

CRS Report for Congress

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Tracking Current Federal Legislation and Regulations: A Guide to Basic Sources

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Summary

By using a variety of selected basic printed, telephone, electronic, and related sources, constituents can track federal legislation and regulations at the local level. Those who prefer weekly overviews would be interested in such publications as *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, and *U.S. News and World Report*. For daily coverage, printed sources such as the *Congressional Record*, *CQ Daily Monitor*, *Federal Register*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Los Angeles Times*, as well as such databases as *THOMAS*, *GPO Access*, the Internet Home Pages of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, *LEXIS-NEXIS*, and *WESTLAW*, would be helpful.

The *Code of Federal Regulations*, *CIS Index to the Code of Federal Regulations*, and *CIS/Index to Publications of the United States Congress* provide codified or indexed access to regulatory and legislative publications. Telephone sources such as Capitol Hill's office of legislative information, the White House's office of the executive clerk, and the office of the *Federal Register* can provide brief information on legislative and regulatory developments too new to have been captured by standard electronic or printed sources. Brief capsule descriptions of directories and other media sources are provided, as is a bibliography. Annotations for each source contain publisher contact information and pertinent Internet addresses.

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Tracking Current Federal Legislation and Regulations: A Guide to Basic Sources

Introduction

Tracking the status of current legislation and regulatory issues is often perceived as a formidable task which requires an extensive library of expensive resources, in-depth knowledge of the issues, and an intimate understanding of the federal government's inner workings. This is not necessarily true. While access to sophisticated retrieval methods and comprehensive knowledge of the governmental system may be helpful, it is possible for most constituents to follow an issue by using a variety of resources available locally. The scope of the issue will determine how complicated and time-consuming the process will be.

This guide has been designed to introduce researchers to selected basic sources which are useful in obtaining background information or specific facts on the status of federal legislative or regulatory initiatives. Printed, telephone, electronic, and media sources are included, as well as pertinent directories, such as those of organizations that track areas of interest. Annotations which describe the contents and organization of each source are included so that researchers can select those which most nearly fit individual needs. Internet addresses usually provide information about the items, rather than access to them.

Most of the publications cited in this guide are available in local public or research libraries. The publications of the federal government can usually be found in libraries designated as federal depository libraries.

Since several databases may expedite certain legislative or regulatory searches, brief listings of pertinent ones are provided in the "Selected Databases" section.

For all other materials, publisher contact information has been provided. Since pricing structures vary by subscriber type and prices change frequently, publishers should be contacted to obtain the latest order information. Publications from the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) can be ordered, prepaid, by mail, telephone, or fax on any of the following credit cards: Discover/NOVUS, MasterCard, or VISA. GPO bookstores located in selected cities throughout the United States can be identified by consulting a local telephone directory under the listing "U.S. Government." All contact and descriptive information is accurate as of the time of this printing; it is, of course, subject to change.

For information on more in-depth sources covering federal legislative activities, see CRS Report 97-10, *The Congressional Scene: Selected Publications Covering the Congress*.

Tracking Current Federal Legislation

Action on legislation passed or pending in the current Congress, and its status in the legislative process, is reported in the *Congressional Record*. This is the primary source for the text of floor debates and the official source for recorded votes.

Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report is one of the commercial publications that track the status of current legislation.

Since some current legislation amends previously enacted legislation, it may occasionally be necessary to consult the earlier laws in the *United States Statutes at Large* or the *United States Code*.

Printed Sources

CIS/Index to Publications of the United States Congress

Congressional Information Service, Inc.	Telephone: (301) 654-1550
4520 East-West Highway	(ask for Customer Service)
Bethesda, MD 20814-3389	(800) 638-8380
Internet: [http://www.cispubs.com]	Fax: (301) 657-3203
	E-mail: cisinfo@lexis-nexis.com

Frequency: Monthly index and abstracts issues, with quarterly indexes and annual cumulations

This source provides detailed abstracts of congressional publications such as printed hearings, reports, committee prints, and documents. Some of its access points are title, subject, publication number, bill number, and witness names. Also, the legislative histories of public laws are provided. Coverage dates are 1970 through the present.

