

U.S. Congressional Set Collection Debuting on govinfo - Transcript

Please stand by for realtime captions.

Hello, everyone. Thank you for joining us for our webinar. We will get started in just about 12 minutes.

Hello, everyone. We will be getting started with our webinar the Congressional serial set in 10 minutes.

Good afternoon, welcome to the Congressional set, we'll get started in five minutes.

Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the webinar on the U.S. Congressional serial set. My name is Kelly. I am here for in the chat if you have westerns but I will capture them and relay those to our presenters at the end. If you need assistance with anything related to audio or anything technical, just let me know. Our presenters today come to you from the U.S. government publishing offense. The program planner in our program strategy and technology office. And Suzanne is our supervisory management analyst in library services and content management. I will pass it off to Susan to get us started. You are muted, Suzanne.

Can hear me now?

Yes.

Sorry, everyone. Good afternoon. Thank you for joining us for introductions in new congressional info. Before you started, we want to dedicate the collection to Sanchez. While Library of Congress and former director of management. Collaboration the library of Congress for collections of softball. Let me tell you a little bit about the Congressional serial set and why we are so excited for this collection. The serial set contains primary support material for much of American history. It is comprised of house and senate documents and reports found by sessions starting with the first session of Congress. The volumes include committee reports presidential communications to Congress, treaty materials, and executive agency material. Such as annual reports and reports on harbors. As well as nongovernment publication. The annual report of Boy Scouts. To learn more about all the amazing content in the serial set, I encourage you to watch the recording of delving into the U.S. Congressional serial set webinar. Since June, 2019, GPO and the Library of Congress have been working together to decide the serial set and to make it publicly available to the law library digital collection. Our collaboration covers serial set volumes in the 50s through 103rd congresses. In the first release of content happened just yesterday with a selection of volumes from the 69th Congress, the 82nd Congress, and several 19th century congresses. Under the collaboration of the Library of Congress is digitizing material set volumes performing quality control on the digitization. GPM was generating metadata, digitally assigning the PDF file, and providing access on the info. Over the past year, we designed and tested the info collection. Additionally, we are requiring replacement volume when the library needs the volume for digitization. If you are awaiting your serial set collection, please take a look at the list of volumes we need using the link on the slide. If you're interested in learning more about the process is left behind collection, please join us for the laboratory library conference section October 18th. Now, for the party were all interested in. Heidi will take his life into the collection.

I think you are muted. Heidi, we can't hear you. Are you muted?

Can you hear me?

Yes.

Okay. Art. Apologies. So, thank you all for joining. I am really excited to show you the info serial set collection. What I will do today is just demonstrate to you some of the really cool ways to search and browse for serial set information on that info. So, before we start, I want to point out that everybody, the serial set package is available on to include document and the full volumes. We heard from the community, we knew right away that there was a great interest in being able to access those individual documents. You can either access just that individual document or you can access the full volume as well. Keeping that in mind, we will go ahead and jump right in. And, start by taking advantage of our info basic search from the homepage. I will just do a real simple keyword search for a flag all right. So, now that we have our search results, what I want to do is really focus our discussion today, our conversation on serial sets. So, the first thing I'm going to do, when we do a basic search is, it searches across all of our content. I will go over here and respond, refined my search to be focus on the serial set. So, I will quit on two more and I will go to find the Congressional serial set. Right there. All right. Now that we are just looking at serial set content, let's take a look at the search result page and kind of talk to you a little bit about that structure. The first thing to point out is right here, our search results. So, for the serial set content, if it is available, the line results, you will see a document citation. In this case, we are looking at 69 Dash 258. Following that will be a title. This is the origin and evolution of the United States flag. Following line 1, we will have line 2 of our search results. That is letting us know that we are in the serial set collection and it is a serial set number 85 70 and that the volume title is house document volume 9. And we have a date. There is, of course, our teaser text where our keyword is full. Below that is our standard file available. So, in this case, we have a PDF. We also have direct access to details and can also share. A couple other things to point out, sometimes, line 2, you will notice right before that, sometimes, line 2 will also contain a committee. If a committee is available. Just something else to note, some slight differences. If something does not have a citation, of course, it will be the title. So, let's go ahead over here and take a look at our additional filters. Our refined research further for our engine urged engine oil search navigation. When you're looking at the serial set content, you will still have access to what we call the standard search navigators. I had closed out collection. Government author organization person. But, because we are specifically looking at the serial set collection, I also have the option to filter per person. Place. Serial number. Congress number. Committee. Document class, or the type of document. President. And topic. Another cool thing to note is sometimes, when you are in our search facility, you also have the ability to thwart. If I want to just what the topic, I can go back to count. It doesn't sort by account. So, diving a little bit more into the collection, we are going to go ahead and take a look at the content details page. I am going to scroll back up here to our first results. Which is house document 69, 258. Origin and evolution of the United States flag. I will just click on the details page. So, on our details page, a few things to note, just like most of our collections, it is always going to have that header, which is like a title. In this case, it is similar to our search results. It is the document citation as well as the title. And then, under summary, we have additional information about this particular document. So, some interesting things. If you weren't sure what the suit class number is associated with it, you can find that information. As well as document type number, Congress. The subject, and of course, we have our partnership information available there as well. Over here, to our left is always our standard download section and for the Congressional serial set, you have access to a PDF, mods, and a zip file. A little different with this collection, though, is if you were to actually click on the zip file, not only do you have access to the PDF in the mod of the premise, but you also have access to machine readable format also files. So, just letting you know that there is also files are also available in that zip file right there. Below our download section, our actions. It is a quick way for you to access

