

DELVING INTO THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL SERIAL SET

Andrea Sevetson

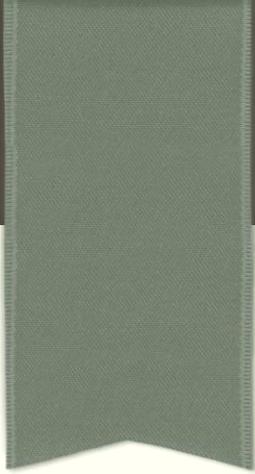
Retired Government Information Librarian and Author



Agenda

- Overview – The Big Picture
- Numbering & Organization
- Publication types
- Maps & Illustrations
- Learning more about the Serial Set

- Endnotes



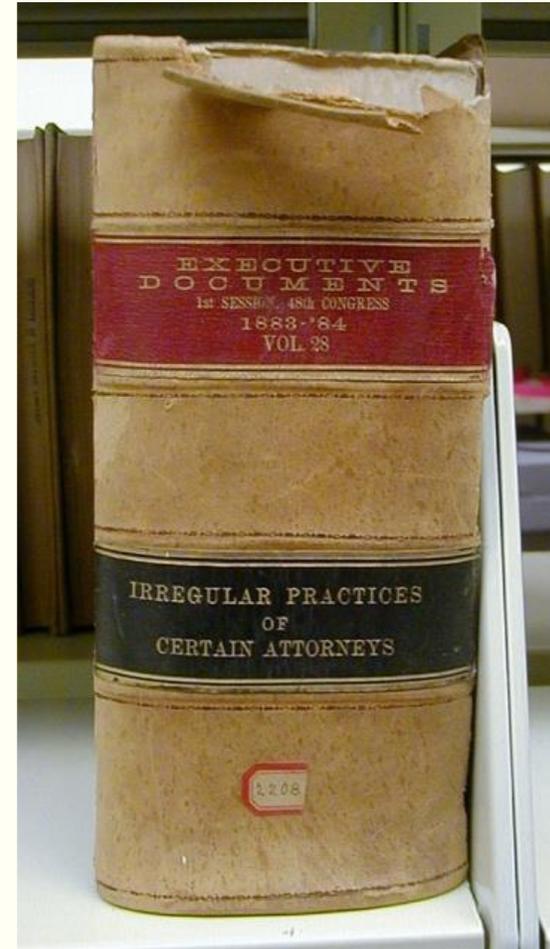
OVERVIEW – THE BIG PICTURE

Looking at the Serial Set from 50,000 feet

How big is the Serial Set?

More than:

- 16,000 Volumes
- 3/5th of a mile of shelf space
- 400,000 individual publications
- 13,000,000 pages



How big is the Serial Set?

Between the 15th and 111th Congress (1817-2010) the following publications are included:

- 275,000 House and Senate Reports
- 100,000 House and Senate Documents
- 700 Hearings (classified as either reports or documents)
- 300 Journals (both House and Senate)
- 300 Court of Claims Reports

What's in the Serial Set

The *Serial Set* contains the House and Senate Documents and the House and Senate Reports.

The **reports** are usually from congressional committees dealing with proposed legislation and issues under investigation. The **documents** include all other papers ordered printed by the House or Senate. Documents cover a wide variety of topics and may include reports of executive departments and independent organizations, reports of special investigations made for Congress, and annual reports of non-governmental organizations. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, executive-branch materials were also published in the *Serial Set*.

What's in the Serial Set

An overview shows the following types of information:

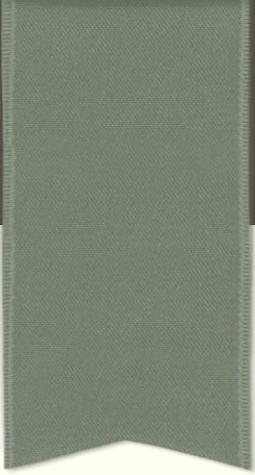
- Congressional journals, administrative reports, directories, manuals, and related internal publications
- Congressional reports on public and private legislation considered during each Congress
- Reports resulting from congressionally commissioned or conducted investigations
- Annually submitted reports from federal executive agencies reviewing current problems and activities under agency purview
- Extended series of survey, research, and statistical publications developed by executive agencies
- Selected annual or special reports of nongovernmental agencies.

Growth of the Serial Set

Year	1st Volume of the Congress	Number of Volumes in Decade
1821 (17th)	58	153
1831 (22nd)	211	178
1841 (27th)	389	221
1851 (32nd)	610	501
1861 (37th)	1111	354
1871 (42nd)	1465	519
1881 (47th)	1984	907
1891 (52nd)	2891	1327
1901 (57th)	4218	1857
1911 (62nd)	6075	1841
1921 (67th)	7916	1200
1931 (72nd)	9116	1170
1941 (77th)	10286	1198
1951 (82nd)	11484	857
1961 (87th)	12321	608
1971 (92nd)	12929	429
1981 (97th)	13358	674
1991 (102nd)	14032	648
2001 (107th)	14680	695
2011 (112th)	15375	

Congress (year began)	1st volume	Number of volumes in Congress
55	3557	285
56	3842	376
57 (1901)	4218	342
58	4560	342
59	4902	476
60	5378	184
61	5562	513
62 (1911)	6075	433
63	6508	387
64	6895	352
65	7247	341
66	7588	328
67 (1921)	7916	302
68	8218	304
69	8522	305
70	8827	289
71	9116	342
72 (1931)	9458	280





SERIAL SET NUMBERING & ORGANIZATION

A brief word

Numbering

The serial number is a unique number applied to each book starting with the 15th Congress.... The documents and reports series have three numbers:

- an individual report or document-publication number,
- a volume number of each series for each session of Congress, and
- the serial number.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwss.html>

Note: I disagree with the not adding Serial Set numbers for citation. Given the various ways of citing Serial Set publications, whatever you can do to help the person who is reading the citation to find the publication in question is useful – especially with older material. But this is much less important if you are working with an online collection..

Size matters

Prior to the 96th Congress (1979) the Reports and Documents in the *Serial Set* were bound by size as some documents were much larger than others.

Publication numbering

Report and document numbers carry through each congress, except:

- Senate/House documents, 15th–59th Cong (1817–1907)
- House reports 16th–46th Cong (1819–1981)

These are *renumbered* for each session.

