

# Meet govinfo: GPO's Beta Website




# Agenda


1. Background on GPO and **govinfo**
2. What you can find on **govinfo**
3. Quick Start Guide to **govinfo** and Demo
4. Finding Related Documents in the Legislative Process
5. Finding Related Documents in the Regulatory Process
6. Search Tips
7. Reference Q&A
8. Coming Soon
9. Feedback / Contact
10. Questions

## Handouts:

- Snapshot of Select Collections/Publications on **govinfo**
- More Information and Related Resources

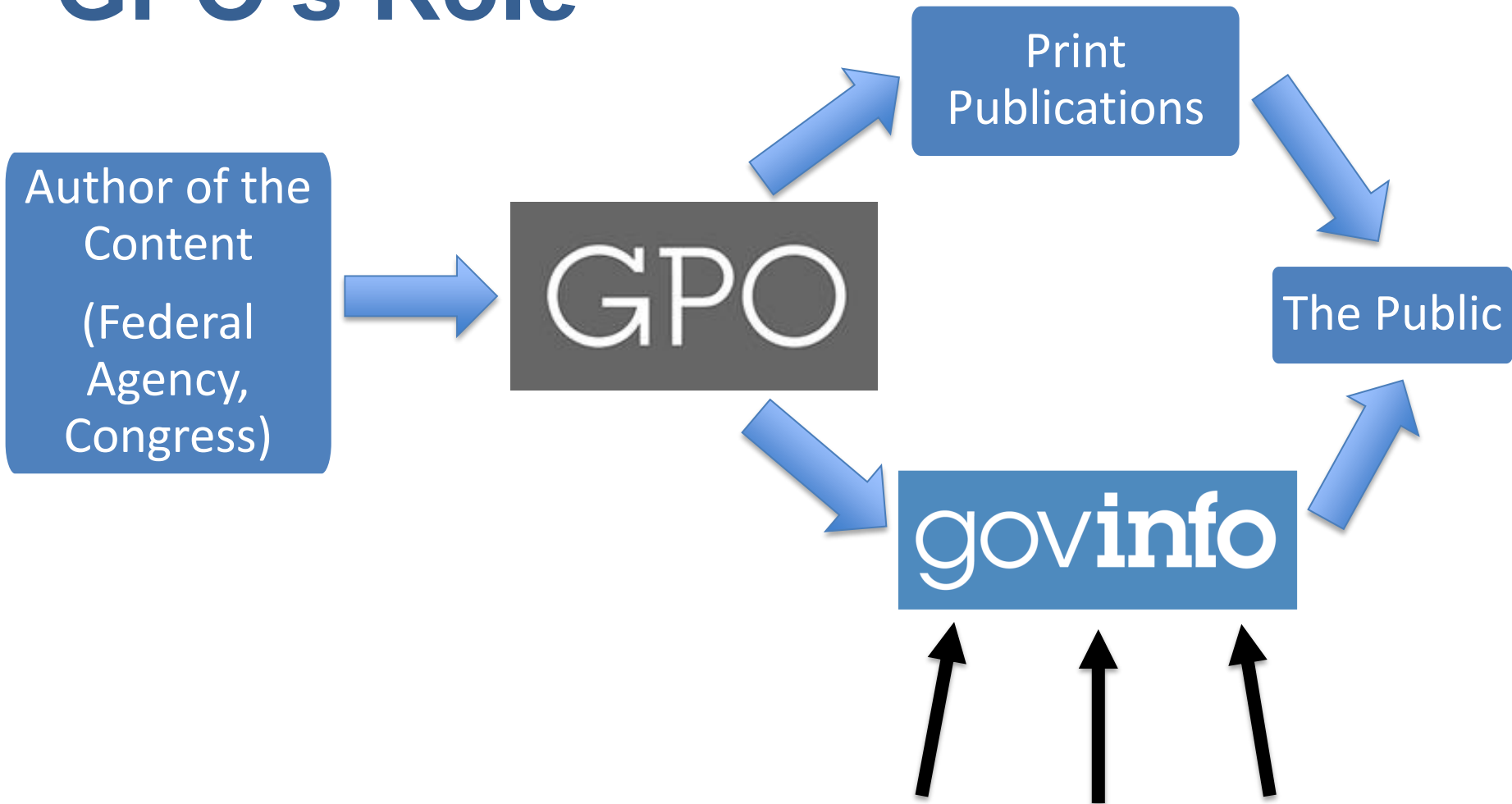
# Quick Polls

 By a show of hands, how many of you have been asked a reference question about Federal government information?