For information on computerized access to this publication, see the "Selected Databases" section below.

Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report

Congressional Quarterly, Inc.	Telephone: (202) 887-8500
1414 22 nd Street, N.W.	(800) 432-2250
Washington, D.C. 20037	Fax: (202) 785-8784
Internet: [http://www.cq.com]	

Frequency: Weekly, with special supplements and annual *Almanac*

This weekly summary of congressional action and developments contains tables indicating the status of appropriations and major legislation, charts detailing recorded votes in both Chambers, and topical treatments of committee and floor actions. Most issues include articles providing current and background information on topics of legislative interest. Occasionally, special reports are printed. Quarterly indexes are issued, and the annual *Congressional Quarterly Almanac* is a comprehensive review of the legislative session.

For information on computerized access to this publication, see the "Selected Databases" section below.

CQ Daily Monitor

Congressional Quarterly, Inc.
1414 22nd Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Telephone: (202) 887-6258
(800) 432-2250
Fax: (202) 728-1862

Internet: [<http://www.cq.com>]

Frequency: Monday through Friday when Congress is in session, with updates throughout the day on the World Wide Web

This newsletter provides daily news on Congress, such as planned floor action for both Chambers, bill and amendment descriptions, and notices of bill markup sessions and conference negotiations. Also, committee schedules are provided for the day, with future schedules given up to 3 months in advance. Significant sections are “The Pulse of Congress,” with behind-the-scenes information on Members and committees; “People on the Move,” which highlights congressional staff changes; and “Status of Appropriations.” Subscribers can receive updates to the *Monitor* throughout the day via “CQ Monitor News” on Congressional Quarterly’s World Wide Web site, CQ.com On Congress.

Congressional Record

Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402

Telephone: (202) 512-1800
Fax: (202) 512-2250

Internet: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/legislative.html]

Frequency: Published each day that one or both Chambers are in session, except infrequent instances when two or more consecutive issues are printed together

The *Congressional Record* contains the edited transcript of activities on the floor of the House and the Senate. The “Daily Digest” section has summaries of: action in each Chamber, committee hearings, new public laws, and committee meetings scheduled for the next legislative day. Indexes are issued twice a month. The subject indexes can be used to identify bills by topic, and the “History of Bills and Resolutions” section tracks action on specific bills. Formerly, the indexes were cumulated annually into bound volumes, but this practice has not been followed for a number of years.

For information on computerized access to the *Congressional Record* and to its index, see the “Selected Databases” section below.

Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents

Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402

Telephone: (202) 512-1800
Fax: (202) 512-2250

Internet: [<http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>]

Frequency: Weekly, with quarterly, semiannual, and annual indexes

This weekly periodical is a source for information such as the dates on which the President signed or vetoed legislation. In addition, it provides transcripts of presidential messages to Congress, executive orders, and speeches and other material released by the White House.

For information on computerized access to this publication, see the “Selected Databases” section below.

Telephone Sources

At times, the latest information on legislation is so current that it will not yet have been captured by electronic or printed sources. Or, there may be occasions when only one elusive date, bill number, or page number is needed. The telephone contacts listed below can provide certain useful facts as explained in each entry. When such information is needed regularly, however, or when in-depth coverage of an issue is required, it is essential to consult the printed or electronic sources listed in this guide.

Daily Calendar Information

Both political parties in the Senate and the House provide recorded messages about the proceedings on the floor of each Chamber every day they are in session. The following numbers should be called for these cloakroom recordings:

Senate: (202) 224-8601 (Republican)
(202) 224-8541 (Democratic)

House: (202) 225-7430 (Republican)
(202) 225-7400 (Democratic)

Public Law Update Service

Information on the new public law numbers assigned to recently enacted public laws can be obtained from a recorded message maintained by the office of the *Federal Register* at (202) 523-6641.