An example

105th Congress 1st Session	SENATE	REPORT 105-8
-------------------------------	--------	-----------------

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

UNITED STATES SENATE
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH CONGRESS
JANUARY 4, 1995—OCTOBER 3, 1996



MARCH 20, 1997. Ordered to be printed

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1997

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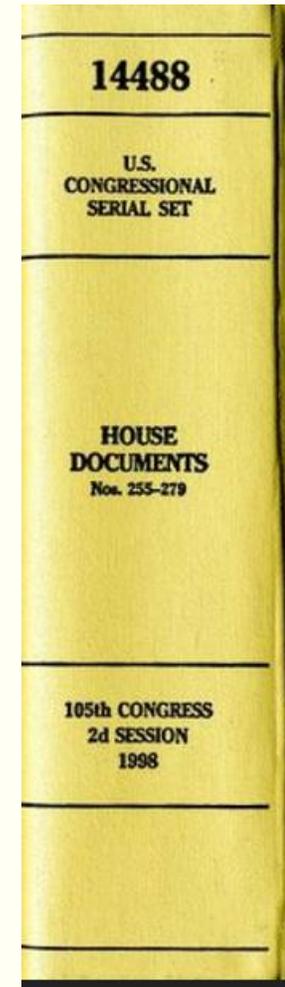
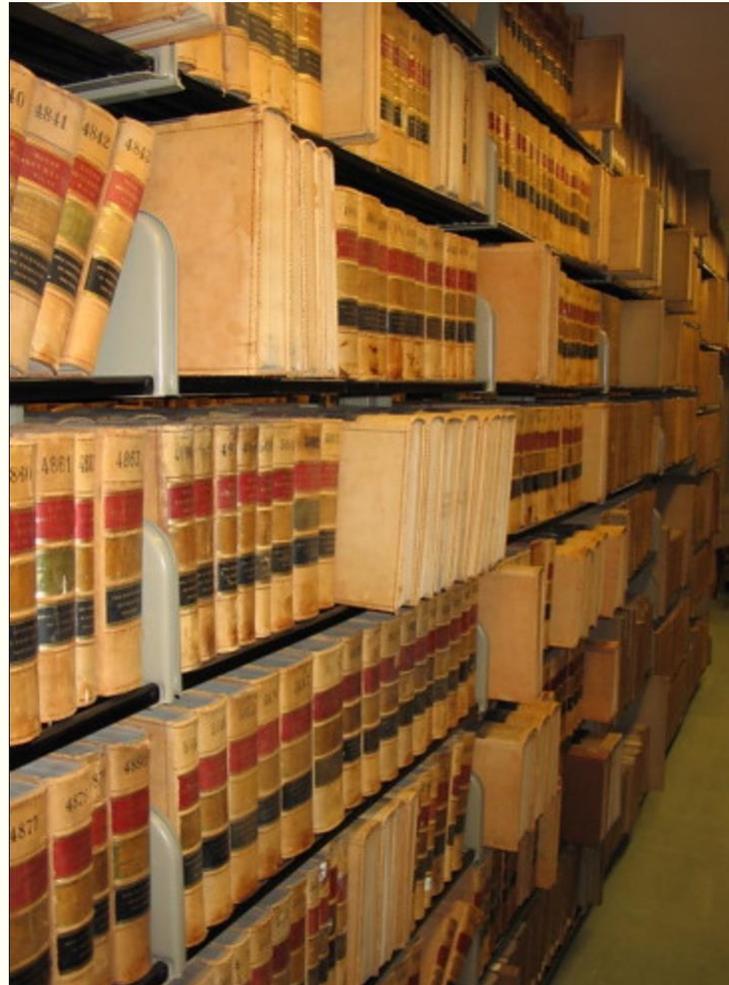
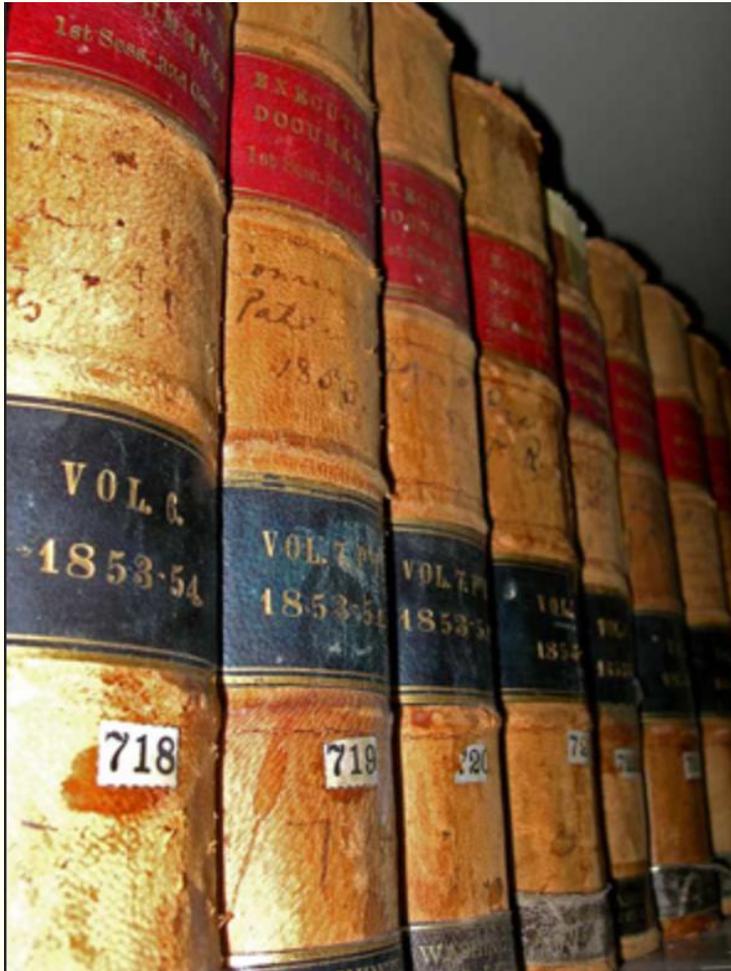
Each publication

- Was published during a specific congress
- Is a report or document
- Was assigned a publication number

Each is grouped in order by publication type (report or document) and assigned a Serial Set volume number.

SCHEDULE OF SERIAL SET VOLUMES	
105th CONGRESS, 1st SESSION	
SENATE DOCUMENTS	
Note.—No. 1 is blank.	
Serial No.	
14388	Senate Document No. 1 [Blank.]
14389	Senate Document No. 2 SECURITY, Report of Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy
14390	Senate Documents Nos. 3-4
14391	Senate Document No. 5 History of U.S. Senate Republican Policy Committee, 1947-1997
14392	Senate Documents Nos. 6-7
14393	Senate Document No. 8 Dedication and unveiling of statue of Richard Brevard Russell, Jr
14394	Senate Document Nos. 9-10
14395	Senate Document No. 11 Constitution of the United States (<i>pocket edition</i>)
14396	Senate Documents Nos. 12-14
14397	Senate Document No. 15 Report of Secretary of Senate, Apr. 1-Sept. 30, 1997
14398	Senate Documents Nos. 16-17
14399A	Senate Document No. 18 Appropriations, budget estimates, etc., statements, 105th Congress, 1st Session, vol. 1
14399B	Senate Document No. 18 Appropriations, budget estimates, etc., statements, 105th Congress, 1st Session, vol. 2
SENATE TREATY DOCUMENTS	
14400	Senate Treaty Documents Nos. 1-17
14401	Senate Treaty Documents Nos. 18-32
SENATE REPORTS	
14402	Senate Reports Nos. 1-22

Spines of volumes



Numbering and organization

The *1909 Checklist* introduction has background on details of the Serial Set to that time.

