All Hands on Deck – Publishing the Congressional Record

Agenda

- History of recording the debates
- Work performed by the Official Reporters of the House and of the Senate
- Work performed by the Government Publishing Office
- Supplementary publications
  - Congressional Record Index
  - Bound permanent edition

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Where to find the early record of debate in Congress

Title	Congress	Date Range
Annals of Congress *reconstructed from newspapers and journals retrospectively	1 thru 18-1	1789 – 1824
Register of Debates *first to allow Congress to edit statements prior to publishing	18-2 thru 25-1	1824 – 1837
Congressional Globe *first reporters to use Pitman Shorthand method *first to publish debates as first-person narrative *first to attempt measure by measure coverage of proceedings *first daily editions required by law in 1865	23 thru 42	1833 – 1873

Problems of early publications:
- Accuracy
- Completeness
- Bias
- Shorthand writing invented 1840s
- Expense

* The Library of Congress Web site "A Century of Lawmaking" has online versions of the these titles at: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/

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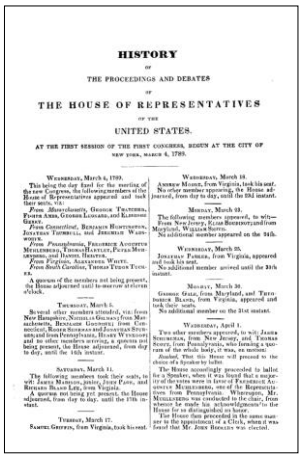
Predecessors



HISTORY
OF
THE PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES
OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE
UNITED STATES.

AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST CONGRESS, BEGUN AT THE CITY OF NEW-YORK, MARCH 4, 1789.

March 4, 1789
Annals of Congress

1519 GALES & SEATON'S REGISTER 1520

March 4, 1826
Register of Debates

1824. THE CONGRESSIONAL GLOBE. 215

March 4, 1834
Congressional Globe

Source: "A Century of Lawmaking" Web site

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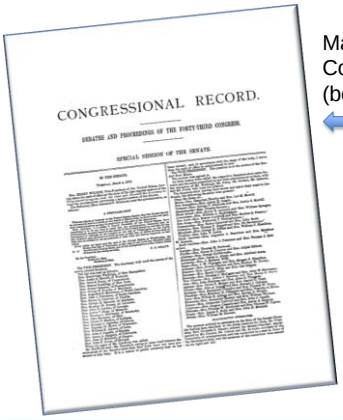
Where to find the record of debate in Congress today

Title	Congress	Date Range
Congressional Record	43 to present	1873 - today



March 4, 1873
Congressional Record
(bound edition)

March 4, 2015
Congressional Record
(daily edition)

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The Congressional Record is…

- "Substantially verbatim account" of the remarks made on the floor of the House and Senate.
- Congress and the American public needs an accurate, comprehensive, and unbiased account of floor activities.
- Note that Members of Congress can edit their statements

House floor

Source: http://www.house.gov/

Senate floor

Source: https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/image/AllWomenSenateFloor.htm

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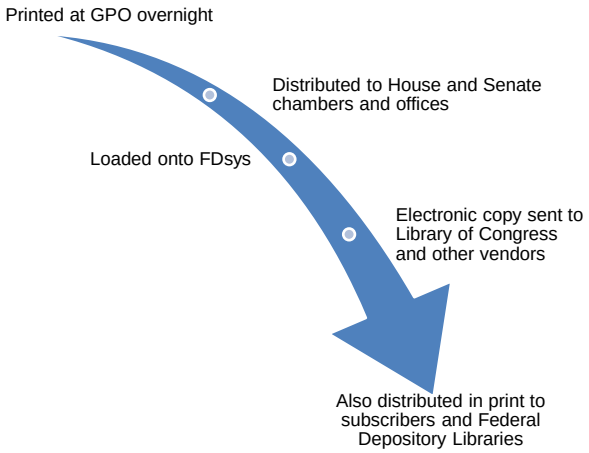
Timeliness of the daily edition



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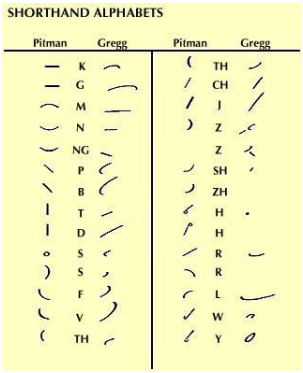
Compiling the CR

- Text is compiled by House Official Reporters and Senate Official Reporters
  - Statements spoken on the floor
- Some content comes from other offices under the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate.
  - Amendments submitted
  - Reports of committees
  - Public Bills and Resolutions

House and Senate Official Reporters

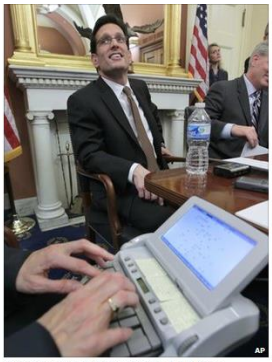
Phonetic shorthand systems



Source:
http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/541788/shorthand#ref512828