Status of Legislation

The office of legislative information on Capitol Hill responds to telephone inquiries from the public, providing up-to-date information on current legislation. By using a computer database, the staff can give the following information: status of any piece of legislation, bills introduced by any specified Member of Congress, or bills introduced on any given subject. A maximum of six items identified by bill number, or three items which require word searches, can be handled per call. The number is (202) 225-1772.

Switchboard in the U.S. Capitol

The office of any congressional committee or subcommittee can be reached by calling (202) 224-3121.

White House Records

The office of the executive clerk at the White House provides a recorded message with information about the dates of: signings or vetoes of recent legislation, presidential messages, executive orders, and other official presidential actions. If the desired information is not included in the taped message, callers can stay on the line to be connected with a person. This office can be reached at (202) 456-2226.

Tracking Current Federal Regulations

Regulations are issued by agencies of the federal government under the authority delegated to them by federal law or a presidential executive order and have the force of law. Final regulations are printed in the *Federal Register (FR)* and later codified by subject in the *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)*. By using these two sources with their many indexes and tables, it is possible to: identify all existing regulations in a subject area or pertaining to a specific section of the *United States Code*, identify regulations issued pursuant to a specific public law, or find proposed regulations which are not yet final.

The *Federal Regulatory Directory* describes the regulatory responsibilities of more than 100 federal agencies, and the *CIS Index to the Code of Federal Regulations* provides indexing to the *CFR*.

Printed Sources

CIS Index to the Code of Federal Regulations

Congressional Information Service, Inc.
4520 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814-3389
Internet: [<http://www.cispubs.com>]

Telephone: (301) 654-1550
(ask for Customer Service)
(800) 638-8380
Fax: (301) 657-3203
E-mail: cisinfo@lexis-nexis.com

Frequency: Annual, with quarterly updates

This index to the *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* is arranged by: subject; geography—by political entities or federally regulated properties, and by proper name of physical entities administered by the government (national parks, monuments, etc.); official headings for each portion of the *CFR*; and new and revised *CFR* section numbers.

Code of Federal Regulations

Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402
Internet: [<http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>]

Telephone: (202) 512-1800
Fax: (202) 512-2250

Frequency: Revised annually (approximately one quarter of the titles at a time) as of the first of January, April, July, and October

The *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* codifies final regulations having general applicability and legal effect which have previously appeared in the *Federal Register*. Its 50 titles are arranged by subject. Since the annual revision incorporates new regulations and drops superseded ones, the *CFR* reflects regulations in effect at the time of printing. Several indexes and tables accompany the set.

For information on computerized access to the *CFR*, see the “Selected Databases” section below.

Federal Register

Superintendent of Documents Telephone: (202) 512-1800
 U.S. Government Printing Office Fax: (202) 512-2250
 Washington, D.C. 20402
 Internet: [<http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>]

Frequency: Daily, Monday through Friday; not published on Saturdays, Sundays, or on official holidays

The *Federal Register (FR)* is the official announcement of regulations and legal notices issued by federal agencies. These include: proposed and final federal agency regulations having general applicability and legal effect, presidential proclamations and executive orders, documents required to be published by act of Congress, and other federal agency documents of public interest. It also serves as an update to the *CFR*. Daily and monthly indexes, and an accompanying publication, *List of CFR Sections Affected*, assist in its use.

For information on computerized access to the *FR*, see the “Selected Databases” section below.

Federal Regulatory Directory

Congressional Quarterly, Inc. Telephone: (202) 822-1475
 1414 22nd Street, N.W. (800) 638-1710
 Washington, D.C. 20037 Fax: (202) 887-6706
 Internet: [<http://books.cq.com>] (800) 380-3810

Frequency: Every 2 years

Profiles describing the mandates and operations of more than 120 federal regulatory agencies are provided in this directory. Each profile gives a brief history and description of the agency and its regulatory oversight responsibilities, and lists key personnel, information sources, legislation, and regional offices. An overview of the federal regulatory process is provided. Other aids are the full texts of key regulatory acts and executive orders, a guide to using the *Federal Register* and the *Code of Federal Regulations*, and subject and name indexes.

