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.
Reseaching 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. **Volume & Citation Quick Locator** tools are provided which enable users to simply enter a Serial Set volume number or citation to retrieve the content.

Located on separate tabs users will also notice Congressional Documents and Congressional Reports from the 114th-115th 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.
THE TRANSCRIPT OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Searching the Metadata (Indexing)

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!

Refining Search Results (Facets)

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.

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.
HELP COMPLETE THE PROJECT

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 by nearly 350,000 pages, or four million pages each year. Phase one of this project will not include oversized foldouts or maps. We plan to include this content in future releases. 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 Wayne State University and University of Utah for their generous contributions which resulted in the initial release of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set. We will continue to need help from the library community to complete this project.

Contact Us

For more information about the U.S. Congressional Serial Set, please contact your sales representative or the HeinOnline Marketing department at marketing@wshein.com or 800-828-7571.