

Resources on Congress

Almanac of American Politics. Michael Barone and Grant Ujifusa. National Journal Group Inc. Published every two years; most recent edition published in 2001 (covers the 107th Congress). 1,632 pp.

Provides in-depth biographies of governors and members of Congress. Includes political profiles of the fifty states, election summaries and statistics, group ratings, and key votes. Similar to CQ's *Politics in America* (see entry), but is a better source for state political information.

The Almanac of the Unelected: Staff of the U.S. Congress. Steve Piacente and Hillary Eigen, editors. Bernan Press. Published annually. 610 pp.

Provides one-page biographies of selected House and Senate committee staff—about 700 staffers in all. The biographies discuss the staffers' areas of expertise and legislative areas, and include brief biographical information and photographs. Arranged by committees and indexed by personal names. See also the entry for the *Congressional Staff Directory*.

American Congressional Dictionary, 3rd ed. Walter Kravitz. CQ Press. 2001. 280 pp.

Provides definitions of almost 900 congressional terms; most of the terms deal with congressional procedure and rules. Many of the explanations discuss the difference in procedure and terminology between the House and Senate, and the historical origins of the term are often explained.

Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1996. CQ Press. 1996. 2,108 pp.

Provides paragraph-long biographies for each member of Congress from 1774 through 1996. Lists basic biographical information, committee chairmanships, leadership and party positions, and key biographical works about members (when available). Also provides a listing of each congressional delegation (in state order) since 1789.

An older version of this directory that is current through 1989 is available from the Government Printing Office (GPO). The older version, which is not quite as detailed as the CQ directory but provides the basic paragraph-long biography, is called *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-1989*. GPO's [Biographical Directory](#) is also available on the Web. In the Web version only, biographical entries are updated for the current Congress, and entries for Senators include bibliographical resources.

Committees in the U.S. Congress. 6 vols. CQ Press. 1993 and 2002. Each volume is approximately 1,000 pages.

In 1993 CQ published *Committees in the U.S. Congress, 1947-1992* (a 2-volume set) and in 2002 *Committees in Congress, 1789-1946* (4 volumes) was released. These books provide lists of House and Senate committee memberships by the name of the committee and by the name of the member of Congress. They indicate committee chairmen and ranking members as well as any changes to the committee membership during a committee. Although these volumes do NOT contain subcommittee information, they are an incredible resource.

The volumes covering 1947-1992 are out of print.

Congress A to Z: A Ready Reference Encyclopedia, 3rd ed. CQ Press. 1999. 592 pages.

A condensed, simplified version of ***Guide to Congress*** (see entry) that has been broken out in encyclopedia-style entries. Entries are written at a high-school level.

Congress and the Nation. 10 vols. CQ Press. Published every four years; most recent edition published in 2002.

Provides overviews and summaries of key issues and legislative proposals, organized chronologically within subject chapters. Volume II through the current volume correspond to the four years of a presidential administration. An excellent one-stop source for historical overviews, names, dates, and issues. See also the entries for ***CQ Weekly*** and ***CQ Almanac***.

Volume I	1945-1964	2,015 pp.
Volume II	1965-1968	1,120 pp.
Volume III	1969-1972	1,178 pp.
Volume IV	1973-1976	1,217 pp.
Volume V	1977-1980	1,240 pp.
Volume VI	1981-1984	1,162 pp.
Volume VII	1985-1988	1,194 pp.
Volume VIII	1989-1992	1,308 pp.
Volume IX	1993-1996	1,275 pp.
Volume X	1997-2000	1,100 pp.

Congressional Digest. Congressional Digest Corp. Published ten times a year.

Provides a pro and con discussion of key issues, such as drunk driving, Puerto Rico political status, FDA reform, and the United Nations. Each issue is dedicated to a single topic; a question is posed (“Should Congress Pass a .08 Blood-Alcohol Concentration Drunk Driving Standard?”) and answered, often by members of Congress.

Congressional Directory. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. Published every two years; most recent edition published in 2002 (covers the 107th Congress). 1,184 pp. Senate Publication 107-20. Also [available](#) on the Web.

The official biographical resource of the U.S. Congress. Contains biographies of members of Congress and the judiciary; committee membership rosters; directory information for congressional offices, the executive branch and independent agencies, the judiciary, diplomatic offices, and international organizations; historical and statistical data; congressional district maps and maps of the Capitol; and press gallery information. This may be the best single volume for the money, although it is not updated like the ***Congressional Yellow Book*** and the ***Congressional Staff Directory*** (see entries). The ***United States Government Manual*** may be considered the executive branch counterpart (see entry).

