

# Congressional Information Demystified Bibliography

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<http://libguides.gatech.edu/government>

- **Congressional Information Guides**

- *How Our Laws Are Made* 65 pages, Revised and Updated by John V. Sullivan, Parliamentarian, United States House of Representatives) July 24, 2007  
[http://thomas.loc.gov/home/laws\\_made.html](http://thomas.loc.gov/home/laws_made.html)
- *Enactment of a Law*. Robert B. Dove, Parliamentarian, United States Senate. Updated February 1997. [http://thomas.loc.gov/home/laws\\_made.html](http://thomas.loc.gov/home/laws_made.html)
- *Electronic Sources for Federal Legislative History Documents With Years/Congresses Available*. Richard J. McKinney, Assistant Law Librarian, Federal Reserve Board. Part of the Law Librarians' Society of Washington D.C.'s *Legislative Source Book*.  
<http://www.llsdc.org/attachments/wysiwyg/544/elec-leg-hist-docs.pdf>
- *Selected Congressional Research Service Reports on Congress and Its Procedures*. Part of the Law Librarians' Society of Washington D.C.'s *Legislative Source Book*.  
<http://www.llsdc.org/crs-congress/>
- *Questions and Answers in Legislative and Regulatory Research*. Revised October, 2004. Part of Law Librarians' Society of Washington D.C.'s *Legislative Source Book*.  
<http://www.llsdc.org/Legis-Q-and-A/>
- *Finding and Establishing Direct Links to THOMAS and GPO Access Documents*. Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C Part of LLSDC's *Legislative Source Book*.  
<http://www.llsdc.org/establishinglinks/>
- *Selected Congressional Research Service Reports on Congress and Its Procedures*. Part of Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C.'s *Legislative Source Book*.  
<http://www.llsdc.org/crs-congress/>
- **Frequently Asked Questions**. THOMAS, Library of Congress. [Help](http://thomas.loc.gov/home/faqlist.html)  
<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/faqlist.html>
- **About THOMAS** [http://thomas.loc.gov/home/abt\\_thom.html](http://thomas.loc.gov/home/abt_thom.html)
- **THOMAS**, list of publications. Good summary  
<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/lawsmade.bysec/appendix.html>
- *An Overview of the Congressional Record and Its Predecessor Publications*. Part of Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C.'s *Legislative Source Book*.  
<http://www.llsdc.org/cong-record/>
- **UCLA Library**. Public Policy – Legislation, Research Guide  
<http://guides.library.ucla.edu/content.php?pid=14256&sid=107576>
- **Govtrack.us**. A Civic project to track Congress. GovTrack.us is a project of Civic Impulse, LLC. <http://www.govtrack.us/>
- **Emory Law Library**, Legal History <http://library.law.emory.edu/for-law-students/emory-law-subject-guides/legal-history/>

- **Reference Sources and Indexes**

- *CQ Almanac*. CQ Press. In-depth analysis of the path legislation takes through Congress.
  - *Congressional Quarterly Almanac* 1948 – 2000; *CQ ... Almanac Plus* 2001 – 2006; *CQ ... Almanac* 2007 - ? ; *CQ Almanac Online* <http://www.cqpress.com>
- *Glossaries*
  - **Congressional Glossary**. THOMAS, Library of Congress  
<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/definitions/index.html>
  - **Congressional Bills: Glossary** (GPO)  
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/bills/glossary.html>
  - **Glossary of Legislative and Archival Terms**  
<http://www.archives.gov/legislative/guide/house/appendix-e.html>
  - **Senate Glossary**
- *CIS Index & CIS Microfiche Library* (1970-2010). [Congressional Information Service](#) (Lexis/Nexis)
- *PAIS*. 1915 to present. *PAIS International* 1972+ and *PAIS Archives* 1915-1976. [CSA](#) (Public Affairs Information Service). Indexes selected government documents.
- *CQ Weekly*. CQ Press. About 10 reports; events of that week; Bills to Watch; Weekly Index; In Focus; Sept 13 Fall Outlook for key issues.
- *Guide to U.S. Government publications*. [Gale](#). Formerly John L. Andriot *Guide to U.S. Government serials and periodicals* Good for looking up agency histories, name changes.
- *GPO Monthly Catalog*
- *LexisNexis Academic* (Galileo)
  - News - Newspapers & Wires ; TV & Radio Transcripts
  - US Legal - Federal Statues, Codes and Regulations
    - Annotated U.S. Code (USCS) Matthew Bender/Lexis Nexis
    - Public Laws 1988-
    - CFR Code of Federal Regulation ; Federal Register July 1980 –

