

Where to Access the Serial Set

Printed copies of the Serial Set are located in *Buhr* (Document 1-7915, 1817-1921), Graduate Library Stacks on *1 East* (7916-14801, 1921-2002), and 2003+ in the *Documents Center*. The Documents Center on the 2nd floor of the Graduate Library also has **microfiche** copies for all years.

The Government Printing Office web site, GPO Access (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/index.html>) indexes and provides the full text of all Serial Set publications in **pdf** format beginning with the 104th Congress, 1995.

LEXIS-NEXIS Congressional (<<http://web.lexis-nexis.com/congcomp>>) has been indexing the historical serial set (in **Historical Indexes**) and current issues (in **CIS Index**) for several years.

The University of Michigan Library purchased the **Historic Full Text** of the Serial Set, 1789-1969 in Fall 2005, making the Serial Set **now available** via LEXIS-NEXIS Congressional (see above).

GOOGLE Book Search (<http://books.google.com/>) will be adding copies of Serial Set documents to its database as it digitizes the Michigan and Stanford collections over the next five years. As of November 2005 it includes references to Serial Set materials found in Congressional committee hearings

For further information about Congressional publications, contact the **Documents Center** in person (2nd Floor, Hatcher Library North), by telephone (734-764-0410), or E-Mail (govdocs@umich.edu)



Federal Depository Library Program

Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library
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The Congressional Serial Set Exhibit

Hidden Treasures in American History

The **U.S. Congressional Serial Set** contains House and Senate Reports (recommendations on pending legislation) and House and Senate Documents (communications from the Executive Branch) since the 15th Congress, 1st Session (1817). Lawyers use the House and Senate committee reports on bills to determine the legislative intent of any given law.

Exhibit Curator: *Grace York*, Documents Center, with very special thanks to *Frank Lester* and *Catherine Morse* of the Documents Center; *Sarah Cookingham*, Collection Marketing Assistant; *Donna Heiden* of Library Photoduplication; Graduate Library *Circulation* Staff, and *Buhr* Shelving Facility Staff.

The Serial Set in the Past

Throughout the 19th and early 20th Century, it also included the majority of important Executive Branch publications, including the reports of the great explorations, Foreign Relations of the United States, and the Decennial Census.

The Serial Set Today

Only a handful of Executive Branch documents, such as the State of the Union message, Federal Budget, and Economic Report of the President are issued in the Serial Set today.

Today's Serial Set is primarily composed of

Reports on Legislation an example of which is the *Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit* (House Report 108-391)

Reports of Investigations an example of which is the *PreWar Intelligence Assessments in Iraq* (Senate Report 108-301)

Publicity Pieces an example of which is the *Our Flag* (Senate Document 105-13)

Internal Working Documents an example of which is the *Statement of Disbursements of the House* (House Document 109-19)

Indexing. Although printed indexes have been published for over 100 years, computerized indexing introduced to the University of Michigan campus in Fall 2005 via LEXIS-NEXIS Congressional and Google Book Search has opened a new world of hidden treasures.

Highlights of the Exhibit

- Jefferson Bible
- Bird images from the transcontinental railroad survey
- Civil War correspondence of the Union and Confederate Armies
- Almshouse population from the 1890 Census
- List of Thomas Edison's patents
- Hearings on the Titanic disaster
- Vietnam War teach-in movement
- Amistad prisoners
- Pro and con of woman suffrage
- Justification for space program
- Importation of women for immoral purposes
- Pre-war intelligence on Iraq
- Scurvy hospital for destitute miners

Additional Sources of Congressional Information

Bills – Accessible through THOMAS: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Hearings – Indexed in LEXIS-NEXIS Congressional - <http://web.lexis-nexis.com/congcomp/>

Debates – in the Congressional Record – Stacks J 11.R and LEXIS-NEXIS Congressional, 1985+