

# CRS Report for Congress

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## Tracking Current Federal Legislation and Regulations: A Guide to Basic Sources

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## **ABSTRACT**

This report is a guide to basic sources useful in tracking federal legislation and regulations. It has been prepared primarily for the use of constituents who wish to follow the federal government's legislative or regulatory activities at the local level. Brief annotations for the selected printed, telephone, electronic, and related sources describe their scope, focus, and frequency, include publisher contact information, and provide Internet addresses where available. It will be updated for the beginning of each session.

# Tracking Current Federal Legislation and Regulations: A Guide to Basic Sources

## Summary

By using a variety of selected basic printed, telephone, electronic, and related sources, constituents can track federal legislation and regulations at the local level. Those who prefer weekly overviews would be interested in such publications as *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, and *U.S. News and World Report*. For daily coverage, printed sources such as the *Congressional Record*, *CQ Monitor*, *Federal Register*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Los Angeles Times*, as well as such databases as *THOMAS*, *GPO Access*, the Internet Home Pages of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, *LEXIS-NEXIS*, and *WESTLAW*, would be helpful.

The *Code of Federal Regulations*, *CIS/Index to Publications of the United States Congress*, *CIS Federal Register Index*, and *CIS Index to the Code of Federal Regulations* provide codified or indexed access to legislative and regulatory documents. Telephone sources such as Capitol Hill's office of legislative information, the White House's office of the executive clerk, and the office of the *Federal Register* can provide brief information on legislative and regulatory developments too new to have been captured by standard printed or electronic sources. Brief looks at directories and other media sources are provided, as is a bibliography. Annotations for each source contain publisher contact information and pertinent Internet addresses.

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# Tracking Current Federal Legislation and Regulations: A Guide to Basic Sources

## Introduction

Tracking the status of current legislation and regulatory issues is often perceived as a formidable task, requiring a vast library of expensive resources, an in-depth knowledge of the issue, and an intimate understanding of the federal government's inner workings. This is not necessarily true. While access to sophisticated retrieval methods and comprehensive knowledge of the governmental system may be helpful, it is possible for most constituents to follow an issue using a variety of resources available locally. It is important to note, though, that this process can be complicated and time-consuming, depending on the scope of the issue.

This guide has been designed to introduce researchers to some of the basic sources which are useful in acquiring background information or specific facts on the status of federal legislative or regulatory activities. Printed, telephone, electronic, and media sources are included, as well as pertinent directories, such as those of organizations that track areas of interest. Annotations describing the contents and organization of each source are included so that researchers can select those which most nearly fit individual needs. Internet addresses usually provide information about the items, rather than access to them.

Most of the publications cited in this guide can be found and used in local public or research libraries. The publications of the federal government can usually be found in libraries designated as federal depository libraries.

Since several databases (including some on the Internet) may expedite a particular search, brief listings of pertinent ones are provided in the "Selected Databases" section.

For all other materials, publisher contact information has been provided. Since pricing structures vary by subscriber type and prices change frequently, publishers should be contacted to obtain the latest order information. Publications from the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) can be ordered, prepaid, by mail, telephone, or fax on any of the following credit cards: Discover/NOVUS, MasterCard, or VISA. GPO bookstores located in selected cities throughout the United States can be identified by consulting a local telephone directory under the listing "U.S. Government." All contact and descriptive information is accurate as of the time of this printing; it is, of course, subject to change.

For information on more in-depth sources covering federal legislative activities, see CRS Report 97-10, *The Congressional Scene: Selected Publications Covering the Congress*.

## Tracking Current Federal Legislation

Action on legislation passed or pending in the current Congress, and its status in the legislative process, is reported in the *Congressional Record*. This is the primary source for the text of floor debates and the official source for recorded votes.

*Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report* is one of the commercial publications that track the status of current legislation.

Since some current legislation amends previously enacted legislation, it may occasionally be necessary to consult the earlier laws in the *United States Statutes at Large* or the *United States Code*.

