

# Comparison of Legislative Resources on *GPO Access* and Selected Government and Non-Government Web Sites

## October 2008

### Executive Summary

The goal of this study is to compare legislative information available on *GPO Access* to that available on selected, relevant Government Web sites and non-Government sites. This analysis compares two separate source bases of Government information to what currently resides on *GPO Access*. The first includes legislative resources available on external, free Government sites that provide resources to the public at no cost. The second includes legislative resources available on non-Government, commercial, fee-based Web sites.

Specifically, this report will examine the following:

- The availability of legislative resources on all of the databases examined
- The scope of the resources on each database
- The source of those resources
- Additional legislative resources and features exclusive to comparable Web sites.

Analyses and comparisons were executed on four Government Web sites including *GPO Access*, the House of Representatives Web site (<http://www.house.gov>), the Senate Web site (<http://www.senate.gov>), and THOMAS (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>). The commercial, fee-based Internet services evaluated were CQ.com (<http://www.cq.com>), HeinOnline (<http://heinonline.org/>), Lexis-Nexis *Congressional* (<http://academic.lexisnexis.com/online-services/congressional>), and Westlaw ([www.westlaw.com/](http://www.westlaw.com/)).

The comparative analysis yielded the following key findings:

- *GPO Access* has the largest total number of legislative resources among those evaluated.
- All the Government Web sites evaluated, with the exception of *GPO Access*, utilize at least some external content by linking to other Web sites.
- On House.gov and Senate.gov, most of the legislative resources link to other Web sites to supplement their information.
- House.gov and Senate.gov mostly link to *GPO Access* rather than THOMAS to supplement their information, and in some cases link to both external services.
- THOMAS links to House.gov for a very small amount of resources.
- The scope (number of years covered) of most resources on *GPO Access* is exceeded by the following: House.gov; THOMAS; Lexis-Nexis *Congressional*; HeinOnline; and CQ.com.
- Non-Government Web sites possess their own content, but in a very small number of cases will supplement that information with a link to *GPO Access*, and in one case, a link to a Library of Congress site.
- Lexis-Nexis, CQ.com, Senate.gov, and THOMAS offer a significant amount of additional legislative resources and features not offered on *GPO Access*.

## Background

This report compares the congressional and other legislative branch information available on *GPO Access* to that available on selected, relevant Government and non-Government Web sites. The report is used for internal analysis of *GPO Access* content availability and features as compared to other Web sites containing legislative resources. The list of resources explicitly evaluated in this report is based on current *GPO Access* legislative content.

Analyses and comparisons were conducted on four Government Web sites including *GPO Access*, the House of Representatives Web site (<http://www.house.gov>), the Senate Web site (<http://www.senate.gov>), and THOMAS (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>). The commercial services evaluated were CQ.com (<http://www.cq.com>), HeinOnline (<http://heinonline.org/>), Lexis-Nexis *Congressional*<sup>1</sup> (<http://academic.lexisnexis.com/online-services/congressional>), and Westlaw ([www.westlaw.com/](http://www.westlaw.com/)).

Many educational and library Web sites were excluded in this evaluation due to the minimal, if any, amount of information available on their own servers. Instead these sites often provide a variety of links to other Web sites—usually *GPO Access* and THOMAS—so it is more difficult to assess their value aside from that of the sites to which they link for their content. In addition, Web sites for individual congressional committees were excluded from this study due to two main factors: they are part of either House.gov or Senate.gov, so their individual inclusion would have been redundant, and they, like the educational and library Web sites, tend to provide links to *GPO Access* and THOMAS rather than offering information stored on their own servers.

This comparative analysis is based on a “snapshot” view of these services during October 2008. It should be noted that these conclusions are necessarily broad, as they represent general trends observed in a comparison of online legislative resources. It should also be emphasized that date ranges and statements about the resources available on a particular service within this report and its attachments, are based primarily on publicly available information on the selected Web sites; they are also based on the type of subscription access to the sites’ resources available to GPO staff at the time of the analysis. Some of this information is difficult to locate or is restricted to some extent; this is especially the case with the fee-based, non-Government Web sites that severely limit the information they are willing to share with non-subscribers. Focused efforts were made to ensure the accuracy of the data contained herein, but the possibility for omissions or misstatements due to the aforementioned factors should be recognized.

