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- January 25: Data products of the Minnesota Population Center
- February: Canadian Statistics with Michelle Edwards
- March: Government Apps with Emily Lawson
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The United States Congressional Serial Set – 15577 Volumes and Counting!



Carmen Orth-Alfie
Government Information Services Coordinator
University of Kansas Libraries

January 13, 2016

Official title established in during the 97th Congress:
United States Congressional Serial Set

XLIX

Non-official titles used before the 97th Congress (1981-1983):

Congressional Serial Set

Congressional Series of United States Public Documents

Congressional Documents Series

Serial Number Set

Congressional Edition

Congressional Set

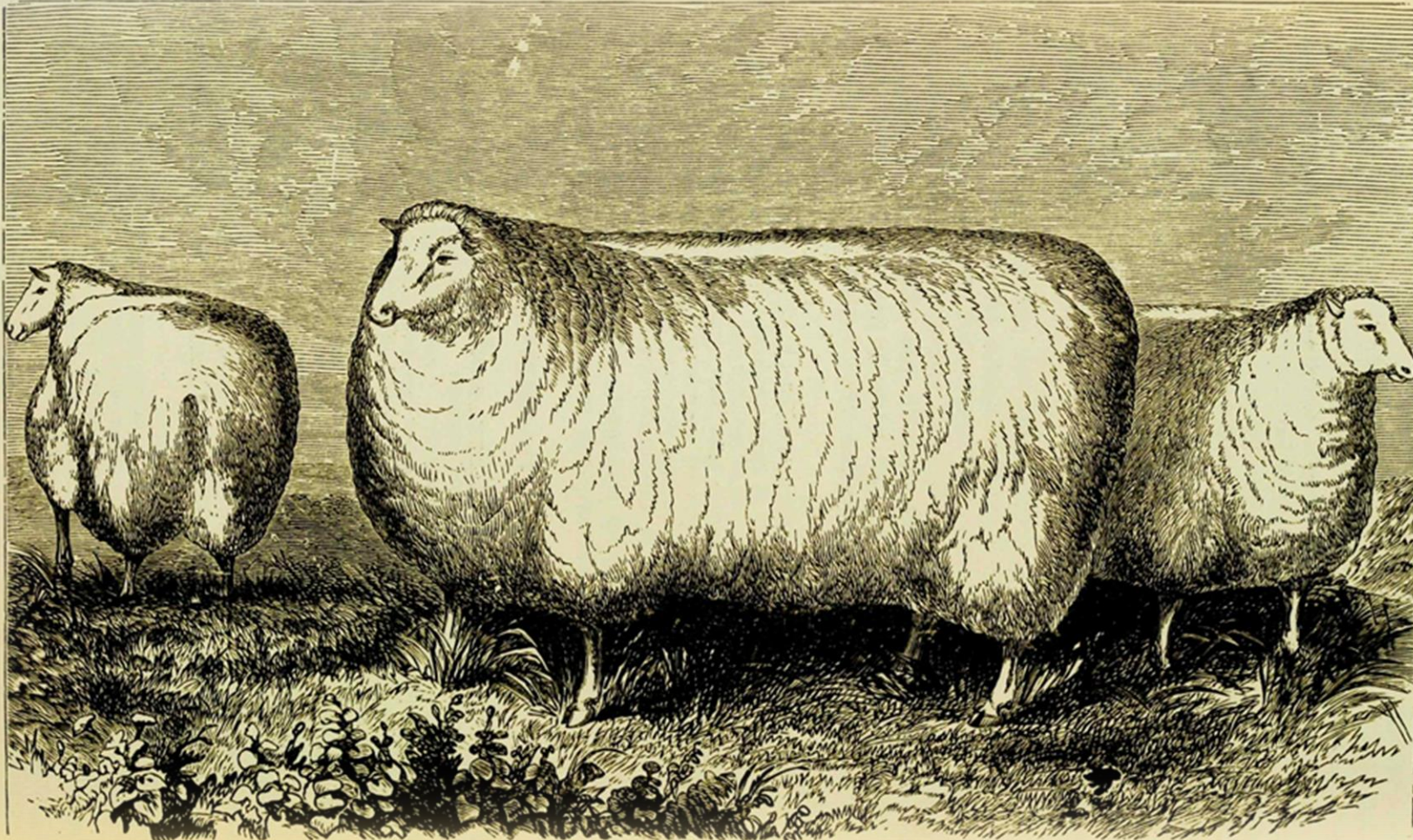
Congressional Series

Serial Set

before 1907: *Sheepbound Edition* or *Sheep Bound Set*



Wake up! While inventorying this monotonously bound iconic collection may be better for fighting insomnia than counting sheep, the content in the "sheep-bound set" might keep you awake.



IMPROVED KENTUCKY SHEEP.

Seriously...

this webinar will explore the depth and breath of information available in the United States Congressional Serial Set, while we also consider how its history both hinders and enables our ability to discover and access nearly 200 years of government information.



Image results for “congressional serial set volumes” search in duckduckgo.com. – Jan 2016



<https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/images/lwss.gif>

The Serial Set consists of

Four or more numbered series bound together by congress (later by congressional session) using continuous numbering, (1, 2, 3, 4, ... 15577, ...)

- Starting with volume 1 -- 15th Congress (1817) Series included: Senate Journals, House Journals, Senate Documents, and House Documents
- Currently the last assigned volume no. is 15577 -- 112th Congress, 2nd Session (2012) ending Series included: Senate Documents, Senate Treaty Documents, Senate Reports, Senate Executive Reports, House Documents, and House Reports
- 113th Congress, 1st Session (2013) continuing with volume 11578

Serial Set includes multiple series