### Printed Sources

#### *CIS/Index to Publications of the United States Congress*

Congressional Information Service, Inc.	Telephone: (301) 654-1550
4520 East-West Highway	(ask for Order Department)
Bethesda, MD 20814-3389	(800) 638-8380
Internet: [ <a href="http://www.cispubs.com">http://www.cispubs.com</a> ]	Fax: (301) 654-4033

Frequency: Monthly index and abstracts issues, with annual cumulations

This source provides detailed abstracts of congressional publications such as printed hearings, reports, committee prints, and documents. Some of its access points are title, subject, publication number, bill number, and witness names. Also, the legislative histories of public laws are provided. Coverage dates are 1970 through the present.

For information on computerized access to this publication, see the "Selected Databases" section beginning on p. 7.

#### *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*

Congressional Quarterly, Inc.	Telephone: (202) 887-8500
1414 22 <sup>nd</sup> Street, N.W.	(800) 432-2250
Washington, D.C. 20037	Fax: (202) 785-4415
Internet: [ <a href="http://www.cq.com">http://www.cq.com</a> ]	

Frequency: Weekly, with special supplements and annual *Almanac*

This weekly summary of congressional action and developments contains tables indicating the status of appropriations and major legislation, charts detailing recorded votes in both Chambers, and topical treatments of committee and floor actions. Most issues include articles providing current and background information on topics of legislative interest. Occasionally, special reports are printed. Quarterly indexes are issued, and the annual *Congressional Quarterly Almanac* is a comprehensive review of the legislative session.

For information on computerized access to this publication, see the "Selected Databases" section beginning on p. 7.

***CQ Monitor***

Congressional Quarterly, Inc.  
1414 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
Internet: [<http://www.cq.com>]

Telephone: (202) 887-6258  
(800) 432-2250, ext. 279  
Fax: (202) 785-4415

Frequency: Monday through Friday when Congress is in session, with updates throughout the day on the World Wide Web

This newsletter provides daily news on Congress, such as planned floor action for both Chambers, bill and amendment descriptions, and notices of bill markup sessions and conference negotiations. Also, committee schedules are provided for the day, with future schedules given up to 3 months in advance. Significant sections are “The Pulse of Congress,” with behind-the-scenes information on Members and committees, and “People on the Move,” which highlights congressional staff changes. *CQ NewsAlert*, one of the services offered on Congressional Quarterly’s new, developing World Wide Web site, updates the *Monitor* during the day.

***Congressional Record***

Superintendent of Documents  
U.S. Government Printing Office  
Washington, D.C. 20402  
Internet: [[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs)]

Telephone: (202) 512-1800  
Fax: (202) 512-2250

Frequency: Published each day that one or both Chambers are in session, except infrequent instances when two or more consecutive issues are printed together

The *Congressional Record* contains the edited transcript of activities on the floor of the House and the Senate. The “Daily Digest” section has summaries of: action in each Chamber, committee hearings, new public laws, and committee meetings scheduled for the next legislative day. Indexes are issued twice a month. The subject indexes can be used to identify bills by topic, and the “History of Bills and Resolutions” section tracks action on specific bills. Formerly, the indexes were cumulated annually into bound volumes, but this practice has not been followed for a number of years.

For information on computerized access to the *Congressional Record* and to its index, see the “Selected Databases” section beginning on p. 7.

***Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents***

Superintendent of Documents  
U.S. Government Printing Office  
Washington, D.C. 20402  
Internet: [<http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>]

Telephone: (202) 512-1800  
Fax: (202) 512-2250

Frequency: Weekly, with quarterly, semiannual, and annual indexes

This weekly periodical is a source for information such as the dates on which the President signed or vetoed legislation. In addition, it provides transcripts of presidential messages to Congress, executive orders, and speeches and other material released by the White House.

For information on computerized access to this publication, see the "Selected Databases" section beginning on p. 7.

## **Telephone Sources**

At times, information is needed on legislation so current that the desired data will not yet be available in any printed or electronic source. Or, there may be occasions when only one elusive date, bill number, or page number is needed. The telephone contacts listed below can provide certain useful facts as explained in each entry. However, when this information is needed regularly, or when in-depth coverage of an issue is required, it is essential to consult the printed or electronic sources listed in this guide.

### **Daily Calendar Information**

Both political parties in the Senate and the House provide recorded messages about the proceedings on the floor of each Chamber every day they are in session. The following should be called for these cloakroom recordings:

Senate: (202) 224-8601 (Republican)  
(202) 224-8541 (Democratic)

House: (202) 225-7430 (Republican)  
(202) 225-7400 (Democratic)

### **Public Law Update Service**

Information on recently enacted public laws can be obtained from a recorded message maintained by the office of the *Federal Register*. It can be reached at (202) 523-6641.