Telephone Sources

As is the case with legislation, there are times when more current information is needed on regulatory activity than has yet appeared in electronic or printed materials, or when assistance in using those sources is required. Again, the telephone can be a helpful tool.

Federal Agencies

Federal agencies responsible for regulatory activities in specific areas and the individuals in charge can be identified in the *Federal Regulatory Directory* (see above). Contact information is furnished for each agency.

Federal Register

The customer service office at the *Federal Register* can identify the location and date of recent items appearing in the *Federal Register* and can assist in using the *Code of Federal Regulations*. That office can be reached at (202) 523-5227.

Individuals who need copies of pages of the *Federal Register* can photocopy as many pages as they need in person at the Office of the *Federal Register*. Its location is the National Archives and Records Administration, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20001 at a cost of \$.10 per page. The *Federal Register's* Public Information Office can be contacted at (202) 523-5240 for additional information.

White House Records

The office of the executive clerk at the White House provides a recorded message with information about the dates executive orders and presidential proclamations appeared in the *Federal Register*. If the desired information is not included in the taped message, callers can stay on the line to be connected with a person. This office can be reached at (202) 456-2226.

Selected Databases

Several computer databases can provide help in tracking federal legislation and regulations. Brief descriptions of selected ones are provided in this section. Also included is contact information for the database producer or the actual database.

Because of the rapidly changing nature of this field, no attempt has been made to compile a comprehensive listing. For the same reason, no material has been provided on subscription fees (which are also charged by some Internet providers), online rates, subscriber limits, or access information (except for some of the Internet sources). To obtain such information, the desired database producer must be consulted by using the contact information provided.

CIS

Congressional Information Service, Inc.	Telephone: (301) 654-1550
4520 East-West Highway	(800) 638-8380
Bethesda, MD 20814-3389	Fax: (301) 657-3203
Internet: [http://www.cispubs.com]	E-mail: cisinfo@lexis-nexis.com

Abstracts of congressional publications such as printed hearings, reports, documents, and committee prints are available in this company's *CIS/Index to Publications of the United States Congress* (see p. 2) database, which provides coverage from 1970 through the present. The database is accessible via LEXIS-NEXIS, of which CIS is a wholly owned subsidiary.

CIS Congressional Universe, the World Wide Web-based, enhanced electronic counterpart of the *CIS/Index*, provides links to the texts of many congressional and federal documents such as the *Congressional Record*, the *Federal Register*, and the *Code of Federal Regulations* via the firm's partnership with LEXIS-NEXIS. Coverage varies depending on the category of information sought.

Only CIS subscribers can access CIS Congressional Universe.

CPI Electronic Publishing

8399 East Indian School Road

Telephone: (602) 994-4560
(800) 808-3372

Scottsdale, AZ 85251-2853
Internet: [<http://www.citation.com>]

Fax: (602) 994-4456

Full-text access to the daily *Federal Register* and to the current *Code of Federal Regulations* is available through this company's CyberREGS Online database. Even though CPI is primarily interested in environmental matters, this particular database is not limited to that area.

Only CyberREGS Online subscribers can access this system on the World Wide Web.

CQ.com On Congress

Congressional Quarterly, Inc.

1414 22nd Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20037

Internet: [<http://oncongress.cq.com>]

Telephone: (202) 887-6279

(800) 432-2250

E-mail: clientservices@cq.com

Bill texts, summaries, tracking, and analysis are provided in this database. Among its other features are forecasts of major pending bills; versions of bills; links to related bills; roll-call votes; legislative histories; floor and committee schedules; detailed committee coverage; texts of committee reports; transcripts of witnesses' testimony; and publications such as the *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, the *Congressional Record*, and the *Federal Register*. Among CQ.com's access points are bill number, keyword, phrase, Member name, and date. Time spans covered vary by the category of information sought.

Only CQ.com subscribers can access this system on the Internet.