Congressional Districts in the 1990s: A Portrait of America. Jon Preimesberger and David Tarr, editors. CQ Press. 1993. 1,106 pp.

Provides state and district profiles that include a summary of the political scene; election returns for the past several elections; and demographic data, such as population, ancestry and race, newspapers and television stations, military installations, and largest employers. Contains maps and an essay on reapportionment and redistricting.

Congressional Handbook, U.S. Senate Edition. Prepared by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, the Secretary of the Senate, the Senate Sergeant at Arms, and other Senate and congressional offices. Most current edition published in 1996. Limited distribution; internal congressional publication.

Describes Senate office procedures and resources. Covers office administration, financial management, and information management; describes the legislative procedure and available legislative resources available to Senate offices; discusses how offices perform casework and grants and projects work; and includes discussions on the role of the receptionist and press office. See also the entry for ***Members' Congressional Handbook***, the House counterpart publication.

Congressional Information Service (CIS)

CIS provides the most complete indices to congressional materials. The indices cover congressional hearings (published and unpublished) and witnesses, congressional reports, documents, committee prints, and treaties. Indices from 1970 on include abstracts of each document that summarize the content. CIS also offers a microfiche collection of the full text of congressional materials dating back to 1789. This is an excellent (and expensive) series that is vital in identifying and locating congressional materials.

Congressional Practice and Procedure: A Reference, Research, and Legislative Guide.

Charles Tiefer. Greenwood Press. 1989. 1,046 pp.

An extremely useful and detailed look at congressional practices and procedures, from introduction of bills to conferences. One of the most helpful aspects of this book is the extensive footnotes to official, academic, and journal sources, which provide a terrific starting point for further research.

Congressional Record. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. Published daily when one or both houses of Congress are in session. Also [available](#) on the Web.

The ***Congressional Record*** is the edited transcript of House and Senate proceedings. At the back of each ***Record*** is the *Daily Digest*, which is an index to the contents of the ***Record***. The *Daily Digest* outlines chamber action (including bills introduced, reports filed, and bills considered) and provides page numbers to where in the ***Record*** these actions can be found. The *Daily Digest* also provides summaries of what happened in committee hearings and markups (and includes witness names and bill numbers) and lists committee meetings for the following day. Subject and bill number [indexes](#) are issued every two weeks throughout the year; an annual index is printed several years later.

Congressional Roll Call. CQ Press. Published annually; most recent edition covers 2001.

Back issues from some years are available.

A compilation of all House and Senate roll-call votes. Contains a short description of each vote, the party breakdown of the vote, and each member's vote. There is a subject index, a summary of key votes, and interest group ratings and presidential support scores.

Congressional Staff Directory. CQ Press. Published three times a year in the spring, summer, and fall.

Issued since 1959, the ***Congressional Staff Directory*** provides directory information for members' Washington and home offices, committee assignments, member biographies, congressional district data, and, perhaps most importantly, brief biographies of more than 3,000 staff. The ***Almanac of the Unelected*** (see entry) has lengthier biographies with photographs, but it is far more selective than the ***Congressional Staff Directory***.

Congressional Yellow Book. Leadership Directories, Inc. Published quarterly.

One of the better directories of member and committee office information. In addition to directory information, the book provides a staffer's job title and area of expertise, and provides listings for task forces, caucuses, party organizations, and congressional support agencies. Another plus is this directory is published quarterly. See also the entry for the ***Congressional Staff Directory*** and the ***Congressional Directory***.

CQ Almanac. CQ Press. Published annually; most recent edition covers 2001.

The ***CQ Almanac*** is arranged in topical chapter format, providing an overview of the year's issues and political action. This annual volume does not replace the year's ***CQ Weeklys*** (see entry), which contain far more detail than the condensed ***Almanac*** articles. The ***Almanac*** is indexed by subject and roll-call votes, and contains vote charts with individual voting records for all House and Senate roll-call votes. See also the entry for ***Congress and the Nation***.

CQ Daily Monitor. Congressional Quarterly Inc. Published Monday through Friday when Congress is in session.

A 15-20 page newsletter issued daily when Congress is in session. Provides excellent summaries of Capitol Hill legislative and political activities. The ***Monitor*** also lists future committee schedules and other congressionally related meetings and seminars.