### **Status of Legislation**

The office of legislative information on Capitol Hill will respond to telephone inquiries from the public, providing up-to-date information on current legislation. By using a computer database, a knowledgeable staff can give the following information: status of any piece of legislation, bills introduced by any given Member of Congress, or bills introduced on any specified subject. A maximum of six items identified by bill number, or three items which require word searches, can be handled per call. The number is (202) 225-1772.

### **Switchboard in the U.S. Capitol**

The office of any congressional committee or subcommittee can be reached by calling (202) 224-3121.

### **White House Records**

The office of the executive clerk at the White House provides a recorded message with information about the dates of: the signings or vetoes of recent legislation, presidential messages, executive orders, and other official presidential actions. If the desired information is not included in the taped message, callers can stay on the line to be connected with a person. This office can be reached at (202) 456-2226.



## Tracking Current Federal Regulations

Regulations are issued by agencies of the federal government under the authority delegated to them by federal law or a presidential executive order and have the force of law. Final regulations are printed in the *Federal Register (FR)* and later codified by subject in the *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)*. By using these two sources with their many indexes and tables, it is possible to: identify all existing regulations in a subject area or pertaining to a specific section of the *United States Code*, identify regulations issued pursuant to a specific public law, or find proposed regulations which are not yet final.

The *Federal Regulatory Directory* describes the regulatory responsibilities of more than 100 federal agencies, and sources such as the *CIS Federal Register Index* and the *CIS Index to the Code of Federal Regulations* provide indexing to the *FR* and the *CFR* respectively.

### Printed Sources

#### *CIS Federal Register Index*

Congressional Information Service, Inc.	Telephone: (301) 654-1550
4520 East-West Highway	(ask for Order Department)
Bethesda, MD 20814-3389	(800) 638-8380
Internet: [ <a href="http://www.cispubs.com">http://www.cispubs.com</a> ]	Fax: (301) 654-4033

Frequency: Weekly, with cumulations every 5 weeks and semiannually

This annotated index provides numerous points of access to the *Federal Register*, such as: subject; personal, organizational, and corporate names; industries; issuing agency; authorizing legislation; *CFR* section number; geographic area; and agency docket number.

#### *CIS Index to the Code of Federal Regulations*

Congressional Information Service, Inc.	Telephone: (301) 654-1550
4520 East-West Highway	(ask for Order Department)
Bethesda, MD 20814-3389	(800) 638-8380
Internet: [ <a href="http://www.cispubs.com">http://www.cispubs.com</a> ]	Fax: (301) 654-4033

Frequency: Annual, with quarterly updates

This index to the *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* is arranged by: subject; geography—by political entities which administer federally regulated activities, and by proper name of physical entities administered by the government (national parks, monuments, etc.); official headings for each portion of the *CFR*; and new and revised *CFR* section numbers.

#### *Code of Federal Regulations*

Superintendent of Documents	Telephone: (202) 512-1800
U.S. Government Printing Office	Fax: (202) 512-2250
Washington, D.C. 20402	
Internet: [ <a href="http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara">http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara</a> ]	

Frequency: Revised annually (approximately one quarter of the titles at a time) as of the first of January, April, July, and October

The *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* codifies final regulations having general applicability and legal effect which have previously appeared in the *Federal Register*. Its 50 titles are arranged by subject. Since the annual revision incorporates new regulations and drops superseded ones, the *CFR* reflects regulations in effect at the time of printing. Several indexes and tables accompany the set.

For information on computerized access to the *CFR*, see the “Selected Databases” section beginning on p. 7.

***Federal Register***

Superintendent of Documents	Telephone: (202) 512-1800
U.S. Government Printing Office	Fax: (202) 512-2250
Washington, D.C. 20402	
Internet: [ <a href="http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara">http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara</a> ]	

Frequency: Daily, Monday through Friday; not published on Saturdays, Sundays, or on official holidays

The *Federal Register (FR)* is the official announcement of regulations and legal notices issued by federal agencies. These include: presidential proclamations and executive orders, proposed and final federal agency regulations having general applicability and legal effect, documents required to be published by act of Congress, and other federal agency documents of public interest. It also functions as an update to the *CFR*. Daily and monthly indexes, and an accompanying publication, *List of CFR Sections Affected*, assist in its use.

