Congressional Resources in CRS Research Centers and the La Follette Congressional Reading Room

Updated September 25, 2001

Merete F. Gerli
Information Management Specialist
Information Research Division
Congressional Resources in CRS Research Centers and the La Follette Congressional Reading Room

Summary

Congressional staff and interns seeking quick facts, information, Congressional Research Service publications, and reference and research assistance may come in person to CRS facilities located in Library of Congress and in House and Senate office buildings. These include the Senate, Longworth, and Rayburn Research Centers, the La Follette Congressional Reading Room (LCRR), and the CRS Publications Distribution Center. The LCRR and research centers make available CRS products, access to Internet and online sources (including the CRS Web site and the Legislative Information Service), magazine and newspaper collections and indexing tools, a variety of standard reference books, and legislative and public policy materials useful to congressional offices. Staff and intern user self-service is welcomed, with guidance provided as needed by CRS reference staff.

This report describes types of CRS products and a selection of the most frequently used printed and online reference sources available in the reading room and research centers for use by congressional staff. These deal with legislation and public policy; bills, congressional documents, laws, and regulations; Congress, elections, and politics; the federal government; directories of organizations, associations, corporations, state agencies, educational institutions, and the media; biographical information; data on foreign countries and international affairs; quick facts and statistics; and special collections such as quotations.

This report will be updated for each Congress.
## Contents

- CRS Centers and Reading Rooms on Capitol Hill ........................................ 1
- CRS Publications and Products ..................................................................... 2
- CRS Web Site, the Legislative Information System, and Other Online Systems . 3
  - Articles on a Subject: Looking for Background Information ....................... 5
    - CRS Info Packs .............................................................................. 5
    - Magazine and Newspaper Articles—Indexes and Full Text Retrieval .......... 6
    - Issues of Magazines and Newspapers ............................................. 6
    - Other Online Sources ...................................................................... 7
  - Bills, Congressional Documents, Laws, and Regulations ............................ 7
    - CRS Web Site and Legislative Information System (LIS) ...................... 7
    - House Legislative Resource Center and Senate Document Room .......... 7
    - Other Sources .............................................................................. 8
  - Congress, Elections, and Politics .............................................................. 9
    - Overview of Congress and Activities .................................................. 9
    - Profiles of Members and Districts ....................................................... 10
    - Staff and Congressional Office Information ...................................... 12
    - Statistics on Congress and Politics .................................................... 13
    - Census/Congressional District Information ........................................ 13
  - Federal Government: Executive and Judicial ............................................. 14
    - Overview of Government Organization, Offices, and Functions ............ 14
    - Budget, Outlays, and Grants .............................................................. 15
    - Current Names and Numbers ............................................................. 16
    - Regulations and Regulatory Agencies ............................................... 16
    - The President ................................................................................. 17
  - Directories of Organizations, Corporations, and State Agencies ................. 18
    - General ......................................................................................... 18
    - Political Action Committees and Lobbyists ....................................... 19
    - Business Directories ....................................................................... 20
    - Education and Internships .................................................................. 20
    - Media Directories .......................................................................... 20
    - State and Local Directories ................................................................. 20
  - Biographical Information .......................................................................... 21
  - Foreign Countries and International Affairs ............................................. 22
  - Quick Facts, Statistics, and Quotations .................................................... 23
    - Facts and Statistics ......................................................................... 23
    - Quotations ....................................................................................... 24
Congressional Resources in CRS Research Centers and the La Follette Congressional Reading Room

CRS Centers and Reading Rooms on Capitol Hill

1 La Follette Congressional Reading Room (LCRR)  7-7100
Madison Building, Room LM204  Monday - Thursday  8:30 - 8
                     Friday  8:30 - 6
                     Saturday  8:30 - 5

(Hours of service may change when Congress is not in session.)

CRS Product Distribution Center (PDC)  7-7132
Madison Building, Room LM206  Monday - Friday  8:30 - 6

Numbers are geared to those in the diagram above.
2 Jefferson Congressional Reading Room (JCRR)
Jefferson Building, Room LJ159  Monday - Friday  8:30 - 5:30
(for Members of Congress only)

3 Senate Research Center (SRC)  4-3550
Russell Building, Room B07  Monday - Friday  9 - 5:30

4 Longworth Research Center (LRC)  5-2030
Longworth HOB, Room B221  Monday - Friday  9 - 5:30

5 Rayburn Research Center (RRC)  5-6958
Rayburn HOB, Room B335  Monday - Friday  9 - 5:30

CRS Publications and Products

CRS publications and information packets are intended to provide overview and background information on topics of current legislative and policy interest to Congress. They are useful for briefing Members and legislative staff as well as answering constituent requests.

CRS Info Packs are compilations of materials on topics and issues of interest to Congress. They include CRS reports and issue briefs, newspaper and journal articles, and guides to other resources. Each info pack is updated as legislation or news events warrant. Examples include:
- Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity (IP424A)
- Campaign Finance (IP014C)
- Grants and Foundation Support: Information on Government and Private Funding (IP050G)
- Immigration Issues (IP164I)
- Social Security Reform (IP435S)
- Terrorism (IP299T)

CRS Issue Briefs are concise briefing papers on key issues of interest to Congress. They normally review policy options with pros and cons and are updated regularly throughout the legislative session. Each contains a summary and background analysis, and may contain a listing of pertinent legislation, a chronology, and a bibliography of additional reports and information sources. Some CRS issue briefs of recent interest include:
- CRS Issue Brief IB97057, Global Climate Change: Market-Based Strategies to Reduce Greenhouse Gases
- CRS Issue Brief IB10037, Meat and Poultry Inspection Issues
- CRS Issue Brief IB98017, Patient Protection and Managed Care
CRS Issue Brief IB95112, *Terrorism, the Future, and U.S. Foreign Policy*

**CRS Reports** are written to address specific issues of concern to Congress. They may take the form of policy analyses, statistical reviews, economic studies, fact sheets, chronologies, bibliographies, and guides to handling certain types of requests or research. Some examples of CRS reports include:

- CRS Report RS20095, *The Congressional Budget Process: A Brief Overview*
- CRS Report RL30343, *Continuing Appropriations Acts: Brief Overview of Recent Practices*
- CRS Report RL30165, *Education Vouchers: Constitutional Issues and Cases*
- CRS Report RL30804, *The Electoral College: an Overview and Analysis of Reform Proposals*
- CRS Report RS20270 *Renewable Energy and Electricity Restructuring*

The **CRS Web site** ([http://www.crs.gov/](http://www.crs.gov/)) provides full text of all CRS issue briefs and many CRS reports and can be searched directly from terminals in congressional offices or in all CRS Reader Services facilities. For more information, see below.

