The Congressional Record (CR) is the official record of the proceedings and debates of the Congress in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. It contains:

- a verbatim record of what is said on the floor of the House and Senate (however, members can revise and “extend” their remarks, that is, submit additional material).
- a record of votes
- reprints of major bills and some committee reports (including all conference committee reports)
- veto messages
- a Daily Digest of floor action and committee meetings

It does not have committee hearings or deliberations.

The Congressional Record is published every day Congress is in session and the daily issues are cumulated into annual volumes. Pagination in the Congressional Record changes when the daily issues are cumulated. An index to the daily Congressional Record is issued every two weeks, and the annual Congressional Record has its own cumulative index.

The Congressional Record has been published since 1873 (43rd Congress, 2nd session). Predecessors of the Congressional Record were the Congressional Globe (1833 - 1873), the Register of Debates (1824 - 1837), and the Annals of Congress (1789 - 1824).

Where to Find It

1873 – 1911
Annual cumulated volumes are on microfilm.
Location: Gov micro
1873-1875 also via the Library of Congress: memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwcr.html
Indexes: Microfilm reels include indexes for each volume.
We also have a few scattered volumes in print: Gov Reference KF 35 .C6

1911 - 1992
Annual cumulated volumes are on microfiche.
Location: Gov micro
Indexes: Annual print indexes are shelved in Gov Reference KF 35 .C6
Indexes are also on microfiche, filed by year with the corresponding CR volumes.

1993 -
Daily Congressional Record issues are on microfiche
Location: Gov micro
Indexes: Gov micro. Biweekly indexes are filed by year with the corresponding daily CR.

1989 -
Searchable Congressional Record
Location: via Thomas, 1989 - thomas.loc.gov
via GPO Access, 1994 - purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS1671

Daily Digest

March 1947-
(80th Congress- ) Cumulated volumes are issued with the annual & biweekly indexes.
Location: Gov Reference KF 35 .C6, also on microfiche (Gov micro).
Congressional Record Index

- Indexes have a subject and name section, and a “History of Bills and Resolutions” section which is arranged by bill number.
- Elements in brackets (e.g., [15DE]) after the page number refer to the date of the Congressional Record on which the pages may be found.
- From 1978 on, a black dot (•) next to an item in the index is used to indicate material not actually spoken on the floor.
- Pagination in the Congressional Record changes when the daily issues are cumulated. Page numbers in the biweekly indexes correspond to the daily issues, and page numbers in the annual index correspond to the annual cumulative Congressional Record.
  - Biweekly Index. The daily Congressional Record is divided into sections, so the biweekly index gives the section (H-House, S-Senate, E-Extensions of Remarks, D-Daily Digest) and page number (e.g., H4962).
  - Annual Cumulative Index. Leads to page numbers in the annual Congressional Record. Page numbers beginning with "A" are in the Appendix.
- Cumulated Daily Digest volumes are published with biweekly and annual index cumulations from 1947 on.

Annual Cumulative Indexes

1873 – 1910 on microfilm.
Location: Gov micro (on the reels with the corresponding Congressional Record volumes).

1911 - 1996
Location: In print: Gov Reference KF 35 .C6
Gov micro: 1911 - 1992, the annual cumulative indexes are also on microfiche with the corresponding annual Congressional Record.

Cumulative Daily Indexes These give page numbers to the daily issues of the Congressional Record.

Congressional Record Index via GPO Access, 1983- purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS8316
(1983-1990 gives page numbers for the annual cumulation, 1991-)

History of Bills 1983 –
Lists legislative actions on bills. Part of the print CR Index, it is in a separate database via GPO Access.
via GPO Access: purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS8317
1993 - biweekly indexes on microfiche. Gov micro. Filed by year with the corresponding daily CR fiche.

Predecessors of the Congressional Record

All are available via the Library of Congress’ American Memory collections. The Maps & Government Information department has a complete set of each of these titles on microfilm:

1st Congress, 1st session (Mar. 4, 1789) – 18th Congress, 1st session (May 27, 1824).
Location: memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwac.html
also Gov micro. Microfilm reels include indexes for each volume.

Register of Debates.
8th Congress, 2nd session (Dec. 6, 1824) – 25th Congress, 1st session (Oct. 16, 1837)
Location: memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwrd.html
also Gov micro. Microfilm reels include indexes for each volume.

Congressional Globe.
23rd Congress (Dec. 2, 1833) – 42nd Congress (Mar. 3, 1873)
Location: memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwcg.html
also Gov micro. Microfilm reels include indexes for each volume.