CQ Weekly. Congressional Quarterly Inc. Published weekly.

The "bible" on Congress since 1945, this weekly magazine provides unbiased articles on key legislative issues, organizational issues, personalities on Capitol Hill, and politics and elections. Unlike newspapers, the ***CQ Weekly*** provides bill numbers, describes committee and floor vote action and amendments, and provides floor vote tallies that show how each member of Congress voted that week. A subject and roll-call index is issued quarterly and cumulated annually. See also the entries for ***CQ Almanac*** and ***Congress and the Nation***.

The Encyclopedia of the United States Congress. 4 vols. Edited by Donald C. Bacon, Roger H. Davidson, and Morton Keller. Simon & Schuster Academic Reference. 1995. Out of print.

Contains more than 1,000 articles written by congressional scholars covering topics such as the constitutional powers of Congress, the history of Congress, legislative terms and procedures, Congress' relationship with the executive and judicial branches, elections and reapportionment, congressional culture and mores, and the Capitol and its surroundings. Major congressional personalities and landmark laws are profiled. An excellent resource that is particularly useful for finding summaries of major pieces of legislation and for the legislative accomplishments of many members of Congress. See also the entry for ***Guide to Congress***.

Guide to Congress, 5th ed. 2 vols. CQ Press. 1999. 1,200 pp.

Covers the history, development, powers, politics, bureaucracy, and procedures of Congress. Well documented, well organized, and extremely detailed. See also the entry for *The Encyclopedia of the United States Congress*.

The Hill. Capitol Hill Publishing Corp. Published every Wednesday.

A weekly newspaper on the politics and personalities of Capitol Hill. The articles are well written and cover a wide range of political issues and local Capitol Hill news. Published since September 1994, *The Hill* covers much the same turf as *Roll Call* (see entry).

Historical Almanac of the United States Senate: A Series of "Bicentennial Minutes" Presented to the Senate During the 100th Congress. Sen. Bob Dole. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. 1989. 312 pp. Senate Document 100-35.

A series of short speeches delivered by Sen. Dole to commemorate the Senate's bicentennial. The speeches cover the origins of certain Senate practices and dramatic events in the Senate's past and are arranged in chronological order. The book is very useful for a brief overview of an important historical event or individual connected to the Senate. See also the entry for Sen. Byrd's series, *The Senate: 1789-1992*.

History of the United States House of Representatives, 1789-1994. George B. Galloway. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. 1994. 424 pp. House Document 103-324. Out of print.

One of several competent histories of the development of the House.

House Rules and Manual. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. 2001. 1,3538 pp. House Document 106-320. Also [available](#) on the Web.

Contains the fundamental source material for parliamentary procedure in the House.

How to Research Congress. Fenton S. Martin and Robert U. Goehlert. CQ Press. 1996. 107 pp.

Describes primary and secondary resources for researching Congress, including almanacs, bibliographical directories, encyclopedias, indexes, online services, journals, and newspapers.

Impeachable Offenses: A Documentary History from 1787 to the Present. Emily Field Van Tassel and Paul Finkelman. CQ Press. 1999. 326 pages.

Examines the proceedings and precedents for all federal impeachments (members of Congress, the judiciary, the cabinet, and president). Using excerpts from major primary sources, the authors evaluate what has and has not constituted an impeachable offense, and they set each case in the historical context of its time, provide constitutional analysis, trace the evolution of impeachment, and outline the Senate's trial procedures. Censure is also discussed.

Landmark Documents on the U.S. Congress. Raymond W. Smock. CQ Press. 1999. 642 pp.

A collection of 190 primary source documents, ranging over time from 1787 to 1998, that focus on the history, development, reform efforts, and procedures of Congress.

Members' Congressional Handbook: Regulations Governing the Member's Representational Allowance of the U.S. House of Representatives. Prepared by the Committee on House Oversight (now called Committee on House Administration). Most recent edition published in 1999. Limited distribution; internal congressional publication. Also [available](#) on the House Administration Committee Web site.

Contains the regulations governing the expenditures from allowances provided to pay for clerk hire, official expenses, and official mail. See also ***Congressional Handbook, U.S. Senate Edition.***

National Journal. National Journal Group Inc. Published weekly.