## Available Online Resources

Analysis was based on comparative reviews of *GPO Access* and selected Government and commercial Web sites for 34 *GPO Access* legislative resources. This study does not differentiate between multiple methods of accessing the same base of information. For example, *Congressional Bills* is counted as a single legislative resource, even if access to the resource is

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<sup>1</sup> To be referred to hereafter as Lexis-Nexis only throughout this document.

provided through both a keyword search and a list of major legislative topics. Below is the list of legislative resources compared:<sup>2</sup>

- *9-11 Commission Final Report*
- *Cannon's Precedents*
- *Congressional Bills*
- *Congressional Committee Prints*
- *Congressional Directory*
- *Congressional Documents*
- *Congressional Hearings*
- *Congressional Pictorial Directory*
- *Congressional Record, Bound*
- *Congressional Record*
- *Congressional Record Index*
- *Congressional Reports*
- *Deschler's Precedents*
- *Economic Indicators*
- *GAO Comptroller General Decisions*
- *GAO Reports*
- *Hinds' Precedents*
- *History of Bills*
- *House Calendars*
- *House Journal*
- *House Practice: A Guide to the Rules, Precedents, and Procedures of the House*
- *House Rules and Manual*
- *House Ways and Means Committee Prints*
- *Independent Counsel Investigations*
- *Public and Private Laws*
- *Riddick's Senate Procedure*
- *Senate Calendar of Business*
- *Senate Manual*
- *State of the Union*
- *Statutes at Large*
- *United States Code*
- *U.S. Constitution*
- *United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions (Plum Book)*
- *United States Government Printing Office Style Manual*

Five resources are new to *GPO Access* since they were last evaluated in 2003.<sup>3</sup> New resources include the following:

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<sup>2</sup> Legislative resources that comprise this list were obtained from current available, full-text resources on *GPO Access*.

<sup>3</sup> Previous reports are available online at <http://fedbbs.access.gpo.gov/library/compare/>.

- *9-11 Commission Final Report*
- *Congressional Record, Bound*
- *State of the Union*
- *Statutes at Large*
- *U.S. Government Printing Office Style Manual*

## **Availability of *GPO Access* Resources**

This section discusses the number of *GPO Access* legislative resources contained on each Web site compared.

### *GPO Access* and Government Web Sites

Among the legislative resources on *GPO Access* measured in this study, no other Government site contained all of the resources available on *GPO Access*. House.gov offers access to 22 of the 34 resources compared. THOMAS offers access to 16 of the 34 resources, while Senate.gov offers even fewer with 13 resources.

The following 9 items are exclusive to *GPO Access*, meaning that they are not located on any of the other Government Web sites evaluated:

- *9-11 Commission Final Report*
- *Congressional Record, Bound*
- *Economic Indicators*
- *GAO Comptroller Decisions*
- *GAO Reports*
- *Independent Counsel Investigations*
- *Senate Manual*<sup>4</sup>
- *United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions (Plum Book)*
- *United States Government Printing Office Style Manual*

While House.gov does not offer the above-mentioned resources, it also does not offer other significant *GPO Access* legislative resources. These include *Riddick's Senate Procedure* and the *Senate Calendar*, which are available on Senate.gov.

While THOMAS does not provide access to the 9 legislative resources exclusive to *GPO Access*, it also does not provide *Cannon's Precedents*, *Congressional Hearings*, *Deschler's Precedents*, *Hinds' Precedents*, *House Ways and Means Committee Prints*, and *Riddick's Senate Procedure*. Though THOMAS does not provide separate access to the *State of the Union*, it does make the *Congressional Record* available, and the *State of the Union* can be found within that resource. The other resources THOMAS lacks can be located on Senate.gov, House.gov, or both.

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<sup>4</sup> Senate.gov offers the separate S.Doc. 110-9, *Standing Rules of the Senate*.

Finally, Senate.gov does not provide access to the 9 exclusively available *GPO Access* legislative resources. In addition, the site also does not provide access to *Cannon's Precedents*, *Congressional Committee Prints*, *Deschler's Precedents*, *Hinds' Precedents*, *History of Bills*, *House Calendars*, *House Journal*, *House Practice*, *House Rules and Manual*, and *House Ways and Means Committee Prints*. Though the site does not provide access to the entire *Senate Manual* as a publication, the site offers *Standing Rules of the Senate*, which provides the most current content for that information.

***GPO Access compared to  
Government Web Sites:***

<b>GPO Access</b>	<b>34</b>
House.gov	22
THOMAS	16
Senate.gov	13

*GPO Access and Non-Government Web Sites*

Among the legislative resources on *GPO Access* that were compared, no other non-Government site contained all of the resources that are available on *GPO Access*. Lexis-Nexis offers 26 of the 34 resources compared. Westlaw offers access to 14 of the 34 legislative resources while CQ.com provides access to 12 of the resources. HeinOnline provides access to the fewest, with a total of 8 *GPO Access* legislative resources available.

