Included at no additional charge for HeinOnline Academic subscribers, Core+ subscribers, and subscribers of HeinOnline’s U.S. Congressional Documents database.

U.S. Congressional Serial Set
1817-Date

The United States Congressional Serial Set, commonly referred to as the Serial Set, is considered an essential publication for unveiling American history. Spanning more than two centuries with more than 17,000 bound volumes, the records in this series include House and Senate Documents, House and Senate Reports, and much more. The reports are usually from congressional committees dealing with proposed legislation and issues under investigation. The documents include all other papers ordered printed by the House or Senate. Documents cover a wide variety of topics, including reports of executive departments and independent organizations, reports of special investigations made for Congress, and annual reports of non-governmental organizations. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, executive-branch materials were also published in the Serial Set.

American State Papers
1789-1838

United States Congressional Documents from the period 1789 to 1817 are published under American State Papers, which consists of 38 volumes. The two series overlap, as American State Papers covers through 1838. Full coverage of the American State Papers is available within this collection inside HeinOnline.

Included So Far

The Serial Set in HeinOnline currently includes:

- Complete indexing of the more than 17,000 volumes of the Serial Set
- Complete coverage of the American State Papers
- 98% of the Serial Set available in HeinOnline or HathiTrust Digital Library
- Complete coverage of 98% of the Serial Set in HeinOnline's image-based PDF format
- Complete coverage of the Congressional reports and documents from the 115th-117th Congresses (2017-Present)

Project Status (as of November 2022)

Full text volumes will be added monthly until completion.

Indexed in HeinOnline 100%

Links to Full Text in HeinOnline or HathiTrust 98%

Full Text Documents in HeinOnline 98%
Researcning in the Serial Set

The default landing page of the Serial Set directs users to the full list of Congress numbers available within the collection. Citation and volume locator tools are provided in both drop-down and free-field lookup form.

Located on separate tabs users will also notice Congressional Documents and Congressional Reports from the 115th-117th Congresses which are available in HeinOnline, but have not yet been assigned a Serial Set citation. The American State Papers, which encompass the 1st through 25th Congress are also available.

Volumes within a Congress

Once a Congress number has been selected, users are taken to the complete list of volumes within the selected Congress.

While searching or browsing the Serial Set in HeinOnline, colored icons appear next to various records. These icons indicate whether full-text coverage or indexing only is currently available for the material. Selecting a volume number within a Congress brings users to a complete list of titles within the volume. Availability is indicated by “H” icons.

Interpreting the Icons

Blue and Orange Icon: This icon indicates that this Serial Set volume has been digitized and is available within the HeinOnline database as well as the HathiTrust Digital Library.

Blue Icon: This icon indicates that this Serial Set volume has been digitized and is available within the HeinOnline database.

Partially Blue Icon: This icon indicates that this Serial Set volume is partially available within the HeinOnline database.

Orange Icon: This icon indicates that this Serial Set volume is available in HathiTrust Digital Library and will link to the specific Serial Set volume within the collection.

Red Icon: This icon indicates that this volume/document was assigned a serial number but it was not distributed or used.

Gray Icon: This icon indicates that this Serial Set volume is not currently available in HeinOnline or the HathiTrust Digital Library.
Searching the Metadata

Selecting the Advanced Search link located beneath the main search bar allows users to search particular fields within the metadata (indexing) for more precise results. Users can also choose the method in which to sort search results from the Advanced Search area by relevance, volume date (oldest or newest first), or by document title.

Search options include:
- Congress
- Doc No
- Keywords
- Title
- Volume
- Year

Section types include:
- American State Papers
- Congressional Bills
- House Bills
- House Documents
- House Reports
- Senate Documents
- Senate Executive Reports
- Senate Reports
- Senate Treaty Documents
- And more!

Search Results

After a search query has been entered, a comprehensive list of results pertaining to the search query will appear. Each search result contains a document summary. The document summary includes useful information such as the document type, title, volume number, document number, congress-session, year, preferred citation, Bluebook citation, and Serial Set citation.

Refining Search Results

After a search query has been entered, facets appear on the left-hand side of the page which allow users to limit their results by Date, Congress Session, or Document Type.

Note: Beginning a search using more general terms and utilizing facets to refine results is often helpful when searching.
Lend Hein a Hand

If your library holds all or part of the Serial Set, and you are willing to assist us in completing this project, please contact Hein’s Executive Vice President, Shannon Hein, at shein@wshein.com or 716-882-2600.

Future Releases

The number of full-text volumes of the Serial Set in HeinOnline will continue to grow monthly. Users will be notified on the status of the project via email, the monthly HeinOnline Newsletter, and the HeinOnline blog.

Special Thanks

HeinOnline would like to give a special thanks to the following libraries for their generous contributions which have resulted in the steady growth of HeinOnline’s U.S. Congressional Serial Set.

- Wayne State University
- University of Montana
- University of Delaware
- University of Utah
- Law Library of Louisiana
- Southern Illinois University, Morris Library
- George Washington University
- University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
- UC Hastings

For a complete list of remaining missing volumes of the Serial Set, please email our Marketing Team at marketing@wshein.com.