GPO Access

GPO Access User Support Team

Office of Electronic Information Dissemination Services

U.S. Government Printing Office

Washington, D.C. 20401

Internet: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs]

Telephone: (202) 512-1530

(888) 293-6498

Fax: (202) 512-1262

E-mail: gpoaccess@gpo.gov

The Government Printing Office (GPO) provides free Internet access to a wide variety of important legislative and regulatory sources, such as congressional bills, the *Congressional Record* and the *Congressional Record Index* (including the "History of Bills and Resolutions"), congressional calendars, public laws, selected congressional reports and documents, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*, the *Federal Register*, and the *Code of Federal Regulations*. Time spans covered vary by the category of information sought.

Also, GPO provides a Public Laws Electronic Notification Service via e-mail. To subscribe, send an e-mail to listserv@www.gsa.gov with the following message: subscribe PUBLAWS-L your name

LEXIS/NEXIS

LEXIS-NEXIS

P.O. Box 933

Dayton, OH 45401-0933

Internet: [<http://www.lexis-nexis.com>]

Telephone: (937) 865-6800

(800) 227-9597

Full-text coverage of several publications useful in tracking legislation and regulations are provided by this online service. Among these are the *Congressional Record*, the *Federal Register*, the *Code of Federal Regulations*, *CIS/Index to Publications of the United States Congress*, and the full texts of bills from the current and recent Congresses. Other highlights are: pending bill tracking, bill forecasts, floor and committee votes, committee schedules, public laws, and the full texts of various presidential documents and statements. Many of these sources and others are also available via the Web-based LEXIS-NEXIS Political Universe. This is a joint product of LEXIS-NEXIS and its subsidiary, Congressional Information Service (CIS).

Only LEXIS/NEXIS subscribers can access the system on the Internet.

THOMAS

THOMAS is a World Wide Web source of congressional information on the Internet. Initiated by the leadership of the House of Representatives in the 104th Congress, it is available free to Internet users through the Library of Congress.

Among its contents are:

- full texts of bills (101st-106th Congresses);
- bill summary and status information (93rd-106th Congresses);
- full texts of public laws (101st-106th Congresses);
- committee reports (104th-106th Congresses);
- House roll-call votes (101st Congress, second session [1990]-106th Congress);
- Senate roll-call votes (101st-106th Congresses);
- full text of the *Congressional Record* (101st-106th Congresses);
- Congressional Record Index* (103rd Congress, second session [1994]-106th Congress);
- Résumés of Congressional Activity* (91st Congress-106th Congress, first session);
- House "Days in Session" calendars (94th-106th Congresses); and
- Senate "Days in Session" calendars (95th Congress, second session [1978]-106th Congress).

Also accessible are the House's *How Our Laws Are Made* and the Senate's *Enactment of a Law*, congressional publications which explain the steps of the legislative process.

The Internet address for THOMAS is [<http://thomas.loc.gov>].

U.S. House of Representatives Home Page

This free Internet source provides such information as:

- recent major House committee and floor actions;
- legislative schedules;
- background information on, and links to material on the steps in, the legislative process, including *How Our Laws Are Made*, a congressional publication that explains the steps of the legislative process;
- House roll-call votes from the 101st Congress, second session (1990); and
- concise descriptions of floor proceedings when the House is in session.

The Internet address for this service is [<http://www.house.gov>].

U.S. Senate Home Page

Materials of legislative interest offered on this free Internet source are: Senate legislative procedures;

Senate calendar;
Senate roll-call votes beginning with the 101st Congress, first session (1989);
the Chamber's leadership;
descriptions of the Senate committee system and of individual committees;
history of the Senate;
directories of Senators by name, by state, and by class [date elected];
lists of Senators with constituent e-mail addresses; and
glossary of terms common to the Senate.

The World Wide Web address for this source is [<http://www.senate.gov>].

WESTLAW

West Group
P.O. Box 64833
St. Paul, MN 55164-0833
Internet: [<http://www.westgroup.com>]

Telephone: (800) 328-4880
(800) 344-5008

While WESTLAW was designed primarily as a legal reference database, many of its files contain material useful to anyone tracking legislation or regulations. For example, the *Congressional Record* is available in full text on this subscription service, as are the *Federal Register* and the current *Code of Federal Regulations*. Also available in full text are congressional bills, selected presidential documents, and federal laws.