Sample Stenographic Machine keyboard

Source for above and to the right:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-13035979



A stenographer takes a note as Republican Congressman Eric Cantor speaks at a press conference in Washington

Example of a modern stenographic machine

Official Reporters Transcribing

In the House, the Official Reporter sits in the "Well" of the floor

Sources:
http://houselive.gov/?view_id=2&clip_id=11018

http://floor.senate.gov/?view_id=2&clip_ic=1406

In the Senate, the Official Reporter moves around the floor next to the speaker

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Workflow of Official Reporter (Senate)

Transcribe

- Team of eight work in 15-minute relays on the floor of the Senate

Translate

- In office, use personal dictionary to translate shorthand

Edit

- Reporter ensures transcription accurately reflects intended statements
- Put in proper procedural terminology
- Shift/insert content in logical place
- Peer review for spelling, grammar, and GPO Style Manual

Transmit

- Electronic file or 'slug' is transmitted to GPO
- Manuscript received from floor staff or Member staff , and hard copy of transcription picked up by GPO courier

Goal: to record the work done on the floor and aspects of parliamentary procedure in the Congressional Record

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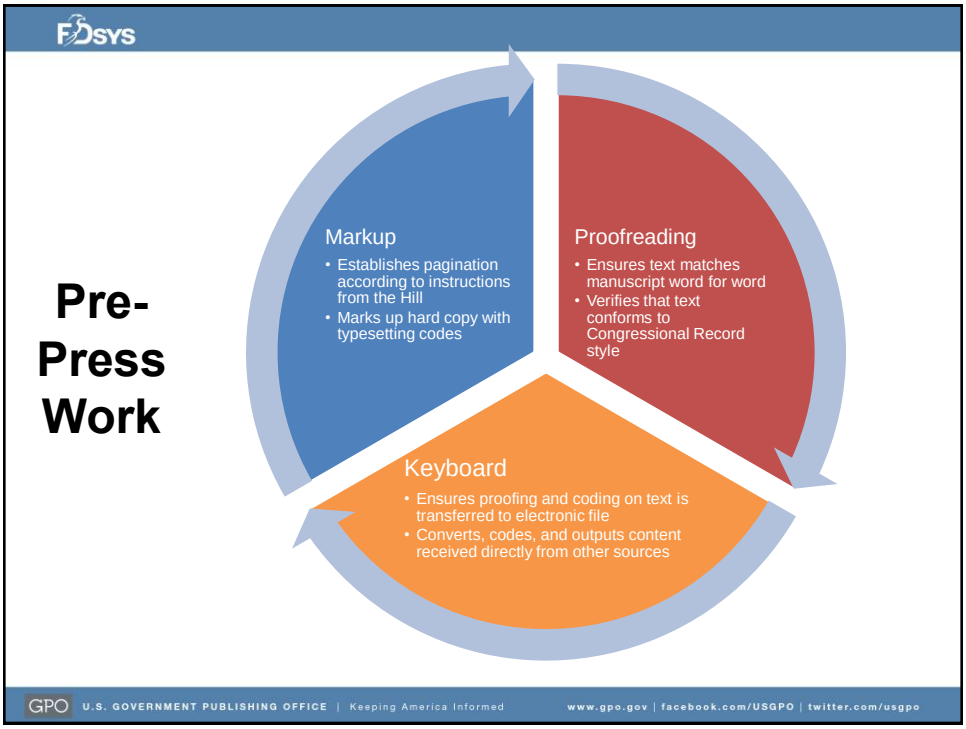
GPO Begins Work

- Files are transmitted electronically
  - ASCII text, XML, PDF, MS Word, Word Perfect, …
  - Known as 'slugs'
- Hard copy manuscripts are picked up by GPO messengers
  - Paper, CD, floppy diskettes