The Congressional Tables (p.4, *1909 Checklist*) detail what is bound into each Serial Set volume.

Publications are bound, by session, in the following order:

- Senate Journal
- House Journal,
- Senate Reports
- House Reports
- Senate Documents
- House Documents

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60th CONGRESS, 1st SESSION †

Dec. 2, 1907—May 30, 1908

Serial no.	Vol.	Part	Series	Document no.	Notes
5216	.....	.....	S. journal.....	.....
5217	.....	.....	H. journal.....	.....
5218	1	.....	S. reports.....	1-319 (with exceptions).	Reports on public bills, also a few Senate reports on simple resolutions of a public character. † Contains 1-4, 6-9, 11-19, 21, 23, 24, 26-32, 34-46, 49-51, 56-74, 77, 79, 82-87, 89-91, 93-97, 109, 110, 117, 124-126, 128-131, 135, 137-140, 142-144, 146-148, 150, 151, 153, 155-157, 159-164, 167-169, 171, 172, 174-185, 187-191, 193-198, 202, 203, 210-212, 215-221, 223-253, 255-270, 275-279, 284, 285, 289-303, 305-308, 310-317, 319-325, 327-330, 332, 334-336, 338, 340-343, 346-349. 10 is in serial no. 5220; 201 is in serial no. 5221. 314, suppressed, see Senate report 382, in Senate reports, v. C, serial no. 5224. Other numbers missing from serial no. 5218 are for reports on private bills and on simple and concurrent resolutions, † which are bound in Senate reports, v. A, serial no. 5222.
5219	2	.....	.....do.....	352-606 (with exceptions).	Reports on public bills, also a few Senate reports on simple resolutions of a public character. † Contains 352, 355-362, 364-367, 369-374, 377-379, 383-388, 390, 394, 395, 397-400, 403, 404, 408, 420, 422, 424-426, 428, 429, 432, 433, 436-441, 445-448, 450-460, 462-474, 476, 479-487, 489-492, 494, 495, 497-507, 512-517, 519-523, 525, 529-533, 537, 538, 541-548, 552-561, 563, 566, 569-571, 574, 575, 579-583.

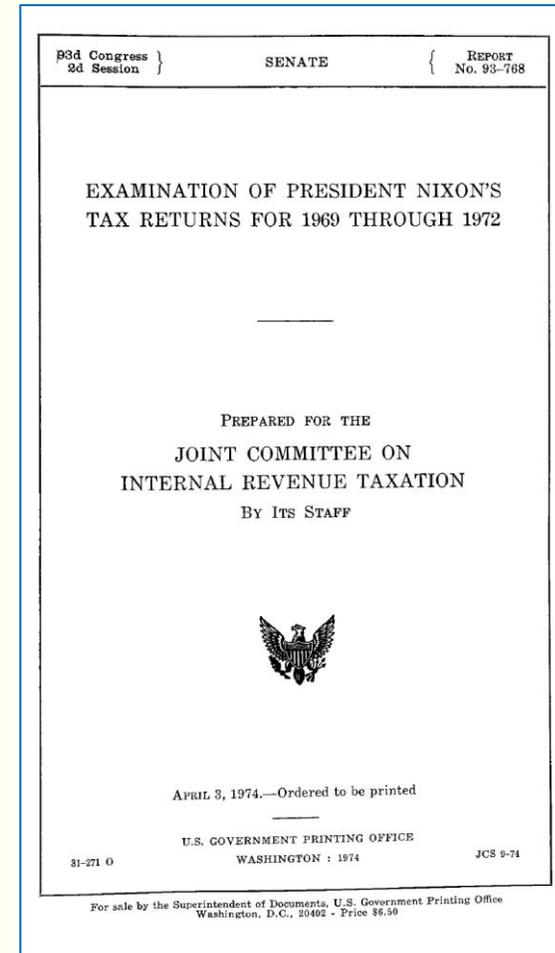
Numbering in citations

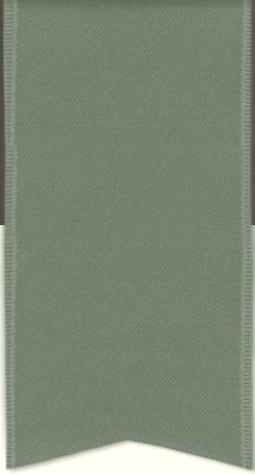
Most citations show the title of the publication, date of publication, and the report or document number. Rarely do they show the Serial Set volume number or Sessional volume (I've only ever seen sessional volume numbers shown by mistake – and they are easy to spot as the number used is so low). Using the printed Serial Set, this resulted in a lot of lookups to find the Serial Set volume number for the publication.

The good news: the Serial Set volume number ceases to be as important in the online environment
(assuming each of the reports and documents are individually indexed)

Sample citation

U.S. Congress. Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation. *Examination of President Nixon's Tax Returns for 1969-1972*. 93rd Cong., 2nd sess., 1974, S. Rept 768.





PUBLICATION TYPES

Getting down to the nitty-gritty

Publication Types - Journals

Journals are the minutes of what happened each day. It includes bills introduced, motions made, roll call (yea/nay) votes, lists of executive branch communications.

Until quite recently, like many Congressional publications, there is no table of contents for the journals. Users need to scroll through, or view thumbnails, to find content.

Helpful hints:

- At the top of each page the date or section is listed.
- The subject index starts approximately 2/3^{rds} of the way through the volume.
- In early years the bill index was incorporated into the subject index (i.e. House Bills are found under H)

Publication Types - Journals

- 15th–82nd Congress (1817–1952), House Journals
- 15th–82nd Congress (1817–1952), Senate Journals
- Prior to the 15th Congress, and after the 82nd Congress, the *Journals* were published outside of the *Serial Set*.

Publication Types - Journals

Each session starts with the roll of members listed by state.