Copies of info packs, issue briefs, and reports may also be obtained in all CRS research centers, by calling the CRS Products Line (ext. 7-7132), by placing a request via the CRS Web site ([http://www.crs.gov/](http://www.crs.gov/)), by submitting requests in writing, by fax (ext. 7-6745), or by visiting the CRS Products Distribution Center, LM-212.

**CRS Web Site, the Legislative Information System, and Other Online Systems**

**CRS Web Site**

[http://www.crs.gov/]

The Congressional Research Service offers information designed and organized for the exclusive use of congressional offices through the Internet. Congressional staff may search the CRS Web site and the Legislative Information System (LIS) directly from their office computers on Capitol Hill and district or state offices. Designated terminals in the La Follette Congressional Reading Room and Senate and House Research Centers may also be used by congressional staff to search CRS and World Wide Web resources, Library of Congress catalogs, and other online files. The CRS Web site includes:

- Floor Agenda: CRS Products
- Electronic Briefing Books
- Appropriations / Budget
- Legislative / Budget Process
- Constitution Annotated
- CRS publications by Current Legislative Issues
- Search All CRS Products: by title, author, summary, subject (about 3,000); full text search (about 700); by product number
• **CRS Services**
  Information about placing requests with CRS; phone numbers and contacts; orientations, seminars, and institutes; and guidelines for interns and volunteers.

• **Congressional Staff Reference Desk**
  Links to Internet general reference materials (such as directories, dictionaries, travel, and weather information), and specialized virtual references tailored for legislative assistants, constituent caseworkers, schedulers, press secretaries, and speech writers. This section includes the CRS Grants Information Web page, useful in handling constituent requests.

• **External Internet Links by Topic**

• **Library of Congress**
  Includes how congressional staff can request books from the Library’s collections.

**Legislative Information System**
[http://www.congress.gov/]

The CRS Web site also links to the Legislative Information System (LIS), specifically designed to track legislation and legislative activity, with tie-ins to CRS products and other features exclusively available to Congress. Its public counterpart is THOMAS [http://thomas.loc.gov], which constituents can use. The LIS provides item, keyword, subject, and other searching to floor activities and schedules, bill summary and status, bill text, votes, public laws, the Congressional Record; committee reports, schedules, hearings, transcripts, and Home Pages; lists of House and Senate Members and their Home Pages; news and periodical literature links; support agencies and other government links; and other useful assistance and guidance for congressional staff.

**Other Online Systems Available for Congressional Staff Use**

All CRS research centers and the La Follette Congressional Reading Room have client PCs that congressional staff may use to access a variety of Web subscriptions and other online resources. Internet bookmarks at congressional staff workstations include:

• Archives USA — Search Manuscript Repositories
• Associations Unlimited
• Britannica Online
• Cartoons
• Computer Select (full text of PC trade magazines)
• *CQ Weekly* index (Congressional Quarterly)
• *Contemporary Authors*
• *Current Biography* 1940-present
• *D&B Million Dollar Database* (company profiles)
• Editorial and opinion pieces: American Media Columnists (columns from over 600 U.S. and Canadian columnists)
• Editorial and opinion pieces: Opinion-Pages (English-language editorials and opinion pieces from around the world)
• *Ethnic Newswatch* (ethnic, minority, Native American newspapers and magazines)
- Granger’s World of Poetry
- GrantSelect (grants available from government, private foundations, corporations, universities, and other entities)
- *Grove Dictionary of Art*
- *Grove Dictionary of Opera*
- Health Policy Tracking Service Issue Briefs (National Council of State Legislatures)
- *Historical Abstracts*
- Historical Newspapers Online (London *Times* and *New York Times*, 19th-20th c.)
- InfoTrac (popular, academic, and business magazine articles)
- JSTOR (historical runs of economic, political science, history journals)
- LegalTrac (index to legal periodicals)
- NTIS (National Technical Information Service, index of U.S. government-sponsored research)
- OCLC FirstSearch (periodical and newspaper indexes, some full-text articles)
- Periodical Contents Index (humanities/social sciences journals)
- PolicyFile (indexes public policy news, research, and analysis)
- Project Muse (Johns Hopkins academic journals, e.g., *Human Rights Quarterly*)
- ProQuest Direct and Finding Articles (indexing and full text, newspapers and magazines)
- *Publications and Broadcast Media*
- ReferenceUSA (searchable directory of 11 million U.S. businesses)
- RLG Eureka (indexes to social sciences, arts and humanities)
- STAT-USA (Department of Commerce and other government agencies)
- Terrorism (CRS Electronic Briefing Book)
- Terrorism news stories (via LexisNexis)

**Articles on a Subject: Looking for Background Information**

The following sources enable congressional staff and interns to locate articles on a topic by themselves. CRS subscribes to many Web and electronic full-text periodical literature services that congressional staff can use in LCRR and research centers. Congressional staff PCs in research centers and LCRR have bookmarks to Online Systems Available for Congressional Staff Use (see above), which include full text and indexes to periodical literature. For online searching, follow screen prompts, or consult guide sheets available at each congressional staff workstation.