* Hard copy remains "king" or official version if there are discrepancies


FDsys
Pre-Press Work
Markup
• Establishes pagination according to instructions from the Hill
• Marks up hard copy with typesetting codes
Proofreading
• Ensures text matches manuscript word for word
• Verifies that text conforms to Congressional Record style
Keyboard
• Ensures proofing and coding on text is transferred to electronic file
• Converts, codes, and outputs content received directly from other sources
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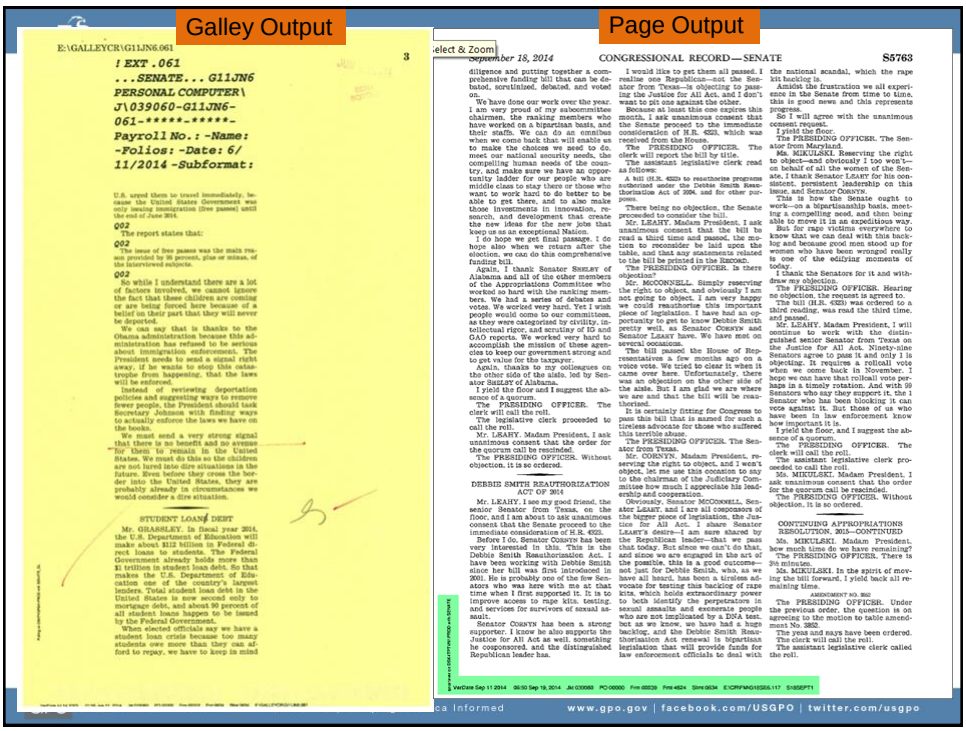
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11/2014 -Subformat:
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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
S5763
DEBBIE SMITH REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014
CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015—CONTINUED
www.gpo.gov | facebook.com/USGPO | twitter.com/usgpo

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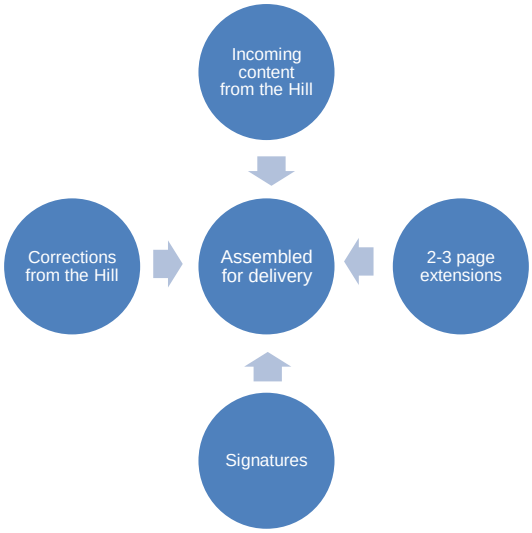
Assembling Content in the Correct Order



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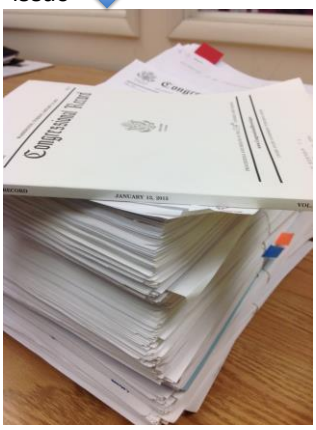
Work is measured in inches