Originally: Senate Journals, House Journals, Senate Documents, and House Documents

Currently 6 numbered series each published and classified separately:

Senate Documents	S.doc.	Y 1.1/3:
Senate Treaty Documents	Treaty doc.	Y 1.1/4:
Senate Reports	S.rpt.	Y 1.1/5:
Senate Executive Reports	Exec.rpt.	Y 1.1/6:
House Documents	H.doc.	Y 1.1/7:
House Reports	H.rpt.	Y 1.1/8:

What is in all those Serial Set volumes?



Picture Taken Fall 2004 by RCH
<http://rch.drwinters.net/SMSerialSet.jpg>

Serial Set – Newsbank/Readex Publication Categories

Annual Reports

Congressional Journals

Congressional Rules and Procedural Materials

Contested Election Materials

Court of Claims Reports

Executive Department Publications

Hearings

Impeachment Materials

Index to Documents and Reports

Legislative Report – Private Bills

Legislative Report – Public Bills

Memorials and Petitions

Monographs

Motions and Resolutions

Names Lists

Presidential Communications and Messages

Public Documents Catalogs

Sessional Volumes Indexes

Sessional Volume Tables of Documents

Treaties and Conventions

Serial Set content – Major sets and serials

House and Senate Journals

Stubbs, Walter. "Finding congressional journals in the U.S. Serial Set." *Journal of Government Information* 24.1 (Jan.-Feb. 1997): 39-45. Print.

Foreign Relations of the United States

Trautman, Maryellen. ["Foreign Relations of the U.S. \(FRUS\) -- Serial Set Correlation List,"](#) n.d. Web.

War of the Rebellion

["War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies."](#) *National Archives, Archives Library Information Center*, n.d. Web.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs Annual Reports

Bernholz, Charles D. and Anthony G. Carr. ["The Annual Reports of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs: Revisiting the Key to the United States Congressional Serial Set, 1824–1920."](#) *Government Information Quarterly* 26:3 (July 2009): 540–545. Web.

Serial Set – discovery tools

Hartwell, Mary Ann. [*Checklist of United States Public Documents 1789-1909, Congressional: To Close of Sixtieth Congress; Departmental: To End of Calendar Year 1909.*](#) 3rd ed.

Washington, D.C.: GPO. 1911. HathiTrust; Internet Archive; UNT Digital Library. Web.