Only WESTLAW subscribers can access the system on the Internet.

World Wide Web Aids

The following Internet addresses provide access to guides to sources on federal legislative and regulatory activities or to Web-based instruction on conducting research in these areas:

“Legislative Information” [<http://www.mnsfld.edu/depts/lib/bills.html>]

“Legislative Research with THOMAS”
[<http://www.mnsfld.edu/depts/lib/mythomas.html>]

“Legislative Research”
[<http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/softwarebi>]

“Public Policy Matrix”
[<http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/polproc.html>]

“U.S. Government Documents: The Legislative Process”
[<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/libraries/indiv/dsc/legproc.html>]

“Federal Regulations” [<http://www.mnsfld.edu/depts/lib/fedregs.html>]

Other Sources

There are numerous sources which, while not directly related to tracking legislation and regulations, can often be useful for identifying sources of information on these topics. National organizations which represent specific interest groups are keenly aware of legislation and regulatory activities in their areas. They frequently follow these issues closely, publishing newsletters and often making reference material available on these topics.

Washington Representatives contains information on more than 17,000 firms and individuals who lobby in Washington and on the organizations they represent. The *Encyclopedia of Associations* contains essential information on about 23,000 national organizations. The *Washington Information Directory*, with a subject arrangement, provides information on pertinent government agencies and nonprofit groups in Washington. *National Trade and Professional Associations of the United States* offers information on more than 7,600 national trade associations and professional societies. *Washington* is a directory of key Washington officials and institutions, and the *United States Government Manual* provides information on the legislative or executive origin of each federal department and agency.

Reference Sources

Encyclopedia of Associations

The Gale Group	Telephone: (248) 699-4253
27500 Drake Road	(800) 877-4253
Farmington Hills, MI 48331	Fax: (800) 414-5043
Internet: [http://www.gale.com]	

Frequency: Annual

National Organizations of the United States, volume 1 of this reference source, presents information on nearly 23,000 U.S. associations and professional societies in 18 subject areas. The organization's name, address, telephone number, a top official's name, and other available contact information is given for each group. In addition, an annotation describes the group's history, membership, resources, mission, activities, publications, and meetings. The index to volume one provides retrieval by title or keyword. Access by state, city, and executive name is given in volume two, *Geographic and Executive Indexes*. Information on newly identified associations is provided in volume 3, *Supplement*. Via subscription, this work is also available as part of Gale's *Associations Unlimited* (which includes listings for thousands of additional nonprofit organizations) on the Internet and in CD-ROM format.

National Trade and Professional Associations of the United States

Columbia Books, Inc.	Telephone: (202) 898-0662
1212 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 330	(888) 265-0600
Washington, D.C. 20005	Fax: (202) 898-0775
Internet: [http://www.columbiabooks.com]	

Frequency: Annual

This soft-bound volume lists more than “7,600 trade associations, professional societies, labor unions, and similar national groups.” Basic information provided includes: association name, address, telephone number, fax number and/or Internet address (if available), staff and membership totals, publications, meetings, historical note, and budget. Subject, geographic, acronym, executive, and budget indexes are provided, as is a list of association management companies. For groups which have provided budget data, the budget index separates them into 14 categories, ranging from less than \$10,000 to more than \$100 million.

United States Government Manual

Superintendent of Documents Telephone: (202) 512-1800
 U.S. Government Printing Office Fax: (202) 512-2250
 Washington, D.C. 20402
 Internet: [<http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/nara001.html>]

Frequency: Annual

Widely known as the federal government’s official handbook of departments, major agencies, boards, committees, and commissions, the *United States Government Manual* also provides citations to each body’s legislative or executive authority. In addition, citations to the authority which caused an agency’s demise, transfer, or name change appear in “Appendix B: Federal Executive Agencies Terminated, Transferred, or Changed in Name Subsequent to March 4, 1933.” Furthermore, an alphabetical list of federal agencies and departments which can be found in the *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)*, including general information on the *CFR* titles, subtitles, or chapters in which they appear, is provided in “Appendix C: Agencies Appearing in the *Code of Federal Regulations*.”

