

# Finding Congressional Documents

jc 3/03

## The Congressional Record

The *Congressional Record* is the official publication covering the proceedings of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The daily *Congressional Record* contains floor proceedings, extensions of remarks, and a daily digest. The 1st issue of each month includes a summary of bills enacted, bills reported, votes, vetoes, and executive nominations. Later, a permanent edition is printed, with a cumulated Index and a cumulated Daily Digest section.

X 1.1/A:       **Congressional Record**, Daily edition  
Level 3       Retained until permanent edition volumes are received. Shelved after the permanent edition volumes.

X 1.1/a:       **Congressional Record Index**  
Level 3       Index to the Daily edition. Shelved after all the Dailies.

### **Congressional Record Index**

[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/aces/aaces190.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aaces190.html)  
1983-date

<http://thomas.loc.gov/j108/j108index1.html>  
104<sup>th</sup> (1995) - date

X 1.1:         **Congressional Record**, Permanent edition v. 1 (1873) – date  
Level 3       43rd Congress, Special session of the Senate of the United States (Mar. 4 to 26, 1873) – date  
The last volume for each congress has an index for that session.

### **Congressional Record**

[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/aces/aces150.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces150.html)  
v. 140 (1994) –

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/r108query.html>  
1989/90 - date

## Historical volumes

X 1-X 42       **Annals of the Congress of the United States**  
Microfilm     (also known as The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States)  
Level 3       1<sup>st</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> session (Mar. 3, 1789) - 18<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> session (May 27, 1824)  
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwac.html>

X 43-X 71     **Register of Debates in Congress**  
Microfilm     v.1 (1824) – v. 14 (1837)  
Level 3       18<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session (Dec. 6-8, 1824) – 25<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session (Oct. 6, 1837)  
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwrdr.html>

X 72-X 180   **Congressional Globe**  
Microfilm     v. 1 (1833) – v. 44 (1873)  
Level 3       23<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session (Dec. 7, 1833) – 42<sup>nd</sup> Congress, 3<sup>rd</sup> session (Dec. 2, 1872 – Jan. 17, 1873)  
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwgc.html>

## Indexes to Historical Volumes

- REF            **Index to Annals of the Congress of the United States**  
J11 .A52      v. 1. 1st Congress through 12th Congress (1789-1813)  
Level 4        v. 2. 13th Congress through 18th Congress, 1st session (1813-1824)
- REF            **Index to the Register of Debates in Congress**  
J11 .A52      18<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session (Dec. 6-8, 1824) – 25<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session (Oct. 6, 1837)

## Senate and House Journals

From the opening session, the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate have kept separate journals of their proceedings. The Journal should be seen as the minutes of floor action. It notes the matters considered by the House and the votes and other actions taken. It does not record the actual debates. For those the user must turn to the Congressional Record, and for historical issues, the Annals of Congress, Register of Debates, and The Congressional Globe.

- XJH:            **Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States**  
Level 3        83rd:1st Sess. (1953)-104th:2nd Sess. pt.1&2 (1996)
- XJH:            **CD-ROM Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States**  
Level 3        no.102-1 (1991)-no.104-2 (1996)
- Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States (1991-1998)**  
                  <http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS485>
- Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States (1789-1873)**  
                  <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwhjlink.html>
- XJS:            **Journal of the Senate of the United States**  
Level 3        1992-1998
- Journal of the Senate of the United States (1789 - 1873)**  
                  <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsj.html>

In addition to its legislative journal, the Senate has maintained from its first session a separate record of its executive proceedings, those relating to its functions of confirming presidential nominees and consenting to the making of treaties. The Senate Executive Journal was made public in 1828, when they decided to publish the proceedings for all the previous congresses and in future to publish the journal for each session at its close. Each volume contains an index for that session.