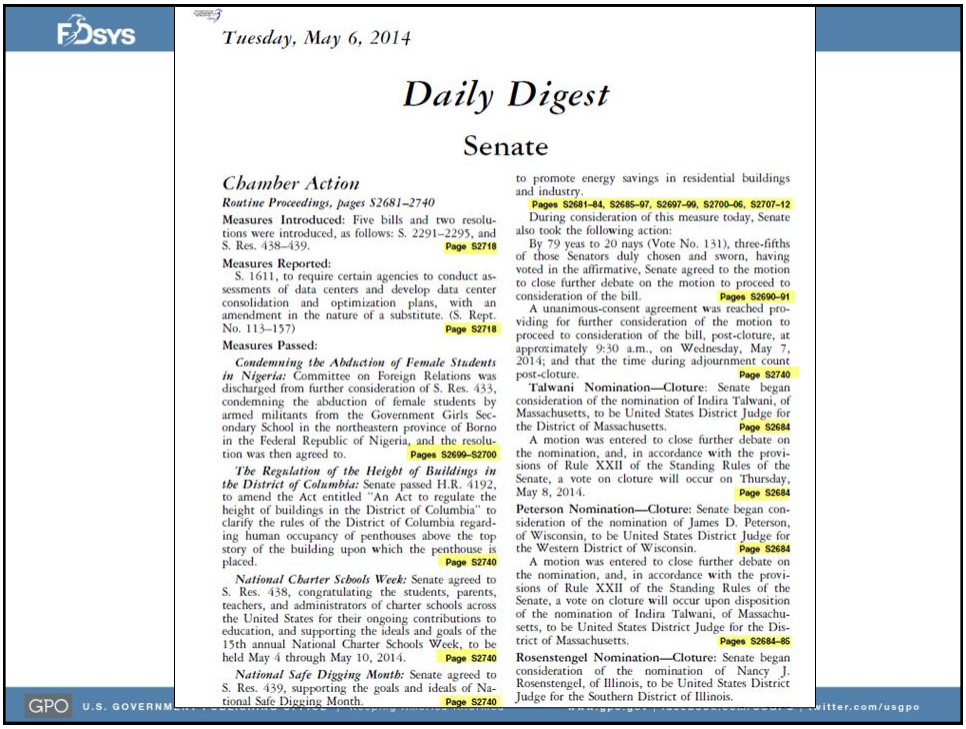
Newspapers record column length

Average night's worth of hard copy

Condensed down to a daily issue



Above – January 13, 2015 issue



Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2681–2740

Measures Introduced: Five bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2291–2295, and S. Res. 438–439. Page S2718

Measures Reported:

S. 1611, to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–157) Page S2718

Measures Passed:

Condemning the Abduction of Female Students in Nigeria: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 433, condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the Government Girls Secondary School in the northeastern province of Borno in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the resolution was then agreed to. Pages S2699–S2700

The Regulation of the Height of Buildings in the District of Columbia: Senate passed H.R. 4192, to amend the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia" to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed. Page S2740

National Charter Schools Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 438, congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 15th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 4 through May 10, 2014. Page S2740

National Safe Digging Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 439, supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month. Page S2740

to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry. Pages S2681–84, S2685–97, S2699–99, S2700–06, S2707–12

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 79 yeas to 20 nays (Vote No. 131), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. Pages S2690–91

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, May 7, 2014; and that the time during adjournment count post-cloture. Page S2740

Talwani Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Indira Talwani, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts. Page S2684

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Thursday, May 8, 2014. Page S2684

Peterson Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of James D. Peterson, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin. Page S2684

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Indira Talwani, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts. Pages S2684–85

Rosenstengel Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Nancy J. Rosenstengel, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

Content that must be included

- Submitted amendment text (Senate)
- Constitutional Authority Statements (House)
- Conference Reports – a matter of public record
  - If the size of the report or schedule constraints prevent the report from being included in that day's Congressional Record, GPO will scan a hard copy of it and post it online on FDsys

FDsys

Too little content

Can happen because a chamber has:

- Adjourned
- Recessed
- Held a pro forma session
  - Chamber cannot adjourn for more than 3 days without other chamber's consent (Constitution)
  - Prevent presidential pocket veto
  - Prevent recess appointment

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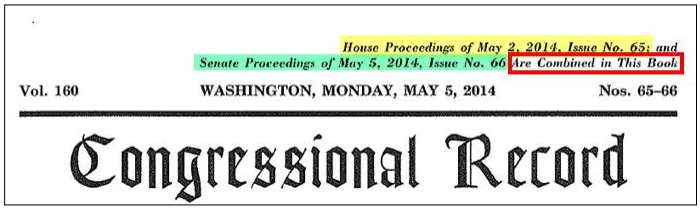
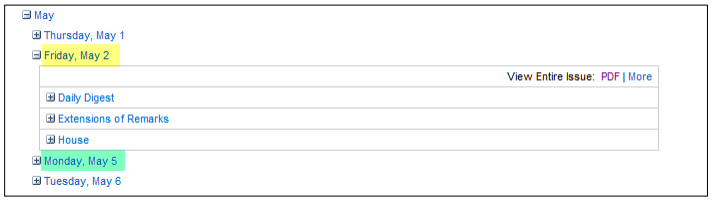
Combining Multiple Days of Content

In print – content from multiple days may be merged into one issue



On FDsys – the same content is divided onto appropriate days



FDSYS

Press Work

Plate Room (technically 'pre-press')
- Imposes files
- Creates plates for press

Press Room
- Prints the signatures

Bindery
- Keeps track of signatures
- Cuts, folds, & glues or 'binds' issues

Delivery
- Delivers the issues to the Hill

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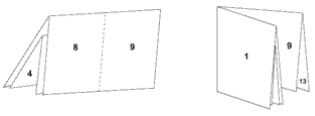
Imposing the Pages

Pages are imposed in layout

So after printing, the paper can be folded and cut in the proper page order



Source:
http://www.des.wa.gov/SiteCollectionDocuments/PrintingMail/Printing/16_page_rangle.gif

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Plate Room

Plate room's laser plate setter

A laser will flash text on the chemical coated aluminum plate in the chamber - burning the chemical on the plate.

Plate processor 'bath'

Chemical that is not heat-set is washed away in a bath. The final plate is coming out of the bath.