One of the two weekly magazines (along with ***CQ Weekly***) that covers legislative and executive branch actions. The focus is primarily on major policy issues before federal agencies and the response of Congress to those issues.

Politics in America. CQ Press. Published every two years; most recent edition published in 2001 (covers the 107th Congress). 1,250 pp.

Provides in-depth biographies of each member of Congress, focusing on the member's legislative priorities and personal style and achievements. Includes state and congressional district profiles, key votes, campaign finance data, interest group ratings, and election data. Similar to ***Almanac of American Politics*** (see entry).

Riddick's Senate Procedure: Precedents and Practices. Floyd M. Riddick and Alan S. Frumin. 1,608 pp. 1992. Senate Document 101-28. Out of print.

A compilation of the rules of the Senate, portions of laws that affect Senate procedure, rulings by the presiding officer, and established practices of the Senate. The book is arranged alphabetically by subject matter and is cross-referenced and indexed. There is an extensive appendix that presents the terminology used by senators and the presiding officer for various purposes. Limited copies of the 1992 edition were distributed to all Senate offices by the Committee on Rules and Administration and the Secretary of the Senate.

Roll Call. Roll Call. Published every Monday and Thursday.

An excellent twice-weekly newspaper that provides well-written articles on the issues, politics, and personalities of Capitol Hill. ***Roll Call*** has evolved from its less-than-distinguished beginnings in the 1950s into a well-respected and often-cited source. See also the entry for ***The Hill.***

The Senate: 1789-1989, Addresses on the History of the United States Senate. 4 vols. Sen. Robert C. Byrd. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. Senate Document 100-20.

An extremely valuable set that details the development of the U.S. Senate from its earliest beginnings. The first volume contains 39 addresses given by Sen. Byrd covering the Senate's chronological development from 1789 to recent times. The second volume is organized topically, covering the Senate's powers, leadership, organization, setting, and Sen. Byrd's career. The third volume contains the full text of important speeches delivered by U.S. senators since 1830. The fourth volume contains a wealth of statistical data on Congress. These volumes will

remain the standard history of the U.S. Senate for years to come. (See also the entry for Sen. Dole's *Historical Almanac of the United States Senate*.)

Volume I	Addresses on the United States Senate	800 pp. 1988
Volume II	Addresses on the United States Senate	682 pp. 1991
Volume III	Classic Speeches 1830 - 1993	788 pp. 1994
Volume IV	Historical Statistics 1789 - 1992	739 pp. 1993

Senate Manual: Containing the Standing Rules, Orders, Laws, and Resolutions Affecting the Business of the United States Senate. Prepared by Lory Breneman, Committee on Rules and Administration, U.S. Senate. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. 2000. 1,176 pp. Senate Document 106-1. Also [available](#) on the Web.

The bulk of this volume contains the standing rules of the Senate (which are indexed and cross-referenced), and laws relating to the Senate, standing orders of the Senate, regulations for the Senate wing of the Capitol, rules for impeachment trials, and rules for conferences and conference reports. There are also historical documents (such as the U.S. Constitution) and statistical data (such as a list of all senators and presidents pro tempore). If there are changes in the Senate rules during the course of a Congress, the Rules Committee usually issues a revised edition of the rules, published separately as a Senate document. Copies of this volume are distributed automatically to all Senate offices by the Committee on Rules and Administration. Additional copies are available in limited supply from the Senate Document Room and the Rules Committee, and may also be purchased from the Government Printing Office.

The Senate of the United States: A Bicentennial History. Richard A. Baker. Krieger Publishing Co. 1988. 261 pp.

A history of the U.S. Senate that includes excerpts from historical documents and a selected bibliography.

The Senate of the United States: Its History and Practice. 2 vols. George H. Haynes. Russell & Russell, New York, NY. 1938 (reissued in 1960). 1,118 pp. Out of print.

First published in 1938, this two-volume set is a classic study of the historical development of the U.S. Senate.

The United States House of Representatives. James T. Currie. Krieger Publishing Co. 1988. 239 pp.

A history of the U.S. House of Representatives that includes excerpts from historical documents and a selected bibliography.

Vital Statistics on Congress. Norman J. Ornstein, Thomas E. Mann, and Michael J. Malbin, editors. AEI Press. Published every two years; most recent edition published in 2002. 300 pp.

This very useful resource pulls together a wide range of statistical information. There are eight broad chapters that cover topics such as congressional workload, elections, committees, voting alignments, and campaign finance.