FDsys: Advanced Search Techniques & Tips

Interagency Depository Seminar – August 4, 2011

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Agenda

- Boolean and other search basics
- Basic search
- Search tips
- Advanced search screen
- Using field operators

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Boolean and Other Search Operators

*default operator is AND (in GPO Access it was OR)

- Normal Boolean operators: and, or, not (or "-" sign)
- Exact phrase: use "double quotes"
- Find the words: (in any order)
- Proximity: near/#
- "Health care" near/10 Obama
- Ordered proximity: before/#
- (Bill Clinton) before/50 (Hillary Clinton)
- Truncation/wild cards:
  - * to replace multiple characters, congress* for congressional or congressmen
  - ? to replace a single character, capitali?e for capitalize or capitalize

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Relevance Tweaking

"+" sign adds weight to a term – use it to tweak the relevancy of the search results

Look at the change in the search results for the following searches:

"tea party" job +education

vs.

"tea party" +job education

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Collections

- Over 40 collections now
- The collections in FDsys are primarily comprised of legislative and executive publications (almost 50/50 ratio)
- Most collections begin around 1994, but some are earlier and others later. For example, the Statutes at Large has been digitized from 1951-2002
- There are some new collections that have never been on GPO Access, like the Coastal Zone Information Center
- Some collections are only available for a short time frame, like the Commerce Business Daily which ceased publication in 2001

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What is Metadata?

- MODS: data about the publication
- PREMIS: preservation data

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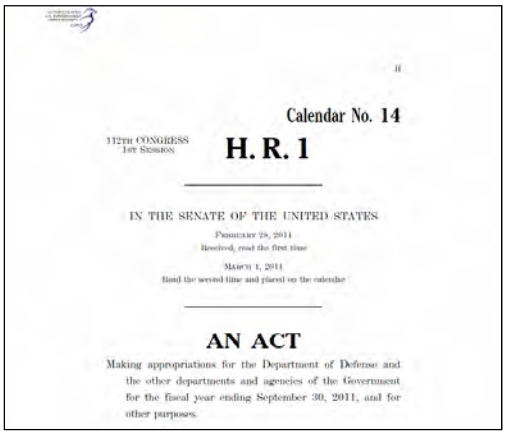
PDF example



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Calendar No. 14

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2011
Received; read the first time

MARCH 1, 2011
Read the second time and placed on the calendar

AN ACT

Making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes.

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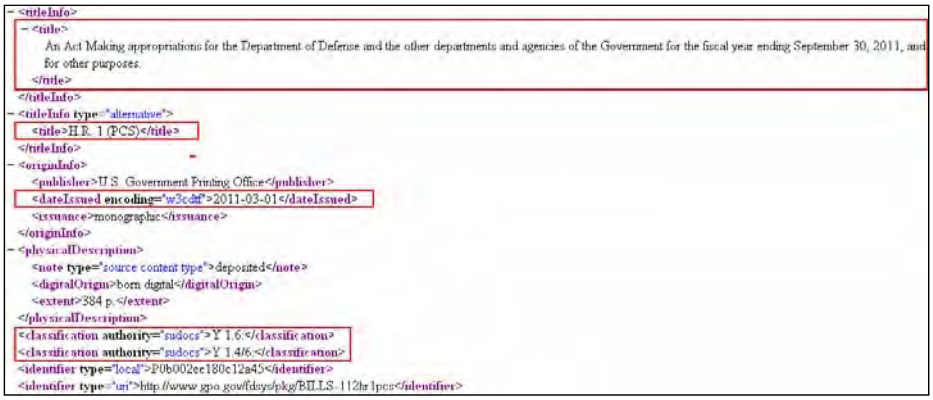
MODS Metadata Example



```
- <titleInfo>
  - <title>
      An Act Making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and
      for other purposes.
    </title>
  </titleInfo>
- <titleInfo type="alternative">
    <title>H.R. 1 (PCS)</title>
  </titleInfo>
- <originInfo>
    <publisher>U.S. Government Printing Office</publisher>
    <dateIssued encoding="w3cdtf">2011-03-01</dateIssued>
    <issuance>monographic</issuance>
  </originInfo>
- <physicalDescription>
    <note type="source content type">deposited</note>
    <digitalOrigin>born digital</digitalOrigin>
    <extent>384 p.</extent>
  </physicalDescription>
  <classification authority="sudocs">Y 1.6:</classification>
  <classification authority="sudocs">Y 1.4/6:</classification>
  <identifier type="local">P0b002ee180c12a45</identifier>
  <identifier type="uri">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr1pcs</identifier>
```