The following items are exclusive to *GPO Access*, meaning that they are not located on any of the non-Government Web sites:

- *Deschler's Precedents*<sup>5</sup>
- *House Practice: A Guide to the Rules, Precedents, and Procedures of the House*
- *Riddick's Senate Procedure*<sup>6</sup>
- *United States Government Printing Office Style Manual*

While Lexis-Nexis does not provide access to the *GPO Access* legislative resources mentioned above, it also does not contain several other significant resources. These include *9-11 Commission Final Report*, *GAO Comptroller General Decisions*, *House Calendars*, and the *Senate Calendar*. Some items that are separate resources on *GPO Access* are included within resources on Lexis-Nexis, most notably the Serial Set that includes *Congressional Documents*, *Congressional Reports*, *Hinds' Precedents*, various *Independent Counsel Investigations*, various *State of the Union* addresses, various versions of the *U.S. Constitution*, and the *United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions*. In addition, the *9-11 Commission Final Report* can be found within *Congressional Committee Prints* on Lexis-Nexis. *Deschler's Precedents* and *Riddick's Senate Procedures* are included in the portion of the Serial Set that Lexis-Nexis expects to make available by December 2010.

<sup>5</sup> Lexis-Nexis plans to have H.Doc. 94-66 included in Serial Set II, projected for completion by 2010.

<sup>6</sup> Lexis-Nexis plans to have S.Doc. 101-28 included in Serial Set II, projected for completion by 2010.

The Westlaw service also fails to make accessible several resources that *GPO Access* provides. These are *Cannon’s Precedents*, *Congressional Committee Prints*, *Bound Congressional Record*, *Congressional Record Index*, *Economic Indicators*, *History of Bills*, *House Calendars*, *House Journal*, *House Rules and Manual*, *House Ways and Means Committee Prints*, *Independent Counsel Investigations*, *Senate Calendar*, *Senate Manual*, *U.S. Code*, and the *United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions*, in addition to the resources exclusive to *GPO Access* listed at the beginning of this section.

In addition to the resources listed above, CQ.com also does not offer other *GPO Access* legislative resources. The list includes the *9-11 Commission Final Report*, *Bound Congressional Record*, *Cannon’s Precedents*, *Congressional Committee Prints*, *Economic Indicators*, *GAO Comptroller General Decisions*, *GAO Reports*, *Hinds’ Precedents*, *House Journal*, *House Rules and Manual*, *House Ways and Means Committee Prints*, *Independent Counsel Investigations*, *Senate Manual*, *Statutes at Large*, *U.S. Constitution*, and the *United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions*. CQ.com does not provide access to the official, published version of the *Congressional Directory* and *Congressional Pictorial Directory*, but does provide a *CQ Member Profiles* feature, which contains much of the same information as the directories. CQ.com lacks a number of supplemental *GPO Access* resources that exist on Lexis-Nexis, Westlaw, or both including *GAO Comptroller Decisions*, *GAO Reports*, and *Statutes at Large*. The *U.S. Constitution*, unavailable on CQ.com, can be located on Westlaw, HeinOnline, and Lexis-Nexis.

Finally, HeinOnline does not provide access to the exclusively available *GPO Access* legislative resources as well as the *9-11 Commission Final Report*, *Cannon’s Precedents*, *Congressional Bills*, *Congressional Committee Prints*, *Congressional Directory*, *Congressional Hearings*, *Congressional Pictorial Directory*, *Congressional Reports*, *Economic Indicators*, *GAO Comptroller General Decisions*, *GAO Reports*, *Hinds’ Precedents*, *History of Bills*, *House Calendars*, *House Journal*, *House Rules and Manual*, *House Ways and Means Committee Prints*, *Independent Counsel Investigations*, *Public and Private Laws*, *Senate Calendar*, *Senate Manual*, and the *United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions*. Of these, several are available on one or more of the other legislative resources evaluated in this study.

***GPO Access compared to  
Non-Government Web Sites:***

<b>GPO Access</b>	<b>34</b>
Lexis-Nexis	26
Westlaw	14
CQ.com	12
HeinOnline	8

In summary, among the services evaluated, no Government or non-Government Web site supplies access to all the legislative resources that are made available on *GPO Access*. Approximately 24% more resources are found on *GPO Access* than the competing site with the greatest number of *GPO Access* resources. Additionally, there are currently four legislative

resources that are exclusive to *GPO Access*. At this time, no Government or non-Government Web site compared houses the following resources other than *GPO Access*:<sup>7</sup>

- *Deschler's Precedents*
- *House Practice*
- *Riddick's Senate Procedure*
- *U.S. Government Printing Office Style Manual*

\*\*More detailed information concerning the *GPO Access* legislative resources for particular services is provided on the attached charts.