[*“Numerical Lists of Documents and Reports.”*](#) (85th Congress, 1st Session (1957) - . *United States Government Publishing Office.* Web.

[*“Schedule of Serial Set Volumes.”*](#) (100th Congress, 1st Session (1987) - . *United States Government Publishing Office.* Web.

[*“U.S. Congressional Serial Set Inventory,”*](#) *University of North Texas, Government Documents Dept.* Last update April 28, 2014. Web.

[*“U.S. Serial Set: Selected Documents and Reports \[23rd-64th Congress\].”*](#) *The Library of Congress, American Memory.* Web.

Future of the Serial Set after 1995?



MERINO RAM "SEVILLE" (INFANTADO)

- Electronic access to born digital content began in 1995
- Distribution of Print Bound Serial Set to Selective Depository Libraries discontinued in 1997

Electronic Access to the 6 Series

Senate Documents

FDsys.gov (1995-Present & some earlier)

Senate Reports

Congress.gov (1995-Present)

FDsys.gov (1995-Present)

House Documents

FDsys.gov (1995-Present & some earlier)

House Reports

Congress.gov (1995-Present)

FDsys.gov (1995-Present)

Executive Reports

Congress.gov (1995-Present)

FDsys.gov (1995-Present)

Senate Treaty Documents

Congress.gov (submitted 1975-Present or pending as of 1975)

FDsys.gov (1995-Present and some earlier)

Congress.gov

The screenshot displays the Congress.gov website interface. At the top left is the logo "CONGRESS.GOV". To its right is a navigation menu with links for "Legislation", "Congressional Record", "Committees", "Members", and "Browse". In the top right corner, there is a "Sign In" link with a dropdown arrow. Below the navigation menu is a search section with "Quick" and "Advanced" search options, each with a magnifying glass icon. To the right of these are links for "Search Tips", "About", "Glossary", "Resources", "Help", and "Contact Us". A large search bar is positioned below the navigation, containing the text "Examples: hr5, sres9, 'health care'" and a search icon. A dropdown menu is open on the left side of the search bar, listing various categories: "Current Legislation" (highlighted in blue), "All Legislation", "All Sources", "--", "Members", "Congressional Record", "Committee Reports", "Nominations", "Treaty Documents", and "Executive Communications". Two red arrows point from the "Current Legislation" and "Committee Reports" items in the dropdown menu towards the search bar. On the right side of the page, there is a section titled "Bill Searches and Lists" with several links: "Search by Number", "Introduced [114th] | Active Legislation (Senate.gov)", "Public Laws | U.S. Code", and "Appropriations".

CONGRESS.GOV

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Committee Reports

Nominations

Treaty Documents

Executive Communications

Examples: hr5, sres9, "health care" 🔍

Bill Searches and Lists

[Search by Number](#)

[Introduced \[114th\] | Active Legislation \(Senate.gov\)](#)

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Congress.gov

Refined by: [Committee Reports](#) ✕

1-25 of 13,480 Sort by [Reported Date - Newest to Oldest](#) GO Results per page [25](#) GO

Limit Your Search

Check all

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- Members [2,181]
- Congressional Record [545,527]
- Committee Reports** [13,480]
- Nominations [32,286]
- Treaty Documents [755]
- Executive Communications [116,255]

Congress

Check all

- 14 (2015-2016) [506]
- 13 (2013-2014) [1,094]
- 12 (2011-2012) [1,056]
- 11 (2009-2010) [1,131]
- 10 (2007-2008) [1,537]
- 09 (2005-2006) [1,185]
- 08 (2003-2004) [1,319]
- 07 (2001-2002) [1,215]
- 06 (1999-2000) [1,634]
- 05 (1997-1998) [1,345]
- 04 (1995-1996) [1,358]

[Show less >](#)