**CRS Info Packs**

If a CRS info pack exists on your topic, check it for news articles.
Magazine and Newspaper Articles—Indexes and Full Text Retrieval

ProQuest Direct. Provides summaries of articles from hundreds of magazines, plus full text of many. Journals covered include magazines such as *Atlantic, Black Enterprise, Business Week, Current History, Fortune, Harper's, Ms., New York Review of Books, Science, Sports Illustrated*, and *Time*; business articles cited or reproduced include magazines such as *Advertising Age, Computerworld, Journal of Labor Research, Public Administration Review*, and *Survey of Current Business*. Access to a selection of full text newspapers and magazines that can be browsed by date, ProQuest’s *Finding Articles*, is available via all client computers in LCRR and all Research Centers.

OCLC/First Search (Web). Online searching of numerous indexes and abstracting services, including *Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS), Readers’ Guide Abstracts, Dissertation Abstracts*, and *Newspaper Abstracts*. Full text available for some articles.


Other Internet Sources—Newspapers and magazines, full text and indexing, are being added to the World Wide Web daily, including U.S., international, and even some U.S. college newspapers. A number of such sources are bookmarked at client PCs in LCRR and research centers. Names and descriptions of services may also be located via the CRS Home Page under "Congressional Staff Reference Desk/Media Services." The Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room Web site also gives information about newspapers, periodicals, and government publications. [http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/ncp/ncp.html]

Printed Indexes to Magazines and Newspapers—These are available in the La Follette Congressional Reading Room, the Library of Congress Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room (LM-133 Madison) and the Law Library Reading Room (LM-201 Madison). Magazine indexes in LCRR include *Readers’ Guide to Periodical Literature* and *Book Review Digest*; newspaper indexes include *the New York Times, Washington Post*, and *Wall Street Journal*. Also available are indexes to news information and summaries, such as *Facts on File*.

Issues of Magazines and Newspapers

Current Issues of Magazines—Especially the major national news, business, and public policy magazines—can be found in the La Follette Congressional Reading Room and all Research Centers. Most CRS facilities have magazines on public policy issues, such as *CQ Weekly* and *National Journal*; news weeklies, such as *Time* and *Newsweek*; business news magazines, such as *Business Week* and *Fortune*; and popular magazines, such as *Consumer Reports* and *People*. Most CRS facilities also
have some years of back issues for magazines they receive. Collections vary depending upon space—ask the librarian.


The Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room (Room LM-133 Madison) holds additional current newspapers and magazines, often a year of many magazines received by the Library. Copying machines may be used free of charge by congressional staff holding current Hill identification cards.

Older issues of periodicals are housed in the Library of Congress book stacks. These bound volumes may be requested for use in the La Follette Congressional Reading Room.

Other Online Sources

Many congressional offices subscribe to NEXIS/LEXIS, WESTLAW, DIALOG, and other commercial online systems for their staff and interns. Because of budget constraints, the La Follette Congressional Reading Room and House and Senate Research Centers are unable to offer self-searching of these sources to congressional staff.

Bills, Congressional Documents, Laws, and Regulations

(Text, summaries, and status)

CRS Web Site and Legislative Information System (LIS)

The LIS, accessible via the CRS Web site, provides bill summary and status, full text of legislation and public laws, full text of committee reports, hearings, and other documents, and the Congressional Record for the current and earlier Congresses. The system also gives (and is searchable by) committee, sponsorship, and cosponsorship; identification of identical bills; and other information. Congressional staff may also call House LEGIS (ext. 4-2971 or 5-1772) or Senate LEGIS (ext. 4-7106) for status information on bills in the current Congress; and House Information Resources (HIR; ext. 5-6002) and Senate Legislative Information System (ext. 4-1517) for information on online systems available to Capitol Hill offices.

House Legislative Resource Center and Senate Document Room

House and Senate document rooms provide to congressional staff and the public copies of House and Senate bills and resolutions, committee and conference reports,
public laws, and congressional documents for current and some retrospective Congresses.

**Legislative Resource Center** (Office of the Clerk of the House)

B-106 CANNON

For Current Congress

Phone: ext. 6-5200 or (202) 226-5200

Bills and Resolutions

Hours: 9-6 Monday-Friday

Public Laws

Internet: [http://clerkweb.house.gov](http://clerkweb.house.gov)

Committee Reports

(available to House offices only)

House Calendars

House Documents

**Other**

Statements of Disbursements

Federal Election Campaign Act Reports

For past Congresses

Financial Disclosure Statements

(for House staff only)

Lobby Registrations

Senate Bills and Resolutions

Other Sources

**CIS Index** and **CIS Abstracts**. Washington, Congressional Information Service, monthly with annual compilations.

CIS provides brief abstracts of all types of congressional publications: committee hearings, committee prints, House and Senate documents, reports, and special publications, Senate executive reports, and treaty documents. Detailed indexes cover subject, name (including names of witnesses at hearings), and bill, report, and document numbers. CIS also provides legislative histories of public laws. The La Follette Congressional Reading Room and the Senate Research Center have **CIS Index** and **CIS Abstracts**. LCRR also can search the CIS CD-ROM **Congressional Masterfile I & II**, covering congressional hearings and documents from 1789 through the 105th Congress. Copies of the documents identified may be available from House or Senate document rooms (see above) or on CIS microfiche, which may be used in the LCRR.

Committee Reports

Senate Calendar

Senate Documents

Public Laws

Treaties and Executive Reports

For past Congresses

Other Sources

Statements of Disbursements

Federal Election Campaign Act Reports

Financial Disclosure Statements

Lobby Registrations

Senate Document Room (Office of the Secretary of the Senate)

B04 HART

Current Congress only

Phone: ext. 4-7701 or (202) 224-7701

Current/past Congresses

Recording (orders): ext. 4-1356

Senate Bills and Resolutions

Senate and House Documents

Public Laws

Treaties and Executive Reports

Internet: [http://webster.senate.gov/secretary/docroom/doc_room.htm](http://webster.senate.gov/secretary/docroom/doc_room.htm)

(available to Senate offices only)
**United States Code Congressional and Administrative News.** St. Paul, West Publishing. Semimonthly when Congress is in session; monthly at other times.

Includes full text of all public laws, legislative history, executive orders, presidential proclamations, administrative regulations, messages of the President, and popular names of laws. Current issues contain an index/digest of bills enacted.