- Y 1.3/4:        **Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate of the United States**  
Level 3        v.135:103rd (1993:1st Sess.)-v.139:105th (1996:1st Sess.), 140:105th (1998:2nd Sess.)
- Executive Journal of the Senate of the United States (1789 to 1837)**  
                  <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lweej.html>

## Historical Volumes

- JK1059 1st .D6    **Documentary history of the First Federal Congress of the United States of America**  
Level 1        v.1-14 (Mar. 4, 1789 - Mar. 3, 1791)
- J10 .A52        **Journals of the Continental Congress**  
Level 1        v. 1 (1774) – v. 34 (1789)
- <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwjc.html>

## **The Congressional Serial Set**

Beginning in 1789, the Serial Set is a sequentially numbered compilation of bound House and Senate Reports and Documents. These publications are first issued individually throughout each Congress and are later permanently bound into the numbered volumes of the Serial Set.

### **Indexes**

#### **Tables of and Annotated Index to the Congressional Series of United States Public Documents**

REF Z1223 .A 1902

Covers 1<sup>st</sup> – 52<sup>nd</sup> (1789 - 1892/93)

#### **Index to the Subjects of the Documents and Reports and to the Committees, Senators, and Representatives Presenting Them** (also called Consolidated Index. Title on Spine: Document Index)

REF Z1223 .A14

54<sup>th</sup> (1895) – 59<sup>th</sup> (1906/07)

#### **Index to the Reports and Documents of the \_\_\_ Congress, \_\_\_ Session**

REF Z1223

60<sup>th</sup> (1907) – 72<sup>nd</sup> (1932/33)

#### **Numerical Lists and Schedule of Volumes of the Reports and Documents of the \_\_\_ Congress, \_\_\_ Session**

REF Z1223 .A15

73<sup>rd</sup> (1933) – 96<sup>th</sup> (1980)

#### **Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications.**

##### **United States Congressional Serial Set Supplement**

REF Z1223 .A15

97<sup>th</sup> (1981/82)

##### **United States Congressional Serial Set Catalog**

REF Z1223 .A15

98<sup>th</sup> (1985/86)-103<sup>rd</sup> (1993/94)

### **Finding Aids**

Marhenke, Chris E. "Reader's Exchange: Finding Official Records Volumes in the U.S. Serial Set."

[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/pubs/techsup/ts120197.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/techsup/ts120197.html)

Saunders, Virginia and August Imholtz. "U.S. Congressional Serial Set Assigned Serial Numbers Not Used."

[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/pubs/techsup/ts113098.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/techsup/ts113098.html)

U.S. Serial Set: What it is and its History

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/gpoaccess/fdlp/history/sset/sset7.html>

Table of Congressional Publication Volumes and Presidential Issuances: 1789-1999

<http://www.llsdc.org/sourcebook/docs/tab-cong.pdf>

### **Commercially Published Indexes to the Serial Set**

#### **CIS U.S. Serial Set Index**

REF Z1223.Z9 C65 1975

Index Table 6, Level 4

Covers 1789 – 1969

#### **CIS Index**

REF KF49 .C62

Index Table 6, Level 4

1970 - date

(current issues loose-leaf, older volumes bound)

# Congressional Commission and Committee Publications

## Introduction of Legislation

**Bills** (cited as or S. <no.> or H.R. <no.>)

Only a member of Congress can introduce legislation. The term "bill" is used for most proposals, and they can originate in either the House or the Senate. Bills are assigned a number in the order in which they are introduced during the 2-year congressional term.

*Find these in the online catalog by doing a keyword search of the resolution number i.e. h r 15*

### **Congressional Bills**

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/cong009.html>

103<sup>rd</sup> Congress (1993/94) - date

### **Bill Text**

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/c108query.html>

101<sup>st</sup> Congress (1989/90) – date

**Joint Resolutions** (cited as S.J. Res. <no.> or H.J. Res. <no.>)

Joint Resolutions were once used to introduce legislation of a general nature but are now used to propose minor, incidental, or unusual legislation or to propose amendments to the constitution. These joint resolutions are also assigned a sequential number, and the language is "resolved" rather than "be it enacted" (which is used for Bills).

