

Susie's Amazing Resource List

Compiled by Susan Marcus June 2010

Today's Congress Congress: The Basics Congress: Teaching It

http://www.congresslink.org/print_teaching_websites.htm

Web Sites about Congress

What follows are some of the best Web sites about Congress. For links to hundreds of other sites about our nation's legislature and the federal government, please visit AboutGovernment using the navigation bar above.

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress

This site gives online access to the Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, with entries for all who have served in the House or the Senate, as well as updated versions of the House and Senate guides to research collections and bibliographies of Senators. The House Legislative Resource Center maintains the site and is preparing bibliographies of House members.

C-SPAN Online

Viewers of C-SPAN's cable TV coverage of the proceedings of the House and Senate and public affairs programming know the quality and impartiality of coverage for which C-SPAN has earned a much deserved reputation. C-SPAN Online continues this fine tradition. C-SPAN Online provides online lesson plans, special features, a glossary of congressional terms, frequently asked questions about the Capitol, the activities of the C-SPAN School Bus, and C-SPAN in the Classroom. C-SPAN Lesson Plans provide teachers with interesting and useful classroom tools. This site, already among the very best on the Internet, is getting better all the time.

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives is the official repository of the records of House and Senate committees. If you are interested in learning how to access the records of Congress, this site is the place to begin. Particularly valuable are the online guides to the committee records of the House and Senate, which provide excellent summaries of the history and purpose of each congressional committee. This site also has links to other sites of interest to students, historians, archivists, and political scientists.

Congressional Committee Meetings Index

The Congressional Bibliographies compiled at the NCSU Libraries has introduced a new feature, the U.S. Congressional Committee Meetings Index, available at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/stacks/senatebibs/DDintro.html>. The Meetings Index is a searchable database of the committee meeting descriptions found in the Congressional Record's Daily Digest sections. From its search page you may query a database of 57,000 Senate and House committee meeting records that begins with the 99th Congress (1985-86) and continues to the present. New records will be added to the Meetings Index monthly

Congressional Mega Sites

This Library of Congress Internet Resource Page is a clearinghouse of other sites related to Congress, including the House and Senate Web pages; GPO Access, the U. S. Government Printing Office Home Page with resources on Congressional publications; The

Congressional Record; and the Congressional (Pictorial) Directory, which has photographs of all current members of Congress. Also on this site are links to House and Senate Web pages.

Congressional Pictorial Directory

Provides brief biographical sketches of each member of the current Congress and a picture of each member of the House and Senate. The Congressional Pictorial Directory requires the use of the Acrobat Reader in order to view the pictures. Conveniently, the GPO site provides an easy way to download the Acrobat Reader at no charge for use with any file in the Adobe Acrobat PDF format.

The Congressional Record via GPO Access

The Congressional Record is a fascinating official daily record of the floor proceedings of the House and Senate. It reports on all floor debates, including material submitted by the members in support of their positions on various bills and issues of the day. The Congressional Record can be accessed from several places on the Internet including the Library of Congress's THOMAS site. The U. S. Government Printing Office (GPO) is the publisher of The Congressional Record, and offers an online searchable database of it for 1995, 1996, and 1997. You may search a topic or search for the floor speeches of individual members of the House or Senate. User-friendly.

Congressional Research Service Reports hosted by the University of North Texas Libraries

This site provides integrated, searchable access to many of the full-text CRS reports that have been available on the Web since 1990. Because CRS works exclusively for Members of Congress, citizens who wished to view these reports had to request them from their Member. This project promises to help provide permanent public access to this vital information by serving as a one-stop gateway to the more than 6,500 reports thus far included. Users have the ability to search the full text of the reports, as well as by title, author, subject, and report number.

Congressional Sources on the Internet

This site contains links to some of the best Web sites on Congress. A notable feature of interest to researchers is its listing of collections of congressional papers held at various archival repositories across the country. This list features the private and personal papers of former House and Senate members listed alphabetically by the name of the institution holding the papers.

First Federal Congress Project

One of the most interesting features of this site is an online exhibit that covers fourteen topics related to the work and accomplishments of the first Congress. The site will eventually have an online teacher's guide but even in its present form it provides a wide array of original sources, engravings, portraits, etc., all of which are placed in historical context. This exhibit will help users understand the critical role played by the First Federal Congress in providing stability for the new government and completing the work of the Constitutional Convention.