**United States Code and United States Statutes at Large.** Washington, GPO.

Once Congress passes a bill, and the President signs it into law, it is assigned a number and published by the Government Printing Office, first as a slip law and later in annual volumes of the *U.S. Statutes at Large*. All laws of a general and permanent nature are eventually consolidated and organized (codified) by subject in the *United States Code* (revised every six years). The *U.S. Code Annotated* (St. Paul, MN, West), available in the La Follette Congressional Reading Room and the Senate and Rayburn Research Centers, reproduces the *Code* together with citations for judicial opinion, historical notes, digests, encyclopedia and other references, and other editorial aids. The *Code Annotated* also includes a general subject index and subject indexes in all volumes, useful tables, and continuous supplementation by pamphlet supplements, annual pocket parts, and replacement volumes to facilitate research.

**Federal Register and Code of Federal Regulations.** Washington, GPO.

Administrative rules and regulations and other notices issued by federal departments and agencies are published on a regular basis in the *Federal Register* (published daily except Sunday, Monday, and the day following a legal holiday). These include proposed as well as final rules and regulations, schedules of agency hearings and miscellaneous agency announcements, and presidential proclamations and executive orders. Final rules and regulations subsequently appear, arranged by broad subject, in the *Code of Federal Regulations* (revised once a year on a quarterly basis).

Internet: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/nara001.html]

---

**Congress, Elections, and Politics**

A variety of reference works and CRS products cover Congress and the legislative process. This section discusses the standard printed reference sources on Congress available in the La Follette Congressional Reading Room and House and Senate Research Centers.

**Overview of Congress and Activities**


In dictionary format, provides succinct entries on congressional procedures and vocabulary, such as “appropriations bills,” “gerrymandering,” “legislative process,” “adjournment,” profiles of past and present congressional leaders; brief histories of committees; and numerous other topics relevant to congressional...

**Types of questions that can be answered:**
What do the House and Senate Parliamentarians do?
How does the House Ways and Means committee differ from Appropriations?
What are the various leadership positions in the House and Senate?
Can someone explain reapportionment and redistricting for my constituent?
What is Congress’ role in amending the U.S. Constitution?

Useful summary of activities of Congress; factual and timely; full reports on the progress of major bills (“Status of Major Legislation”); voting records and activities of individual Members; congressional interaction with the executive; roll call votes included.

**Types of questions that can be answered:**
What are the characteristics of the freshmen elected to Congress in 2000?
What is the background on the controversy over banking reform?
Who and what is Member Q, who was just elected a week or two ago?
What would the President’s budget allow for military defense? for pollution control? the federal prison system?

**Congressional Record.** Washington, GPO. Daily when Congress is in session.
Contains the edited transcript of the activities on the floor of the House and Senate. The “Daily Digest” section includes summaries of action in each chamber, committee hearings, bills signed, and committee meetings scheduled for the following day. The Record full text and the Index are searchable online via the LIS [http://www.congress.gov/]. Printed indexes, searchable by Member’s name, bill number, and subject, are issued twice a month.

**Types of questions that can be answered:**
When was the most recent list of lobbyists published in the Record?
My Member put an editorial in the Record 2 years ago; how can I find it?
When was the last debate on the federal pay raise?
Who voted against the President’s economic package in the Senate?

Provides a comprehensive overview of the U.S. Congress, covering its history, congressional powers and functions, the legislative process, congressional procedures, and support agencies in depth. Well organized and indexed.

**Profiles of Members and Districts**

Informative, opinionated descriptions of states and districts; biographical information on Members; ratings of Members by various interest groups;
Members’ votes on key issues. Similar in format to:

**Politics in America.** Washington, Congressional Quarterly. Biennial.
Descriptions of states and districts; biographical information on Members; key votes of Members; how interest groups rate Members.
Types of questions that can be answered:

- How is Representative X rated by the various rating groups?
- Was the Member for or against the ban on chemical weapons?
- How much did Senator Y spend in his last election?
- What’s the ethnic makeup of the first district of New Mexico? the state?
- How successful has Representative Z been in pushing programs for her district?
- Where does Senator X stand on approving the death penalty for drug-related murders?
- What has been the political situation in the first district of California in recent years?


Provides brief official biographical sketch of every Member of Congress, more than 11,000 from 1789 through the 104th Congress. Also, for each Congress, gives complete listing, by state, of Senators and Representatives (including results of special elections or appointments due to death or resignation of an elected Member); dates of each session and of special sessions (if any); and key leadership.


Types of questions that can be answered:

- Did Senator X from Wisconsin serve three consecutive terms; or did he lose an election?
- Who served as Representatives from New York in the 1930s?
- How many Longworths have served in the U.S. Congress?


General directory of Members, committees, and subcommittees, with home addresses of congressional officials and others in the legislative branch. Other useful information for congressional offices includes: lists of embassies, foreign embassies and ambassadors in Washington as well as American embassies and ambassadors abroad; statistical section with tables of votes cast and sessions of Congress; biographical information on judges, lists of federal courts; information on the Capitol and buildings, including maps; names of press representatives and services. LCRR and the Senate Research Center have collections of old Congressional Directories. The current Directory is available on the Web: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/cong016.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/cong016.html).

Types of questions that can be answered:

- How many Supreme Court justices are over 70 years old?
- Who’s the ambassador from Sweden, and what’s his title?
- Has any session of Congress lasted longer than 365 days?
- Which Senator and Representative have served in Congress the longest?
- Who is in charge of the Capitol Page School?
- When was the Russell Senate Office Building built?

Reflecting 1990 census data and congressional redistricting, provides narrative descriptions of districts, including demography and economics, voting trends, major newspapers and television stations in the district, military installations, businesses, and other major employers.

Frequently updated directory of names, telephone numbers, addresses of Representatives, Senators, and staff; House and Senate offices, joint committees and staff; leadership and Member organizations; and congressional support agencies. For each state, provides district maps, lists state delegations, and gives zip codes by congressional district.