 By a show of hands, how many of you have used FDsys or **govinfo** before?

**Fun Fact:** The search term “canned fruit cocktail” was entered into FDsys 19 times in 2013.

# GPO's Role



**Fun Fact:** GPO, formerly the Government *Printing* Office, began operation in 1861 with 350 employees and was redesignated as the Government *Publishing* Office in December 2014.

# What is govinfo?

GPO's FREE public website,  
available at **[www.govinfo.gov](http://www.govinfo.gov)**



Launched in February 2016 as a beta website to eventually replace GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) public website (**[www.fdsys.gov](http://www.fdsys.gov)**)

Provides free public access to more than a million Federal government publications from all three branches

**Fun Fact:** GPO's first website for making Federal publications available online was called GPO Access, which was launched in 1994 and replaced by FDsys in 2011.

# What is govinfo?

govinfo is in **BETA** – What does that mean?

- Not all functionality is in place
- Not all pages are built
- All content is available through search results
- Some links are grayed out
- We are incorporating user feedback throughout our agile development process
- Visit [www.fdsys.gov](http://www.fdsys.gov) for full functionality

**Fun Fact:** FDsys averages 40,000 retrievals of content per month (based on 2015 data).

# What can I find on govinfo?

## Legislative Branch Publications

- Bills and Statutes - Congressional Bills, Public and Private Laws, Statutes at Large, U.S. Code
- Congressional Committee Materials - Hearings, Reports
- Proceedings of Congress - Record, Calendars
- Congressional Rules and Procedures - House and Senate Manuals, Precedents of the House
- Directories - Congressional Directory, Congressional Pictorial Directory

**Fun Fact:** GPO is one of only a few legislative branch agencies. Others include the Library of Congress, the Government Accountability Office, and the Architect of the Capitol.

# What can I find on govinfo?

## Executive Branch Publications

- Regulatory - Federal Register, Code of Federal Regulations, Unified Agenda
- Executive branch agencies - U.S. Government Manual, Treasury Department Publications, Technical Reports from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- Presidential - Public Papers of the Presidents, Compilation of Presidential Documents, U.S. Budget

**Fun Fact:** Check out official photos of President Obama with the basic search term: Obama photo.



# What can I find on govinfo?

## Judicial Branch Publications

- Opinions from select Federal Courts
  - Appellate
  - District
  - Bankruptcy
  - International Trade
- Independent Counsel Investigations

**Fun Fact:** The U.S. Courts Opinions collection has been one of the most frequently accessed collections on FDsys since it became available in 2011.

# What can I find on govinfo?

- **Content Updated Daily** - Congressional Record, Federal Register, House and Senate Calendars
- **Multiple File Formats**- PDF, MP3, JPG, Text, XML, XLS
- **Featured Content**- Nancy Reagan Tribute, Washington's Farewell Address, Sinking of the Titanic, Earth Day
- **Digitized Historical Content** - Oldest dates back to 1849! (Official Register of the United States)
- **High-Profile Publications** - 9-11 Report, Post JFK Assassination Audio, Warren Commission Report, Financial Crisis Inquiry Report, Nixon's Watergate Grand Jury Testimony, landmark legislation: Civil Rights Act, Obamacare

# Examples

## What We Don't Have

*(and where to find it)*

- × Forms, memos, internal records, classified or copyrighted information (Check out NARA.gov, IRS.gov)
- × Interpretation of laws or legal advice (Consult an attorney)
- × A mechanism for you to contact your Congressperson (Visit Member webpages)
- × A way for you to apply for Federal jobs (You can do this at USAJOBS.gov)

## What We Do Have

- ✓ Final, published versions of official Federal publications from all three branches
- ✓ Official versions of Bills, Laws, and Regulations
- ✓ Directories of Congressional members and Federal government officials
- ✓ The Plum Book – a listing of policy and supporting positions in the Federal government

# More Examples

## What We Don't Have

*(and where to find it)*

- × A way for you to comment on proposed regulations (You can do this at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov))
- × Every document ever published by a Federal entity or every document in a collection (Check agency websites or a library!)
- × State government information (Check out [USA.gov/states-and-territories](https://www.usa.gov/states-and-territories) or the state's website)

## What We Do Have

- ✓ The official Federal Register publication
- ✓ More than one million publications and growing every day
- ✓ Content from all three branches of the Federal government