- **Congressional Activity and Related Web Sites**

- **FDsys**. Federal Digital System. Provides public access to Government information submitted by Congress and Federal agencies. <http://www.fdsys.gov/>
  - [Congressional Bills](#) 103rd Congress (1993/1994) to Present
  - [Congressional Committee Prints](#) 104th Congress (1995/1996) to Present
  - [Congressional Hearings](#) 99th Congress (1985/1986) to Present, FDsys
    - Not all congressional hearings are available on FDsys. Whether or not a hearing is disseminated on FDsys depends on the committee. GPO continues to add hearings irregularly as they become available during each session of Congress. If a congressional hearing is not listed in the Universal Catalog, it is not available electronically via GPO at this time. Published hearings take a while and a long while for a fiche and a long while for LexisNexis
  - [Congressional Documents](#) 99th Congress (1985/86) to Present
  - [Congressional Reports](#) 104th Congress (1995/1996) to Present
  - [Constitution of U.S.: Analysis and Interpretation](#) 1992 to 2008
  - [Federal Register XML Bulk Data](#) FR 2.0 1994 to Present

- [GAO Reports and Comptroller General Decisions](#) 1993 to 2008
- [History of Bills](#) 98<sup>th</sup> Congress (1983/1984) to Present. Legislative actions on bills that are reported in the Congressional Record
- [Journal of the House of Representatives](#) 1992 to 1999
- [Public and Private Laws](#) 104<sup>th</sup> Congress (1995/1996) to Present
- [United States Code](#) 1994 to Present
- [United States Government Manual](#) 1995-1996 to Present
- [United States Statutes at Large](#) (2003 to 2006)
- **THOMAS.** Congress directed the Library of Congress (LC) to make federal legislative information freely available to the public. <http://thomas.loc.gov/>
  - [Congress-to-Year Conversion](#)
  - [Bills and Resolutions](#)
    - [Search Bill Text](#) 101<sup>st</sup> Congress (1989/1990) to Present
    - [Search Bill Summary & Status](#) 93<sup>rd</sup> Congress (1973/1974) to Present
    - [Search Multiple Congresses](#) 101<sup>st</sup> Congress (1989-1990) to Present
    - [Browse Popular and Short Titles](#) 93<sup>rd</sup> Congress (1973/1974) to Present
  - [Presidential Nominations](#) 100<sup>th</sup> Congress (1987/1988) to Present
  - [Treaties](#) 90<sup>th</sup> Congress (1967/1968) to Present
  - [Committee Reports](#) 104<sup>th</sup> Congress (1995/1996) to Present
- **House of Representatives** <http://house.gov>
- **Senate** <http://senate.gov/>
- **Congressional Record.** Substantially verbatim account of the remarks made by Senators and Representatives while they are on the floor of the Senate and the House of Representatives. It also includes all bills, resolutions, and motions proposed, as well as debates and roll call votes.
  - [Congressional Record](#) 101<sup>st</sup> Congress (1989-1990) to Present (THOMAS)
  - [Congressional Record \(Bound\)](#) 1998 to 2002 (FDsys)
  - [Congressional Record \(Daily\)](#) 1994 to Present (FDsys)
  - [Congressional Record Index \(Daily\)](#) 1983 to Present (FDsys)
  - *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates 1774-1875.* <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>
  - Print or microform
- **Presidential documents/papers**
  - **White House** <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>
  - **Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents** is the official publication of presidential statements, messages, remarks, and other materials released by the White House Press Secretary. <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/presdocs/browse.html>
  - **Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents** (1993 through January 29, 2009) <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/wcomp/index.html>
  - **Public papers of the presidents of the United States.**
    - [FDsys](#) (1991-2005)
    - [University of Michigan](#) Digital Library. Volumes covering the administrations of Presidents Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton.
- [Catalog of U.S. Government Publications](#)

