

# Congressional Information Resources



The Constitution of the United States:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article. I.

Section. 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

## RETROSPECTIVE RESOURCES

[Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U. S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875](#)

Includes 16 important series in four major groups:

Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention

Statutes and Documents

Journals of Congress

Debates of Congress

[American State Papers, 1789-1838](#)

Legislative and executive documents, many originating from the important period between 1789 and the beginning of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set in 1817.

Example: Report of the Lewis and Clarke Expedition, 1804-06.

[U. S. Congressional Serial Set, 1817-1980](#) (go/uss)

Contains almost 350,000 publications. Includes publications from the Executive branch that are submitted to Congress.

Example: [Narrative of the Expedition of an American Squadron to the China Seas and Japan](#) [Serial Set 770] ==> [Plate of fish](#)

[U. S. Congressional Serial Set Maps](#)

Example: [Map of Lake Dunmore and Silver Lake, Vermont](#) [Serial Set 5013]

[Numerical Lists of Documents and Reports](#) 1957 - to date

Lists numerically, with a brief title, all of the Senate and House Documents and Reports issued during a Session of Congress and provides the equivalent Serial Set number.

*Numerical Lists and Schedules of Volumes of the Reports and Documents of the...Congress, 1933 - 1980*

Govt. Docs Ref. Z1223 A16

[Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774 to Present](#)

## CONTEMPORARY RESOURCES

[Congressional Directory](#)

[Congressional Pictorial Directory](#)

[Congressional District Atlas](#)

Congressional district boundaries can change after each decennial census of population.

[FDSys](#) (formerly known as GPO Access)

Major source of Congressional bills, documents, hearings, laws and reports and the Congressional Record.

[THOMAS: Congressional Information from the Library of Congress](#)

Comprehensive site for legislative information. Includes bills, Presidential nominations, treaties, and

committee reports.

[Proquest Congressional](#) (formerly LexisNexis Congressional Universe)

Index and with some full-text for Congressional hearings, committee prints, reports and documents.

Documents -- Reports from non-Congressional sources on many topics.

Prints -- Prepared for the use of committees and their staffs; frequently written by the Congressional Research Service.

Example: [Country Reports on Human Rights Practices](#)

Reports -- Describe the purpose and scope and purpose of a bill and reasons for recommending approval.

Hearings -- Provide public testimony by witnesses

Example: Pearl Harbor Attack

Example: Investigation of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

Example: Investigation of the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Example: Watergate Investigation

[U. S. Congress Votes Database](#)

Documents every vote and member of the House and Senate since 1991.

[Congressional Pig Book -- Citizens Against Government Waste](#)

Annual compilation of the pork-barrel projects in the federal budget.

[Power Trips -- The Center for Public Integrity](#)

Information about privately funded trips taken by members of Congress.

[U. S. House of Representatives Home Page](#)

[U. S. Senate Home Page](#)

[U. S. Statutes at Large](#) 1951 - to date.

*U. S. Statutes at Large*, v. 1 - date   Stacks KF50 U5

Slip laws are published first and then cumulated in bound volumes.

[Congressional Budget Office](#)

Provides Congress with nonpartisan analyses for economic and budget decisions.

[Capitol Hearings -- A Service of C-SPAN](#)

Daily Congressional hearings, live on the Web.

[Open CRS](#)

Reports by the Congressional Research Service to members of Congress on a variety of topics relevant to current political events. Some reports are also included in Academic OneFile.

[Tracking the United States Congress](#)

Track the status of current federal legislation and legislative records from 1993 forward.

[CO Guide to Congress](#)

Provides extensive background on the history, powers, and procedures of the institution.

[CO Weekly](#)

Expert coverage of main points of major bills and their status.

[How Federal Laws are Made](#)

[Rep. Peter Welch Home Page](#)

[Sen. Patrick Leahy Home Page](#)

[Sen. Bernie Sanders Home Page](#)

[House and Senate Campaign Finance](#)

Additional information:

*Introduction to United States Government Information Sources*, by Joe Morehead. Ref. ZA5055 U6 M67

The Moodle version of this guide is available at:

[Congressional Information Resources](#)