I. What Congressional Publications Can I Access through ProQuest Congressional?

ProQuest Congressional provides comprehensive access to a variety of Congressional publications. In general, the most important types of Congressional publications that can be accessed through ProQuest Congressional are as follows:

- **House and Senate Reports**

  Committee reports reflect the recommendations about a bill from a House or Senate committee to an entire Chamber of Congress.\(^1\) Frequently, committee reports will contain an analysis of the text of a bill, as well as a description of the background and reason for the bill.\(^2\) Conference committee reports provide particularly pertinent information, as these are created when differing versions of a bill need to be reconciled into a compromised bill between the House and Senate.\(^3\) These documents are designated by the abbreviation “H. Rpt.” or “S. Rpt.”

  **Congressional Coverage:** ProQuest Congressional’s coverage of House and Senate reports starts in 1817 and includes full-text of most reports from 1990 forward.\(^4\)

- **Committee hearings**

  Transcripts of testimony from witnesses on various subjects related to proposed legislation, and supplemental materials such as reports, exhibits, and

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correspondence to help Congressional committees gather information on an issue are included in the committee hearings resources available through Congressional.\(^5\)

**Congressional coverage:** Committee hearings are generally available from 1824 to present, with varying coverage dates depending on the Chamber of Congress and whether the hearing is published or unpublished.\(^6\) See ProQuest Congressional’s “Content Coverage Chart” for more specific detail on committee hearing coverage dates and update schedules.

- **Congressional Record and its predecessor publications**

  Debates on bills, as well as other remarks and statements from Members of Congress that occur on the House or Senate floor, can provide researchers with an understanding of arguments made in favor of or against a piece of legislation.\(^7\) The *Congressional Record* is the official documentation of proceedings and debates on the Congressional floor.\(^8\) Congressional provides access to both the Daily and Permanent Editions of the *Congressional Record*, as well its predecessor publications (the *Annals of Congress* (1789-1824), the *Register of Debates* (1824-1837), and the *Congressional Globe* (1833-1873)).\(^9\) The Daily Edition is updated the day after each...
day that Congress is in session, whereas the Permanent Edition is not updated until after a session ends. Therefore, if you are searching for recent Congressional floor activity and debates, you want to search the Daily Edition as opposed to the Permanent Edition.

**Congressional Coverage:** Between the *Congressional Record* and its predecessor publications, ProQuest Congressional provides access to Congressional floor activity beginning in 1789. ProQuest Congressional’s coverage of the Daily edition of the *Congressional Record* begins in 1985.

- **Text of Bills**

  The text of the legislation itself provides important insight for federal legislative history researchers, particularly in determining legislative intent. While Congressional provides bill text from 1989 forward through the Bill Text and Bill Tracking features, the text of bills is also often included other Congressional publications, such as committee reports.

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**Congressional coverage:** Bill text and tracking is updated daily when Congress is in session.\(^\text{15}\)

- **Other Congressional Publications**

  In addition to the four key types of publications previously described, ProQuest Congressional provides access to the following other types of publications. See ProQuest Congressional’s “Content Coverage Chart” for more specific detail on coverage dates and update schedules for these publications.

  - **House and Senate Documents** (1789 – Present) - Includes documents issued by the full House and Senate chambers or Congressional committees, Presidential veto messages or messages proposing legislation, executive branch agencies special reports, memorial tributes, and other information.\(^\text{16}\) ProQuest Congressional’s coverage of House and Senate documents starts in 1789 and includes full-text of most documents from 1995 forward.\(^\text{17}\)

  - **U.S. Serial Set** (1789 – Present) – The official Congressionally-directed collection of government publications, published serially from 1789 forward.\(^\text{18}\)

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- **Serial Set Maps** (1789 – Present) – Over 62,000 high-resolution maps searchable by map name, geographic subject, map relief method, and title.\(^{19}\)

- **Legislative Histories** (1969 – Present) – Compiled legislative histories that include slip laws, enacted and related bills, debates, committee reports, prints, and hearings, House and Senate documents, and other documents.\(^{20}\)

- **Member and Committee Information** – Congressional provides information about Congressional members and committees, including committee membership, committee rosters and schedules, member voting record, bill sponsorships, member biographical information, member financial disclosure statements, and member demographic information (e.g., party affiliation, gender, alma mater, etc.).\(^{21}\)

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