

US CONGRESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS
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AS OF DEC. 28, 2005

Stephen Kwasnik
Federal Documents Librarian

Online and in Hardcopy at the Bridgeport Public Library

Part 1: Congressional Reports and Documents: The US
Serial Set

Part 2: Public Laws and the U.S. Code

Part 3: Congressional Bills

Part 4: The Congressional Record/Congressional Debate

Part 5: Senate Treaties

Part 6: Congressional Hearings

PART 1: HOUSE AND SENATE DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

(Also House and Senate Joint Resolutions, Committee Reports, Joint Conference Reports.)

“The Serial Set does not normally include the text of **Congressional Debates, Bills, Resolutions, Hearings, Committee Prints and Publications** from support agencies of Congress. . . [but] by special order some selected hearings and bill texts are included, especially in the 19th Century.”

Finding Aids:

A. Online Finding Aids

1. Schedule of Serial Set Volumes

Time Coverage: 1970 / 91st Congress -Present

McKinney, Richard J. “Schedule of Volumes to the U.S. Congressional Serial Set 1970 to Current.” *LLSDC’S Legislative Sourcebook*. 2005. Law Librarians Society of Washington, D.C. 25 Sept. 2005 <http://www.llsdc.org/sourcebook/sch-v.htm>

This information is also found on the GPO Access website at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/numerical.html>

2. Numerical Lists of Documents and Reports (Online)

(See Illustration 2)

Time Coverage: 1991-2002

United States. United States Government Printing Office. “U.S. Congressional Serial Set: Numerical Lists of Documents and Reports.” GPO Access. 21 Oct. 2005 <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/numerical.html>

B. Ready Reference Finding Aids for Documents and Reports

3. Numerical Lists of Documents and Reports

Time Coverage: 1933-1981

Call Number: RR GP3.7/2: (congress number and session)

For example GP3.7/2:**97/1** would be the list number for the 97th Congress, 1st session

Congress and Session and Year of Session

97/1 1981-82 (Found in #5 of Monthly Catalog)

96/2 1980

96/1 1979

95/2 1978

95/1 1977

94/1 1975

93/2 1974

93/1 1973

92/2 1972

92/1 1971

91/2 1970

91/1 1969

90/2 1968

90/1 1967

89/2 1966

89/1 1965

88/2 1964

88/1 1963

87/2 1962

87/1 1961

86/2 1960

86/1 1959

85/2 1958

85/1 1957

84/2 1956

84/1 1955

83/2 1954

83/1 1953

82/2 1952

82/1 1951

81/2 1950

81/1 1949

80/2 1948

80/1 1947

79/2 1946

79/1 1945

78/2 1944

78/1 1943

77/2 1942

77/1 1941

76/2,3 Sept. 1939 – 1940

76/1 1939 (Jan. – Aug.)

75/2,3 Nov. 1937 - June 1938
75/1 1937
74/2 1936
74/1 1935
73/1,2 1933-34

Before 1933 the Numerical Lists and Schedule of Volumes was included in the following:

4. United States. Superintendent of Documents, Compiler. **Index to the Reports and Documents of (#)Congress, (#)Session with Numerical Lists and Schedule of Volumes.** Washington, Government Printing Office,

Time Coverage: 1905-1933

(These earlier volumes were an index to the serial set volumes as well as a listing of documents and reports.)

Call Number: RR GP 3.7:# (# refers to list numbers in list below)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 43. Dec. 1932 – March 1933 | (72nd Congress, 2nd Session) |
| 42. Dec. 1931 – July 1932 | (72nd Congress, 1st Session) |
| 41. Dec. 1930 – March 1931 | (71st Congress, 3rd Session) |
| 40. 1929-1930 | (71st Congress 1st and 2nd Sessions and Special Sessions of the Senate). |
| 39. Dec. 1928 – March 1929 | (70th Congress, 2nd Session) |
| 38. Dec. 1927 – May 1928 | (70th Congress, 1st Session) |
| 37. Dec. 1926 – March 1927 | (69th Congress, 2nd Session) |
| 36. March 1925 Special Session
and Dec. 1925-Nov. 1926 | (69th Congress, 1st Session) |
| 35. Dec. 1924 – March 1925 | (68th Congress, 2nd Session) |
| 34. Dec. 1923 – June 1924 | (68th Congress, 1st Session) |
| 33. Nov. 1922 – March 1923 | (67th Congress 3rd and 4th Session) |
| 32. Dec. 1921 – September 1922 | (67th Congress, 2nd Session) |
| 31. March – Nov. 1921 | (67th Congress, 1st Session and Special Session of the Senate) |
| 30. Dec. 1920 – March 1921 | (66th Congress, 3rd Session) |
| 29. Dec. 1919 – June 1920 | (66th Congress, 2nd Session) |
| 28. May – Nov. 1919 | (66th Congress, 1st Session) |
| 27. Dec. 1918 – March 1919 | (65th Congress, 3rd Session) |
| 26. Dec. 1917 – Nov. 1918 | (65th Congress, 2nd, Session) |
| 25. March – Oct. 1917 | (65th Congress, 1st Session) |
| 24. Dec. 1916 – March 1917 | (64th Congress, 2nd Session) |