Types of questions that can be answered:
What’s the phone number of the organization, Former Members of Congress?
Who’s the chief counsel of the Committee on Indian Affairs?
What’s the number of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus? How many Members belong?
Whom can I contact for a list of the Vietnam Veterans in Congress?

Staff and Congressional Office Information

In-depth biographical profiles of senior congressional staff of House and Senate Leadership offices and committees. Includes photographs.

Types of questions that can be answered:
My art teacher’s husband works for the Senate Budget Committee. What is his position and was he the one who spoke at a recent budget briefing?
A senior staff member on the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch recently met with the Librarian of Congress; I know what he looks like but forgot his name.

Congressional Staff Directory. Alexandria, VA, CQ Staff Directories. Three times per year.
Directory of 16,000 people who run the legislative branch, with biographical profiles of 3,200 key congressional staff. Also includes jurisdiction of committees; lists of subcommittees and their staffs; district/state office addresses and telephones; 14,000 cities and counties with congressional districts (easy to refer mail); names, addresses, and telephone numbers of state governors.

Types of questions that can be answered:
In which congressional district is Beaver Dam, KY?
Does the Senate Committee on Armed Services deal with naval petroleum reserves in Alaska?
Where can I get some information about the staff director of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence?
Who is on the Joint Economic Committee?

Offers ideas, models, and advice for managing a congressional office, including managing the Member’s transition to Congress; selecting committee assignments; hiring staff; developing an office budget and a first-term agenda; defining the Member’s role in the office; cultivating leadership skills; and selecting Washington and district office space. Also publishes Frontline Management, a Guide for Congressional District/State Offices; and biennial Senate and House staff employment and salary surveys.

Statistics on Congress and Politics


Statistics by state of voting since 1945 for President, Senator, Representative, governor; statistics by county and ward of the vote in the most recent election for President, governor, Senator. Maps of each state, large cities, congressional districts. Brief descriptions of political situation in each state.


A wealth of statistical information, both historical and current, on Congress, political parties, elections and campaigns; the presidency, the executive branch, and the judiciary; political parties, elections and campaigns; mass media, public opinion, interest groups; foreign and military policy, social and economic policy; the Constitution and federalism. Includes an extensive “Guide to References for Political Statistics.”


Includes statistics on congressional elections, campaign finance, party membership characteristics, committees, staff, costs, level of activity, and voting.

Census/Congressional District Information


The atlas presents maps of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. State maps give boundaries of congressional districts, counties, and statistically equivalent areas, governmentally functioning county subdivisions, and American Indian reservations. The number and type of maps included vary with the complexity of the congressional districts for each state. For the 105th Congress, this atlas was released exclusively on CD-ROM, available from GPO; the next update is planned for the 108th Congress.


Presents 100% and sample data from the 1990 Census arranged within volumes for each state by congressional district, and within congressional
districts by county or other jurisdiction with populations of 10,000 or more. Provides data on age, family, persons in group quarters, Hispanic origin, household relationship, race, and sex. Additional subjects found only in sample population data include ancestry, disability, education, fertility, language spoken at home, place of birth, citizenship, and year of entry to the area. Economic topics include the following: labor force, occupation, industry, income; and data on general housing topics such as rooms in housing units, value of home or monthly rent, plumbing and kitchen facilities, vehicles available, and more. Individual volumes for each state and the Washington, D.C., Census Web sites for state congressional district information:

Internet: [http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/index.html].

In addition to these printed Census reports, the La Follette Congressional Reading Room and the research centers also have Census data in CD-ROM format, including congressional district information and basic housing and population data for state, county, and SMSA levels.

Federal Government: Executive and Judicial

Overview of Government Organization, Offices, and Functions


Basic handbook of the U.S. government; emphasis on executive branch, although legislative and judicial branches are also covered. Good descriptions of agencies, down to the bureau and major office level, giving top personnel, program responsibility, statutory authority, and enabling legislation. Identifies agencies abolished or transferred, and frequently used acronyms and abbreviations. Indexes of names, subjects, and agencies.

[http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/browse-gm-00.html]

**Types of questions that can be answered:**

- What is the chain of command at GAO?
- What agency did HHS supersede?
- Who is the regional administrator for OSHA in Dallas?
- What’s a federal region? What’s “Fannie Mae”?
- Where can I find an organization chart of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission?
- How can I find out more about the history of savings bonds?
- What is the legal basis for the National Security Council?


Arranged by broad subject, lists the government agencies and congressional committees interested in the area, plus D.C.-based organizations, associations, etc. Also lists embassies and U.S. ambassadors; State Department country desks; labor unions; mayors of all cities over 75,000. For each state governor, gives complete address, telephone, and name of press secretary, lieutenant
governor, secretary of state, and attorney general. Gives addresses of GPO bookstores and regional depository libraries.

**Types of questions that can be answered:**
- What organizations are working to make buildings more accessible to the handicapped?
- Which congressional committees have jurisdiction over drug abuse legislation?
- What's the biggest labor union?
- What if our office would like to send a mailing to organizations interested in trade?
- Where can I find out about doing business with the federal government?

**Budget, Outlays, and Grants**

*Budget of the United States.* Washington, GPO. Annual.

Contains the budget message of the President, a narrative of the proposed budget by function, and statistics for previous fiscal years and the next fiscal year. In addition, it contains statistical tables for receipts, outlays, deficits, debt, gross national product (GNP) by fiscal year, and budget percentages for many years, often since 1940.

**Types of questions that can be answered:**
- Where can I find a pie chart for budget outlays and receipts?
- When was the budget last balanced?
- Where can I find the budget message of the President?
- What was the debt subject to limit in 1950, and what statute set that limit?
- What percent of the budget was spent on defense and what amount was spent on human resources for the years 1940-1990?
- What percent of next year’s budget is for entitlements?

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.* Washington, GPO. Annual with mid-year supplement.