For information on computerized access to the *FR*, see the “Selected Databases” section beginning on p. 7.

***Federal Regulatory Directory***

Congressional Quarterly, Inc.	Telephone: (202) 822-1475
1414 22 <sup>nd</sup> Street, N.W.	(800) 638-1710
Washington, D.C. 20037	Fax: (202) 887-6706
Internet: [ <a href="http://books.cq.com">http://books.cq.com</a> ]	(800) 380-3810

Frequency: Every 2 years

Profiles which describe the mandates and operations of more than 100 federal regulatory agencies are provided in this directory. It also contains lists of telephone, fax, and hotline contacts, agency Internet site descriptions, information resources, regional offices, and information on federal entities charged with regulatory oversight responsibilities. Historical and current overviews explain the evolution of the regulatory process. Other aids are the full texts of key regulatory acts and executive orders and subject and name indexes.

**Telephone Sources**

As is the case with legislation, there are times when more current information is needed on regulatory activity than has yet appeared in printed or electronic materials, or when assistance in using those sources is required. Again, the telephone can be a helpful tool.

### **Federal Agencies**

Federal agencies responsible for regulatory activities in specific areas and the individuals in charge can be identified in the *Federal Regulatory Directory* (see p. 6). Contact information is furnished.

### ***Federal Register***

The customer service office at the *Federal Register* can identify the location and date of recent items appearing in the *Federal Register* and can assist in using the *CFR*; its number is (202) 523-5227.

Individuals who need copies of pages of the *Federal Register* can photocopy as many pages as they need in person at the Office of the *Federal Register*, National Archives and Records Administration, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20408 at a cost of \$.10 per page. The *Federal Register's* Public Information Office can be contacted at (202) 523-5240 for additional information.

### **White House Records**

The office of the executive clerk at the White House provides a recorded message with information about the dates executive orders and presidential proclamations appeared in the *Federal Register*. If the desired information is not included in the taped message, callers can stay on the line to be connected with a person. This office can be reached at (202) 456-2226.

## **Selected Databases**

Several computer databases, including some on the Internet, can provide help in tracking federal legislation and regulations. Brief descriptions of selected ones are provided in this section. Also included is contact information for the database producer or the actual database.

Because of the rapidly changing nature of this field, no attempt has been made to compile a comprehensive listing. For the same reason, no material has been provided on subscription fees (which are also charged by some Internet providers), online rates, or access information (except for some of the Internet sources). To obtain such information, the desired database producer must be consulted by using the contact information provided.

### **CIS**

Congressional Information Service, Inc.	Telephone: (301) 654-1550
4520 East-West Highway	(800) 638-8380
Bethesda, MD 20814-3389	Fax: (301) 654-4033
Internet: [ <a href="http://www.cispubs.com">http://www.cispubs.com</a> ]	

Abstracts of congressional publications such as printed hearings, reports, documents, and committee prints are available in this database. Hearing witnesses' testimony can be tracked by the individuals' names. Both this database and the company's Congressional Masterfile 2 CD-ROM are electronic counterparts of the *CIS/Index to Publications of the United States Congress* (see p. 2) and provide coverage from 1970 through the present. The company's

subscription Internet site, Congressional Universe (formerly Congressional Compass), is based on the previously mentioned *CIS/Index*, but also provides links to the texts of many congressional and federal documents via the firm's partnership with LEXIS-NEXIS.

### **GPO Access**

GPO Access User Support Team Telephone: (202) 512-1530  
 Office of Electronic Information Dissemination Services (888) 293-6498  
 U.S. Government Printing Office Fax: (202) 512-1262  
 Washington, D.C. 20401 E-mail: gpoaccess@gpo.gov  
 Internet: [[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs)]

The Government Printing Office (GPO) provides free Internet access to a wide variety of important legislative sources, such as congressional bills, the *Congressional Record* and the *Congressional Record Index* (including the "History of Bills and Resolutions"), the *Federal Register*, congressional calendars, public laws, and selected congressional reports and documents. Time spans covered vary by the category of information sought.