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 23. Dec. 1915 – Sept. 1916 | (64 th Congress, 1 st Session) |
| 22. Dec. 1914 – March 1915 | (63 rd Congress, 3 rd Session) |
| 21. Dec. 1913 – Oct. 1914 | (63 rd Congress, 2 nd Session) |
| 20. March – Dec. 1913 | (63 rd Congress, 1 st Session) |
| 18. 1911-1912 | (62 nd Congress, 1 st and 2 nd Sessions) |
| 17. Dec. 1910 – March 1911 | (61 st Congress, 3 rd Session) |
| 16. 1909-1910 | (61 st Congress, 1 st and 2 nd Sessions) |
| 15. Dec. 1908 – March 1909 | (60 rd Congress, 2 nd Session) |
| 14. Dec. – May 1908 | (60 th Congress, 1 st Session) |
| 13. Dec. 1906 – March 1907 | (59 th Congress, 2 nd Session) |
| 12. Dec. 1905 – June 1906 | (59 th Congress, 1 st Session) |

5. United States. Superintendent of Documents, Compiler. **Index to the Subjects of the Documents and Reports and to the Committees, Senators, and Representatives Presenting them with Tables of the Same in Numerical Order.** Washington, Government Printing Office,

RR GP 3.7:# (Numbers refer to list number in list below.)

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 11. Dec. 1904 – March 1905 | (58 th Congress, 3 rd Session) |
| 10. Nov. 1903 – April 1904 | (58 th 1 st and 2 nd Sessions) |
| 9. Dec. 1902 – March 1903 | (57 th Congress, 2 nd Session) |
| 8. Dec. 1902 – July 1902 | (57 th Congress, 1 st Session) |
| 7. Dec. 1900 – March 1901 | (56 th Congress, 2 nd Session) |
| 6. Dec. 1899 – June 1900 | (56 th Congress, 1 st Session) |
| 5. Dec. 1898 – March 1900 | (55 th Congress, 3 rd Session) |
| 4. Dec. 1897 – July 1898 | (55 th Congress, 2 nd Session) |
| 3. March – July 1897 | (55 th Congress, 1 st Session) |

[Note: It is to be noted that not all numbers in the Serial Set Listing were kept with the volumes on the sixth floor. For example:
The Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution for 1912 was originally Serial No. 6477 but removed and cataloged separately under the number XR 506 / U5na U.S. Doc]

6. United States. Superintendent of Documents. **Tables of and Annotated Index to The Congressional Series of United States Public Documents.** Washington, Government Printing Office. 1902.
 Time Coverage: 1789 – 1893

Call Number: RR GP 3.2:P96

Coverage is for:

1st Congress, 1789 – 52nd Congress, 2nd Session March 3, 1893.

Full –Text of Documents and Reports Online

Full-Text Documents Online

7. United States. United States Government Printing Office. “**Congressional Documents: Browse.**” GPO Access. 16 December 2004.

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/cdocuments/browse.html>

Coverage: 1995-Present (Not complete collection but many reproduced for earlier years)

Full-Text Reports and Executive Reports Online

8. United States. United States Government Printing Office. “**Congressional Reports: Main Page.**” GPO Access. 15 June 2005.

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/creports/index.html>

Coverage: 1995-Present

Full-Text Reports and Documents in Hard Copy : The U.S. Serial Set

9. . Hardcopy located at the end of Government Documents Collection and incorporated into the collection includes:

Volume 465 (28th Congress 1st Session, 1844) – Volume 13542 (98th Congress 1st Session, 1983)

10 . Micofiche located currently in technical processing includes:

Volume 13393 (97th Congress) – Volume 14670 (106th Congress)

[Inventory of Serial Set Volumes at the Bridgeport Public Library](#)

PART 2: PUBLIC LAWS, STATUTES AT LARGE and THE U.S. CODE

U. S. Code Online:

United States Code Online:

11. United States. United States Government Printing Office. “**United States Code: Main Page**” GPO Access. 30 August 2005
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html>

Latest edition and Older Editions back to 1994.

