set up search alerts on saved searches, you can set up alert on a bill to see if we add a

hearing to a bill's page. You can also set up alerts on congressional committees, I'm going to talk about where you can do that in just a moment. Also on the congress.gov home page is that we keep that global search box at the top of your screen, to try and make it as easy as possible to navigate in the page and one of the great things about that global search box is you can use the pull down menu to narrow down to what you are looking for. I'm going to show you a legislation search but a little bit later I will show you a committee materials search, both can be helpful in hearings research. Before I do that I want to talk about the committee's page. I know it's a little small on the screen when you get the slides you can probably enlarge that. There is a committees link that's above the global search box on the top of every congress.gov page. It takes you to the landing page where the current committees of the U.S. congress are listed and hyper linked. If you click on those links to committees, you are going to get to a committee landing page where it's going give you information about the bills considered by a committee going back to 1973. The contact information for that committee. And the committee website. Remember I talked about how helpful committee web sites are, you can get linked to the committee web sites through their landing pages as well. I want to note as you scroll down the page, this is an ideal place to go if you want to look for videos, of congressional hearings, particularly the most recent committee hearings where they might not have published a hearing yet. We give you different links for live video streams and recorded video streams of congressional hearings. Again, if you want to set up an alert, so you get emailed any time something is added to a committee page, all you have to do is click on the link to the committee of interest and under the committee name on the landing page there is going to be a button for get alerts. let's say we use our bill number and we did a search in congress.gov for our bill of interest, hr845, 114th congress. You will see you can limit your search results on the left hand side by congress. By type of document you are looking for. And you can click on the bill number of interest, to be taken to the summary and status page. This is what a summary and status page looks like. Gives you general information about the sponsor, committees that looked at the bill, if there are committee reports that have been produced about a bill and latest actions taken. If you open the actions tab which I have here in this example, and you selected all actions, you can get filters on the left hand side to narrow down to just committee information which I have done here. I have narrowed down to the actions taken on this bill in the 114th congress by house committee. You will see there are links to committee reports and committee hearings where available, if we have them on congress.gov. If I were to click the link, i will be taken to that committee report but as we keep adding committee hearings, you will see links to committee hearings on the actions tab as well. I also want to point out if you want to do a general committee materials search, you can do that on congress.gov. Let's say I don't want to go through all the processes of finding the bill number, I want to put the act title in the search box and see what happens. I have kind of done that here, I used the pull down menu to narrow down to committee materials. Once I have done that, you can see from the results list here, that committee report, sorry, committee hearing that I was interested this before, the one I gave you as an example, senate hearing -- the screen shot I showed you earlier, that comes up in our results list and if I click on that hearing, I will get to see the text of that hearing and if the hearing has been published, I will get to see the pdf copy of that hearing. I definitely want to touch on gov Info here. If you have a citationing sometimes using the citation feature is helpful. It depends on whether there is a citation option for legislative history documents of interest. I'm going to focus on the advanced search and the browse on gov Info. I would suggest using the advanced search if you are going to do kind of a phrase search or a keyword search in gov Info because you can narrow down by dates, if you know the general date you can say I want everything in this date range or everything after this date. You can narrow down to just congressional hearings and you can do a keyword or a phrase search. That's going to help you so you don't get overwhelmed. You can do a category search, so here browse, you can browse by congressional committee materials and on the right hearings are listed within that category. If you were to open the congressional hearings, you could browse by congress and by house senate or joint hearing. Then

typically chronological within them. I'm usually asked at this point, what if I just have a hearing citation or I just have a hearing title, I don't know if it's attached to a bill. I want to track down this hearing. I tried to give you this chart to kind of figure out whether you can use free resources and which free resources to use or whether you have to turn to subscriptions. I say 95 here, it's the mid-90s, they are adding more historical hearings all the time. Mid-90s, gov Info and congress.gov are going to be your resources there. When you get from the late 1800s to 1995, it gets a little more difficult. Now, exception for the selected hearings pack to 1995 on gov Infos that's great, use that as a resource. For this period you might have to turn to one of the subscription resources or a print resource to find what you need. Then, oddly, from the first 100 years of congress, you are going to find anything you probably are going to be able to find it. After this chart you are going to be thinking to yourself that's a long period of time where I'm going to have to use subscription resources or might have to use subscription resources, how does that work? There are three main ones we use at the law library. Pro quest congressional, pro quest legislative insight and Hein online. I want to talk about the strengths. I usually tell people if you have, the you want to do a general search for a preprepared legislative history report, you got to start with legislative insight. In our case today, since we are focusing on hearings, if you have a hearing citation or a hearing title, you want to search for that and kind of maybe track back from there to find out if there are other documents, pro quest congressional is a really good option for you. Because you are going to be able to do either keyword or phrase search in pro quest congressional, or you could do a citation search or a number search in pro quest congressional. If you are particularly hyper focused on hearings, I actually might start with pro quest congressional because of that you can search by number for hearings, and you can easily search by keyword. You can search by bill number there as well. I don't want to leave that out. We did that work to find the bill number, this is a lot of things attached to that bill number feel free to use that this pro quest congressional. For pro quest legislative insight, one of the benefits of pro quest legislative insight is it is based around the idea of preprepared legs if history reports where it collects everything about a bill created so reports hearings prints documents Presidential signing statements et cetera and puts it in one place and makes it searchable. If you are focusing on hearings, one thing I want to note in legislative insight is though it's based around the idea of preprepared legislative histories you can search within those legislative histories by keyword. And you can narrow down those preprepared legislative histories by type of items. You could narrow down to hearings. Hein online is helpful if you want to find out information about which committees looked at the report or the bill of interest. Their congressional record collection is amazing. Hein online also has published preprepared legislative history reports and also published hearings. All of these are helpful in different ways. I want to show you generally how to go through them but I know I'm running out of time. Just know if you are in legislative insight, that bill number, that bill number that we spent so much time looking for, if you put it into the citation checker, it's going to let you know if there a preprepared report available for you to use. Once you are in the preprepared legislative history, you can narrow down just to hearings, let me clear that, and you can search within the documents for a phrase or a keyword. Here is an example of that number or citation search in pro quest congressional. Remember I mentioned pro quest congressional is great because you can search by bill number, you can search by hearing number, you can search by allsorts of different citations. Here is an example of searches by bill number. I have given them the congress, the type of bill and the number of that bill. You can also do an advanced search and you can narrow down to just hearings. I have done that here. Let me just, if it will let me, it's not going to let me do it. This hearings on the left hand side and once I do that, it's going to let me search by panelist or witness. Here, remember my citation I cited to Robert Bonnie's comment or what his statement in the hearing of interest, here I can search for his name and I can search for key words like the title of the bill and lit bring up my hearings of interest. Here is an example of a search like that. This is the search by bill number. You can see there is lots of different types of documents you can narrow down to hearings. Here is an example. There is different kind of legislative history documents

