



Congressional Record

Henry Madden Library · California State University, Fresno

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) .

via GPO Access, **1995-** www.gpoaccess.gov/crecord/index.html

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:

Annals of Congress (*The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States*).

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/lwgc.html

also Gov micro. Microfilm reels include indexes for each volume.