- COMMITTEE REPORT**
[H. Rept. 114-392](#) — 114th Congress (2015-2016)
NORTH KOREA SANCTIONS ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015
Accompanies: [H.R. 757](#)
Committee: [House Foreign Affairs](#)
Date: 01/11/2016
- COMMITTEE REPORT**
[H. Rept. 114-393](#) — 114th Congress (2015-2016)
IRAN TERROR FINANCE TRANSPARENCY ACT
Accompanies: [H.R. 3662](#)
Committee: [House Foreign Affairs](#)
Date: 01/11/2016
- COMMITTEE REPORT**
[H. Rept. 114-395](#) — 114th Congress (2015-2016)
PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL (H.R. 1644) TO AMEND THE SURFACE MINING CONTROL AND RECLAMATION ACT OF 1977 TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY IN THE...
Accompanies: [H.Res. 583](#)
Committee: [House Rules](#)
Date: 01/11/2016
- COMMITTEE REPORT**
[H. Rept. 114-391](#) — 114th Congress (2015-2016)
FOIA OVERSIGHT AND IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 2015
Accompanies: [H.R. 653](#)
Committee: [House Oversight and Government Reform](#)
Date: 01/07/2016

Refined by: [Treaty Documents](#) ✕

1-25 of 755 Sort by [Latest Action - Newest to Oldest](#) GO Results per page [25](#) GO

Limit Your Search

Check all

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- Members [2,181]
- Congressional Record [545,527]
- Committee Reports [13,480]
- Nominations [32,286]
- Treaty Documents** [755]
- Executive Communications [116,255]

Congress

Check all

- 14 (2015-2016) [53]
- 13 (2013-2014) [53]
- 12 (2011-2012) [50]
- 11 (2009-2010) [49]
- 10 (2007-2008) [79]
- 09 (2005-2006) [76]
- 08 (2003-2004) [77]
- 07 (2001-2002) [69]
- 06 (1999-2000) [122]
- 05 (1997-1998) [100]
- 04 (1995-1996) [100]
- 03 (1993-1994) [92]
- 02 (1991-1992) [101]
- 01 (1989-1990) [65]
- 00 (1987-1988) [86]
- 99 (1985-1986) [80]
- 98 (1983-1984) [82]
- 97 (1981-1982) [92]
- 96 (1979-1980) [102]
- 95 (1977-1978) [57]
- 94 (1975-1976) [58]

- TREATY DOCUMENT**
[Treaty with Jordan on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters](#)
Senate Consideration of Treaty Document 114-4
Text of Treaty Document: [TXT](#) | [PDF](#)
Date Received from President: 12/08/2015 - 114th Congress (2015-2016)
Treaty Topic: Mutual Legal Assistance
Latest Senate Action: 12/08/2015 - 114th Congress (2015-2016) - Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations by unanimous consent removing the Injunction of secrecy. ([All Actions](#))
- TREATY DOCUMENT**
[Protocol Amending the Tax Convention with Japan](#)
Senate Consideration of Treaty Document 114-1
Text of Treaty Document: [TXT](#) | [PDF](#)
Date Received from President: 04/13/2015 - 114th Congress (2015-2016)
Treaty Topic: Taxation
Latest Senate Action: 11/10/2015 - 114th Congress (2015-2016) - Committee on Foreign Relations. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. ([All Actions](#))
- TREATY DOCUMENT**
[Treaty with Algeria on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters](#)
Senate Consideration of Treaty Document 114-3
Text of Treaty Document: [TXT](#) | [PDF](#)
Date Received from President: 10/05/2015 - 114th Congress (2015-2016)
Treaty Topic: Extradition and Criminal Assistance
Latest Senate Action: 10/05/2015 - 114th Congress (2015-2016) - Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations by unanimous consent removing the Injunction of secrecy. ([All Actions](#))
- TREATY DOCUMENT**
[Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia](#)
Senate Consideration of Treaty Document 114-2
Text of Treaty Document: [TXT](#) | [PDF](#)
Date Received from President: 04/27/2015 - 114th Congress (2015-2016)
Treaty Topic: Arms Control
Latest Senate Action: 04/27/2015 - 114th Congress (2015-2016) - Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations by unanimous consent removing the Injunction of secrecy. ([All Actions](#))
- TREATY DOCUMENT**
[Protocol Amending Tax Convention with Swiss Confederation](#)
Senate Consideration of Treaty Document 112-1