some additional information around the serial set. In this case, you can go directly to a serial set. Browse the help, which I like to point out the help. The serial set help has some great resources, especially some great search tips. Things like that. A great resource for you. Then, of course, our standard. This will take you into the college of government publications record for this particular document. So, let's take a look at our document in context. Very similar to a lot of other collections. The idea of a document in context is to sort of show you that hierarchical layout of the document within the larger publication. So, from directly in the document in context, you can access the entire serial set volume as well as the other documents that might be found within that particular volume. This is a smaller volume in terms of the number of documents found within it. There are some front matter Association would. And there is our document that we have been talking about. Before I move on out of this page, I did want to take the opportunity to kind of show you a little bit of the difference between when you are looking at a full volume versus a document in the serial set. So, notice, and our sorry, the information that is provided around this particular document will be a little bit different when you go into a full volume. So, if I were to take a look at the full volume, notice, of course, the title will be different and it will let you know that you are in U.S. commercial serial set number 8570. The volume title is half document volume 9. There is a publication title associated with it. And then, a couple of little differences to let you know what volume and there is a steel as well. A little bit of differences between the two. We can easily jump right back into our previous document. So, as I have showed you a little bit on the search result in details page, but that looks like the serial set, we have some really great metadata that we have been able to get our hands on. So, it was really enabled us to develop some cool ways for you to start searching the content on the info. So, with that, I want to show you a couple of additional ways that you can use the basic search to search within the serial set. So, for example, maybe you wanted to, you know, maybe you're looking for specific Congress. For information within that. So, I'm going to show you sort of some quick operators for you that you could use. I'm going to start by doing a collection. And then my keywords are going to be women and juries. So, all this is doing is saying I want to search just a serial set collection for just basics in Congress and the keywords women and juries. And I did just that. It shows me a top right here. When I search for. And just putting out the first search result. Just something cool I thought that was an interesting report to take a look at. You can also search I will put agency. And karma commerce. And take a look at those search results as well. So, notice, we have only 23 records around that agency. But, it is the report of the Commissioner of patents for the year 1864. That is house executive document 38/51 is my search result. Now, some of you joining us today, maybe, like I'm not super familiar with all those search operators and I'm not really sure how I would go about that. That is totally okay. That is what the help does give you some great metadata values and search operators for you to use. That is why it is a great resource. But, we can also construct some of these searches using our advanced search. With that, I will jump us over into our advanced search. I will use our search with it here. The top and just click on advanced. Before we actually conduct a search, I did want to point out a couple of things. Around the serial set. So, first step, just a note is you are searching and you are familiar with the search, if you want to search all of our collections, there is a few ways you can do that for school text. Then, you will notice there are also these options as well. That is just these are ways that you can search across the info for all across all selections within these research fields. However, it is for serial set, if we do change that and we actually just select the Congressional serial set, notice we have a lot more options here. Just to point out some really cool ones, I love the document number. It is really great if you don't know the Congress, you can just enter a document number. There is also document type. Full serial set volume. President. Serial set volume number. And, of course, that I have subject geographic or subject topic. Options as well. So, I will go ahead and conduct an advanced search. I'm going to leave all the dates. I'm going to keep Congressional serial set. And then under search, I will choose the full serial set number. So, all I'm doing is saying that yes, I only want to search full serial set volume. Then, I will add criteria and I will also search a very specific serial set volume number. So, I am