- **Directories**
  - **Congressional Directory** 105th Congress (1997/1998) to Present (FDsys)
  - **Congressional Pictorial Directory** 105th Congress (1997) to Present (FDsys)
  - **Congressional Yellow Book**. Annual. **Leadership Directories, Inc**
  - **Almanac of American Politics**. Biennial. **National Journal Group Inc.**
  - **Washington information directory**. **CQ Press**
  - **Congressional staff directory**. **CQ Press**
  - Individual member contact information <http://www.senate.gov> and <http://www.house.gov>
- **Reports.**
  - Congressional Committee Reports and be found throughout FDsys and THOMAS.
  - CRS, CBO, and GAO submit reports to Congress - these reports summarize key legislation or analyze issues, or provide cost analyses.
  - **CRS Reports. Congressional Research Service** (within Library of Congress). Many are available through third party sources, especially:
    - **OpenCRS**. Good browse with summaries for recent reports <http://opencrs.com/>
    - **Federation of American Scientists** Easiest browse Miscellaneous Topics (by broad topics plus miscellaneous) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/index.html>
    - **University of North Texas**. UNT Digital Library. Good Browse by Subject (but old info.) <http://digital.library.unt.edu/explore/collections/CRSR/>
  - **CBO - Congressional Budget Office** - select "Publications" (available from 1975 onward) or "Cost Estimates" <http://www.cbo.gov/>
  - **GAO - Government Accountability Office** (until 2004 the Government Accounting Office) - website has full-text to more than 50,000 reports from 1970 onward (select "Reports & Testimonies"). Can also browse a hot topics current list of reports by selecting "Topic Collections". <http://www.gao.gov/>
- **Historical**
  - **Congress and the Nation**. **CQ Press**. 1945-2008; every four years. **Volume XII** was released September, 2010. Key legislation is summarized; also includes legal actions.
  - **A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates 1774-1875**. Library of Congress, American Memory <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>
    - The **Annals of Congress**, formally known as **The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States**, cover the 1st Congress through the first session of the 18th Congress, from 1789 to 1824. The *Annals* were not published contemporaneously, but were compiled between 1834 and 1856, using the best records available, primarily newspaper accounts. Speeches are paraphrased rather than presented verbatim, but the record of debate is nonetheless fuller than that available from the **House** and **Senate Journals**.
    - The **Register of Debates** is a record of the congressional debates of the 18th Congress, 2nd Session through the 25th Congress, 1st Session (1824-37).
    - The **Congressional Globe**, as it is usually called, contains the congressional debates of the 23rd through 42nd Congresses (1833-73).

- The ***Congressional Record*** began publication in 1873. Printed by the Government Printing Office, it is the fourth and final series of publications containing the debates of Congress. (It was preceded by the *Annals of Congress*, *Register of Debates*, and *Congressional Globe*.) Congressional Record, 1873-1875.
- ***CIS U.S. Serial Set Index***. Washington : Congressional Information Service, 15th-34th Congresses, 1789-1857
- **U.S. Serial Set Digital Collection** (commercial database) – Readex or LexisNexis (1789-1969; Serial Set map collection sold separately)
- **Children’s guides to how laws are made**
  - ***Kids in the House -- How Laws are Made*** <http://kids.clerk.house.gov/>
    - ***How Laws Are Made*** <http://kids.clerk.house.gov/grade-school/lesson.html?intID=17> (Grade School)
    - ***How a Bill Becomes a Law*** <http://kids.clerk.house.gov/high-school/lesson.html?intID=17> (High School)
  - ***Facts of Congress Videos with Scripts***. In cooperation with Indiana University Television and Flashback Productions of Boulder Colorado, the Center on Congress has developed a series of brief, 60-second video segments aimed at middle-school students. [http://www.centeroncongress.org/learn\\_about/feature/tv\\_fact\\_of\\_congress.php](http://www.centeroncongress.org/learn_about/feature/tv_fact_of_congress.php)
  - ***Congress for Kids***. Dirksen Congressional Center. Geared for grades 4-12. Interactive site providing a tour of the federal government, covering the three branches of government, democracy, the Constitution, and elections. <http://congressforkids.net/index.htm>
  - ***Ben’s Guide to U.S. Government for Kids*** <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/> For grades 3-5, 6-8, 9-12. Has section *How Laws Are Made*
  - ***Children's Books and Web Sites about the U.S. Government*** <http://www.senate.gov/reference/bibliography/kids/kids.htm> Bibliography from the Senate for children and young adults.

Note: This guide is located at the Government Information Research Guide, Georgia Tech Library <http://libguides.gatech.edu/government>

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