## Scope of Resources

This section examines the scope of both Government and non-Government legislative resources. In this report, *scope* can be defined as the range of years or sessions of Congress covered by a legislative resource.

### Government Web Sites

Legislative resources on *GPO Access* are continuously maintained and regularly updated. However, information is not retrospectively added. This means that historical content is not added to *GPO Access* at this time. The Government Printing Office (GPO) is mandated to maintain an electronic directory of Federal electronic information, provide a system of online access to the *Congressional Record*, the *Federal Register*, and other appropriate publications, and operate an electronic storage facility for Federal electronic information. Under the mandate, *GPO Access* is required to keep Federal information current, official, and free. The information provided on *GPO Access* is the official, published version, and the information retrieved can be used without restriction, unless specifically noted. None of the other Web sites compared offer the official, published version. For these reasons, *GPO Access* does not backtrack and post old information. The scope of current *GPO Access* legislative resources can be noted in the attached charts.

Of the legislative resources on House.gov, the *Congressional Record*, *Congressional Committee Prints* and the *U.S. Code* have a wider range of coverage than *GPO Access*. *GPO Access* has a wider range of coverage than House.gov for the *Congressional Directory* and *House Calendars*. Each service encompasses the same range of coverage for *House Ways and Means Committee Prints*. Many of the resources on House.gov link directly to *GPO Access*, THOMAS, or the Library of Congress. (*Note: Detailed information is provided in the "Sources of Resources" section to follow.*)

In terms of the range of coverage for Senate.gov, *GPO Access* has a wider range of coverage for three legislative resources including *Congressional Documents*, *Congressional Record Index*, and the *Senate Calendar*. For *Public and Private Laws*, Senate.gov has a wider scope. Senate.gov most often links to *GPO Access* as well as THOMAS to supplement its

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<sup>7</sup> Legislative resources on both Government and non-Government Web sites were evaluated in October 2008.

legislative resources. (Note: Detailed information is provided in the “Sources of Resources” section to follow.)

Overall, THOMAS has a wider range of coverage for nine resources. These include *Congressional Bills*, *Congressional Committee Prints*, the *Congressional Record*, *History of Bills*, *House Calendars*, *Public and Private Laws*, the *Senate Calendar*, *State of the Union*, and the *U.S. Code*. *GPO Access* possesses a wider range of coverage for the *Congressional Record Index*. Both services share an equal range of coverage for *Congressional Reports*. It is worthy to note that when comparing *Congressional Documents*, *GPO Access* possesses a wider range of coverage for current information, while THOMAS possesses a wider range of coverage for historical content. This is also the case for the *House Journal*. Specific dates and legislative resources can be noted in the attached charts.

### Non-Government Web Sites

Lexis-Nexis contains a significant number of legislative resources that possess a wider range of coverage than *GPO Access*. There are 19 total. These include the *Bound Congressional Record*, *Congressional Bills*, *Congressional Committee Prints*, *Congressional Directory*, *Congressional Documents*, *Congressional Hearings*, *Congressional Pictorial Directory*, *Congressional Record* (daily & bound), *Congressional Record Index*, *Congressional Reports*, *Economic Indicators*, *GAO Reports*, *House Journal*, *House Rules and Manual*, *House Ways and Means Committee Prints*, *Public and Private Laws*, *Senate Manual*, *Statutes at Large*, and *United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions*. However, *GPO Access* surpasses Lexis-Nexis in range of coverage with the *Senate Manual* and the *U.S. Code*. The two services share a range of coverage for the *Congressional Directory* and the *9-11 Commission Final Report*.

Five resources encompass a wider range of coverage on Westlaw than what is available on *GPO Access*, including *Congressional Hearings*, *Congressional Record*, *GAO Comptroller Decisions*, *Public and Private Laws*, and the *State of the Union*. *GPO Access* claims a wider scope for *Congressional Bills*, *Congressional Directory*, *Congressional Documents*, *Congressional Pictorial Directory*, *Congressional Reports*, *GAO Reports*, and the *U.S. Constitution*. After a comparison of *Statutes at Large*, it can be noted that Westlaw provides a greater historical range of coverage while *GPO Access* provides a wider range of coverage for current data. Each service covers the *9-11 Commission Final Report* equally.

CQ.com surpasses *GPO Access* in range of coverage for several of their shared resources. This includes *Congressional Bills*, *Congressional Pictorial Directory*<sup>8</sup>, *Congressional Record*, *Congressional Reports*, *History of Bills*, *House Calendars*, *Public and Private Laws*, *Senate Calendar*, and the *State of the Union*. *GPO Access* has a wider range of coverage for the *Congressional Record Index*. The services share coverage for the *Congressional Directory*.<sup>9</sup> As is the case with other comparisons, CQ.com provides a greater range of coverage for historical

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<sup>8</sup> This is actually the *CQ Member Profiles* feature, which is not the official published version of the *Congressional Directory* or *Congressional Pictorial Directory*.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.



content with regard to *Congressional Documents*, while *GPO Access* provides a greater range for current information.