John W. Forney, Clerk of the last House of Representatives, having called the House to order, proceeded to call the roll of members by States, when the following named members answered to their names, viz :

From the State of—

MAINE	{ John N. Goodwin. Charles W. Walton. Samuel C. Fessenden. Anson P. Morrill. John H. Rice. Frederick A. Pike.
NEW HAMPSHIRE	{ Gilman Marston. Edward H. Rollins. Thomas M. Edwards.
VERMONT	{ E. P. Walton. Justin S. Morrill. Portus Baxter.
MASSACHUSETTS	{ Thomas D. Eliot. James Buffinton. Benjamin F. Thomas. Alexander H. Rice. William Appleton. John B. Alley.

Publication Types - Journals

After the roll of members if the record of proceedings for each day, including roll call, or yea/nay, votes.

July 4, 1861.] HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. 15

Nominations having been made as follows, viz:

By Mr. Francis P. Blair, jr..... JOHN W. FORNEY,
Mr. Mallory..... EMERSON ETHERIDGE,
Mr. Fouke..... JOHN E. DIETRICH,

And the Speaker having appointed Mr. Francis P. Blair, jr., Mr. Mallory, Mr. Fouke, and Mr. McKnight, tellers,

The House proceeded to vote *viva voce* for a Clerk,

When

The following named members voted for EMERSON ETHERIDGE, viz:

Cyrus Aldrich, John B. Alley, William Appleton, Isaac N. Arnold, James N. Ashley, Goldsmith F. Bailey, Stephen Baker, Portus Baxter, Fernando C. Beaman, Samuel S. Blair, Harrison G. Blake, James Buffinton, Charles B. Calvert, John S. Carlile, Jacob P. Chamberlain, Ambrose W. Clark, Schuyler Colfax, Frederick A. Conkling, Roscoe Conkling, Martin F. Conway, John W. Crisfield, William P.

Publication Types - Journals

The indexes include a subject index and a bill index referring users to the page, section, or date, in the Journal where the bill is mentioned.

Indexes start approximately 2/3rds of the way through the volume (there is no table of contents)

290		INDEX.					
		HOUSE BILLS—Continued.					
Number.	Title.	Reported.	Proceedings in Committee of the Whole and in the House.	Passed H. R.	Passed Senate.	Other proceedings.	Approved.
16	A bill further to provide for the collection of duties on imports, and for other purposes.	53	59	59	73	74, 77, 80	87
17	A bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to remit fines and penalties incurred in certain cases, regulating the compensation of certain surveyors of the customs, and for other purposes. Title amended so as to read: "A bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to remit fines and penalties incurred in certain cases."	53	104	104	121	133, 147	150
18	A bill making additional appropriations for the support of the army for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1862, and appropriations of arrearages for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1861.	58	59, 65, 66	66	89	89, 90, 92, 98	106

Publication Types - Reports

House Reports and Senate Reports compose close to 75% of the content (by title) of the *Serial Set*. Reports may be reports on public bills, reports on private bills, or reports on special topics.

Reports on public bills are generally the report from a committee recommending that a bill be passed

A **conference report** is often the most sought-after of reports. The conference report presents the formal legislative language on which the conference committee has agreed. Many conference reports also contain a Joint Explanatory Statement (earlier called the Statement of the Manager) that explains the various elements of the conferees' agreement in relation to the bills version that each chamber passed.

Notes: Conference reports are scarce in the 19th Century. Conference reports rarely include a table of contents.

Publication Types - Reports

House Reports

- 15th Cong (1817–1819) published in House Documents
- 16th–56th Cong (1817–1902), House Reports
- 57th–95th Cong (1902–1978), House Reports
 - In 3 categories:
 - miscellaneous reports on public bills,
 - miscellaneous reports on private bills, and
 - reports on special topics
- 96th Cong forward (1979–present), House Reports

Senate Reports

- 15th–29th Cong (1817–1847), published in Senate Documents
- 30th–57th Cong (1847–1902), Senate Reports
- 57th–95th Cong (1902–1978), Senate Reports
 - In 3 categories:
 - miscellaneous reports on public bills,
 - miscellaneous reports on private bills, and
 - reports on special topics
- 96th Cong forward (1979–present), Senate Reports

Examples of Reports

37TH CONGRESS, } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { REPORT
2d Session. } No. 148.

EMANCIPATION AND COLONIZATION.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 576.]

JULY 16, 1862.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. ALBERT S. WHITE, from the select committee on emancipation, made the following

REPORT.

The select committee appointed in pursuance of the resolution of April 7, 1862, to wit:

“*Resolved*, That a select committee, to consist of nine members, be appointed to inquire and report to this House, at as early a day as practicable, whether any plan can be proposed and recommended for

43D CONGRESS, } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { MIS. DOC.
1st Session. } No. 281.

EXPORTATION OF DISTILLED SPIRITS.

MAY 23, 1874.—Ordered to be printed.

[To accompany bill H. R. 2081.]

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE

ON THE

Disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill (H. R. 2081) to facilitate the exportation of distilled spirits, and amendatory of the acts in relation thereto.

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill (H. R. 2081) to facilitate the exportation of distilled spirits, and amendatory of the acts in relation thereto, having met, after a full and free conference have agreed to recommend, and do recommend, to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from their first amendment.

That the House recede from their disagreement to the second, third,

Publication Types - Reports

Reports on private bills, sometimes called Private Relief Actions, make up approximately 51% of the reports found in the *Serial Set*.

Private legislation is for the benefit of a specific person or entity, rather than for the general public. Prior to 1950 the private legislation was often on land claims, military justice, and pension. Since 1950 the private legislation tends to be more related to immigration claims.

Unlike reports on public bills, reports on private bills may be published when both favorable and unfavorable outcomes are recommended.

105TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
2d Session } { 105-479

PRIVATE RELIEF OF RUTH HAIRSTON

APRIL 1, 1998.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. SMITH of Texas, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2729]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2729) for the private relief of Ruth Hairston by waiver of a filing deadline for appeal from a ruling relating to her application for a survivor annuity, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

Examples of Reports on Private Legislation

101ST CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
2d Session } { 101-626

PAULA GRZYB

JULY 24, 1990.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. BROOKS, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1683]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1683), for the relief of Paula Grzyb, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant immediate relative status on

71ST CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
2d Session } { No. 1316

OREGON SHORT LINE RAILROAD CO.

APRIL 25, 1930.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. IRWIN, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3666]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3666) for the relief of the Oregon Short Line Railroad Co., having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

This bill passed the Senate in the second session of the Seventy-first Congress and the report made at that time by the Senate Committee on Claims is attached hereto and made a part of this report, as follows:

Examples of Reports on Private Legislation

18th CONGRESS, }
1st SESSION. }

[34]

REPORT

*Of the Committee of Ways and Means on the petition of Barnard Thooft;
with a bill for his relief.*

JANUARY 16, 1824.