Above: Mike Duley and Jeffrey Apple - Offset Platemaker Strippers

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Print Plates Ready for the Web Press

Printing plates

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Press Room – Hantscho Web Press

Web Press – control panel

Web Press = 'web of paper'

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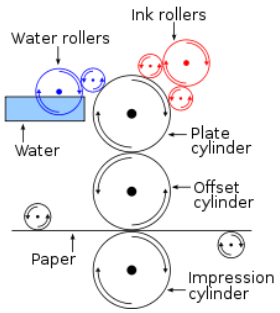
Typical Offset Press Diagram



Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offset_printing#cite_note-kipphan130-144-9

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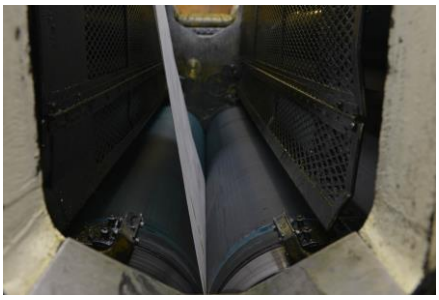
Running Through the Web Press

Ink is added to the printing plate that is wrapped around a Plate Cylinder in the web press

Ink is rolled onto an offset cylinder or blanket – which is transferring the ink to the paper



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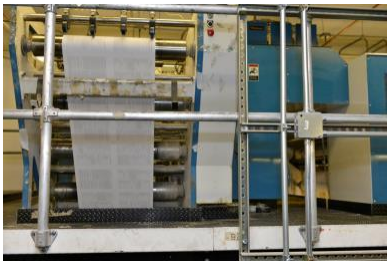
Final Web Press Steps

Paper must be folded and cut



Signature rolling off the web press

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Staging the Signatures

Compressing the signatures for staging

Putting signatures on a pallet

Above: Calvin Trice – PPW (Web Press)

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Paper

Paper rolls weigh 1,693 lbs.

Rolls get dropped down this chute

Above:
Alan Scott – Web Offset Pressperson (left) &
Leon Wilkins - Second Web Pressman (right)

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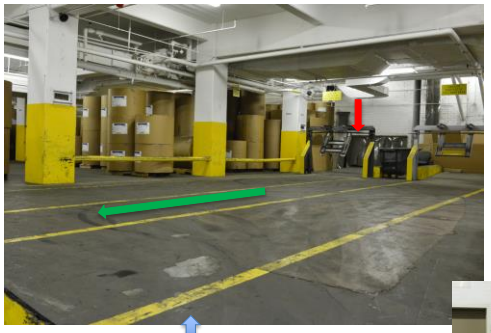
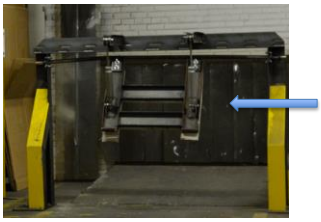
Moving Paper Rolls →



'Bowling' lanes



Close up of hydraulic dampeners

Bumpers stop the rolls at the end of the lane

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Moving Paper Rolls

Clamp truck - used to move paper rolls

Paper elevators

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Ink Totes and Drums

Large totes hold 2,758 pounds of soy based ink

Small barrels are 55 gallon drums

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End of The Process – Bindery Unit

Signatures awaiting assembly are ‘staged’ to keep them in order

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Adhesive Binding Machine

Signatures are put in order - one per track. On the back side, rollers grab one signature from each track – compiling the signatures into an issue.

Individual issues containing compiled signatures move down a conveyor belt to have their spines cut and glued.

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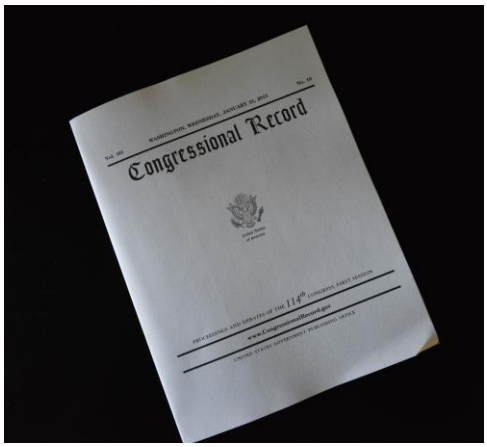
Final Product



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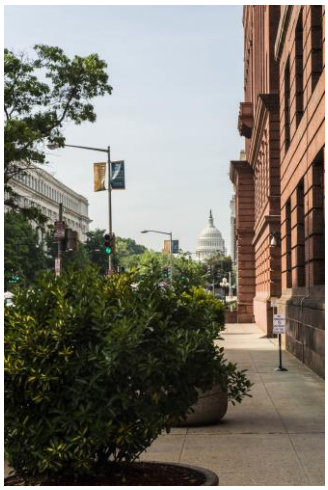
Delivering to the Hill

