Fun With FDSys
A New, Improved Way to Find Online Federal Government Information

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http://www.library.wisc.edu/guides/govdocs/index.htm
FD-Sys

• Pronounced “F D Sys” or “Fid Sys” or ...
• Stands for “Federal Digital System”
• Produced by Government Printing Office
• [http://www.fdsys.gov](http://www.fdsys.gov)
• “…provides **public access** to Government information submitted by Congress and Federal agencies and **preserved** as technology changes.”  (emphasis added)
FDSys & GPO Access

- Gradually replacing GPO Access (which is 15+ years old)  http://www.gpoaccess.gov
- GPO Access search:  http://tiny.cc/vo3vc
- FDSys search:  http://tiny.cc/87x6x
FD Sys & Thomas

FD Sys

• Produced by GPO
• Most collections/titles go back to 1994 (104th Congress)
• Contains about 30 collections/titles, from all three branches of government, with more being added

Thomas

• Produced by Library of Congress
• Most collections/titles go back to 1989 (101st Congress)
• Contains about a dozen collections/titles, all from Congress
What FDSys (http://www.fdsys.gov) contains

• Everything in GPO is being moved into FDSys (list of material currently on GPO Access: http://www.gpoaccess.gov/databases.html)

• Migration complete by end of 2010; until then, all material on GPO Access will be maintained.
Collections in FD Sys now

- Budget of the United States Government (Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011)
- Compilation of Presidential Documents (1993 to present)
FDsys collections, continued

• Congressional Bills (103rd Congress to present)  L
• Congressional Calendars (104th Congress to present)  L
• Congressional Committee Prints (105th Congress to present)  L
• Congressional Directory (105th Congress to present)  L
• Congressional Documents (104th Congress to present)  L
FD Sys collections, continued

• Congressional Hearings (105th Congress to present) L
• Congressional Record (Bound) (1999 to 2001) L
• Congressional Record (Daily) (1994 to present) L
• Congressional Record Index (Daily) (1983 to present) L
• Congressional Reports (104th Congress to present) L
FDSys collections, continued

• Economic Indicators (1995 to present)  E
• Economic Report of the President (1995 to present)  E
• Federal Register (1994 to present)  E
• GAO Reports and Comptroller General Decisions (1994 to 2008)  E
• House Rules and Manual (104th to 111th Congresses)  L
FDSys collections, continued

- History of Bills (1983 to present) L
- List of CFR Sections Affected (1997 to present) E
- Precedents of the U.S. House of Representatives (Cannon, Deschler, and Hinds) L
- Public and Private Laws (104th Congress to present) L
- Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States (1991 to 2005) E
FD Sys collections, continued

- Senate Manual (104th, 106th, 107th, and 110th Congresses)  L
- Supreme Court Decisions 1937-1975 (FLITE) Bulk Data (1937 to 1975)  J
- United States Statutes at Large (2003 to 2006)  L
GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) provides public access to government information submitted by Congress and Federal agencies and preserved as technology changes.

The migration of information from GPO Access into FDsys will be complete in 2010. The migration is occurring on a collection-by-collection basis. Collections currently available on FDsys are:

- Budget of the United States Government (Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011)
- Compilation of Presidential Documents (1993 to Present)
- Commerce Business Daily Bulk Data (1990 to 2001)
- Congressional Bills (103rd Congress to Present)
- Congressional Calendars (104th Congress to Present)
- Congressional Committee Prints (105th Congress to Present)
- Congressional Directory (105th Congress to Present)
- Congressional Documents (104th Congress to Present)
- Congressional Hearings (105th Congress to Present)
- Congressional Record (Bound) (1999 to 2001)
- Congressional Record (Daily) (1994 to Present)
- Congressional Record Index (Daily) (1993 to Present)
- Congressional Reports (104th Congress to Present)
- Economic Indicators (1995 to Present)
- Economic Report of the President (1995 to Present)
- Federal Register (1994 to Present)
- GAO Reports and Comptroller General Decisions (1994 to 2008)
- House Rules and Manual (104th to 111th Congresses)
- History of Bills (1993 to Present)
- List of CFR Sections Affected (1997 to Present)
- Proceedings of the U.S. House of Representatives (Cannon, Dye, and Hinds)
- Public and Private Laws (104th Congress to Present)
- Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States (1991 to 2005)
- Senate Manual (104th, 106th, 107th, and 110th Congresses)
- Supreme Court Decisions 1937-1975 (FLITE) Bulk Date (1937 to 1975)
- United States Statutes at Large (2003 to 2006)