here. I particularly want to note they do have a congressional hearings collection and within that congressional hearings collection, you can search by congress, chamber and committee. I want to leave time for questions. Please use any slides, feel free to use them. There are guides that are helpful, the law library of congress has one on published and Unpublished congressional hearings. The law librarian society of Washington DC has a great complete guide on legislative history research. I always note the Georgetown one is really good for kind of describing why you are doing the research in the way that you are doing it. I like to point it out though it links you to subscription resources that you might or might not have access to. I want to leave time so I'm going to sign off with the lecture part of the presentation. If you have any questions that I don't get to today, please feel free to send them into our ask a librarian service, I have given you the link there and you can find it on our home page, law.gov. There is a link on the left hand side of the page. I hope that was helpful for you. I'm going to see if you have any questions.

Hi Barbara, this is Cathy. We don't have questions coming in yet. We do have one from Trina.

Trina asks are people that participate in hearings allowed to make changes to the transcripts before it is published the way they are allowed to change things in the congressional record.

I mentioned in the slide that it can be, think of the hearings as a transcript that's done by court reporter or a stenographer. They look through the hearings and make sure if there is small things they want to change, they can, they can do that.

I'm going to just assume that this is because it was, it covered everything you needed to know. I'm assuming it's not, please feel free to ask me questions. I promise I won't bite.

How common are the redactions? That's a good question. I I don't know off the top of my head. From what I know, they can be pretty rare. that is a good question. some hearings have redacted material because it was a reprint of copyrighted material. That is a good question. I'm not sure to be honest with you. I would have to look that one up. Sometimes they still do redact information like PI i kind of information that might be in a hearing. Or national security law enforcement stuff as well but, older hearings definitely still have the Pli but started to redact that Pli. In terms of copyrighted, I have to get back to you on that one.

Barbara, how long to committee web sites retain transcripts or video or does it vary from committee to committee.

That's the hard part about, committee research is that hearings particularly, it varies from committee to committee. Some committees are, I don't want to pit committees against each other, they are all wonderful but some are great about keeping years and years worth of information up on their website. Even after a hearing has, a published hearing has come out, they have the video on the website. I guess that's the long way of saying it varies from committee to committee. I have seen it pretty wide variation, too. you are welcome. okay, you have about a minute and a half to get questions in.

I see a question about lexis as a resource. It depends on your scription to LEXUS. Lexus does have legislative history resources, our, the public facing version we have, we use -- it doesn't have a lot of great legislative histories information on there, I gotten feedback from patrons who have a fuller version of LEXUS they do have more legislative history information, I found from based on their feedback that sometimes the search can be a little quirky. They are not necessarily set up the same way legislative

history focused database esare. They definitely do have legislative history information depending on your subscription. If you subscribe to that module, you should have that. That's pretty basic. If the question goes beyond our resources, yes, I think should we send them to the local law library or other options?

Yes. I think the local public law library is more likely at least know what they are talking about. Federal depository library system is so great you guys are so great. And there is typically I found when I have been helping the public, there is typically going to be a library somewhere near them usually that does have access to one of these subscription databases or has it in print. definitely send people to their local law library and local federal depository library if. You are in a federal library and don't have that specific item, yes, probably a law library or academic library would probably have some access to a subscription resource. with hit 3:00, we are going to have to close this out Unfortunately. for those of you who asked, we will have a recording of this available within a few dayschwe have a survey. Ashley will post it momentarily. If you would take that, it would be helpful to us.

Thanks so much for having me.

Thank you, Barbara.

This has been wonderful. [Event Concluded]