Four of the eight resources that HeinOnline and *GPO Access* share cover a broader range on the commercial site. This is due to the fact that the *Bound Congressional Record*, *Congressional Record Index*, *Statutes at Large*, and the *U.S. Code* each possess all information available for that resource. *GPO Access* supplies a wider range of coverage for *Congressional Documents*. The coverage of this resource on HeinOnline encompasses selected documents covering various years. *GPO Access* also supplies a wider range of coverage for the *State of the Union*.

*GPO Access* has a larger total scope than two sites, Senate.gov and Westlaw. All of the comparisons with resulting statistics are based on scope being defined as the range of years or sessions of Congress covered by a legislative resource. In addition, all other non-Government and Government Web sites evaluated in this comparison exceed the range of coverage of legislative resources on *GPO Access*. As previously noted, in accordance with the mandate, *GPO Access* is only required to keep legislative resources current. Historical information on *GPO Access* is not a stipulation under the mandate. While many resources are noted as being equal in range of coverage, it is important to note that in many cases, this is due to the fact that various compared sites link to *GPO Access* and other sources for information.

## Sources of Resources

This section discusses whether the legislative resources on the eight compared Web sites are produced and/or housed by the supporting organization, or whether they are provided through links to other Web sites, such as *GPO Access* or THOMAS. In order to effectively analyze the legislative information located, a significant way to assess the legislative resource is to note whether or not information is housed on the provider's server, or if it links to a separate source of information. Due to their tendency to use and link to other Web sites for basic content, educational and library Web sites were excluded from this evaluation.

Most of the Web sites in this report contain their own legislative information. Most also provide links to other sources of information to supplement that content. Senate.gov, House.gov, THOMAS, CQ.com, and HeinOnline all link to other sites in addition to maintaining their own legislative resources.

### Government Web Sites

Eleven legislative resources on House.gov link to *GPO Access*. These include *Cannon's Precedents*, *Congressional Bills*, *Congressional Directory*, *Congressional Hearings*, *Congressional Pictorial Directory*, *Congressional Reports*, *Deschler's Precedents*, *Hinds' Precedents*, *House Practice*, *House Rules and Manual*, and *Public and Private Laws*. Five legislative resources, *Congressional Bills*, *Congressional Record*, *Congressional Reports*, *Congressional Record Index*, and *History of Bills* all link to THOMAS as well. *Congressional Documents*, *House Journal*, and *Statutes at Large* each link to miscellaneous Library of Congress sites. The *U.S. Constitution* links to the National Archives and Records Administration

(NARA). House.gov contains five of its own legislative resources and a total of 20 that link to other Web sites.

Nine legislative resources on Senate.gov link to *GPO Access*. These include *Congressional Bills*, *Congressional Directory*, *Congressional Hearings*, *Congressional Pictorial Directory*, *Congressional Record*, *Congressional Reports*, *Riddick's Senate Procedure*, the *Senate Calendar*, and *U.S. Code*. In addition, five legislative resources on Senate.gov link to THOMAS. These include *Congressional Bills*, *Congressional Hearings*, *Congressional Record Index*, *Congressional Reports*, and *Public and Private Laws*. *Congressional Bills* links to both *GPO Access* and THOMAS. Only one resource, the *U.S. Constitution*, links to NARA. Finally, Senate.gov contains two internally-generated legislative resources, *Congressional Documents* and the *Senate Calendar*. The service links a total of 15 resources to other Web sites.

Two legislative resources on THOMAS link to *GPO Access*. These include the *Congressional Directory* and *Congressional Pictorial Directory*. In addition, two resources link to miscellaneous Library of Congress sites, *Congressional Documents* and the *House Journal*. The *U.S. Constitution* links to NARA. Two resources link to House.gov, the *Congressional Directory* and the *U.S. Code*; the *Congressional Directory* also links to Senate.gov. The legislative resource, *Congressional Directory*, links to *GPO Access*, House.gov, and Senate.gov. THOMAS links a total of 6 resources to other Web sites, and also contains 11 of its own generated resources. These include *Congressional Bills*, *Congressional Committee Prints*, *Congressional Documents*, *Congressional Record*, *Congressional Record Index*, *Congressional Reports*, *History of Bills*, *House Calendars*, *Public and Private Laws*, *Senate Calendar*, and the *State of the Union*.