Government Printing Office

This site offers a wealth of information about Congress, including the following subparts:

Congressional Bills. All published versions of bills from the 108th (2003-2004), 107th (2001-2002), 106th (1999-2000), 105th (1997-1998), 104th (1995-1996) and 103rd (1993-1994) are available. The 109th Congress database will be updated by 6 a.m. daily when bills are published and approved for release.

Congressional Directory. Presents short biographies of each member of the Senate and House, listed by state or district, and additional data, such as committee memberships, terms of service, administrative staff, and room and telephone numbers. It also lists officials of the courts, military establishment, and other Federal departments and agencies, including DC government officials, governors of states and territories, foreign diplomats, and members of the media.

Congressional Hearings. A limited number are available, but there is a search feature.

Congressional Record. The Congressional Record is the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress. It is published daily when Congress is in session. Helpful Hints provide instructions for searching the Congressional Record database, 1995-current. The index to the Congressional Record is at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cri/index.html>

Congressional Reports. Contains House, Senate, and executive reports, 104th Congress to present.

History of Bills. Lists legislative actions on bills that are reported in the Congressional Record, 1983-present.

Public Laws. Contains laws signed by the President, 1995-present.

The Hill

Capitol Hill is the most important small town in the world, whose 100 Senators, 435 House Members and 40,000 aides affect the lives of individuals and businesses throughout the world. The Hill's targeted circulation includes these influential 40,535 residents plus the executive branch, cabinet departments, the news media, trade associations, public-interest groups and lobbyists. The Hill reports and analyzes the actions of Congress as it struggles to reconcile the needs of those it represents with the legitimate needs of the administration, lobbyists and the news media. We explain the pressures confronting policy-makers, and the many ways - often unpredictable - that decisions are made. But Capitol Hill is more than the focal point of the legislative branch of government. It is also a community not unlike a small city, and The Hill reports on its culture, social life, crime, employment, traffic, education, discrimination, shopping, dining, travel and recreation.

The Library of Congress

All students and teachers should be familiar with this site. While the Library of Congress location does not focus on Congress the way THOMAS (see below) does, it offers students of history and government interesting places. The American Memory Project is bringing online important congressional records and publications. "A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation" is a web site designed to make these records more accessible to students, scholars, and interested citizens, and it will bring together the records and acts of Congress from the Journals of the Continental Congress through The Congressional Globe, which ceased publication in 1873. Documents dated 1774-1805 are currently available. Additional materials will be added to the site every few months. Educators also will find useful

resources on The Learning Page, including a teaching unit, In Congress Assembled, and information on presidents and presidential inaugurations. The Library of Congress Home Page also provides research tools, including the incomparable catalog of the Library of Congress, and links to other Library of Congress Internet resources. Special collections include material on the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention; Votes for Women, 1848-1921; and African American Perspectives, 1818-1907. Photographic collections include Civil War Photographs, Portraits of Presidents and First Ladies, and Washington as It Was, 1923-1959.

Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives

At this site, you can obtain copies of bills and other House documents, find historical information about the House, and learn about the services provided by the Office of the Clerk. The Clerk maintains, for example, a brief biography of every former Member which includes a bibliography and photographs or illustrations.

Roll Call On Line

Roll Call covers the inside stories on events in Congress and on Capitol Hill, ranging from the best of in-depth reporting to rumors and gossip. The newspaper is widely read by everyone on Capitol Hill and by those who closely follow the workings of Congress. Roll Call Online Home Page provides some of the features and the flavor of the newspaper and includes late breaking news, contests and quizzes, and profiles of freshmen members of Congress. If you want to know what Capitol Hill is like from its own neighborhood newspaper, this site is a good place to begin.

Speaker.gov

Hosted by the current Speaker of the House of Representatives, this site has information about the history, duties, and selection of the Speaker.

THOMAS

Named in honor of Thomas Jefferson, this site is the best single source of online information about Congress. THOMAS, a service of the U. S. Congress, is maintained by the Library of Congress. It offers a wide range of materials, including current activities of the House and Senate, access to major bills under consideration or recently enacted into law, the text of the daily Congressional Record for the past five years, information on House and Senate committees, legislative workload statistics back to the 91st Congress, historical documents such as the Constitution and the Federalist Papers, information on the legislative process in the House and Senate, and links to other government sites related to Congress, the executive branch, the judicial branch, and state and local government. Users of CongressLink will find that we refer often to the resources on THOMAS.

<http://rs9.loc.gov/> A service of the Library of Congress, Thomas provides the full text of legislation, the full text of the Congressional Record, and information about committees.