One of GPO's trucks

GPO is just north of the Capitol



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The daily run is a part of our fiber…

GPO horse stables – wagons on the right were used to haul the Congressional Record. c. 1890

GPO Baker Electric Cars at the U.S. Capitol. c. 1911

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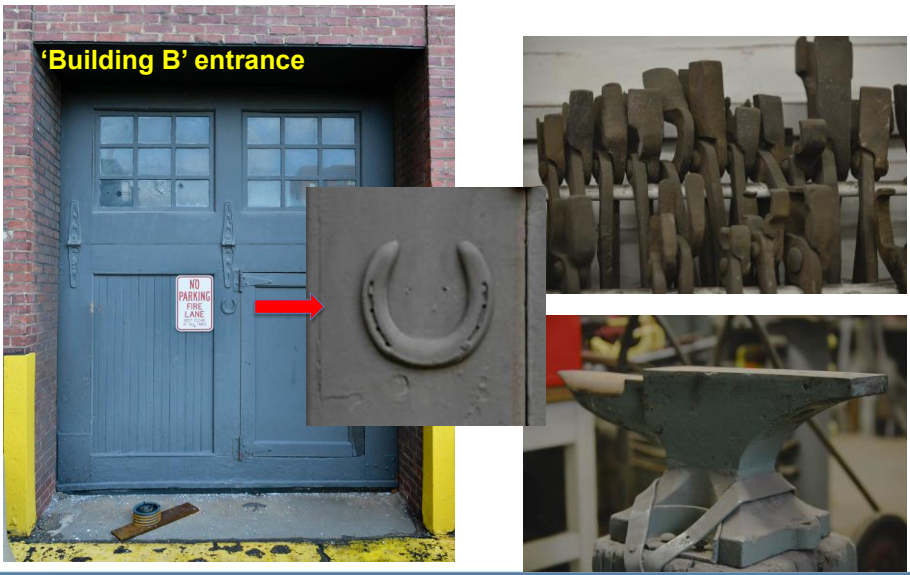
Over 140 Years Later…



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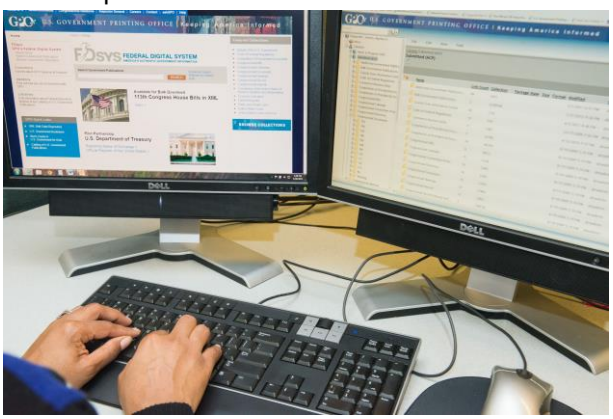
Loading onto FDsys

Package files created by Text Edit Processing section:

- Microcomp locator file → ASCII text format
- Postscript file → PDF format



File being submitted on FDsys

FDsys

What is FDsys Metadata?

- Information that describes the content within FDsys.
  - Describes how, when, and by whom content was collected, what the content is, where it resides, and how it is formatted.
- Information about the publication, including things like the title, personal names, committee names, the date, and more.

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FDsys Metadata

Two types of metadata:

- MODS: Metadata Object Description Schema (Library of Congress)
- PREMIS: Preservation Metadata Implementation Strategies