U. S. Code in Hardcopy:

12. **United States Code: Congressional and Administrative News**. St. Paul, West Publishing Co.

Call Number: XRq 345/ U5Luc

Coverage: (80th Congress, 2nd Session 1948 – 96th Congress, 1st Session)

13. United States. Office of Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives. **United States Code**. Washington, Government Printing Office. Date.

Call Number: Rq345 / U5/ Year and Edition.

Only latest edition kept.

Public and Private Laws Online:

14. United States. United States Government Printing Office. “**Public and Private Laws: Main Page**.” GPO Access. 14 Feb. 2005
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html>

Coverage is from the 104th Congress, 1995 to the Present.

United States Statutes at Large Online:

15. United States. The Library of Congress. “**Statutes at Large, 1789-1875**” A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation. 01 May 2003.
<http://rs6.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsl.html>

Coverage: 1789-1875

United States Statutes at Large in Hardcopy:

15. United States. Archivist of the United States. United States Statutes At Large. Washington. Government Printing Office.

CALL NUMBER: Rq 345 / U5st and XRq 345/U5st

Coverage: 1874– Present

Finding Aids:

16. McClenon, Walter H. and Gilbert, Wilfred C. **Index to the Federal Statutes 1874-1931**. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1933.

Coverage: 1874 –1931

PART 3: CONGRESSIONAL BILLS

Bills and Resolutions

A proposed law may be introduced into either chamber of the Congress as a bill or a joint resolution. When a bill or a resolution is introduced, it is ordered to be printed and referred to one or more committees for review. Multiple versions of the same bill are not uncommon since each time a bill is successfully amended, or when it is introduced into the other house after passage in the first, a new version of the bill is required to be printed.

The sequential numbering of bills for each session of Congress began in the House with the 15th Congress (1817) and in the Senate with the 30th Congress (1847). For these bills, the researcher may consult the bill's number in the index of the appropriate *Journal* ([House](#) or [Senate](#)) to determine the ultimate fate of the proposed legislation.

Resolutions are also legislation, but unlike bills they may be limited in effect to the Congress or one of its chambers. Simple resolutions relate to the operations of a single chamber or express the collective opinion of that chamber on public policy issues. Concurrent resolutions relate to the operations of Congress, including both chambers, or express the collective opinion of both chambers on public policy issues. Unlike simple and concurrent resolutions, joint resolutions are considered to have the same effect as bills and require the approval of the President. However, only joint resolutions may be used to propose amendments to the [Constitution](#), and in this instance do not require the approval of the President. Thus, the [Bill of Rights](#) was introduced as a joint resolution in the 1st Congress and did not require the approval of the President, while the legislation annexing Texas and granting it statehood was introduced as a joint resolution but did require presidential approval.

Bills Online:

17. United States. The Library of Congress. “**Bills, Resolutions**” Thomas. [N.D.] http://thomas.loc.gov/home/bills_res.html

Search full-text of bills and by bill number. (101st Congress, 1989 – Present)

Search Bill Summary and Status. (93rd Congress, 1973 – Present)

Search Multiple Congress for legislation. (101st Congress, 1989 – Present).

17B. United States. The Library of Congress. “**A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation.**” [May 1, 2003] <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwhbsb.html>

Scattered House Bills and Resolutions from the 6th Congress (1799) through the 42nd Congress (1873)

Scattered Senate Bills and Resolutions from the 16th Congress (1819 through the 42nd Congress (1873).

17C. United States. United States Government Printing Office. Congressional Bills: Main Page. [Updated daily while Congress is in Session].
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/bills/index.html>

GPO Access contains all published versions of bills from the 103rd (1993-1994) Congress forward. The 109th Congress database is updated by 6 a.m. (EST) daily when bills are published and approved for release. The documents in these databases are available as ASCII text and Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files.

Coverage: 103rd Congress to the Present.

History of Bills:

17D. United States. United States Government Printing Office. "History of Bills."
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/hob/index.html>

The History of Bills lists legislative actions on bills that are reported in the Congressional Record, which has been published since 1874. In print, it is part of the Congressional Record Index, the biweekly publication from the Joint Committee on Printing, but on *GPO Access* it is a separate application.