# What's the difference?

- **govinfo** (GPO) - *Keeping America Informed*: Producing, protecting, preserving, and distributing the **official publications** of the Federal government
- **Congress.gov** (LC) - Official website for U.S. Federal **legislative** information
- **National Archives** (NARA) - The nation's **record** keeper; materials created in the course of business
- **USA.gov** (GSA) - **Portal** to government information and services

**Fun Fact:** Despite popular belief, GPO does NOT print money, but GPO DOES print your United States Passport!

# Quick Start Guide to govinfo

- Use **quick links** on the homepage to most recent versions of daily publications.
- Features - **new** and interesting curated content.
- **A to Z** resource list, **Category** browse, and basic keyword **search** are good places to start.
- Learn more about the collections on their **browse pages**.
- View key information about a document on the **Details page** - without having to download it.
- The **related documents** tab (on select Details pages) makes it easier than ever to see documents produced throughout the complex network of the legislative and regulatory processes.

# Relationship between the Three Branches

## Legislative

Creates the Laws

In the chambers of  
Congress

House and Senate  
Lawmaking

## Executive

Enforces the Laws

Through the regulatory  
process

Federal agencies get  
authority to issue  
regulations from laws

Rulemaking

## Judicial

Interprets the Laws

In the Courts

# Related Documents in the Legislative Process

## **Congressional Bills**

Legislation that is proposed by members of Congress

## **Public Law**

Official publication of the law

## **Presidential Signing Statement** *(in Compilation of Presidential Documents)*

Remarks made by the President when signing a law

## **Statutes at Large**

Compilation of laws enacted during one session of Congress, organized sequentially

## **U.S. Code**

All laws organized by subject matter



# Example: Obamacare

Actual title of the law: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Steps:

- Basic search for Obamacare  
→
- Details for Public Law 111-148 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act  
→
- Related Documents tab

## Content Details

Public Law 111 - 148 - Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Public Law 111 - 148 - Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act	
<p>Summary    Related Documents</p>	
<p>Public Law 111 - 148 - Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act</p>	
<p>Bill versions</p>	
Issued Date	Version
09/17/2009	Introduced in House (ih) <a href="#">DETAILS</a>
10/08/2009	Engrossed in House (eh) <a href="#">DETAILS</a>
10/13/2009	Placed on Calendar Senate (pcs) <a href="#">DETAILS</a>
11/19/2009	Amendment Ordered to be Printed Senate (as) <a href="#">DETAILS</a>
12/24/2009	Engrossed Amendment Senate (eas) <a href="#">DETAILS</a>
12/24/2009	Public Print (pp) <a href="#">DETAILS</a>
03/22/2010	Enrolled Bill (enr) <a href="#">DETAILS</a>
<p>Presidential Signing Statements and Remarks</p>	
Issued Date	Name
03/23/2010	Remarks on Signing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act <a href="#">DETAILS</a>
<p>Statutes at Large</p>	
Volume Year	Citation
2010	124 Stat. 119 <a href="#">DETAILS</a>
<p>U.S. Code</p>	

# Example: Obamacare

## P.L. 111-148

### Congressional Bill versions

*Legislation that is proposed by members of Congress*

### Public Law

*Official publication of the law*

### Presidential Signing Statement

*Remarks made by the President when signing a law*

### Statutes at Large

*Compilation of laws enacted during one session of Congress*

### U.S. Code

*All laws organized by subject matter*

# Related Documents in the Regulatory Process

## **Unified Agenda**

Describes regulatory actions that agencies are developing or have recently completed

## **Federal Register**

Includes notices, rules, and proposed rules

## **Code of Federal Regulations**

Final rules published in the Federal Register, organized by broad areas subject to Federal regulation

## **List of CFR Sections Affected**

Proposed, new, and amended Federal regulations that have been published in the Federal Register since the most recent revision date of a CFR title

# Example: Transportation of Lithium Batteries

Series of rules published by the Department of Transportation

Steps:

- Basic search for transportation of lithium batteries  
→
- Details for any Federal Register Document  
→
- Related Documents tab

# Example: Transportation of Lithium Batteries

## Code of Federal Regulations citations

*Final rules published in the Federal Register, organized by broad areas subject to Federal regulation*

## Federal Register documents

*Includes notices, rules, and proposed rules*

Content Details

79 FR 46011 - Hazardous Materials: Transportation of Lithium Batteries

Summary Document in Context **Related Documents**

Code of Federal Regulations

Federal Register Documents Related by Regulation Identification Number (RIN)