#### Non-Government Web Sites

All 25 of the legislative resources on Lexis-Nexis comparable to *GPO Access* are internally-generated. These include *Bound Congressional Record*, *Cannon's Precedents*, *Congressional Bills*, *Congressional Committee Prints*, *Congressional Directory*, *Congressional Documents*, *Congressional Hearings*, *Congressional Pictorial Directory*, *Congressional Record*, *Congressional Record Index*, *Congressional Reports*, *Economic Indicators*, *GAO Reports*, *Hinds' Precedents*, *History of Bills*, *House Journal*, *House Rules and Manual*, *House Ways and Means Committee Prints*, *Independent Counsel Investigations*, *Public and Private Laws*, *Senate Manual*, *Statutes at Large*, the *U.S. Code*, *U.S. Constitution*, and *United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions*.

Westlaw does not link to any external Web sites to supplement its content. All resources are generated within the subscription service.

CQ.com almost exclusively generates content for legislative resources within their service. However, one resource, *Congressional Documents*, links to historical information on a Library of Congress site.

HeinOnline links only one resource to *GPO Access*, and that is the *U.S. Constitution*. The rest of the resources, *Congressional Documents*, *Bound Congressional Record*, *Congressional Record*, *Congressional Record Index*, *Statutes at Large*, and the *U.S. Code*, all contain content generated by HeinOnline.

The following table identifies legislative resources on each Web site that depend on links to *GPO Access* and/or THOMAS:

<b>Web site</b>	<b>Resources that link to <i>GPO Access</i></b>	<b>Resources that link to Thomas</b>	<b>Resources that link to misc. Library of Congress sites</b>	<b>Resources that link to NARA</b>	<b>Resources that link to House.gov</b>	<b>Resources that link to Senate.gov</b>
House.gov	Cannon's Precedents, Congressional Bills, Congressional Directory, Congressional Hearings, Congressional Pictorial Directory, Congressional Reports, Deschler's Precedents, Hinds' Precedents, House Practice, House Rules and Manual, Public and Private Laws	Congressional Bills, Congressional Record, Congressional Reports, Congressional Record Index, History of Bills	Congressional Documents, House Journal, Statutes at Large	U.S. Constitution		
Senate.gov	Congressional Bills, Congressional Directory, Congressional Hearings, Congressional Pictorial Directory, Congressional Record, Congressional Reports, Riddick's Senate Procedure, Senate Calendar, U.S. Code	Congressional Bills, Congressional Hearings, Congressional Record Index, Congressional Reports, Public and Private Laws		U.S. Constitution		
THOMAS	Congressional Directory, Congressional Pictorial Directory		Congressional Documents, House Journal	U.S. Constitution	Congressional Directory, U.S. Code	Congressional Directory
CQ.com			Congressional Documents			
HeinOnline	U.S. Constitution					

To conclude, *GPO Access* is the only Government Web site that provides access to all 34 resources compared without linking to any other sites. House.gov, Senate.gov, and THOMAS link to other sites to augment their content for the majority of their resources. While the non-Government sites mostly provide their own content, all except Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw link to other sites for some content to supplement their information.

## **Additional Legislative Resources and Features Exclusive to Comparable Web Sites**

This section looks at legislative resources and features that are not available on *GPO Access* but are available on comparable Web sites.

### Government Web Sites

THOMAS resources not offered on *GPO Access*:

- *Bill Sponsor Browse*
- *Committee Schedules*
- *Congressional Roll Call Votes*
- *“House Floor Now”*
- *“House Floor This Week”*
- *Presidential Nominations*

House.gov sources not offered on *GPO Access*:

- *Committee Schedules*
- *Congressional Roll Call Votes*

Senate.gov sources not offered on *GPO Access*:

- *Committee Schedules*
- *Congressional Roll Call Votes*
- *Executive Calendar*
- *Recent Floor Activity*
- *Resume of Congressional Activity*

### Non-Government Web Sites

Lexis-Nexis resources not offered on *GPO Access*:

- *Committee Markups*
- *Committee Membership*
- *Committee Votes*
- *Legislative Histories*

Westlaw resources not offered on *GPO Access*:

- *Legislative Histories*
- *U.S. Code Popular Name Table*

CQ.com resources not offered on *GPO Access*:

- *Committee Markups*
- *Committee Rosters*
- *Committee Testimony*

- *Committee Votes*
- *Congressional Roll Call Votes*
- *Floor Debate Video Coverage*
- *Legislative Histories*

HeinOnline resources not offered on *GPO Access*:

- *Legislative Histories*
- *Treaties and Agreements*

Many of the legislative resources mentioned in the section above can be found within *GPO Access* resources. However, they are not available as separately indexed applications. *Voting Records (Floor Votes, Roll Call Votes, Committee Votes)* are available from most of the comparable non-Government and Government Web sites. While there are a few legislative resources not available on *GPO Access* that can be accessed on other Web sites, *GPO Access* remains the leader in the total number of legislative resources.