*Find these in the online catalog by doing a keyword search of the resolution number i.e. h j res 114*

### **Congressional Bills** (including resolutions)

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/billsindex.html>

103<sup>rd</sup> Congress (1993/94) – date

### **Bill Summary and Status** (including resolutions)

<http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d108query.html>

101<sup>st</sup> Congress (1989/90) - date

**Concurrent Resolutions** (cited as S.Con.Res. <no.> or S.Con.Res. <no>)

Although called concurrent, these resolutions do not necessarily go through both houses at the same time. They are usually used to express an opinion, and are not normally legislative in nature. These are also numbered sequentially based on the order they were introduced.

*find these in the online catalog by doing a keyword search of the resolution number i.e. h con res 116*

### **Congressional Bills** (including resolutions)

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/billsindex.html>

103<sup>rd</sup> Congress (1993/94) – date

### **Bill Summary and Status** (including resolutions)

<http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d108query.html>

101<sup>st</sup> Congress (1989/90) - date

**Resolutions** (cited as S.Res <no.> or H.Res. <no.>)

These resolutions, also called simple resolutions, are used by one house to deal with issues only affecting that body, or to give the sense of the body on a particular issue. Resolutions are also numbered sequentially.

*Find these in the online catalog by doing a keyword search of the resolution number i.e. s res 14*

### **Congressional Bills** (including resolutions)

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/billsindex.html>

103<sup>rd</sup> Congress (1993/94) – date

### **Bill Summary and Status** (including resolutions)

<http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d108query.html>

101<sup>st</sup> Congress (1989/90) – date

## **Committee Action**

### **Hearings**

After a bill is introduced, it is assigned to a committee (standing committees each have jurisdiction over bills in certain areas) by the Speaker of the House so that it can be studied. The standing committee (or often a subcommittee) studies the bill and hears testimony from experts and people interested in the bill. Cooper Library receives many of these publications from the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) in paper, microfiche, and electronic formats. The numbers for hearings begin with SuDoc number Y 4:, and they are filed in a slightly different way than other federal documents. See the last page of this handout for details.

Internet      **Congressional Hearings** (limited number included)  
<http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/cong017.html>  
105th Congress (1997/98) - date

### **Bill Summary and Status**

<http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d108query.html>  
101<sup>st</sup> Congress (1989/90) - date

### **Committee Prints**

Committee prints are publications prepared for the use and reference of committee members. Cooper Library receives many of these publications in paper, microfiche, and electronic formats. The numbers for committee prints also begin with SuDoc number Y 4: and they are filed in a slightly different way than other federal documents. See the last page of this handout for more details.

Internet      **Congressional Committee Prints** (limited number included)  
<http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/cpsrch.html>  
105th Congress (1997/98) - date

### **House Ways and Means Committee Prints**

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/wm001.html>  
104<sup>th</sup> Congress (1995/96) - date

In addition, many of these prints are published by CRS (Congressional Research Service), and they may be available electronically: <http://gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/%7Egprice/crs.htm>

### **Committee Reports**

If the committee votes to report the bill favorably to the House, one of the committee members writes the committee report. The report describes the purpose and scope of the bill and the reasons for its recommended approval. Generally, a section-by-section analysis is set forth explaining precisely what each section is intended to accomplish. Cooper Library receives many of these publications in paper, microfiche, and electronic formats. The numbers for committee reports begin with SuDoc number Y 1.1/8:, and they are filed in a slightly different way than other federal documents. See the last page of this handout for more details.

Internet      **Congressional Reports** (Senate, House, and Executive Reports)  
<http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/cong005.html>  
104th Congress (1995/96) – date

### **Committee Reports**

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cp108/cp108query.html>  
104th Congress (1995/96) – date

*Find these in the online catalog by doing a keyword search of the name of the committee and the type of publication i.e. armed reserves and report*

*When the bill has been agreed to in identical form by both bodies—either: (1) without amendment by the Senate; (2) by House concurrence in Senate amendments; (3) by Senate concurrence in House amendments; or (4) by agreement in both bodies to the conference report—a copy of the bill is enrolled for presentation to the President.*

## **List of Congressional Committees**

### **House of Representatives**

[http://www.gpo.gov/congress/house/index.html#house\\_committees](http://www.gpo.gov/congress/house/index.html#house_committees)

including links to a committee's web site, membership; jurisdiction; rules; and publications process by the committee that are available on GPO Access