Also, GPO provides a Public Laws Electronic Notification Service via e-mail. To subscribe, send an e-mail to PENS@GPO.GOV with the following message: SUBSCRIBE PENS-L FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

### **LEXIS/NEXIS**

LEXIS-NEXIS Telephone: (800) 227-4908  
 P.O. Box 933 Fax: (513) 865-6909  
 Dayton, OH 45401-0933  
 Internet: [<http://www.lexis-nexis.com>]

Full-text coverage of several publications useful in tracking legislation and regulations are provided by this online service. Among these are the *Congressional Record*, the *Federal Register*, the *Code of Federal Regulations*, and the full texts of bills from the current and recent Congresses. Other highlights are: pending bill status, floor and committee votes, committee schedules, public laws, and the full texts of various presidential documents and statements.

Only LEXIS/NEXIS subscribers can access the system on the Internet.

### **THOMAS**

THOMAS is a World Wide Web source of congressional information on the Internet. Initiated by the leadership of the House of Representatives in the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress, it is available free to Internet users through the Library of Congress.

Among its contents are: full texts of bills (101<sup>st</sup>-105<sup>th</sup> Congresses); bill summary and status information (93<sup>rd</sup>-105<sup>th</sup> Congresses); full texts of public laws (101<sup>st</sup>-105<sup>th</sup> Congresses); committee reports (105<sup>th</sup> and 104<sup>th</sup> Congresses); House roll-call votes (101<sup>st</sup> Congress, second session [1990]-105<sup>th</sup> Congress); Senate roll-call votes (101<sup>st</sup>-105<sup>th</sup> Congresses); full text of the *Congressional Record* (101<sup>st</sup>-105<sup>th</sup> Congresses); the *Congressional Record Index* (104<sup>th</sup>-105<sup>th</sup> Congresses, and 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress, second session [1994]); and *Resume of Congressional Activity* (91<sup>st</sup>-105<sup>th</sup> Congresses). Also, *How Our Laws Are Made*

and *Enactment of a Law*, congressional publications which explain the steps of the legislative process, are accessible.

The Internet address for THOMAS is [<http://thomas.loc.gov>]

### **U.S. House of Representatives Home Page**

This free Internet source provides such information as: recent major House committee and floor actions; legislative schedules; background information on, and links to material on the steps in, the legislative process, including *How Our Laws Are Made*, a congressional publication that explains the steps of the legislative process; House roll-call votes beginning with the 101st Congress, second session (1990); and concise descriptions of floor proceedings when the House is in session.

The Internet address for this service is [<http://www.house.gov>]

### **U.S. Senate Home Page**

Materials of legislative interest offered on this free Internet source are: Senate legislative procedures; the Senate calendar; Senate roll-call votes beginning with the 101<sup>st</sup> Congress, first session (1989); the chamber's leadership; descriptions of the Senate committee system and of individual committees; the history of the Senate; directories of Senators by name and by state; lists of Senators with constituent e-mail addresses; and a glossary of terms common to the Senate. The Internet address for this source is [<http://www.senate.gov>]

### **WESTLAW**

West Group  
610 Opperman Drive  
Eagan, MN 55123

Telephone: (612) 687-7000  
(800) 937-8529  
Fax: (612) 687-7302

Internet: [<http://www.westgroup.com>]

While WESTLAW was designed primarily as a legal reference database, many of its files contain material useful to anyone tracking legislation or regulations. For example, the *Congressional Record* is available in full text on this subscription service, as is the *Federal Register*, the current *Code of Federal Regulations*, and committee reports. Also available in full text are selected executive documents and federal laws.

### **World Wide Web Aids**

The following Internet addresses provide access to guides to sources on federal legislative and regulatory activities or to Web-based instruction on conducting research in these areas:

“Legislative Information” and “Legislative Research with THOMAS”

[<http://www.clark.net/pub/lschank/web/bills.html>]

[<http://www.clark.net/pub/lschank/web/mythomas.html>]

“Legislative Research”

[<http://henry.ugl.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/softwarebi>]

“Federal Regulations”

[<http://www.clark.net/pub/lschank/web/fedregs.html>]

## Other Sources

There are numerous sources which, while not directly related to tracking legislation and regulations, can often be useful for identifying sources of information on these topics. National organizations which represent specific interest groups are keenly aware of legislation and regulatory activities pertaining to their areas. They frequently follow these issues closely, publishing newsletters and often making reference material available on these topics.

