GUIDE TO FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE HISTORY RESEARCH

This guide shows where to find federal legislative history materials, by type of document. Italicized abbreviations in parentheses indicate the *Bluebook* citation abbreviation.

**BILLS (H.R. = House Bill; S. = Senate Bill):**

- GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE (GPO) MICROFICHE - 1979-2000
- LEXIS from 1989
- LEXIS NEXIS CONGRESSIONAL (formerly Congressional Universe) from 1989
- WESTLAW from 1995 (Current: CONG-BILTXT; Other: CONG-BILTXT [Congress #])
- AMERICAN MEMORY - Bills and Resolutions -
  [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwhbsb.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwhbsb.html). House, 1799-1873; Senate, 1819-1873

**COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS AND PRINTS (H.R. Doc. No. = House of Representatives Document Number; S. Doc. No. = Senate Document Number; Comm. Print = Committee Print):**

- CIS MICROFICHE - 1970-1996
- LEXIS - Prints from 1995-2003; numbered Documents series from 1995
- LEXIS NEXIS CONGRESSIONAL - Prints from 1830; Documents from 1817-1969, 1995-present
- U. S. SERIAL SET (also online at LEXIS NEXIS CONGRESSIONAL, full text 1817-1969-
- HOUSE.GOV and SENATE.GOV Committee Web pages - selected Prints from 1997
- AMERICAN MEMORY- U.S. Serial Set (selections, 1833-1917
  [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwss.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwss.html))

**COMMITTEE HEARINGS:**

- LEXIS - selected transcripts from 1988; most prepared statements from 1993; see also LEXIS NEXIS CONGRESSIONAL, same coverage dates, plus 1789-1969 from the U.S. Serial Set)
- WESTLAW - selected coverage, 1993-1996; full coverage from 1996 (USTESTIMONY)


- USCCAN from 1941; selected reports
● CIS MICROFICHE - 1970-1998
● LEXIS from 1990 (see also LEXIS NEXIS CONGRESSIONAL; same coverage dates plus U.S. Serial Set)
● WESTLAW all from 1990; selected reports related to public laws from 1948 (LH)
● THOMAS - http://thomas.loc.gov from 1995
● AMERICAN MEMORY - U.S. Serial Set (selections, 1833-1917)


● LEXIS – selected reports, 1990-1993; full coverage from 1993
● Other Resources: See sources and coverage dates for Committee Reports, above

FLOOR DEBATES:

● CONGRESSIONAL RECORD (Cong. Rec.), print from 1927, microform from 1873. Also on
  LEXIS & WESTLAW (CR) from 1985 (WESTLAW: abstracts from 1981); on HEIN ONLINE,
● THOMAS - http://thomas.loc.gov from 1989 (click “Congressional Record” on left)
● HEIN ONLINE - U.S. Congressional Documents Library
● AMERICAN MEMORY -
  - Register of Debates (1824-1837) http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwrd.html
  - Congressional Globe (1833-1873) http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwcg.html
  - Congressional Record (1873-1877) http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwcr.html

PRESIDENTIAL SIGNING STATEMENTS:

● WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS (Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc.) -
  USCCAN from 1995
● WESTLAW -WCPD from 2000; PRES-DAILY from 1993; USCCAN-MSG: Signing Statements
  from 1986; President’s Messages from 2000.
● LEXIS - Public Papers of the President (Pres. Doc.) from 1979
● GPO Access: Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents -
  (from 2009)
● HEIN ONLINE - U.S. Presidential Library (Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents -
  1965-2007)

PUBLIC LAWS (Pub. L. No.=Public Law Number):

● STATUTES AT LARGE (Stat.) from 1789 (available on HEIN ONLINE, 1789-2005)
- USCCAN from 1941
- LEXIS NEXIS CONGRESSIONAL from 1989
- LEXIS NEXIS - Statutes At Large from 1789-2004, bills from 1989
- THOMAS - http://thomas.loc.gov (same coverage as Bills, above)
- AMERICAN MEMORY - Statutes at Large (Stat.), 1789-1875

SUBJECT ARRANGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAWS:

- UNITED STATES CODE (U.S.C.) - http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.shtml; also,
  HEIN ONLINE - 1925-26 through 2006 editions
- UNITED STATES CODE ANNOTATED (U.S.C.A.) (online via WESTLAW)
- UNITED STATES CODE SERVICE (U.S.C.S.) (online via LEXIS)

COMPILED LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

- CIS LEGISLATIVE HISTORY - volumes from 1970
  LEXIS NEXIS CONGRESSIONAL - indexes and abstracts from 1970
  http://web.lexis-nexis.com/congcomp/
- USCCAN
- LEXIS/WESTLAW – selected topics
- JOHNSON, COMPILED LEGISLATIVE HISTORIES (older "major" legislation)
- HEIN ONLINE – U.S. Federal Legislative History Library
- LAW LIBRARY CATALOG

By Kevin Shelton; last updated 04/2010