## Conclusion

The following charts will reveal that one of the primary advantages of *GPO Access* is the number of online legislative resources it provides to the public. No Government or non-Government Web site, other than *GPO Access*, contains the *United States Government Printing Office Style Manual*. No Government Web site, other than *GPO Access* offers the *9-11 Commission Final Report*, *Bound Congressional Record*, *Economic Indicators*, *GAO Comptroller General Decisions*, *GAO Reports*, *Independent Counsel Investigations*, *Senate Manual*, and the *United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions (Plum Book)*. No non-Government Web site currently offers *Deschler's Precedents*, *House Practice*, or *Riddick's Senate Procedure*.

In terms of scope of the legislative resources it provides, *GPO Access* is behind the other Web sites evaluated. Many of the other sites either contain historical content on their service or link to external sites with historical information, whereas *GPO Access* possesses current information that generally begins in the mid-1990s. The objectives of *GPO Access* are to offer resources and services to the greatest number of people free of charge, and to maintain the official nature of the content it provides. Through new authentication processes and on-going efforts to mass digitize legacy documents, adding historical information to *GPO Access* thereby increasing the scope of its legislative resources, will become possible.

All of the Government Web sites evaluated provide links to *GPO Access* and other external sites to supplement their legislative resource content. *GPO Access*, Westlaw, and Lexis-Nexis do not link to any other site for legislative resources. CQ.com and HeinOnline each provide at least one link to an external source.

This analysis indicates that *GPO Access* is still lacking a few of the resources most other comparable Web sites offer. On the other hand, *GPO Access* does provide some of the information contained in such resources, though the information is found within other various *GPO Access* applications.

The following charts represent the data that was gathered and used to make the observations in this report. This data includes a comparison of 34 *GPO Access* legislative resources on each of the eight Web sites and their scope, or the site to which they link.

## Comparison of Legislative Resources: Scope of *GPO Access* and Government Web Sites

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE	<i>GPO Access</i>	House.gov	Senate.gov	THOMAS
9-11 Commission Final Report	All			
Cannon's Precedents	All	links to <i>GPO Access</i>		
Congressional Bills	1993-present	links to <i>GPO Access</i> & THOMAS	links to <i>GPO Access</i> & THOMAS	1989-present
Congressional Committee Prints	1997-present	1995-present		1995-present
Congressional Directory	1995-present	current & links to <i>GPO Access</i>	links to <i>GPO Access</i>	links to house.gov, senate.gov, & <i>GPO Access</i>
Congressional Documents	1995-present	links to Library of Congress	various	1774-1873 & links to Library of Congress
Congressional Hearings	1997-present	links to <i>GPO Access</i>	links to <i>GPO Access</i> and THOMAS	
Congressional Pictorial Directory	1997-present	links to <i>GPO Access</i>	links to <i>GPO Access</i>	links to <i>GPO Access</i>
Congressional Record, Bound	1999-2001			
Congressional Record	1994-present	links to THOMAS	links to <i>GPO Access</i>	1989-present
Congressional Record Index	1983-present	links to THOMAS	links to THOMAS	1995-present
Congressional Reports	1995-present	links to <i>GPO Access</i> & THOMAS	links to <i>GPO Access</i> and THOMAS	1995-present
Deschler's Precedents	All	links to <i>GPO Access</i>		
Economic Indicators	April 1995-present			
GAO Comptroller Decisions	Oct 1995-2008			
GAO Reports	limited 1993 & 1994, 1995-2008			
Hinds' Precedents	All	links to <i>GPO Access</i>		
History of Bills	1983-present	links to THOMAS		1973-present
House Calendars	1995-present	current		1976-present
House Journal	1991-1999	links to Library of Congress		links to Library of Congress
House Practice	1996 & 2003	links to <i>GPO Access</i>		
House Rules and Manual	1997-present	links to <i>GPO Access</i>		
House Ways and Means Committee Prints	1995-present	1995-present		
Independent Counsel Investigations	various			
Public and Private Laws	1995-present	links to <i>GPO Access</i>	links to THOMAS	1973-present
Riddick's Senate Procedure	All		links to <i>GPO Access</i>	
Senate Calendar of Business	1995-present		current & links to <i>GPO Access</i>	1978-present
Senate Manual	1995-1996, 1999-2002		current <sup>1</sup>	
State of the Union	1992-present			1989-present
Statutes at Large	2003 & 2006	links to Library of Congress		
U.S. Code	1994 & 2000 editions, plus supplements	1988, 1994, 2000 & 2006 editions plus supplements	links to <i>GPO Access</i>	links to house.gov
U.S. Constitution	1992 & 2002 editions, plus supplements	links to NARA	links to NARA	links to NARA
United States Government Policy & Supporting Positions	1996-present			
United States Government Printing Office Style Manual	2000 edition			

<sup>1</sup>This chart presents the scope of each resource on the indicated Web site. Congressional sessions have been converted to years for ease of comparison.