Extensive information about federal grants programs, including eligibility requirements and application procedures. Detailed indexes and appendices, including addresses of state and regional offices, many of which are authorized to distribute funds directly to local recipients. Free to Members and staff from the General Services Administration (GSA), (202) 501-0563; district offices should get their own print copy; constituents may purchase from GPO, use at a large local library, or search the Web version. The GSA Internet site [http://www.cfda.gov/default.htm] enables keyword searching and has various indexes by department, agency, program, and subject, in addition to listings of state and regional federal information contacts. For House D.C. or district offices wishing to search the Catalog for constituents, contact House Information Resources, ext.5-6002 [http://Intranet.House.gov/] to produce custom searches via the HIR Federal Funds Expre$$ site.

**Types of questions that can be answered:**
- Is there a federal program that would provide money for a firehouse?
- For the mayor of a small town, where can I find out what federal programs might fund local projects?
- Does the federal government give scholarships?
Are there any project grants available for historic preservation?
How can I get a summer job with the federal government?

Current Names and Numbers

This has 75,000 entries which cover the executive office of the President, cabinet departments, major federal administrative agencies, and Congress. Names, titles, addresses, phones, and fax numbers are listed by agency, office, or departments; names are indexed alphabetically; office functions and sub-agencies are also indexed. Carroll also publishes other useful directories, including ones covering offices at the federal regional, state, county, and municipal levels.

Types of questions that can be answered:
Are there any federal information centers in our state?
What offices in the government are concerned with solar energy?
Who’s the chief counsel for the Internal Revenue Service?
Margaret Lamontagne works for the White House. What is her position?

Lists over 30,000 key federal executives and military leaders who draft regulations, interpret policy, disseminate information, authorize grants, and contract for goods and services. For each, gives job title, address, and telephone number; for the 2,600 top-level civilian and military authorities and senior assistants, gives biographies. Also available is the annual Judicial Staff Directory, which lists some 14,000 judges and staff who run the federal courts from the Supreme Court through the Circuit Courts of Appeal and District and Bankruptcy Courts and includes some 2,000 biographies.

Federal Yellow Book; Who’s Who in Federal Departments and Agencies. Washington,
Leadership Directories. Quarterly.
Similar to the Federal Executive Directory (see above), but with focus exclusively on the executive branch. Extensive listings of 35,000 staff by department and agency. Includes federal regional offices and maps of federal regions.

Types of questions that can be answered:
Who’s the head of the Civil Division at the Justice Department?
What’s the number of the Iraq desk at the State Department?
Are there any federal regional offices in our state?
Who’s in charge of GPO?
Is there a number at HUD for information on grants?
Whom can I talk to in HHS about what’s being done in AIDS research?

Regulations and Regulatory Agencies

The CFR codifies final regulations having general applicability and legal effect which have first appeared in the Federal Register (see below). They are arranged by subject in 50 titles (over 190 volumes). The annual revision, done on a quarterly basis, incorporates new regulations and drops superseded ones, so that the CFR reflects regulations in effect at the time of printing.

[http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr]

**Federal Register.** Washington, GPO. Daily Monday through Friday.

Official announcement of regulations and legal notices issued by federal agencies, including presidential proclamations and executive orders, proposed and final department and agency orders and regulations, documents required to be published by Act of Congress, and announcements of meetings. Daily and monthly indexes, including *List of CFR Sections Affected*, assist in its use.

Internet: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html].


Provides background information on federal agencies which issue and enforce regulations, including each agency’s authority to regulate, how regulations are published, and information on recent activities. Also gives biographies of commissioners and board members; telephone contacts in regional agencies; and congressional oversight committees.

**Types of questions that can be answered:**

- How are handguns regulated?
- How can you register a complaint against a household moving company?
- Which agency monitors asbestos usage?
- Are there federal standards for private pensions?
- Are there any truth-in-advertising standards for seeds?
- Who regulates hazardous materials?

**The President**


Explains in one volume the origins, evolution, and contemporary workings of the presidency. Included are excerpts from 40 documents significant to the presidency, a complete listing of cabinet members from the administrations of Presidents Washington to Bush (to 1989), and charts showing Gallup poll ratings of Presidents Truman through Reagan. The highest court of the land is given similar historical and analytical treatment in the *CQ Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court*, 3rd ed. (Washington, Congressional Quarterly, 1997).

**Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents.** Washington, GPO. Weekly, with quarterly, semiannual, and annual indexes.

Provides transcripts of presidential messages to Congress, executive orders, announcements of appointments, nominations, resignations and retirements, speeches, and other material released by the White House. Source for such information as the dates on which the President signed or vetoed legislation.
Public messages, speeches, and statements of the President are later compiled in *Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States* (Washington, GPO).

[http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/nara003.html]

**Directories of Organizations, Corporations, and State Agencies**

**General**


Standard directory of national and international membership organizations covering all subject areas, including fraternal, social, business, veterans, public affairs, and cultural associations. It is possible to look up an organization by name or keyword and find a brief description of the group, current address, telephone number, chief officer, publications, and conventions. The subscription Web version of this directory is bookmarked for congressional staff use in LCRR and research centers.

**Types of questions that can be answered:**
- What’s the address of the National Organization for Women?
- I’m interested in proposals to change the calendar; are there any groups I could contact?
- Where can a constituent who wishes to adopt a child from abroad get information?
- Where would one get lessons in flying a hot air balloon?
- I have a gifted child; what groups can I contact for help and information?


A guide to over 6,000 permanent, continuing, and ad hoc U.S. presidential, congressional, and public advisory committees; interagency committees; and other government-related boards, panels, task forces, commissions, conferences, and other similar bodies serving in a consultative, coordinating, advisory, research, or investigative capacity. Includes active and terminated bodies. Descriptions include history and authority, program, membership, staff, address, telephone number, and fax number if available.


Describes about 7,000 national trade associations, labor unions, professional, scientific, or technical societies, and other national organizations composed of groups united for a common purpose. Gives address, telephone and fax numbers, membership and staff sizes, president or chief executive officer, annual budget, publications, and annual meetings.


Information about more than 200 influential public interest and public policy organizations in areas such as the environment, consumer affairs,
community/grassroots interests, and think tanks. Gives budget data and funding sources, board of directors, publications, current concerns, methods of operation, phone and fax numbers, conferences, and political action committee information.


