Help! I’m an Accidental Government Information Librarian

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Upcoming Accidental Librarian Webinars

• 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!

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University of Kansas Libraries

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

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.
Seriously...
	his 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.

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 Execute 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:

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What is in all those Serial Set volumes?
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

Foreign Relations of the United States

War of the Rebellion

Commissioner of Indian Affairs Annual Reports
Serial Set – discovery tools


Future of the Serial Set after 1995?

- 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


QUESTIONS?

Sheep Illustrations:

Thank you!