Read, and, with the bill, committed to a committee of the whole House to-morrow.

The Committee of Ways and Means, to whom was referred the petition of Barnard Thooft, of the city of New-York,

REPORT:

That, in May last, the petitioner exported a quantity of coffee from New York to Amsterdam, for the benefit of drawback. All the formalities of the law were complied with, excepting the execution of the bond for exportation, which was not executed within the twenty days required by law.

Publication Types – Documents

House/Senate Documents include:

- Material originating in Congress (rules, memorial ceremonies, reports of investigations, general business)
- Publications from executive (branch) departments and independent establishments, particularly the annual reports of executive branch agencies and other bodies required by law to report to Congress
- Reports of special investigations and research authorized by the president
- Material originating outside the government (annual reports of nongovernment organizations whose national incorporation requires a report to Congress) and other material of direct interest to the government
- Senate Treaty Documents

Publication Types - Documents

House

- 15th–29th Cong (1817–1847) House Documents
- 30th–53rd Cong (1847–1895) House Executive Documents and House Miscellaneous Documents
- 54th Cong forward (1895–present) House Documents

Senate

- 15th–29th Cong (1817–1847) Senate Documents
- 30th–53rd Cong (1847–1895) Senate Executive Documents and Senate Miscellaneous Documents
- 54th Cong forward (1895–present) Senate Documents

Material originating in Congress

76TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{ DOCUMENT
No. 22

INVESTIGATING THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

[Pursuant to Public Res. 83, 75th Cong.]

JANUARY 24 (legislative day, JANUARY 17), 1939.—Ordered to be printed

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

A special joint congressional committee of five Senators and five Representatives was appointed under Public Resolution No. 83 (75th Cong., ch. 61, 3d sess., S. J. Res. 277), approved April 4, 1938, to make an investigation of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

50TH CONGRESS, }
1st Session. }

SENATE.

{ MIS. DOC.
No. 157.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JULY 17, 1888.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BLAIR submitted the following

RESOLUTION:

Resolved, That the Committee on Rules be directed to arrange with D. H. Craig, of New York City, a suitable place in the Capitol Building for testing his improvements in the art of telegraphy, with a view to the protection of the interests of the American people in such improvements if they shall be found valuable and Congress shall deem the same to be expedient; the sole object of this resolution being to facilitate the convenient examination of said improvements in practical operation and to involve no expense to the United States.

Publications from executive (branch) departments and independent establishments

This is the good stuff...

Also including the next category, *Reports of special investigations and research authorized by the president*, as it can be hard to separate the two.

Publications from executive (branch) departments - Sample Serials

- State of the Union messages
- Economic Report of the President
- Statistical Abstract of the US
- Foreign Relations of the US
- Navy Register
- Minerals Yearbook
- Consular Reports
- Annual report of Commissioner of Freedman's Savings and Trust Company
- Water Supply Papers
- Ethnology Bureau bulletin
- Geological Survey bulletin
- Immigration statistics and related
- Monthly summary of foreign commerce of U.S.
- Official Opinions of Attorneys General
- Labor Statistics Bureau Bulletin
- Annual report of (sampling – there are many!)
 - Office of Indian Affairs
 - Commissioner of Pensions
 - The Attorney General
 - Coast Survey

Publications from executive (branch) departments

Great resource

Wooster College's
Guide,

U.S. Congressional
Serial Set
Finding List: Agency
Series Found
in the Serial Set

U.S. Congressional Serial Set Finding List: Agency Series Found in the Serial Set

[Home](#)[Agency Series Found in the Serial Set](#)[SuDocs Classes Found in the Serial Set](#)[Serial Set-Agency Finding List](#)[Additional Resources](#)

Agency Series Found in the Serial Set

- **Air Force Department**
 - [Air Force Register \(D 303.7:\)](#)
- **Alien Property Custodian**
 - [Annual Report, Alien Property Custodian \(Y 3.AI 4:1\)](#)
- **American Historical Association**
 - [Annual Report, American Historical Association \(SI 4.1:\)](#)
- **Arms Control and Disarmament Agency**
 - [Annual Report, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency \(AC 1.1:\)](#)
- **Army Department**
 - [Army Register \(W 3.11:, M 108.8:, D 102.9:\)](#)
- **Atomic Energy Commission**
 - [Semiannual/Annual Report, Atomic Energy Commission \(Y 3.At 7:1\)](#)
- **Bureau of American Ethnology**
 - [Annual Report, Bureau of \(American\) Ethnology \(SI 2.1:\)](#)
 - [Bulletins, Bureau of \(American\) Ethnology \(SI 2.3:\)](#)
- **Bureau of Animal Industry**
 - [Annual Report, Bureau of Animal Industry \(A 4.1:\)](#)
- **Bureau of Fisheries (Dept. of Commerce)**
 - [Annual Report, Bureau of Fisheries \(C 6.1:\)](#)
 - [Bulletins, Bureau of Fisheries \(C 6.3:\)](#)

(<https://libguides.wooster.edu/congressionalserialsetfindinglist/agencyseries>)

The Serial Set Book

The Serial Set

Its Make-up and Content

Edited by Andrea Severson



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Publications from executive (branch) departments

- Exploration – most of the reports of western exploration are in the Serial Set
- War of Rebellion Records (various volumes) and the Civil War Atlas (v2998)
- Infrastructure including:
 - Highways and transportation
 - River systems (the Mississippi, Missouri, Columbia) including tributaries,
 - Harbors – studies for improvement
 - Bridges – building, repair etc
- Smithsonian Institution (annual reports, expenditures etc.)
- Issues including eugenics, women's rights, Asian Exclusion,
- Various scandals (Iran-Contra, Watergate, Teapot Dome)

Material originating outside the government

62^D CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { DOCUMENT
3^d Session } No. 934

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1912

Vol. I
REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS
MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS



WASHINGTON
1913

51ST CONGRESS, } SENATE. { MIS. DOC.
1st Session. } No. 170.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

FOR

THE YEAR 1889.

JUNE 18, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on the Library
and ordered to be printed.

ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA



Publication Types – Senate Treaty Documents

- Treaty documents contain the treaty and any accompanying material received in the Senate when the Senate is asked, by the President, to ratify a treaty.
- 15th–95th Cong (1815–1978) these were not published in the *Serial Set*
- 96th Cong forward (1979–present) Senate Treaty documents (until 1981 they were called Senate Executive Documents)

Examples of Senate Treaty Documents

112TH CONGRESS } SENATE { TREATY DOC.
2d Session 112-7

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DECEMBER 13, 2006, AND SIGNED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON JUNE 30, 2009 (THE "CONVENTION")



MAY 17, 2012.—Treaty was read the first time, and together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed for the use of the Senate

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 2012

19-118

104TH CONGRESS }
2d Session

SENATE

{ TREATY DOC.
104-29

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING
DROUGHT, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA, WITH AN-
NEXES

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

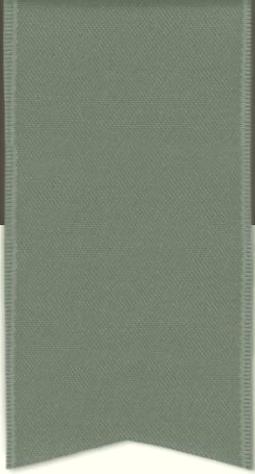
THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERI-
OUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN
AFRICA, WITH ANNEXES, ADOPTED AT PARIS, JUNE 17, 1994,
AND SIGNED BY THE UNITED STATES ON OCTOBER 14, 1994

AUGUST 2, 1996.—Convention was read the first time and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed for the use of the Senate

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

29-118

WASHINGTON : 1996



MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Illustrations

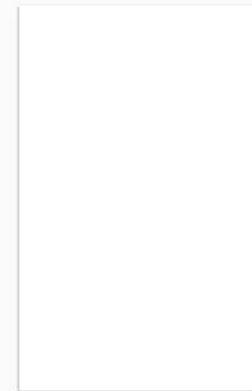
There are more than 320,000 illustrations of various types – outline drawings, black and white images, and full color images.

Full page images often are not included in the pagination and the verso is often blank because of the paper type.

Many images have captions, making the caption information searchable either through metadata (depending on the Serial Set provider) or through full text searching. Some reports have a list of color plates in them. When searching the PDF, don't specify case as captions might be ALL CAPS.



31



32

Illustrations

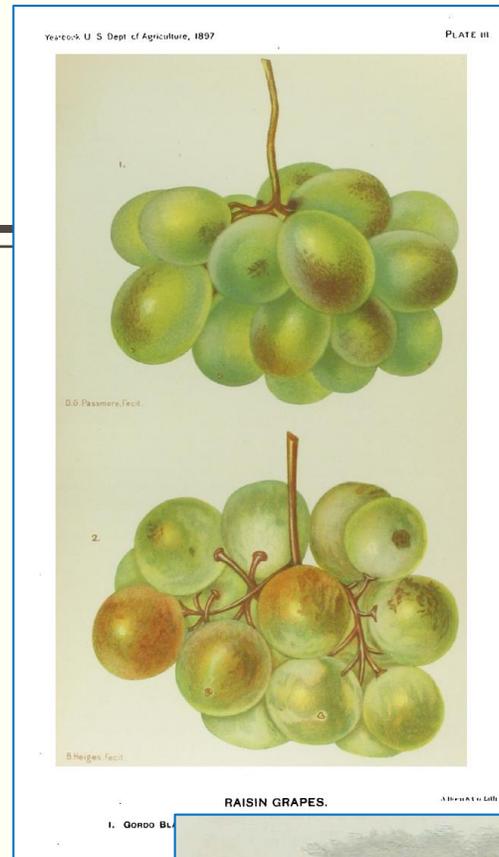
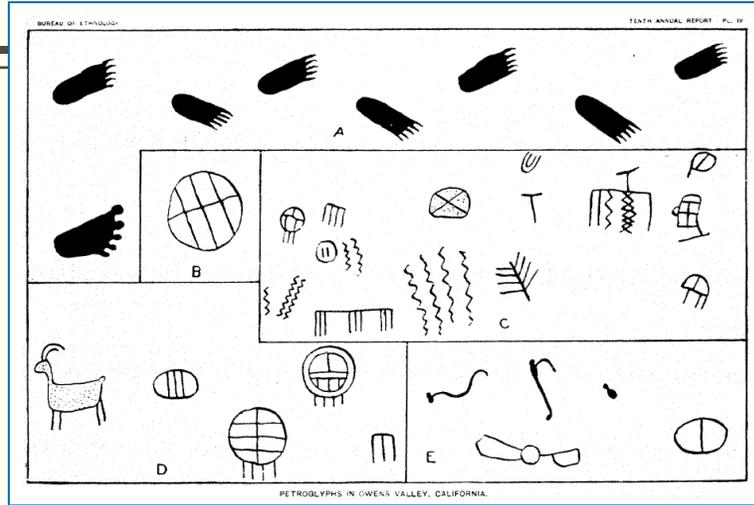
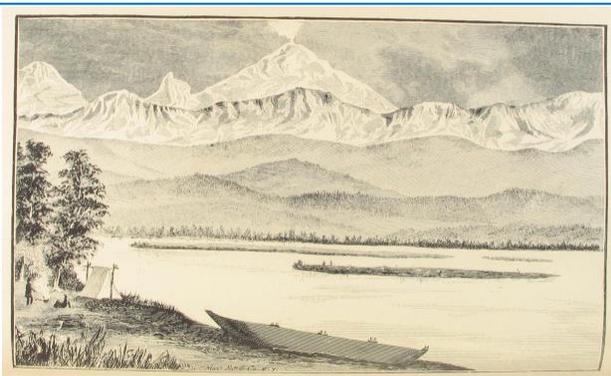