Political Action Committees and Lobbyists


Based on campaign finance statistics maintained by the Federal Election Commission, this directory includes every political action committee which contributed $50,000 or more to candidates who were seeking election in the year covered by the volume. Also identifies PACs which contribute lesser amounts to federal candidates but are “affiliated” with other PACs.

Congressional Record. Washington, GPO. Daily when Congress is in session.

New lobbyists’ registrations and reports of lobbyists’ receipts and expenditures of the previous quarter are published four times each year by the House Records and Registration Office. For a complete picture of currently active lobbyists, reports for the most recent four quarters should be checked. The lists can be located through the indexes under “Lobbying.” CQ Weekly also publishes a selective list of lobbyists, based on the official lobby registrations, once a month in an issue of the magazine.


Lists some 14,000 individual, 600 law and public relations firms, more than 11,000 companies and interest groups with representatives in Washington, D.C. Information is taken from lobby registration files with the clerk of the House and secretary of the Senate; foreign agent registrations at the Department of Justice; the Federal Election Commission; annual company reports to the various regulatory agencies; and annual questionnaires sent to each Washington area office listed.

Types of questions that can be answered:

Who represents General Dynamics on Capitol Hill?
What clients are represented in Washington by the lobbying firm Timmons and Co.?
What American law firms represent Japanese business interests in Washington?
What is the Congressional Accountability Project, and who speaks for it in dealings with the U.S. government?
Business Directories

The La Follette Congressional Reading Room and each research center has a selection of standard business directories, including *Standard and Poor’s Register of Corporations* (N.Y., Standard and Poor’s; annual), *Directory of American Firms Operating in Foreign Countries* (N.Y., Uniworld; irregular), *Standard Directory of Advertisers* (N.Y., National Register; annual), and various Moody’s manuals, for example *Moody’s Industrial; ... Bank and Financial; ... Transportation* (N.Y., Moody’s Investors Service; annual with weekly updates). These give (variously) company addresses, telephone numbers, chief officers, products or services, sales figures; and (in the case of Moody’s) more extensive profiles.

Education and Internships

Other directories of specialized interests useful for information contacts and constituent referrals are located in each CRS Reader Services facility. In the area of education, the *HEP Higher Education Directory* (Falls Church, VA, Higher Education Pubs.; annual) not only lists colleges and universities by state (with brief pertinent information), but gives the congressional district for each institution. Some other directories, such as [year] *Internships: 50,000 On-the-Job Training Opportunities for Students and Adults* (Princeton, Peterson’s Guides; annual), *The Official Guide to U.S. Law Schools* (Newton, PA, Law School Admission Services; annual), and *Medical School Admission Requirements* (Washington, Association of American Medical Colleges; annual) are also included in the Education collection in each Reader Services facility.

Media Directories

Media directories (covering both print and broadcasting) are also frequently consulted by congressional staff and interns. Each CRS collection includes the *Broadcasting/ Cablecasting Yearbook* (Washington, Broadcasting Publications; annual), *Editor and Publisher* (N.Y., Editor and Publisher; annual), *Gale Directory of Publications and Broadcast Media* (Detroit, Gale Group; annual), *Hudson’s Washington News Media Contacts Directory* (Rhinebeck, NY, Hudson’s; annual), *Standard Directory of Periodicals* (N.Y., Oxbridge; annual), and *Working Press of the Nation* (Chicago, National Research Bureau; annual). Some are arranged by geographic areas (state, city), such as the *Gale Directory*; others have subject arrangement, such as the *Standard Directory of Periodicals*.

State and Local Directories

Sometimes a constituent can best be referred to a state or local agency or organization—for example, to register consumer complaints or get funds for a local project. Directories to help identify appropriate sources include *Carroll’s County, Municipal, State, and Federal Regional Executive Directories* (Washington, Carroll Publishing; quarterly); *State Administrative Officials Classified by Function* (Lexington, KY, Council of State Governments; biennial); *State and Regional Associations of the United States* (Washington, Columbia Books; annual); and the
Biographical Information

(See also the Congress and Federal Government sections of this report)

Biographical directories generally give a brief outline of the person’s life, the familiar “who’s who” paragraph, including date of birth and family history, some education or academic degrees, a job or position history, and a current address. A work such as *Current Biography* (see below) provides a more extensive, discursive profile. For additional information, do a periodical or newspaper literature search for articles on the person. Some standard biographical directories include:

**Current Biography.** New York, Wilson. Monthly except August with annual cumulations.

Objective, accurate, and well-documented biographical profiles of prominent individuals in all fields of human accomplishment the world over. Includes a photograph of each and citations to other articles. Available at walk-up PCs in LCRR and research centers, from 1940 to within a month or two of the current date. Web subscription available at CRS client computers.


Source of information for and about the legal community, providing profiles of lawyers and law firms. Now has an alphabetical index to all names in the geographically-arranged, multivolume directory.


Biographies of prominent blacks in all areas of achievement. Includes geographic and occupations indexes, reflecting U.S. and international entries and 150 fields of work, from accounting to zoology.

**Who’s Who in America.** Chicago, Marquis. Biennial.

Americans of significant position or achievement in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government; high ranking military officers; officials of state governments; officials of principal cities; leading government officials of Canada and Mexico; principal officers of major national and international businesses; ranking administrative officials of major universities and colleges; heads of leading philanthropic, cultural, educational, professional, and scientific institutions and associations; selected members of honorary organizations; chief ecclesiastics of the principal religious denominations; and recipients of major national and international awards. For each, includes vital statistics, education, career summary, writings and creative works, awards, association memberships, home and office addresses.

Marquis also publishes regional volumes for specific areas of the United States (*Who’s Who in the East, ... the Midwest, ... the South and Southwest*, and ... *the West*); a retrospective series *Who Was Who in America*; an international *Who’s Who in the World*; and numerous directories by specific
occupation or group. These last include: *Who’s Who in American Law, ... in Finance and Industry, ... in Government, and ... of American Women*. Finally, the annual *Index to Marquis Who’s Who Books* provides easy access to all volumes.