going to enter here just 8685. In the search. So, notice that one result, this is taking me just to full volume level. So, I am only looking at initial serial set number 8685 with the volume title Senate report. A little different from when we are looking at some of our search results there in the basic searches, this time, I'm looking at a full volume search result. So, the information contained on line 1, I don't have a citation. Like the way we do with a document. In that context. Line 2 is going to tell me that publication title. So, not only is the Senate report volume 1, it is also containing center reports. After it provides certain that listing of which reports are found there, I'm also going to get the Congress and session information. This is from the 69th Congress session. And then my date. So, just kind of to show you a little bit different of a way. Another way that you might want to search my serial set and again, using advanced search, as I mentioned, you may not know some of how to use our search operators and values. So, when you do an advanced search, and that syllable form, notice, also, you search for it is telling me I searched just within the serial set collection. I searched across all the dates. I searched for just, so, this is the GOP is sort of saying is a granule. We call it a granule level package. Or a document. Is it a document or a volume. Because this is a volume. Then, it is saying serial number, which, in this case, is 8685. This is one way for you to kind of create that shortcut to learn some of those search oscillators and how you can search in those values. To demonstrate another example, as I said, you might be interested in maybe you want to search just by a number. So, leaving my dates, leaving the serial sets, this time, I'm going to the class number. And it is going to enter this C 21. And to our search. So, notice, again, I just searched the serial set. I searched within all of the date ranges. This is my little shortcut. And then I search C 21. We do have search results and how they relate. We have the document. In the patent for your 1864. That is another way you can use that info to search the serial set. You can do, fill in this wonderful form and create and customize the searches that you're looking for. Finally, you can also search the serial set by citation. So, as I mentioned, there were lots of citations in front or of our document. So, you can go ahead and use our citation functionality as well. So, if you have a citation you're interested in just finding a specific document, citation is a great way to do that. I just clicked on our search project. I will select our selection, which is going to be to start rational serial set. And I kind of go back to that flag example for this one. It was a house document. From the 69th Congress. And it was document number 2:58. You would immediately download the PDF file. We have had some users say I would be interested in you know, what of the other files format. Just recently, we released the actions for you to choose. Which format you might be interested in and taking a look at from our citation search. As you can see, this pulled up house document 69 258 with origin evolution United States flag. That it search we did right there at the beginning, I'm sure there are some of you might be interested to see what it looks like. I thought this was a cool example of what you can find in the Congressional serial set. We've got great pictures, you know, maybe it is a little note that you can add, markdown this citation for yourself for another resource for Flag Day. At this point, I wanted to point out a couple of other things. While we are here on the citation page. Lots of folks may not know, they may need to look for a citation in the Congressional serial set. So, knowing that, we sort of built a serial set around ensuring that we also provided users the ability to search within the Congressional documents in the Congressional report for those serial sets. So, for instance, maybe you know a house document and you don't realize it is a Congressional serial set collection. You can also do the same citation search as well as a search for that within the Congressional document. I can just change that over to Congressional documents as my collection. It is a still house document. Still document 258. When I searched him as you can see, I'm still getting the same document there. In this case, I'm actually going to choose a claims report. I'm going to choose the 34th Congress. And I will enter report number 12. That brings up quarter claims report 34 Dosh 12 1618 56. Report for the Court of Claims and so on. Just one thing to note, that is still in the serial set. Under serial set number 871. But, you can use the Congressional report as well. In the citation. So, continuing with our various ways in which you can access serial set documents, we are going to go ahead and start looking at that serial set browse. You can access it through various ways. I

will jump here up to the top and click, hover over browse and click on A-to-Z. I will jump to see. And I will look for Congressional serial set. It is also, I believe we've also placed this under stress for serial set and you for U.S. commercial right now. Scroll down and I will go ahead and click on commercial serial set. And this brings us to our familiar browse pages. In this case, particularly, for the Congressional serial set. Looking at the browse for the Congressional serial set, the first thing that it is going to list out for you there is Congress. So, we have a list of congresses. As well as their dates associated. But, another really cool thing over here to the right, it lets you know what serial set numbers are found within that particular Congress. We, maybe, a user doesn't know. What Congress a serial set number might fall within. But, they know what serial set number and I want to browse it. So, next, we will go ahead and see where'd we find, how does it structure look once you click on a specific Congress? I will click on the 69th Congress. That next level browse is specifically each individual serial set number found within that Congress. So, the first one you see, serial number 8522 is the Senate Journal. Specifically, I'm interested in volume 8685. It is a very long list, but we are going to jump all the way down to 8685. We are almost there. And I chose this one is again, it is got quite a few miscellaneous reports found within it. This particular serial number, 8685 is Senate report 11 and it contains miscellaneous center reports. And I will list out the report numbers that are associated under there. So, if we go ahead and go into this particular serial set number, notice, again, structured very similarly to how document in context. You now have, you are now accessing every single document found within that particular volume. We could scroll through on specifically interested in 69, 15, 14. But, just to point some things out, because of the large number of documents that you can find within certain volumes, we did not include this navigation for you. So, you wouldn't be scrolling through 500 individual. You have that option. You can always sort and change that to 500 per page. But, you can also just scroll through using it as well. So, in my particular case, I happen to know we are going to go ahead and jump over to page two and I will look for that 69 1514. I know, there is lots of cool things. Browsing, the whole point of browsing is for you to be able to kind of, let me see, what is in there, what can I find, what are all these titles, what of these names? What, you know, what was released in the serial set? Lots of great titles. Here is our center report 69 1514. Again, that is right back at that similar example I gave in the beginning for women to serve on juries in the District of Columbia. I thought that was another interesting report in the collection as well.