U.S. Congressional Bibliographies

This site may be mis-named. It consists of comprehensive lists of hearings, prints, and publications printed by the Senate, 1983 to present. For the House, it lists committee meetings recorded in the Congressional Record's Daily Digest, 1985 to present. The site also has compiled productivity measures of various sorts.

U. S. House of Representatives

Just as the House and Senate are different, although closely related, institutions, the Web sites of the House and Senate also differ. The House site focuses on current events and

activities of the House, including schedules for floor activity and for House committees. The House site provides links to the House leaders' offices, the Library of Congress, C-SPAN, and other related locations. You can learn how to write to your representative, and if you do not know who your representative is, that person can be found by supplying your zip code. The House site also supplies information of interest to visitors to the Capitol, including an online tour of the Capitol building. For the precedents that guide rulings on floor debate and procedures, consult the online version of Hind's Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States.

<http://www.house.gov/> The official Web site of the U.S. House of Representatives provides extensive information on members, legislation, current activities, and history of the body.

U. S. Legislative Branch

is another very useful service of the Library of Congress. It provides information on each member of the current Congress, including e-mail addresses, voting records, congressional committees, House and Senate rules, history and facts about Congress, and visitor information. One link, Grolier Online, provides a good overview of what Congress does and how the legislative process works. Other information About the U. S. Congress is derived from the official U. S. Government Manual.

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/legislative/congress.html>

U.S. Senate

The Senate site contains many features similar to those offered on the House site, including floor schedules and committee information, but the focus is obviously on the Senate and its members. In many ways the Senate site is richer and more rewarding than its House counterpart; it contains more history and background on the Senate, and more information of use to students and teachers. One valuable feature of the Senate site is Learning About the Senate, which is a marvelous brief introduction to the Senate and its history. Included are a list of publications, a glossary of terms, virtual tours, background on the Senate Historical Office, and an introduction to the art and historical collections from the Office of Senate Curator. This site is updated regularly with the latest information and new features about the Senate and its history.

<http://www.senate.gov> The official Web site of the U.S. Senate provides extensive information about members, legislation, current activities, and the history of the body.

University of Michigan Documents Center

The University of Michigan site was developed as a guide for class assignments. In addition to general information about the legislative process, it includes a section on "Choosing a Topic" and on sources, including reports from the Congressional Research Service which have not been officially released to the public.

Endorsements:

Other sources

Book: Elements Of Democracy, Center for Civic Educaation

The Congress of the united States Oxford Donald Ritchie

See pages 102-03 people's body, consent of the governed, divided government

Web resources on congress

<http://www.congress.org/>

CongressLink The Dirksen Congressional Center, <http://www.congresslink.org/>

Resources on the House

American Historical Association, www.historians.org

American Memory, www.memory.loc.gov

Architect of the Capitol, www.aoc.gov

Association of Centers for the Study of Congress, www.congresscenters.org

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives, www.archives.gov/legislative

Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives, chaplain.house.gov

Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, clerk.house.gov

Congressional Quarterly, www.cq.com

History News Network, www.hnn.us

House Debates/Records: 1789-1875, memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html

Library of Congress, www.loc.gov

Library of Congress Collection Guides, www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/bibguide.html

National Archives and Records Administration, www.archives.gov

Senate Historian's Office,

www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/generic/Senate_Historical_Office.htm

Society for History in the Federal Government, www.shfg.org

THOMAS Bill and Law Research, thomas.loc.gov

U.S. House of Representatives, www.house.gov

U.S. Senate, www.senate.gov

[How Congress works and why you should care - Google Books Result](#) Lee Hamilton - 2004 - Political Science - 156 pages

The careful review of new ideas is the only **way** all viewpoints and interests ... Yet **Congress** was **designed** not to automatically go along with what's on the ...
books.google.com/books?isbn=0253216958...

Congress was **designed** for deliberative, not decisive, action. How **Congress Works**. Why Congress Set Up That **Way**. Like quick action. ...
www.centeroncongress.org/modules/Legislative_Process/section3.swf
[Learning by Doing: A Simulation for Teaching How Congress Works](#), EC Sands - 2010

participants to simulate, in a reasonably accurate **way**, the structures and procedures of **Congress** as they cooperatively **work** ...
journals.cambridge.org/production/action/cjoGetFulltext?fulltextid...

www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/constitution.articlei.html - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)
[U.S. Senate: Reference Home > Constitution of the United States](#) The positioning of **Congress** at the beginning of the **Constitution** reaffirms its of their respective Houses, and in going to and **returning** from the same; ...

www.senate.gov > Reference Home - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)
<http://www.centeroncongress.org/>