↑ Citation ↓	Name	Action	↑ Date ↓	
80 FR 9217	Hazardous Materials: Transportation of Lithium Batteries	Final rule; extension of compliance date.	02/20/2015	DETAILS
78 FR 1119	Hazardous Materials: Transportation of Lithium Batteries	Notice of proposed rulemaking; request for additional comment.	01/07/2013	DETAILS
77 FR 21714	Hazardous Materials: Transportation of Lithium Batteries	Notice of proposed rulemaking; request for additional comment.	04/11/2012	DETAILS
75 FR 9147	Hazardous Materials: Transportation of Lithium Batteries	Notice of public meeting.	03/01/2010	DETAILS
75 FR 1302	Hazardous Materials: Transportation of Lithium Batteries	Notice of proposed rulemaking.	01/11/2010	DETAILS

# Related Documents Feature

- Some documents are from different publications/collections
- Enabled in four collections for select documents
- If you don't see any related documents on a Details page:
  - Documents may not be in the system yet
  - Feature may not have been built yet, or
  - metadata may not be available in the system to support that link
- We are expanding this feature!

Learn more: <https://www.govinfo.gov/help/content-details#related-documents>

**Fun Fact:** The related documents feature leverages innovative semantic web technologies.

# Search Tips

- Use search filters to narrow down your search results.
- Have a citation? Use the citation search!
- Some collections have custom fields you can search in (advanced search) and custom search filters (on the search results page).
- There are multiple ways to access the same information.
- You can always try researching to find a specific citation for the document you're looking for then enter into search box.
- If you know a specific date, you can greatly narrow down search results.

# Reference Q&A

Q: Under which CFR does the ethical conduct of a postmaster fall under?

Steps:

- Basic search for: conduct of a postmaster  
→
- Refine Your Search by Collection: Code of Federal Regulations  
→
- Details for 39 CFR 447.21 – Prohibited conduct

**Fun Fact:** Try out the [www.ecfr.gov](http://www.ecfr.gov) for an unofficial, currently updated version of the CFR.



# Reference Q&A

Q: Where can I find notices in the Federal Register published by the Social Security Administration since Nov. 1, 2015?

Steps:

- Advanced search
  -
- Enter Date Range: Date is after 11/01/2015
- Refine by Collection: Federal Register
- Search In: Agency: Social Security Administration
- Add Additional Criteria
- Search In: Section: Notices

**Fun Fact:** Anyone can sign up to receive the daily Federal Register Table of Contents; visit: <http://listserv.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=FEDREGTOC-L>

# Reference Q&A

Q: Can you help me find the most recent Physician Fee Schedule?

Steps:

- Basic search for: Physician Fee Schedule  
→
- Sort By: Date New to Old  
→
- Details page

**Fun Fact:** LC and GPO is currently in a partnership to make available digitized issues of the Bound version of the Congressional Record available on [FDsys/govinfo](https://www.fdsys.gov/info).

# Reference Q&A

Q: Can I see all the Bills sponsored by Ted Cruz and Bernie Sanders?

Steps:

- Advanced search  
→
- Collection: Congressional Bills
- Search In: Sponsors and Co-Sponsor
- Enter: Cruz and Sanders

# Reference Q&A

Q: Where can I find the pay increases for Federal employees from Obama back in December?

Steps:

- Basic search for: Obama executive order December 2015  
→
- Adjustments of Certain Rates of Pay

# Reference Q&A

Q: What are the DOT regulations on cracked or chipped windshields?

Steps:

- Basic search for: windshield  
→
- Refine Your Search by Collection: Code of Federal Regulations and CFR: 49 CFR - Transportation

# Coming Soon

- Additional landing pages
- Browse by Government Author
- Additional integrated Help information
- Improved user analytics
- Consistency of back button and bookmarkable links functionality
- Continued improvements to display for mobile devices
- Usability testing and expert review
- Styling and design updates
- Expanded sharing options across the site
- Additional linked related documents

# Feedback / Contact

- Feedback about our beta site: online survey
- If you can't find the information you're looking for:
  - [Read our Q/A](#) and [check to see What's Available](#).
  - Visit the [Help pages](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
  - Contact [Government Information Online \(GIO\)](#), where you can ask questions and get answers from government information librarians.
  - askGPO Service: [www.gpo.gov/askgpo](http://www.gpo.gov/askgpo) > click Ask a Question

[www.govinfo.gov/contact](http://www.govinfo.gov/contact)

**Fun Fact:** Since launching govinfo as a beta in February this year, we've received more than 60 responses to our feedback survey! Now we want to hear from you.

# Your Questions