Definitive biographical directory about Americans who are active in politics, ranging from the President to local figures.

### Foreign Countries and International Affairs

*Background Notes*. Washington, GPO. Irregular.

For each country of the world, the U.S. State Department prepares briefing reports for its staff going abroad. The profile summarizes geographical and population characteristics; history; government, major political parties, and political conditions; the economy; foreign relations; travel notes; and bibliography of additional sources. Currently, LCRR and research centers rely on the Web version of this source for up-to-date information.

[http://www.state.gov/www/background_notes/index.html]


Current listing of world leaders, prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency.

[http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/chiefs/]


Provides detailed information on the political, economic, and commercial institutions of the world. Contains information about international organizations as well as country by country.


Complete, official listing of consular offices in the United States, with names of recognized consular officers. Since regulations affecting both trade and travel are the particular province of the consular service of the nations involved, reliable information on entrance requirements, consignments of foods, details of transshipment, and, in many instances, suggestions on consumer needs and preferences may be obtained at foreign consular offices throughout the United States.

[http://www.state.gov/www/travel/consular_offices/fco_index.html]

*Legislation on Foreign Relations Through [year]*. Washington, GPO. Irreg. 5 v.

Set of laws and related material frequently referred to by the Committees on Foreign Relations of the Senate and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, amended to date and annotated to show pertinent history or
cross references. Volumes I, II, III, and IV contain legislation and related material; volume V contains treaties.

_Treaties in Force; A List of Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States in Force on_ [date]. Washington, GPO. Annual.

Provides information on treaties and other international agreements to which the United States has become a party and which are carried on the records of the Department of State as being in force as of January 1 of each year. Available in PDF format:


The _Factbook_ is prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency for the use of U.S. government officials. Information is provided by various agencies of the federal government, including the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of the Census, Defense Intelligence, Department of State, Fish and Wildlife Service, Maritime Administration, National Imagery and Mapping Agency, and other public and private sources.


**Quick Facts, Statistics, and Quotations**

**Facts and Statistics**

_Chase’s Calendar of Events_. Chicago, Contemporary Books. Annual.

Almanac of holidays and events, including national and state days, events sponsored by organizations, historic anniversaries, folkloric events, birthdays, religious observances, and holidays for which Presidential Proclamations are issued (for these last, includes a 2-year listing). For each holiday, gives a brief description, sponsoring group or agency, legislation or proclamation. In addition, _Chase’s_ includes a number of other useful listings, including national days of the world, U.S. hurricane names for the current year and future years, major awards (such as Oscars and Pulitzer Prizes) presented for the most recent year available, and a perpetual calendar.

_Facts on File; The Indexed Record of World Events_. New York, Facts on File. Weekly with annual and 5-year cumulations.

Digest of and detailed index to world news information. Provides a factual, detailed, and up-to-date source for swift answers to questions on current events. Excellent for news story summaries, names, and date verification. Also cover deaths, science, sports, medicine, education, religion, crime, books, plays, films, and persons prominent in the news. Can be searched electronically on client terminals in LCRR and research centers via Web subscription on OCLC FirstSearch—select “News & Current Events” database area.

Social, political, and economic statistics of the United States—the first place to look for almost any kind of numbers and figures, covering all U.S. subjects. Useful compilation of every major statistical series collected by the federal government, state governments, and national organizations. Subject arrangement, with detailed index. Much information broken down by state; see “state data (for individual state)” in index for complete list. Source to contact if more information is needed given with each table.

Types of questions that can be answered:
How many bills and resolutions were introduced in the last Congress?
What are the statistics on cigarette smoking in the United States?
What have been the dollar costs of American wars?
How many physicians in the United States graduated from foreign medical schools?
What American industries are being acquired by foreign investors?
What’s the average salary for a school teacher?
What’s the highest elevation in the USA? The lowest?


One of several general annual almanacs, a useful compendium of current factual information and statistics in all subject areas. Includes facts on U.S. states and cities; foreign countries; flags and maps in color; sports; chronology of previous year, etc.

Types of questions that can be answered:
How many people in the world speak Japanese?
What does the law on succession to the presidency say?
Is a liter bigger than a quart?
What have been the leading mutual funds historically?
Have third parties ever really influenced the presidential election?
How far is it between Chicago and New York?


Standard reference encyclopedia in LCRR and Centers, along with the Encyclopedia Americana and Encyclopaedia Britannica. Short articles supplemented with chronologies of important dates and events, lists of important figures, statistical information, tables, and charts. Includes bibliographies and detailed index volume.

Quotations

To assist congressional staff and Members searching for appropriate quotations to insert in their writing, or to verify some familiar sayings, LCRR and the Research Centers include a selection of quotation books. These collections are intended primarily for user self-service. In addition, CRS staff has access to CD-ROMs such as Gale Quotations, Granger’s World of Poetry, and Masterplots Complete to assist congressional offices verify specific quotations and works.
General quotation compilations cover a broad range of subjects. Such works include:


Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations, A Collection of Passages, Phrases, and Proverbs Traced to Their Sources in Ancient and Modern Literature. 16th ed. (Boston, Little, Brown, 1992)


Other compilations of quotations focus on specific subjects, such as:

Contemporary Quotations in Black (Westport, CO, Greenwood, 1997)

Encyclopedia of Supreme Court Quotations (Armonk, N.Y., M.E. Sharpe, 2000)

Political Quotations: A Collection of Notable Sayings on Politics from Antiquity Through 1989 (Detroit, Gale Group, 1990)

Will the Gentleman Yield? The Congressional Record Humor Book (Berkeley, CA, Ten Speed Press, 1987)

The Bible According to Mark Twain: Writings on Heaven, Eden, and the Flood (Athens, University of Georgia Press, 1995)

A Dictionary of Quotations from Shakespeare: A Topical Guide to Over 3,000 Great Passages from the Plays, Sonnets, and Narrative Poems (New York, Dutton, 1992)

Quotations from Abraham Lincoln (Chicago, Nelson-Hall, 1977)