*Washington Representatives* contains information on some 17,500 firms and individuals who lobby in Washington and on the organizations they represent. The *Encyclopedia of Associations* contains essential information on about 23,000 national organizations. The *Washington Information Directory*, with a subject arrangement, provides information on pertinent government agencies and private groups in Washington. *National Trade and Professional Associations of the United States* offers information on more than 7,600 national trade associations and professional societies. *Washington '97* is a directory of key Washington officials and institutions, and the *United States Government Manual* provides information on the legislative or executive origin of each federal department and agency.

## Reference Sources

### *Encyclopedia of Associations*

Gale Research Inc.	Telephone: (313) 961-2242
835 Penobscot Building	(800) 347-4253
Detroit, MI 48226-4094	Fax: (313) 961-6815
Internet: [ <a href="http://www.gale.com">http://www.gale.com</a> ]	

Frequency: Annual

*National Organizations of the United States*, volume 1 of this reference source, provides the organizational name, address, telephone number, a top official's name, and other available contact information for nearly 23,000 U.S. associations and professional societies. For each group, an annotation describes its history, resources, goals, activities, publications, and meetings. The index to volume 1 provides retrieval by title or keyword. Access by state, city, and executive name is given in volume 2, *Geographic and Executive Indexes*. Information on newly formed or newly reported associations is found in volume 3, *Supplement*. Via subscription, this work is also available as part of Gale's *Associations Unlimited* (which includes listings for thousands of additional nonprofit organizations) on the Internet and in CD-ROM format.

### *National Trade and Professional Associations of the United States*

Columbia Books, Inc.	Telephone: (202) 898-0662
1212 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 330	(888) 265-0600
Washington, D.C. 20005	Fax: (202) 898-0775
Internet: [ <a href="http://www.d-net.com/columbia">http://www.d-net.com/columbia</a> ]	

Frequency: Annual

This soft-bound volume lists “about 7,500 national trade associations, labor unions, professional, scientific, or technical societies and other national organizations composed of groups united for a common purpose.” Basic information includes: association name, address, telephone number, fax number (if available), Internet address (if available), staff and membership totals, publications, meetings, historical note, and budget. Subject, geographic, acronym, executive, association management firm, and budget indexes are provided. For groups which have provided budget data, the budget index separates them into 10 categories, ranging from less than \$10,000 to more than \$5 million.

***United States Government Manual***

Superintendent of Documents Telephone: (202) 512-1800  
 U.S. Government Printing Office Fax: (202) 512-2250  
 Washington, D.C. 20402  
 Internet: [<http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/nara001.html>]

Frequency: Annual

Widely known as the federal government’s handbook of departments and major agencies, boards, committees, and commissions, the *United States Government Manual* also provides citations to each body’s legislative or executive authority. In addition, citations to the authority which caused an agency’s demise, transfer, or name change appear in “Appendix B: Federal Executive Agencies Terminated, Transferred, or Changed in Name Subsequent to March 4, 1933.” Furthermore, an alphabetical list of federal agencies and departments which can be found in the *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)*, including general information on the *CFR* titles, subtitles, or chapters in which they appear, is provided in “Appendix C: Agencies Appearing in the *Code of Federal Regulations*.”

***Washington '97***

Columbia Books, Inc. Telephone: (202) 898-0662  
 1212 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 330 (888) 265-0600  
 Washington, D.C. 20005 Fax: (202) 898-0775  
 Internet: [<http://www.d-net.com/columbia>]

Frequency: Annual

Listings in this directory cover about 22,000 key officials of nearly 4,500 Washington, D.C., area institutions, such as international organizations, government agencies, embassies, media organizations, cultural institutions, national associations, public interest groups, businesses, local colleges and universities, and hospitals. The current edition is *Washington '97*.

