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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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## GOVERNMENT & LEGAL RESOURCES: GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

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### OVERVIEW

DOC staff have access to a wealth of government documents, both in print and electronically. The Commerce Research Library has legal and legislative print collections that include many older documents and resources that are not always available in digital format. You can [search the catalog](#) or [contact a librarian](#) to learn more.

Additionally, the library actively tries to collect print resources published by the Department of Commerce in our DOC Archives collection. While far from comprehensive, this area of our collection is unique and full of hidden gems.

Subscription databases containing government documents are a great place to start your search. Other resources exist freely on the internet. Some of the more popular ones are listed below and could be of use during your research.

## SUBSCRIPTION RESEARCH DATABASES

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Depending on the information you are looking for subscription databases can be easier to search. For legislative research we always suggest you start with Legislative Insight or ProQuest Congressional. HeinOnline, Lexis, and Westlaw are great places to check for other documents including agency decisions and federal register notices. Each database has slightly different collections and years covered so you may need to check multiple.



### [Legislative Insight](#) ↗

The best resources for legislative history research! It is comprehensive and searchable. A Federal legislative history service that offers compilations of publications created by Congress during the process leading up to the enactment of US Public Laws from 1789 to the present. PDF documents included with the public laws are bills (all versions), legislative reports, documents, CRS reports, committee prints, speeches in the Congressional Record, and presidential signing statements.



### [ProQuest Congressional](#) ↗

The ultimate database for Congressional documents that are not part of a legislative history as well as Executive Orders & Presidential Proclamations. It works best if you have a citation but advanced keyword searching is available.



### [Lexis+](#) ↗

Lexis can be a good place to start a search for government documents. The strength of Lexis is that it includes many different types of documents as well as commentary on appropriations, bills, etc. Some of the unique sources include CQ Committee Markups, CQ Bill Analysis, ITA Unpublished Memoranda, and other Federal agency materials.  
*[more...](#)*



### [Regulatory Insight](#) ↗

Regulatory Insight contains administrative law histories organized by public law. Researchers can access and work with all notices, proposed rules and final rules with a direct basis in a specific Public Law.



### [Westlaw](#) ↗

An online legal research service containing case law, state and federal statutes, court documents, administrative codes, newspaper and magazine articles, and other information resources. The Westlaw platform searches the same collection of content without having to first choose a database.





## FREE WEBSITES

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### ***These websites are openly available on the internet:***

#### [A-Z List of Executive Agencies](#)

List of government executive agencies and departments.

#### [GPO's Catalog of Government Documents](#)

Bibliographic finding tool for federal publications.

#### [Congressional Research Service Reports](#)

This database contains a variety of recently written products to Congress, including the CRS's well-known reports that provide in-depth research and analysis (internally defined as R-series reports).

#### [Congress.gov](#)

Congress.gov is the official website for U.S. federal legislative information. It is particularly useful for recent materials. Congress.gov is usually updated the morning after a session adjourns.

#### [Govinfo.gov](#)

The U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) is responsible for the production and distribution of information products and services for all three branches of the Federal Government and provides permanent public access to Federal Government information at no charge.

#### [HathiTrust Digital Library](#)

HathiTrust Digital Library is a digital preservation repository; documents can be viewed, but not printed. This resource is especially useful for locating committee hearings and historic government reports and publications.

#### [National Technical Reports Library](#)

Produced by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Technical Information Service (NTIS), this resource facilitates accessing U.S. government-sponsored research and worldwide scientific, technical, engineering, and business-related information. NTIS provides access to research reports, journal articles, data files, computer programs, and audio-visual products from Federal sources.

#### [Cornell University Law School/Legal Information Institute](#)

Provides updates to any section of the USC that has changed since the official was published. NOT AUTHORITATIVE.

#### [USA.gov](#)

Find general government information and services.



## COMMERCE DOCUMENTS

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### Department Administrative Orders (DAOs)

Used to document and mandate continuing policies, standards requirements, and procedures prescribed by the Office of the Secretary for Departmentwide application or for application to two or more major program areas of the Department. The DAOs cover substantive program matters as well as administrative management, legal, or special staff functions.

### Department Organization Orders (DOOs)

Used to prescribe the basic management structure and organizational arrangements of the Department of Commerce. DOOs are issued for each Secretarial Officer, Departmental Office, and Operating Unit of the Department of Commerce.

### DOO/DAO Recent Updates

A list of recently issued, modified, or revoked Directives.



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## CONTACT INFO

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### Directions

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