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- [Economic Indicators](#)
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- [United States Code](#)
- [United States Courts Opinions](#)
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CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS

The Congressional Documents collection consists of House Documents, Senate Documents, and Senate Treaty Documents. House and Senate documents contain various kinds of materials ordered to be printed by both chambers of Congress. Documents can include reports of executive departments and agencies, as well as committee prints, that were ordered to be printed as documents. Senate Treaty Documents contain the text of a treaty as it is submitted to the U. S. Senate for ratification by the President of the United States. [About Congressional Documents.](#)

- 114th Congress (2015 - 2016)
- 113th Congress (2013 - 2014)
- 112th Congress (2011 - 2012)
- 111th Congress (2009 - 2010)
- 110th Congress (2007 - 2008)
- 109th Congress (2005 - 2006)
- 108th Congress (2003 - 2004)
- 107th Congress (2001 - 2002)
- 106th Congress (1999 - 2000)
- 105th Congress (1997 - 1998)
- 104th Congress (1995 - 1996)
- 103rd Congress (1993 - 1994)
- Senate Documents (S. Doc.)

All Results

S. Doc. 103-32 - First Lady JACQUELINE KENNEDY ONASSIS Memorial Tributes in the One Hundred Third Congress of the...
Wednesday, June 29, 1994. [PDF](#) | [Text](#) | [More](#)

S. Doc. 103-6 - Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis, and Interpretation - 1992 Edition
Monday, June 29, 1992. [PDF](#) | [More](#)

- 101st Congress (1989 - 1990)

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CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS

Congressional reports originate from congressional committees and deal with proposed legislation and issues under investigation. There are two types of reports:

House and Senate Reports: Reports of congressional committees concerning proposed legislation and/or contain findings on matters under investigation.

Senate Executive Reports: Reports of the Committee on Foreign Relations relating to treaties between the United States and foreign nations which have been submitted to the U.S. Senate for ratification, or are reports of various Senate committees regarding nomination of individuals.

[About Congressional Reports.](#)

- 114th Congress (2015 - 2016)
- 113th Congress (2013 - 2014)
- 112th Congress (2011 - 2012)
- 111th Congress (2009 - 2010)
- 110th Congress (2007 - 2008)
- 109th Congress (2005 - 2006)
- 108th Congress (2003 - 2004)
- 107th Congress (2001 - 2002)
- 106th Congress (1999 - 2000)
- 105th Congress (1997 - 1998)
- 104th Congress (1995 - 1996)
- Executive Report (Ex. Rept.)
- House Report (H. Rept.)
- Senate Report (S. Rept.)

Selected Bibliography

DeLong, Suzanne. "What is in the United States Serial Set?" *Journal of Government Information* 23.2 (1996): 123-135. Print.

Imholtz, A. A., "The printing and distribution of the Serial Set: A preliminary contribution to 19th century Congressional publishing," *Dttp: Documents to the People* 31 (2003), 8–17. Print.

["Library Resources for Administrative History: Congressional Serial Set."](#) *National Archives, Archives Library Information Center*, n.d. Web.

McKinney, Richard J. ["An Overview of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set."](#) October 2006. PDF-Web.

Saunders, Virginia. ["U.S. Congressional Serial Set: What It Is and Its History."](#) 1998. Web.

["U.S. Serial Set."](#) *The Library of Congress, American Memory*, n.d. Web.

Sevetson, Andrea. ["An Insider's View of the U.S. Serial Set."](#) *ProQuest*. 2011. PDF – Web.

QUESTIONS?

Thank you!



Sheep Illustrations:

Serial Set Vol. No. 1827, S.Exec.Doc. 25. & Serial Set Vol. No. 3124, H.Misc.Doc. 105. Newsbank. Web.