Photo by Tennessee Conservation Department

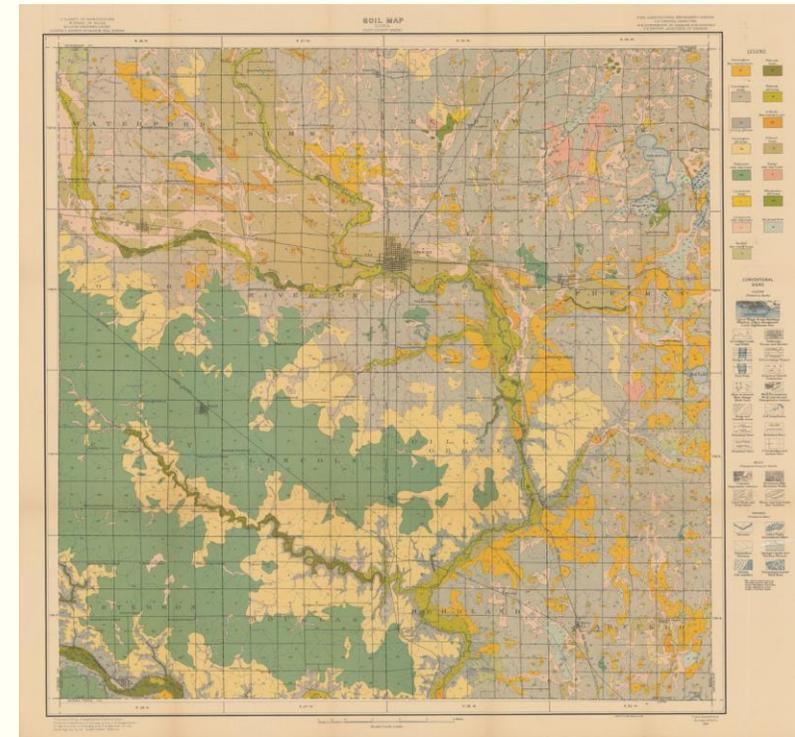
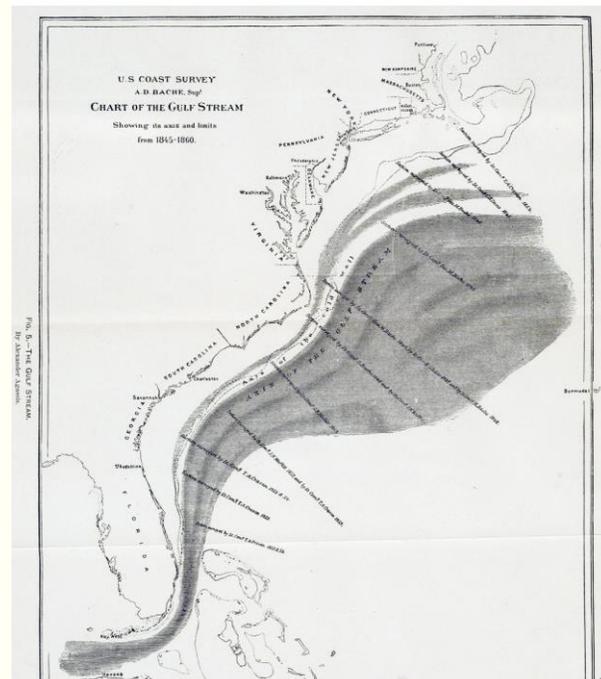
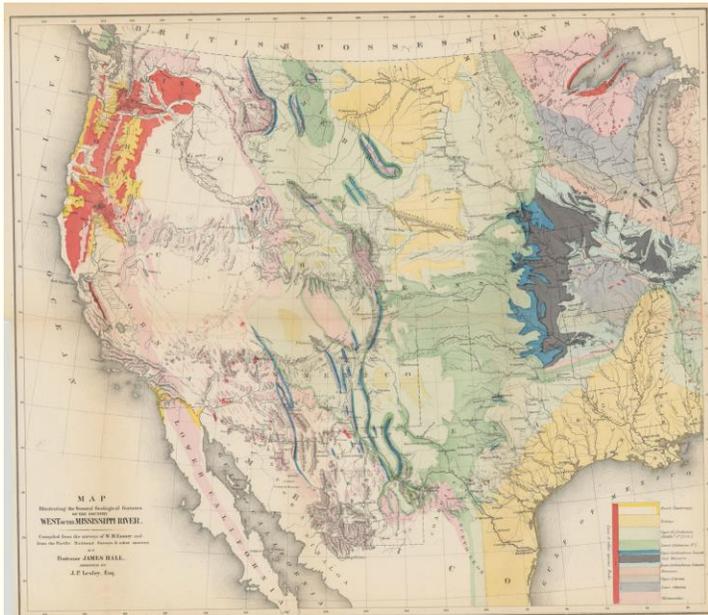
This 15-degree curve, on U S Route 31 in Tennessee, is a murderer. Three days after the picture was made to illustrate this report, a motorcyclist died because he failed to round the turn. A few weeks previously, two men were killed when their car hit a disabled truck which had to stop on the pavement because the shoulder was too narrow.



Maps

There are more than 56,000 maps titles, and approximately 70,000 map sheets. Similar to illustrations, some maps are simple outline maps and others are beautifully drawn.

Maps serve to highlight the content in a document – so there are many maps in the annual reports of the Coastal Survey, and others showing western exploration, fisheries, mining, soils, weather, sewers, and disease.