Washington

Columbia Books, Inc. Telephone: (202) 898-0662
 1212 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 330 (888) 265-0600
 Washington, D.C. 20005 Fax: (202) 898-0775
 Internet: [<http://www.columbiabooks.com>]

Frequency: Annual

Listings in this directory cover about 25,000 key officials of nearly 5,000 Washington, D.C., area institutions, such as international organizations, government agencies, embassies, media organizations, cultural institutions, national associations, public interest groups, businesses, local colleges and universities, and hospitals. The current edition is *Washington 1999*.

Washington Information Directory

Congressional Quarterly, Inc. Telephone: (202) 822-1475
 1414 22nd Street, N.W. (800) 638-1710
 Washington, D.C. 20037 Fax: (202) 887-6706
 Internet: [<http://books.cq.com>]

Frequency: Annual

Rather than arranging Washington's information sources by agency or organization, this directory categorizes them by subject. Each of its 20 broad subject areas covers three types of information sources: executive branch agencies, Congress, and nonprofit organizations. Each entry contains the source's name, address, telephone number, other available contact information, the name of a key official, and a capsule description of its work. It also provides useful lists of congressional offices, diplomatic personnel, state government officials, and federal regional offices, as well as subject and name indexes.

Washington Representatives

Columbia Books, Inc. Telephone: (202) 898-0662
 1212 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 330 (888) 265-0600
 Washington, D.C. 20005 Fax: (202) 898-0775
 Internet: [<http://www.columbiabooks.com>]

Frequency: Annual

Information on more than 17,000 individuals and firms working as Washington lobbyists is presented in this directory. In the first section, lobbyists are listed alphabetically with contact information. Each entry lists the clients represented, and indicates whether the lobbyist has registered to lobby Congress under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 or has registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. In Section II, the organizations or clients represented are listed alphabetically. Other sections of the directory are: listings of executive branch legislative liaison offices; and indexes by personal name, subject/industry, foreign interests by country, political action committees; and legislative issues lobbied.

Media Sources

A variety of information on what is happening in Washington can be gathered by exposure to an assortment of editorial perspectives, "inside" reporting, and political analysis.

Examples of daily newspapers which contain these types of coverage are the *Washington Post*, *Washington Times*, *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Miami Herald*, *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Christian Science Monitor*. Weekly magazines such as *National Journal*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, and *U.S. News and World Report* provide regular coverage of the Washington scene. Many of these sources have Internet sites.

Similarly, Internet-based media sources also provide such political coverage. Examples of these are:

<i>Roll Call Online</i>	[http://www.rollcall.com],
<i>The Hill</i>	[http://www.hillnews.com],
<i>All Politics</i>	[http://www.cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS],
<i>C-SPAN Online</i>	[http://www.c-span.org],
<i>The Nation</i>	[http://www.TheNation.com],
<i>National Review Online</i>	[http://www.nationalreview.com],
<i>The American Spectator Online</i>	[http://amspec.org], and
<i>Slate</i>	[http://slate.msn.com].

C-SPAN, CNN, other cable television offerings, and commercial and public television and radio programs provide extensive coverage of Washington's legislative and regulatory happenings. Virtually every community has access to weekly broadcast programs which provide in-depth political analysis from reporters, legislators, and executive branch officials.

Bibliography

For those who want additional background information about the federal government's legislative and regulatory activities or about the sources and techniques used in tracking laws and regulations, this selected bibliography is provided. Library of Congress call numbers are included where available.

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Informative chapters on legislative and regulatory information sources are part of this readable guide to sources of federal information. Explanations of types of sources with descriptions of representative works are provided, along with information on "freebies," footnotes, bibliographies, and practical exercises.

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While this is the latest printed version of this publication, a 1999 version of *How Our Laws Are Made* can be accessed on the Internet at the following address: [<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/lawsmade.toc.html>].

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This research guide to congressional publications covers a wide range of the information used and issued by the U.S. Congress, focusing on printed materials.