***GPO Access* contains the History of Bills from 1983 to the present.** Databases are cumulative from the beginning of each congressional session. The current year's database is updated daily, usually the day after publication of the Congressional Record. Documents are available as ASCII text files only.

A typical entry includes a bill number, title, summary, names of sponsors and cosponsors, and a chronological list of actions on the bill. Each action references a Congressional Record page number and the date when the action was reported in the format "S5798 [9JN]" (page 5798 in the Senate section from the June 9 issue for that year).

17E House Journal: History of Bills and Resolutions.
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/hjournal/index.html>

Another way to find the subject of a bill and its outcome is to look in the History of Bills and Resolutions in the House Journal. A searchable database for 1991 –1999 exists on the internet

17F GovTrack.Us

<http://www.govtrack.us/>

GovTrack is a private website that tracks bills from the U.S. Congress. It gives some legislative history in its citations and may be a valuable private resource when searching out the status of bills or legislative history.

Bills in Hardcopy/Microfiche:

Unless bills were reprinted in the Congressional Record or the U.S. Serial Set, BPL does not have hard copy.

The Connecticut State Library has the following coverage: (96th Cong. 1979 – Present)

The Yale Law Library (Lillian Goldman) has the following coverage: (1970 – present)

PART 4: THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD / CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

Congressional Record Online and Finding Aid:

Thomas:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/r109query.html>

Coverage: (101st Congress, 1989 – Present)

Congressional Record Hardcopy located on level three:

18. United States. The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States; with An Appendix containing Important State Papers and Public Documents And All The Laws of a Public Nature; with a Copious Index. Washington, Gales and Seaton.

Note: Binding reads Annals of Congress

Coverage: (1st Congress, 1789 – 18th Congress 1st Session, 1824.)

Call Number: XRq 328.73 / U5ccg

19. The Congressional Globe: New Series: Containing Sketches of the Debates and Proceedings of the _____ Session of the _____ Congress. Washington, Blair and Rives.

Coverage: (29th Congress, 2nd Session, 1846 – 42nd, 3rd Session 1873)

Library also owns The Congressional Globe on microfilm.

(23rd Congress, 1833 – 31st Congress 1851)
(34th Congress 1855 – 1856)
(38th Congress 1864 – 1865)

20. United States. The Congressional Record Containing the Proceedings and Debates of the ____ Congress, _____ Session. Washington, Government Printing Office. Date.

Coverage: (43rd Congress, 1st Session, 1873 – Present)

Also on Microfilm:

(43rd Congress 1873 – 51st Congress 1891)
(99th Congress 1985 – 104th Congress 1996)

21. Abridgment of the Debates of Congress, From 1789 to 1856. New York, D. Appleton and Company, 1857.

(1st Congress 1789 – 31st Congress, 1st Session 1850)

PART 5: SENATE TREATIES

Finding Aid:

22. United States. Department of State. Treaties in Force. United States Government Printing Office.

Call Number: Rq341.273 / U58dst (Most recent in R, earlier volumes in XR)

Treaties Online:

22. United States. Library of Congress. "Treaties" Thomas, [n.d.]

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/treaties/treaties.html>

Coverage: (90th Congress, 1968 – Present)

23. United States. United States Government Printing Office. "**Congressional Documents: Main Page.**" GPO Access, 18 April 2005.

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/cdocuments/index.html>

Coverage: (104th Congress, 1995 – Present)

Treaties in Hardcopy:

24. United States. Secretary of State. **United States Treaties and Other International Agreements**. Washington, United States Government Printing Office.
Call Number: XRq341.2 / U5tu

Coverage (1950 – 1995)

(Note: Bound Volumes for 1950 – 1984, Slip Treaties up through 1995)

25. Bevans, Charles I. **Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States of America 1776-1949**. Washington, United States Government Printing Office, 1968.
Call Number: XRq341,2 / U5b

Coverage (1776-1949)

PART 6: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

Congressional Hearings Online and Finding Aid for Hearings:

United States. United States Government Printing Office. Congressional Hearings:
Main Page. GPO Access, 9 November 2005
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/chearings/index.html>

Coverage: 104th Congress (1995-1996) – Present

Congressional Hearing Hardcopy:

At the present time we have hearings in both hardcopy and microfiche. No inventory of this collection currently exists.

Coverage: Unknown