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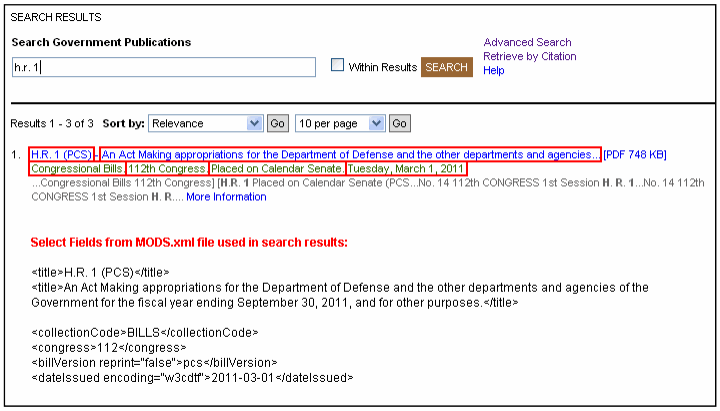
Search Results Example



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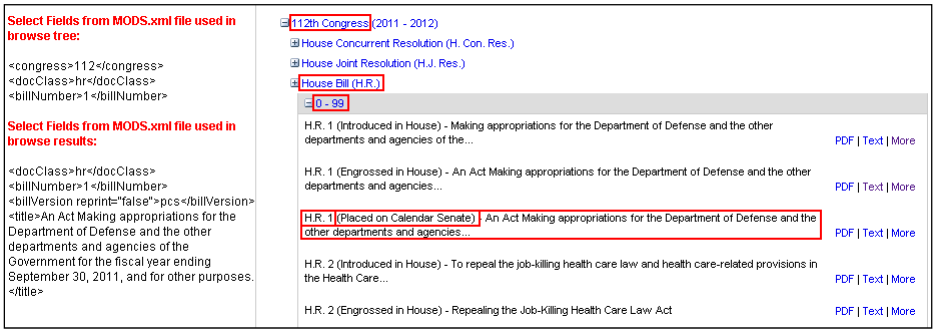
Browse example



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More Information Example

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What is the big deal with metadata?

- Relevant search results
- GPO Access vs. FDsys
- Zero in on captured metadata for precision searching
- Different metadata is captured for different collections, this allow you to do very specific searches over collections

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Examples of search techniques

- Basic search: south sudan
- Search results page: More Information > Document in Context = gives context to your search result
- Use filters to narrow down search results (tailored to each collection)
- Retrieve by Citation: 75 FR 81766 (ban on drop-side cribs)

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More examples...

- Browse search: 14 CFR 1214.702 (Authority of Space Shuttle Commander)
- Advanced search screen: Additional Government Publications, search in Publication Name = CONAN and "church"
- Advanced search screen: Date is after January 1, 2011, "debt ceiling" and limit to Budget of the United States Government = note the search string in the search box

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More examples...

- Field Operators:
  - Use to zero in on publication
  - Some common to all collections, some are unique
  - Find in FDsys Help
- Bookmark your search results page to re-execute your search (your search is embedded in the URL)
- Fun search: witness:(stephen colbert)

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More examples...

- collection:CFR ice cream and use Document in Context to get a general sense of the various ways ice cream is regulated.
- Citation searching:
  - citation:"public law 104-191" (exact publication)
  - citation:"104-191" (some non-relevant mixed in)
  - refcitation:"public law 104-191" (what refers to your citation?)

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More examples...

- **Parallel Table of Authorities & Rules** and the **U.S. Code Classification Tables** are available under Related Resources in the CFR and US Code collections
- yescount:219 nocount:212 = Affordable Healthcare Law and an amendment to a Congressional Record entry

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Authentication

GPO Seal of Authenticity:

Means the collection has undergone the Authentication process

Blue ribbon:

Means the document being viewed has not been altered since GPO made it available on FDsys

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