Example of MODS Metadata

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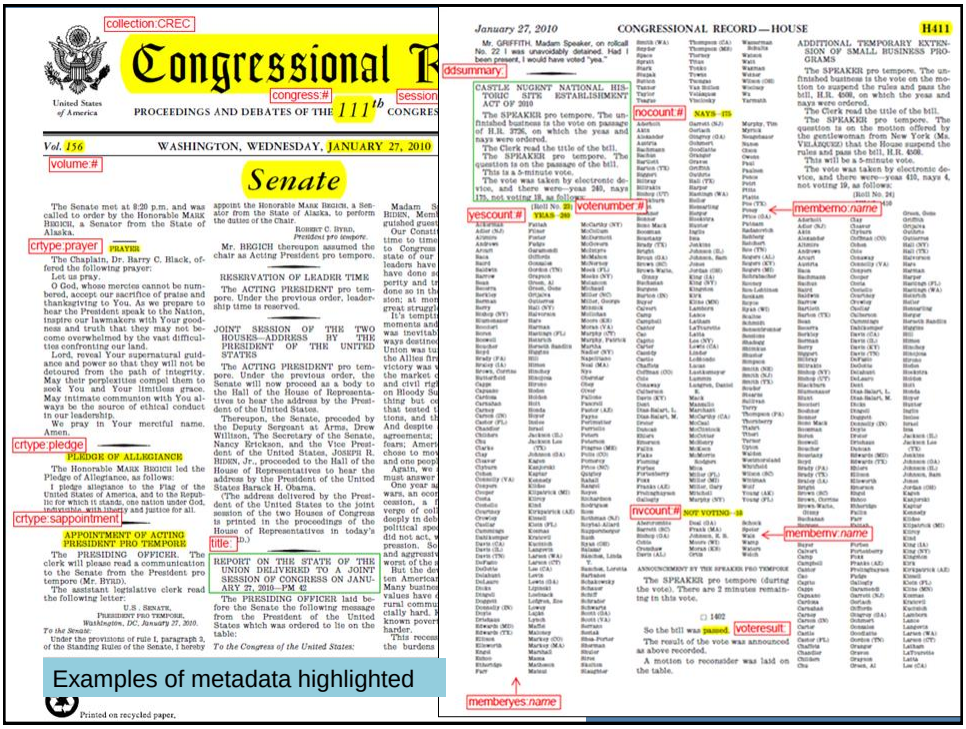
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Vol. 156
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WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2010
Senate
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crtype:pledge
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
crtype:appointment
APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
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JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
Examples of metadata highlighted
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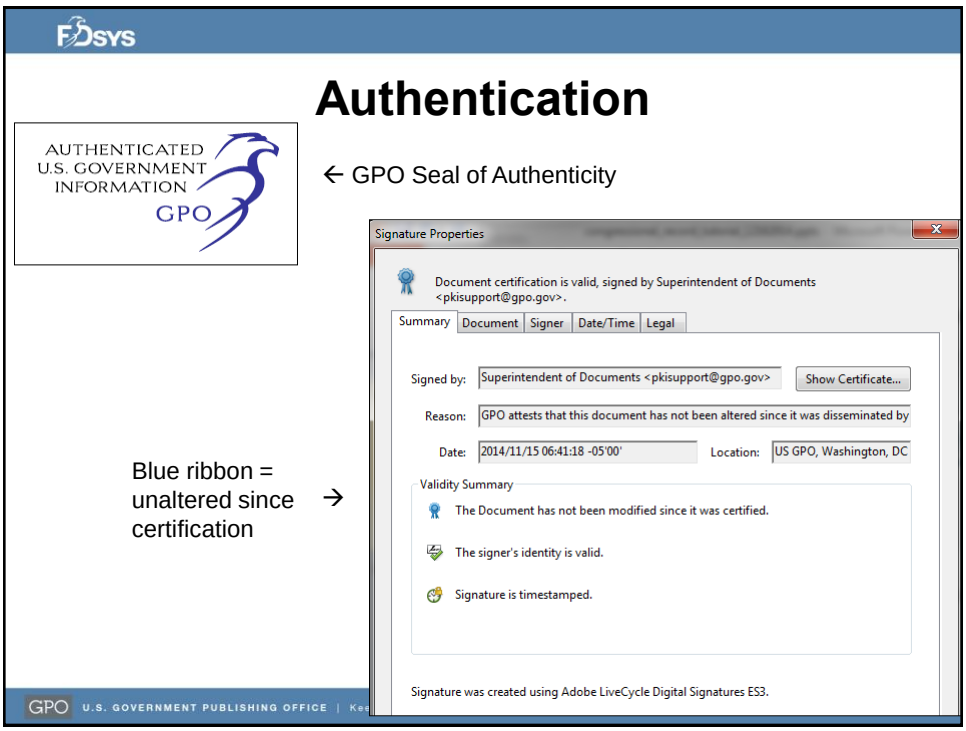
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← GPO Seal of Authenticity
Blue ribbon = unaltered since certification →
Signature Properties
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Summary
Document
Signer
Date/Time
Legal
Signed by: Superintendent of Documents <pkisupport@gpo.gov>
Show Certificate...
Reason: GPO attests that this document has not been altered since it was disseminated by
Date: 2014/11/15 06:41:18 -05'00'
Location: US GPO, Washington, DC
Validity Summary
The Document has not been modified since it was certified.
The signer's identity is valid.
Signature is timestamped.
Signature was created using Adobe LiveCycle Digital Signatures ES3.
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All in a day's work

7 pm	GPO typically receives files/manuscripts from H/S
6, 8, 11:30 pm	2nd shift GPO staff (staggered start times) begin preparing the manuscript and galley run
11:30 pm	3rd shift GPO staff arrive to work on completing the galleys and page proofs
12 am	GPO typically receives final content from Congress
3 am	Crunch time. Except for mandatory content, new content received from the House and the Senate may be sent to next day's CR. GPO staff must decide what content will get moved to the next day's CR
5 am – 6 am	Signatures (okayed pages) are sent to Plate Room
6 am	Online version is loaded onto FDsys
6 – 7:30 am	Press room begins to prints pages/signatures
7 am	Final signatures sent to Plate Room
8 am	Bindery typically begins binding the book as soon as final signatures are received from the press
9 am	Print is received at House and Senate chambers and offices

FDsys

How to tell if Congress is working late

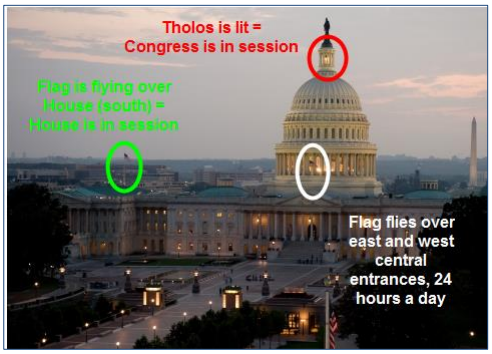

Image source: http://www.aoc.gov/blog/capitol-illumination

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FDsys

What are GPO staff looking for?