<sup>2</sup>Senate.gov does offer the separate S.Doc 110-9, *Standing Rules of the Senate*.

## Comparison of Legislative Resources: Scope of GPO Access and Non-Government Web Sites

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE	GPO Access	Lexis-Nexis	Westlaw	CQ.com	HeinOnline
9-11 Commission Final Report	All	All <sup>12</sup>	All		
Cannon's Precedents	All	All			
Congressional Bills	1993-present	1989-present	1995-present	1987-present	
Congressional Committee Prints	1997-present	1830-present			
Congressional Directory	1995-present	various 1882-1969; 1971-present	1999-present	1995-present <sup>10</sup>	
Congressional Documents	1995-present	1789-1969 & 1995-present	various	1774-1873 & links to Library of Congress	various
Congressional Hearings	1997-present	1824-present	1993-present	1990-present (select hearings only)	
Congressional Pictorial Directory	1997-present	1987-present	1999-present	1995-present <sup>10</sup>	
Congressional Record, Bound	1999-2001	1974-1997 <sup>1</sup>			All
Congressional Record	1994-present	1985-present	1985-present	1987-present	1994-present
Congressional Record Index	1983-present	1789-present		1995-present	All
Congressional Reports	1995-present	1990-present	various	1989-present	
Deschler's Precedents	All	see footnote <sup>3</sup>			
Economic Indicators	April 1995-present	1948-present			
GAO Comptroller Decisions	Oct 1995-2008		1921-present		
GAO Reports	limited 1993 & 1994, 1995-2008	2004-present	1994-present		
Hinds' Precedents	All	All <sup>4</sup>			
History of Bills	1983-present	1974-present <sup>5</sup>		1973-present	
House Calendars	1995-present			1967-present	
House Journal	1991-1999	1817-1955 <sup>4</sup>			
House Practice	1996 & 2003				
House Rules and Manual	1997-present	1995-Present <sup>6</sup>			
House Ways and Means Committee Prints	1995-present	circa 1928-present			
Independent Counsel Investigations	various	various <sup>4</sup>			
Public and Private Laws	1995-present	1988-present	1973-present	1789-present	
Riddick's Senate Procedure	All	see footnote <sup>7</sup>			
Senate Calendar of Business	1995-present			1967-present	
Senate Manual	1995-1996, 1999-2002	1996-present <sup>6</sup>			
State of the Union	1992-present	various <sup>8</sup>	1985-present <sup>11</sup>	1987-present <sup>11</sup>	1994-present <sup>11</sup>
Statutes at Large	2003 & 2006	1789-present <sup>1</sup>	1789-1972		All
U.S. Code	1994 & 2000 editions, plus supplements	current		current	All
U.S. Constitution	1992 & 2002 editions, plus supplements	various <sup>9</sup>	current		links to GPO Access
United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions	1996-present	1960-present <sup>4</sup>			
United States Government Printing Office Style Manual	2000 edition				

<sup>1</sup>This chart presents the scope of each resource on the indicated Web site. Congressional sessions have been converted to years for ease of comparison.

<sup>1</sup>1789-1997 included in Congressional Record Permanent Digital Collection to be completed by 12/2010.

<sup>2</sup>Indexes for Congressional Record Permanent Digital Collection posted and searchable. Full collection to be completed by 12/2010.

<sup>3</sup>H.Doc. 94-66 included in Serial Set II. Serial Set II to be completed by 2010.

<sup>4</sup>Included in Serial Set I.

<sup>5</sup>Bill Track file 1989-present, Congressional Record Permanent Digital Collection to be completed by 12/2010 includes 1789-1997.

<sup>6</sup>In Lexis-Nexis Congressional under tab Daily Congressional Record & Rules.

<sup>7</sup>S.Doc. 101-28 included in Serial Set II to be completed by 2010.

<sup>8</sup>Included in Serial Set I & II.

<sup>9</sup>Multiple versions in Serial Set I & II. Most recently printed as H.Doc. 110-50 included in Serial Set II to be completed by 2010.

<sup>10</sup>Although CQ.com offers CQ Member Profiles containing information about the member of Congress, it is not the official, published legislative resource.

<sup>11</sup>Included within the *Congressional Record*.

<sup>12</sup>Included within Congressional Committee Prints.