***Washington Information Directory***

Congressional Quarterly, Inc. Telephone: (202) 822-1475  
 1414 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, N.W. (800) 638-1710  
 Washington, D.C. 20037 Fax: (202) 887-6706  
 Internet: [<http://books.cq.com>]

Frequency: Annual

Rather than arranging Washington's information sources by agency or organization, this directory categorizes them by subject. Each of its 18 subject areas covers three types of information sources: executive branch agencies, congressional sources, and private organizations. Each entry contains the name of the source, its address, telephone number, other available contact information, the name of a key official, and a capsule description of its work. Also, useful lists of congressional offices, federal agency contacts by function (such as job vacancy hotlines), labor unions, diplomatic personnel, state and local officials, and federal regional offices, as well as subject and name indexes, are provided.

### ***Washington Representatives***

Columbia Books, Inc.	Telephone: (202) 898-0662
1212 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 330	(888) 265-0600
Washington, D.C. 20005	Fax: (202) 898-0775
Internet: [ <a href="http://www.d-net.com/columbia">http://www.d-net.com/columbia</a> ]	

Frequency: Annual

Information on about 17,500 individuals and firms working as Washington lobbyists is presented in this directory. In the first section, lobbyists are listed alphabetically with contact information. Each entry lists the clients represented, and indicates whether the lobbying individual or firm had registered to lobby Congress under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 or had registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent at the time of printing. In Section II, the organizations or clients represented are listed alphabetically. Other sections of the directory are: listings for legislative liaison offices within the executive branch; indexes by subject, foreign interests represented, and political action committee by industry; and the text of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 as enacted (P.L. 104-65).

### **Media Sources**

A variety of information on what is happening in Washington can be gathered by exposure to an assortment of editorial perspectives, "inside" reporting, and political analysis.

Examples of daily newspapers which contain these types of coverage are the *Washington Post*, *Washington Times*, *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Miami Herald*, *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Christian Science Monitor*. Weekly magazines such as *National Journal*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, and *U.S. News and World Report* provide regular coverage of the Washington scene. Many of these sources also have Internet sites.

C-SPAN, CNN, other cable television offerings, and commercial and public television and radio programs provide extensive coverage of Washington's legislative and regulatory happenings. Virtually every community has access to weekly broadcast programs which provide in-depth political analysis from reporters, legislators, and executive branch officials.



## Bibliography

For those who want more background information about the federal government's legislative and regulatory activities or about the sources and techniques used in tracking laws and regulations, this selected bibliography is provided. Library of Congress call numbers are included where available.

Jacobstein, J. Myron, Roy M. Mersky, and Donald J. Dunn. *Fundamentals of Legal Research*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Westbury, NY, Foundation Press, 1994. 777 p.  
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This updated successor to *Pollack's Fundamentals of Legal Research* is a clear and detailed guide to in-depth legal research, which includes research in federal legislation and administrative, or regulatory, law.

Morehead, Joe. *Introduction to United States Government Information Sources*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Englewood, CO, Libraries Unlimited, 1996. 333 p. Z1223.M674 1996

This revised version of Morehead's *Introduction to United States Public Documents* provides an introduction to basic printed and electronic information sources on federal government publications. It includes sections on the GPO, the depository library system, legislative and executive branch publications, and federal regulatory publications.

Robinson, Judith Schiek. *Tapping the Government Grapevine: The User-Friendly Guide to U.S. Government Information Sources*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Phoenix, AZ, Oryx Press, 1993. 240 p. Z1223.Z7 R633 1993

Informative chapters on legislative and regulatory information sources are part of this readable guide to sources of federal information. Explanations of types of sources which focus on representative works are provided, along with information on "freebies," footnotes, and bibliographies.

U.S. Congress. House. *How Our Laws Are Made*. 105<sup>th</sup> Cong., first session. Washington, GPO, 1997. S.Doc. 105-14.

Revised periodically, this pamphlet provides "a readable and nontechnical outline of the background and the numerous steps of our federal lawmaking process from the origin of an idea for a legislative proposal through its publication as a statute." It concentrates on procedures observed by the House of Representatives.

The 1997 version of this publication can be accessed on the Internet at the following address: [<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/lawsmade.toc.htm>]

Zwirn, Jerrold. *Congressional Publications and Proceedings: Research on Legislation, Budgets, and Treaties*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Englewood, CO, Libraries Unlimited, 1988. 299 p. JK1067.Z85 1988

This research guide to congressional publications covers a wide range of the information utilized and issued by the U.S. Congress, focusing on printed materials.