The following list of retrospective government document indexes can help you find government documents published before 1976. Items are listed in order of importance. The indexes are located in Reference Index section 1, unless otherwise indicated.

Many indexes refer to the *Serial Set*, which contains House and Senate documents and reports:
- 1817-1913: J66.A2x (microprint)
- 1876-1904: Gov. Doc. Y 1.1/2 (backroom)
- 1905-present: Gov. Doc. Y 1.1/2

1. Poore, Benjamin Perley. *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Government Publications of the United States, 1774-1881*. (Commonly referred to as Poore’s Catalog) Lists publications chronologically with a broad subject and name index. Use this with item 5 below to find the *Serial Set* numbers.

2. Ames, John G. *Comprehensive Index to the Publications of the United States Government, 1881-1893*. (commonly referred to as Ame’s Index) Lists items by main subject. Does not include cross-indexing. Use with items 4 and 7 below to obtain SuDoc numbers. To find *Serial Set* numbers, use with item 5 below.


4. *Checklist of United States Public Documents, 1789-1909*. While lacking a subject index, this organizes documents by department and SuDoc number, and is valuable for its coverage of departmental publications. It covers more departmental publications than *Ames* or *Poore’s*.


6. *Numerical Lists and Schedule of Volumes of the Reports and Documents of the Congress ... Session*. Use this to find *Serial Set* numbers from 1970 to 1980.
7. Cumulative Title Index to the United States Public Documents, 1789-1976. (Incomplete set) Includes information from a variety of sources, but is only useful when you know the title of a document.

8. Catalogue of the Public Documents of the Fifty-Third Congress to the 76th Congress and of all Departments of the Government of the United States, 1893-1940. (Also referred to as the Documents Catalogue) Provides more detailed information than the Monthly Catalog for this time period. Includes numerous cross references.

While the above tools are most commonly used, these resources are also helpful:


Poole, Mary Elizabeth. Documents Office Classification: Including an Explanation of the Superintendent of Documents Classification System and an Alphabetical Index of U.S. Government Author Organizations. (Commonly called Poole’s) Reference Z1223.A11 1971x Index

Cumulative Index to Congressional Committee Hearings 1935-1981 (74th-96th Congresses): Ref Z 1223.A3 1959 + suppls. Lists hearings by subject, committee, and bill number. Search for the hearing title in WorldCat (http://library.und.edu/db/worldcat-org) or have a librarian search for it in the circulation system to try to find the relevant SuDoc number. Most are in Y4 J.

Other Resources

Congressional Record (and preceding titles) Provides detailed House and Senate proceedings, including entire speeches. Each Congressional Session includes a subject and bill number index. The subject index includes the names of Congressional members and refers to page numbers (pagination by Congressional Session).

1789-2010: 2nd floor journals
- 1824-37 – Register of Debates J11.A5
- 1873-present – Congressional Record J11.R5

House Journal - Summarizes daily proceedings of the House
- 1789-1873: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwhjlink.html
- 1817-1913: J 66.A2x (Microprint)
- 1873-1953: Part of U.S. Serial Set
- 1953-present: Gov. Docs. XJH

Senate Journal – Summarizes daily proceedings of the Senate
- 1789-1873: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsjlink.html
- 1873-1953: Part of U.S. Serial Set
- 1817-1913: J 66.A2x (Microprint)
- 1953-present: Gov. Docs. XJS

**Monthly Catalog** - Lists hearings and reports
- 1895-1996: Ref Z 1223.A18

**Checklist of Hearings Before Congressional Committees Through the Sixty-Seventh Congress (1921/23)**
- Ref Z 1223.Z7 T5 (pts. 1-9)
  We don’t have volumes 1-3, which covers the House Committees on Agriculture through the Committee on Coinage, Weights & Measures

**Congressional Quarterly Almanac**
Chronicles major legislation for each year and includes votes
- 1948-present: Ref JK 1.C66

**Statutes at Large**
- 1789-1936: E 169.1.L5 (ultrafiche)
- 1789-1875: [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsllink.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsllink.html)
- 1895-present: Ref KF 50.U5x

**United States Code**
- 1982-previous edition: Gov Doc Y 1.2/5
- 1925-present: LAW Libr. Y 1.2/5

**Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents**
- 1953-present: J80.A284 (Periodicals)

If you need help with government documents, or any of the tools listed, please ask at the reference desk.