Not in night session:

In night session

Sources:
http://www.house.gov/content/educate/internships.php
http://www.senate.gov/visiting/common/image/Dome_at_night.htm

FDsys

Congressional Record Index

- Is a separate index – it is not in the back of the Congressional Record
- Only indexes the current year; each year is cumulated at the end
- Contains two sections

In Print Format (updated biweekly)	In FDsys Collections (updated daily)	Contents
A to Z Index	Congressional Record Index	Indexes individuals, organization, and topics
History of Bills	History of Bills	List of bills and actions on them

```
MIKULSKI, BARBARA A. (a Senator from Maryland)

  Amendments
      Conservation of energy: promote energy savings in residential
        buildings and industry (S. 2262), S2876 [8MY]
      Dept. of Defense: authorizing appropriations for military
        activities, prescribing personnel strengths, and military
        construction (S. 2410), S5001 [28JY]
      Dept. of Energy: making continuing appropriations for the
        National Nuclear Security Administration (H.J. Res. 76), S5327
        [1AU]
      Dept. of HHS: reauthorize and improve the Child Care and
        Development Block Grant Program (S. 1086), S1525 [11MR],
        S1555, S1559 [12MR]
      Employment: reform and strengthen the workforce investment
        system (H.R. 803), S4006 [25JN]
      Patient Protection and Affordable Care
        exempt employees with health coverag
        employer health insurance mandate (H
        S3138 [15MY]
      Science, Depts. of Justice and Commerc
        making appropriations (H.R. 4660), S
  Articles and editorials
      Time To End the Gridlock That Takes It
        Highways, by, Baltimore (MD) Sun, S5
      Women You Don't Know--Yet, H2426 [13MR
  Bills and resolutions cosponsored
      American Discovery Trail: designate (s
      American Fighter Aces: award Congressi
        1827), S373 [15JA]
      Armed Forces: award Congressional Gold
        Infantry Regiment known as the Borin
        S2379 [10AP]
      Baker, Howard H., Jr.: tribute (see S.
      Biomedical Research Fund: establish (s
      Boys Town (organization): mint coins i
        anniversary (see S. 1011), S3604 [11
      Climate: express that global climate c
        will continue to pose ongoing risks
        Res. 524), S4997 [28JY]
```

Examples of the Congressional Record Index (FDsys)

And the History of Bills (FDsys)

Note the daily Congressional Record citation information

```
H.R. 4994--A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to
    provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for
    quality, payment, and discharge planning, and for other purposes;
    to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the
    Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently
    determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such
    provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee
    concerned.

By Mr. CAMP (for himself, Mr. Levin, Mr. Brady of Texas, Mr.
McDermott, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Kind, Mr. Tiberi, and Mrs. Black),
H5817 [26JN]

  Cosponsors added, H6108 [10JY]
  Debated, H7605 [16SE]
  Text, H7605 [16SE]
  Rules suspended. Passed House amended, H7612 [16SE]
  Message from the House, S5695 [17SE], S5905 [12NO]
  Passed Senate, S5862 [18SE]
  Message from the Senate, H7895 [19SE]
  Examined and signed in the Senate, S5905 [12NO]
  Examined and signed in the House, H7927 [12NO]
  Presented to the President (September 26, 2014), H7928 [12NO]
  Approved [Public Law 113-185] (signed October 6, 2014)
```


Bound Permanent Congressional Record

Page citations go from daily edition:

- H1234
- S1234
- E1234
- D1234

To the Bound edition:

- 12,345

Tip - All additional content submitted for a bill or measure (that may have been printed over several daily issues), will appear next to the original measure in the bound, permanent edition.

FDSYS

A very big thanks to the following:

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In Closing…

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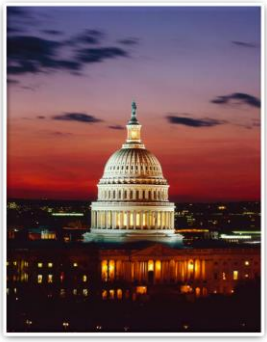
Light’s on! We’re still at work →



Source: http://blogs.loc.gov/law/files/2013/04/Capitol_Dome_at_night_with_tholos_lit.jpg