For more information on FDsys.

Information about upcoming collections.

Download the Code of Federal Regulations in XWL.

Download multiple issues of the Federal Register in XWL.

Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2011.


H.R. 3590 (ENR), Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

H.R. 4872 (ENR), Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Debates: H1654 | H1891
Vote: Roll No. 186

Public Law 111-5, American Recovery
Search operators

- **and** – a space or the word AND (case-insensitive)
- **or** – the word OR (case-insensitive)
- **not** – the word NOT or a minus sign
- **Exact phrase** – “double quotes” around phrase
- **Proximity** – near/# - for example, *health near/5 insurance*
- **Ordered proximity** – before/# - for example, *President before/3 Obama*
- **Truncation** – asterisk – for example, *health* finds healthy, healthful, etc.
When looking at “more information” for a document, you can

• Browse the collection you’re searching
• Find more information about the collection you’re searching
• “View in” [actually, just open] *Catalog of U.S. Government Publications*
• “Find at a local federal depository library” [just opens the window for the main page for depository library directory]
When looking at “more information” for a document, you can (continued)

• “Purchase your own copy” [just opens the window for the main page of the GPO Bookstore]

• Email a link to the page [need to include a “from” email]
Printing and downloading documents

• Use the browser/Acrobat Reader commands to print or download files.

Marking, saving, and emailing lists of results is not possible at this time.
Generally, can narrow results by

- Collection
- Date published
- Government author—field added by GPO staff
- Organization—automatically extracted from files
- Person (is sometimes a place—the indexing isn’t great)
- Locations mentioned in the text
- Keyword
Searchable fields in advanced search across multiple collections

- Full text of publications and metadata
- Branch of government
- Category
- Citation
- Government author (added by GPO staff)
- SuDocs Class number
- Title
Can browse by

• Collection
• Congressional Committee
• Date (select date range, then use filters at left to narrow search)

No RSS feed capability. Can browse by certain time period. Bookmark that result page; each time you open it, it will update.
## Getting help

| Help for finding dates for Congress numbers and sessions | 1) Click “About government publications” in upper left corner.  
2) In main screen on right, scroll to end of “Legislative branch—Sessions of Congress” section. |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Help for finding descriptions of collections | 1) Click “About government publications” in upper left corner.  
2) Click “What’s Available.”  
3) Click name of collection.  
4) Click “About [Name of collection].” |
## Additional help

| To see samples of searches specific to a collection | 1) Click “About government publications” in upper left corner.  
2) Click “What’s Available.”  
3) Click name of collection.  
4) Click “Sample searches for [Name of collection].” |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To see names of metadata fields & command search syntax | 1) Click “About government publications” in upper left corner.  
2) Click “What’s Available.”  
3) Click name of collection.  
4) Click “[Name of collection] metadata fields and values.” |
Even more help: articles from LLRX by Peggy Garvin

  http://www.llrx.com/columns/govdomain41.htm

• *The Government Domain - Congressional Documents on FDsys: Advanced Techniques*, published January 23, 2010:  
  http://www.llrx.com/columns/govdomain44.htm
Tutorials from GPO

• Tutorials use Adobe Flash
• Subjects: overview; simple search; advanced search; browse
• To get to tutorials:
  1) Start at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/
  2) Click “for more information on FDSys” under main explanatory paragraph.
  3) Click on “tutorials” on right side of page, under “Reference material.”