An example, in the specular case, it was not necessary. So, it will just miss out for you the report that is found within, we are looking for 34, 12. There is that, again, William W Cox May 16th report ordered from the Court of Claims. Document for folks to access. Similar to searching. Can also be found in the Congressional document in the Congressional report browser. I will just show you how you can find and use those browsers as well to find this information. So, again, I will jump to our browse agency and I will choose Congressional report. I will look for the 34th Congress. This time, I do know, notice browse structures. Of course, they are a little different. In this case, I'm looking for quarter claims report. And I'm going to look for 3412. Again, just another way to access that same quarter claims report, for users, this time, I chose you, maybe I didn't know it, chose to use the Congressional report browse. Of course, I don't want to leave out congressional documents. So, I will show you real quick, again, how you can browse congressional documents to find a serial set document. So, again, PNC, and I will go to our congressional documents. And probably take a guess. I really love my 69th Congress. Has document. 258. Which is our flag example. And there is that document as well. That is found within our congressional document browse. So, with that, that is pretty much some of the ways you can use various, all of our sort of functionality, as you can see, within the serial set to active three are basic searches, advanced searching citation, and browsing. However, one last thing before I sort of let this, but the question sort of we ask is I wanted to point something out that folks might, some folks might be interested in. I will go to the details and I will point out up here at the top, the URL. Some of you who

are familiar know that our URLs have meetings. And you may be looking at the serial set URL thinking, you know, does that have meaning, it looks like a whole bunch of string of numbers. And the short answer is absolutely yes, it does have meaning. Just to explain the structure, of course, serial set will tell you the collection. This five digit number here is actually the serial set number. So, notice down here, it says I am in serial set number 8570 and that matches up here. The next two digits, if it is applicable, will be that serial set number's parts. And then, the following two digits, will be that serial set's parts, or the volume associated with that part so, I'm sure some of you are familiar of the numbering structure for some of our serial set volume. Sometimes, 85 70 could have been an 8570 dash to a. If that were the case, this would be a 02 and this would be a zero a. But, to indicate that that is 8570 dash to a. So, just that first, those first, those three first digits that we are seeing here, that, primarily, is just intended to be that serial set number as a whole. If I were to jump over to a volume, you will notice that this information right here, so, this right here would not be included. Just to sort of show you. Notice that, so, if you're looking for a volume, that is the structure of the URL. But, when we get into our individual document, we have these three additional strings after those last two digits. So, to tell you a little bit about what these mean, so, after the dash, the next set of three digits is the sequence of the document within the overarching volume. So, in this case, this would be second document found within that particular volume. The next set of four digits is the document number or the document number assigned to the document by GPO at the time of printing. So, again, that matches 258 right here. That much is 250. These last four digit numbers are, it is for the part of the document it does not have any additional parts or volumes. It is document number 258. And then, last but not least, I know there are a few folks out there that are interested in a few other things. I did want to let everybody know that the collection is available through our assessed site maps and API. You know, I think that about covers the serial set on government info from a cursory interim review. Please, check out that great information. I will jump over there real quick for you. You can also check out values that you can tell about. And just talk about using those operators and do the searches from that basic search as well. Finally, right here, at the top, I want to point out we are absolutely interested in positive and negative, all of your feedback that you might have about the serial set. So, please feel free to come on in here and submit your feedback. I believe it is only one required field. Otherwise, you can skip the ones that are not required and just plug in your information and please feel free to also indicate, you know, the reference to serial set that is what you are specifically providing feedback on. Other than that, I will hand it back over to Suzanne.

Thanks, Heidi. Thanks, all of you, for letting Heidi and I share the new U.S. Congressional serial set info collection with you. It has been a true team to for effort and we are very excited for people to start to use the collection. So, we will take any questions that you have heard I have got three so far. So, the first one was how are the topics that you mentioned Heidi in the filters in the collection filters, how it is derived.