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

membership, jurisdiction, daily schedules, news releases, hearing schedules and transcripts, oversight plans

### **Senate**

[http://www.gpo.gov/congress/senate/index.html#senate\\_committees](http://www.gpo.gov/congress/senate/index.html#senate_committees)

including links to a committee's web site, membership; jurisdiction; rules; and publications process by the committee that are available on GPO Access

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

membership, jurisdiction, daily schedules, news releases, hearing schedules and transcripts, oversight plans

## **Indexes to Congressional Publications**

### **Index to the Reports and Documents of the ...Congress**

REF Z1223 .A14

60th (1907-08)-72nd (1932-33)

### **Index to the Subjects of the Documents and Reports and to the Committees...**

REF Z1223 .A14

54th (1895)-59th (1906-1907)

### **Document Catalog**

GP 3.6:

Level 3

v.1 (1893:Mar.3/1896:Jun.30)-v.22 (1933:Jul.1/1934:Dec.31); v.23 (1935/1936)-v.25 (1939/1940)

### **Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications**

See Library's Catalogs web page

<http://www.lib.clemson.edu/oncat/>

## **Commercial Indexes to Congressional Publications**

### **CIS Index to Publications of the United States Congress**

REF KF49 .C621

Library retains latest 2 years

### **CIS Annual**

REF KF49 .C62

1970 - date, with 5-year cumulative Indexes

This is the annual cumulation of the above publication

### **Congressional Index**

REF J69 .C6

Library retains latest 2 years

### **Cumulative Index of Congressional Committee Hearings (not Confidential in Character)**

KF40 .U52

74<sup>th</sup> Congress (1935) – 85<sup>th</sup> Congress (1959)

Supplement

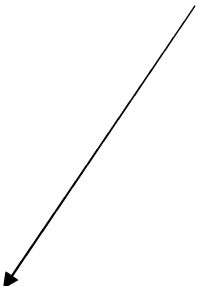
1st (1959-62)-4th (1971-74), 5th (1975-76)-7th (1979-80)

## Congressional Publications

The numbers for congressional commission and committee publications (beginning with Y 3. Or Y 4.) use a slightly different format than other federal documents. The set of characters listed after the Y 3. or Y 4. is a committee designation, which is composed of letters and numbers. The letters are based on an important word in the name of the commission or committee. Within the Y section, these documents will be shelved alphabetically, and then numerically by the designation number.

These numbers are often followed by a slash and then a number or numbers. The additional numbers with no dash come before the same number with a dash (followed by another number) thus adhering to the general principle that **nothing comes before something** in Su Doc numbers.

Y 4.F 49: 96-89  
Y 4.F 49/1: 98-103  
Y 4.F 76: 97-25  
Y 4.F 76/1: 94-36  
Y 4.J 89/1: 98-100  
Y 4.J 89/1-12: 984  
Y 4.J 89/2: 99-10  
Y 4.J 89/2-10: 984  
Y 4.J 89/2-11: 979



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After the colon, several types of individual book numbers are used: dates, numbers, volumes, and Cutter numbers. When used after a colon, a Cutter number is taken from an important word in the title of the document. Usually, for each class number, only one type of book number will be used. However, if both letters and numbers are used for the same class number, the lettered publications are shelved before the numbered ones (**letters before numbers**).

Y 4.J 89/1: AD 65  
Y 4.J 89/1: C 17  
Y 4.J 89/1: 104/23  
Y 4.J 89/2: C 55/2  
Y 4.J 89/2: S.HRG. 104-374  
Y 4.J 89/2: 98/52

A slash, and then another number or series of numbers often follows cutter numbers after the colon. Often one of these following numbers is the date of a certain edition of the document. Dates before the 21<sup>st</sup> century appear without the initial 1, ex.879=1879 and 989=1989. **Dates after a slash are shelved before numbers after a slash.**

Y 4.AP 6/1: D 36  
Y 4.AP 6/1: D 36/950  
Y 4.AP 6/1: D 36/2  
Y 4.AP 6/1: D 36/2/943