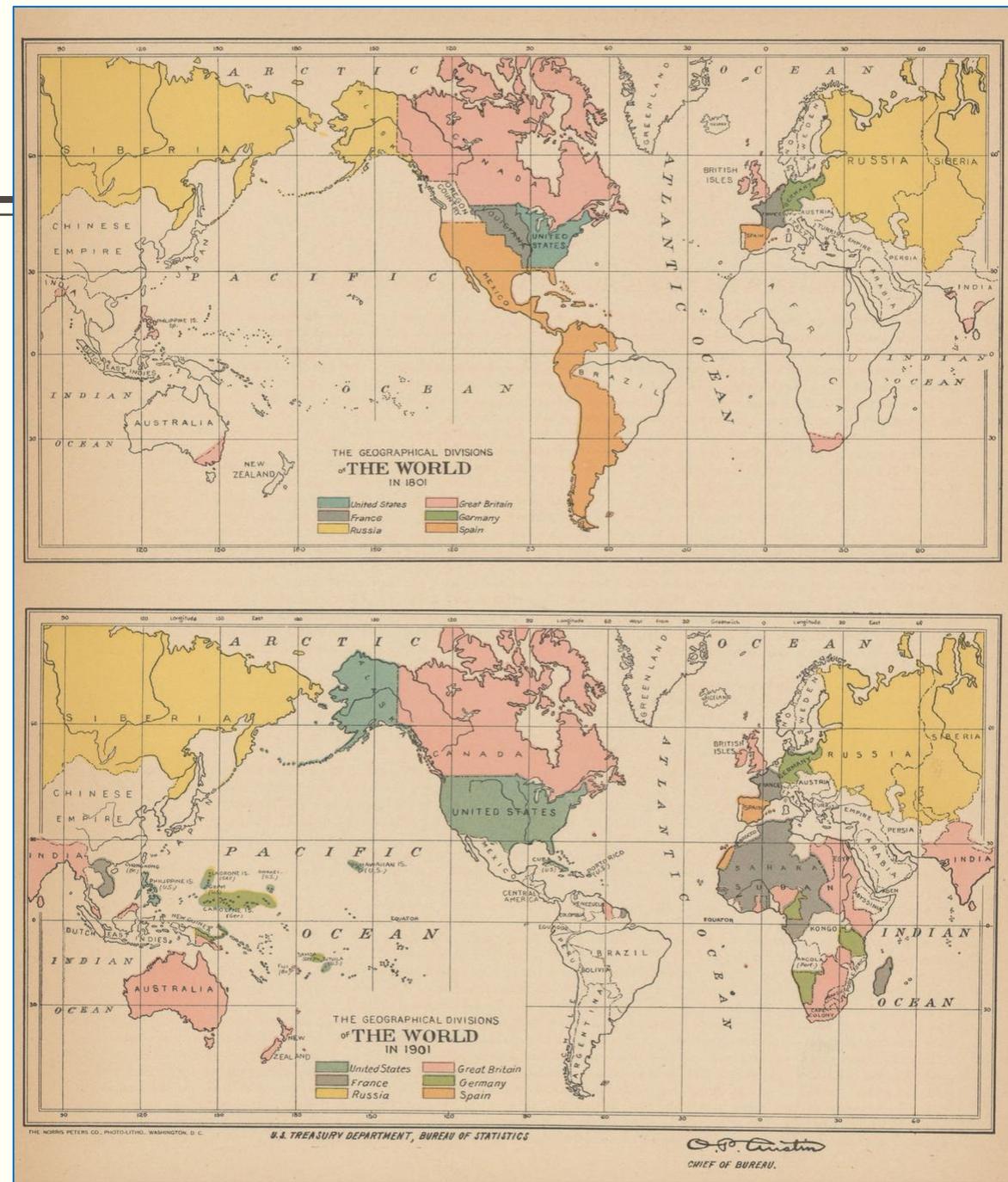


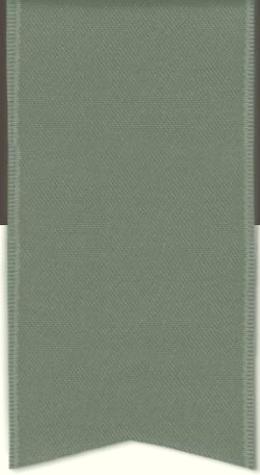
Searching for maps

Not all Serial Set providers list each map in the metadata.

With OCR, titles and information listed on the map *should* be searchable.

Even with good metadata, not all countries, regions etc., shown on the map are included in the metadata, so searchers need to think about other areas that might be listed on the map.





NOTES & CAUTIONS

More about the Content

Content is governed by both legislation and politics of the JCP regulating both content and format.

Until the 1907 legislation, libraries may have received 2 copies of executive branch documents: the Serial Set version and the separately published “departmental” edition. (34 Stat 1012, p1014, March 1, 1907, PL 59-153)

It took a few years, but after the 1907 legislation, the Serial Set version was discontinued for *most* of the documents.

Notes

Pagination can be tricky.

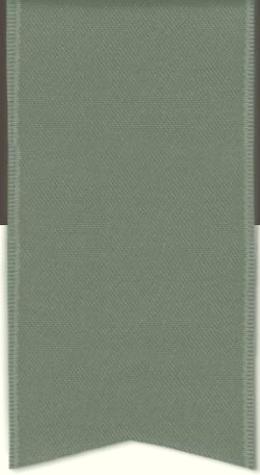
- Sometimes there are multiple parts of the same document together and each part may start on page 1.
- Full-page illustrations and maps are usually not included in the pagination so a document with a larger number of illustrations may have a lot more pages than the metadata record may show.

As with the Journals, there may not be a table of contents, so use whatever tools you may have to locate a citation etc.

As an example, v832 (Survey of the Mexican Boundary, v1) is 607 PDF pages.

The end of part 1, p.258 is on PDF p.380 – there are more than 100 pages of illustrations and maps.

Part II starts on PDF p.383 with its own introduction, table of contents, and pagination.



LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE SERIAL SET

Expanding your knowledge

How to Learn More about the Serial Set and Content Types

Review of the Literature

Research Publication Types

Research types of Legislation (e.g. private legislation – CRS Reports are great for this)

Review old textbooks and indexes

How to learn more ...

Check the bibliographies of books you think should include Serial Set content (e.g. *Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee*, *The Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal, 1870–1914*)

Create a timeline and fill in the subject areas you think should be included in the Serial Set (and then check to see if you are right)

Make a list of subjects you think should be included (and then check to see if you are right)

How to learn more ...

Think about this history of your state

- Are there any rivers the government has dammed?
- Any harbors that were improved? Mining?
- Civil War Battles or other wars?
- Native American tribes?
- How has the government been involved in your state and how might that be reflected in the Serial Set?

Final Note: Not everything is included in the Serial Set

Depending on the issue or event, the issue/event in question may be covered in other Congressional publications.

For example...

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King assassination – covered in Congressional Record (tributes) and Hearings (investigation)

Pearl Harbor – covered extensively in hearings

Questions?



Endnotes -1

Slides 4-8 Much of the information comes from *The Serial Set: Its Make-up and Content*, ProQuest, 2013. Some of the data has been updated for this presentation.

Slide 23, from *The Serial Set: Its Make-up and Content* page 10-11.

Slides 24, 30 - Laurence Schmeckebier and Roy B. Eastin as well as Richard McKinney give chronological overviews of the changes. Schmeckebier and Eastin also have a more concise overview by series. That overview is updated here with information from McKinney.

Laurence Schmeckebier and Roy B. Eastin, *Government Publications and Their Use*, 2nd rev. ed. (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, 1969), pp. 151–153; Richard J. McKinney, *An Overview of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set*, Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C., Inc. Revised March 2021, available at: <https://www.llsdc.org/serial-set-volumes-guide#overview>

Slide 26 - Guide to Congress (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2000), pp. 526–527.

Slide 29 – Boyd & Rips *United States Government Publications* (New York: H.W. Wilson Company, 1949) p.52

Slide 38 - CRS Report R46603, Bills, Resolutions, Nominations, and Treaties: Characteristics and Examples of Use, by Jane A. Hudiburg. 16 Nov 2020.

Endnotes - 2

Slide 41 image from 505 S ex.doc. 7 Emory Expedition.

Slide 42 - Fish – v803 Perry Expedition (right); Indian Burial Site – v764 Pac RR Comm (right); Mount Wrangell – v2449 Expedition of ..(Various rivers) in Alaska (left); Hawaiian Fisherman, 1900 Rpt of Governor of HI, v4104 (left); Petroglyphs in Owens Valley, VA, - v3134, 10th Annl Rpt of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 1888-89, (p95 of PDF); Raisin Grapes – 1897 Yrbk of Ag (website with may botanical prints: <https://specialcollections.nal.usda.gov/>) v3693; Highway needs of the Natl Defense – murderous curve – v11318

Slide 43 Left , v861, Survey of the Mexican Boundary, v. 1 Narrative and Geology map, Map of the United States and their territories between the Mississippi and the Pacific Ocean and part of Mexico; Middle - v3001 H.misc.doc.334 pt1, 1891 Annual Report of the Smithsonian, Chart of the Gulf Stream, showing its axis and limits from 1845–1860; Right v7194 H.doc. 2136, Bureau of Soils Field Operations 1916, Clay County Iowa

Slide 44, 4480 H.doc.15/9, map (*Monthly Summary of Commerce and Finance*, March 1903,) The Geographical Divisions of the World in 1801 and 1901