So, good question. Topics are being extracted. What part of the collection, we mentioned that the record, the documents have logging records. If they are actually, when inapplicable, they are topics pulled from the mark associated with that. So, they are the Library of Congress that is heading topics.

Another question on the info used. Do we find people tend to search for a topic more often or do they tend to browse?

Good question. I think it depends on the collection. Topic may always be an option for every collection. We do know lots of folks tend to browse as well. I think it just depends on the type collection or the user on whether or not they will just go in and browse because they know they are looking for something

very specific or if they know a very specific search that they have constructed to look for something or if there has been anything added.

I knew one of the other depending on what I'm looking for. We have a question on what was the timeline for completion of digitization and what is the order going to be? The Library of Congress, as I mentioned, is doing the digitization. They are still digitizing. There are a lot of volumes to the serial set. So, they think it will take five or more years to complete the digitization. They did some pilot testing, which is why we have volumes from the 69th and 82nd Congress. They are really starting from that first volume and going forward in time. So, you will see some midrange, 69th and 82nd Congress volumes, more of those coming. But, you will also see mostly older volumes for the next couple years. Next question. Is there a specific release schedule? By date and months or years to come, there is not. We are just going to try to release content as soon as it is ready. Since we have metadata, we have received the Library of Congress, which completed the metadata, we will help put it out there on the info. We don't want to hold content and keep you from using it. Question on, we have a lot of genealogists searching for DAR reports. Do we have to spell out DAR and have quotation marks before the phrase? Heidi can correct me. I think it will depend on what it is in the metadata. If it is daughters of the American revolution is spelled out in the metadata, that is what you're going to be able to search on. If DAR is used, you will be able to search on DAR. Am I right on that?

You're correct. So, again, it is really what the value is in the metadata.

I'm not sure we have seen any DAR reports. That might be a mistake. There is a lot of content. We have a question about the MARC record. Will the MARC records be both print records and the e-book version. We are just creating, we are updating or creating original depending on what we are able to find an FDL scene for the electronics. Enough records will be available in both. They are not yet. But, they will be forthcoming. We have a question on how is the handling oversized content? The library is going to be discussing the digitization process more on our session on October 18th and 4:15. They will tell you what they're doing but they will tell you the digitization specifications and those will beat going up on the project page on FPL P.gov. And I will drop that into the caps. You can all take a look at those.

I will drop it for you. It just went up.

Thank you. Thanks. I have another question on stand today reuse the scans of the volumes from the Century of lawmaking. That is a no. These are all new. A question on the illustrations. Other color illustrations and color or are they in black and white? If an illustration was in color, it was scanned in color. Same with maps. Anyone else have any other questions? Or something I should talk more about?

You have captured all the questions I have seen so far, Suzanne.

If you think of any after the session, please feel free to reach out. You can also find questions in GPO. We really want to hear from you as you start to use the collection. You know, as we get, continue to get content, we will plan to continue to make enhancements. So, we want to hear your thoughts.

Heidi has the slides provided examples of the search that she did so you all can use that as a cheat sheet or as a demo for your own user. Another question. Can you search by illustrations or map. And we do have the number of maps in the metadata.

Correct. So, yes. But, not necessarily by like the Mac keyword. So, there is a way for you to search if whether or not Macs are in a particular volume. So, if you want to say find all color maps, you have a lot of, there is some really great metadata around. I really recommend you taking a look at the mods. Especially at the volume level. Because, again, these were digitized in volume levels. So, we have lots of great, does that volume have maps, how many colored maps? So, there are ways for you to conduct some searches across those mod skills as well. I will actually come at conference, I will show a few of those as well of ways for you to find those.

Also, in, thanks to Andrea for noting that illustration so you can get them through the search.

Absolute. Take advantage of our full text if you happen to know a particular illustration caption. Absolutely. Plug that into a search.

At the full volume level, we also included notes from the 1909 check this and the scheduled volume numerical list once it was available to that volume. There is a slot to metadata available to use. Any final questions?

I just want to pop on and remind everyone that everyone who registered to attend this session will get a follow up email with a link to the recording and owing to the slide.

Thanks, Kelly. Thanks, everyone for attending. I hope you will enjoy using the collection as much as Heidi and I do. Thanks, everyone. Have a good afternoon.

Yes. Thank you, Heidi and Suzanne for presenting. And everyone can join us for our fall, 2021 federal repository library conference which is October 18th through the 20th. Have a good day, everyone. [Event Concluded]