

# Federal Administrative and Legislative History Research

## List of Resources and Selected Alternatives

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For research guides on the topic, check out the University of Washington Gallagher Law Library's guides on U.S. Administrative Law Research (<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/adminus.html>) and Federal Legislative History (<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/fedlegishist.html>)

### The Assignment

Google <http://www.google.com/>

Great for finding guides on the process of doing legislative history or other research guides. You won't usually find a reliable legislative history on topic.

- Try other search engines if you do not find what you're looking for. They utilize different algorithms to produce search results, so you may more easily find what you're looking for. Some alternatives:
  - Yahoo! <http://search.yahoo.com/>
  - Windows Live Search <http://www.live.com/>
  - Ask <http://www.ask.com/>
- If you are specifically looking for a research guide, try searching:
  - Cornell Law Library's Legal Research Engine <http://library.lawschool.cornell.edu/guides/researchengine.asp>

### Federal Legislative History

*United States Code Congressional and Administrative News*

Reprints most important House, Senate and conference reports

At Your Library (catalog search)

- SU <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/library/research>
- UW <http://lib.law.washington.edu/>
- KCLL <http://www.kcll.org/>

Westlaw USCCAN (see scope note for coverage. Some documents only back to 2000)

*Congressional Record*

Transcript of house and senate floor debates

At Your Library (catalog search)

- SU <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/library/research>
- UW <http://lib.law.washington.edu/>

LexisNexis (back to 1985)

Westlaw CR (back to 1985)

GPO Access <http://origin.www.gpoaccess.gov/crecord/> (back to 1994)

Thomas <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/r110query.html> (back to 1989)

### *Congressional Research Service Reports*

The Congressional Research Service researches issues for members of congress and produce reports and studies. For information on obtaining these reports, see the University of Washington Gallagher Law Library's guide on *Congressional Research Service Reports*  
<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/crs.htm>

### *How a Bill Becomes a Law*

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/help/CU/The\\_Legislative\\_Process/How\\_a\\_Bill\\_Becomes\\_Law.htm](http://www.lexisnexis.com/help/CU/The_Legislative_Process/How_a_Bill_Becomes_Law.htm)

- How Our Laws Are Made, H.R. Doc. No. 108-93 (2003) (A much more indepth explanation about the legislative process)  
<http://www.senate.gov/reference/resources/pdf/howourlawsaremade.pdf>

### *Thomas* <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Includes free federal legislative information such as bills, resolutions and committee reports

### *CIS Index*

Index to all of the Congressional working papers beginning from 1970

At Your Library (catalog search)

- SU <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/library/research>
- UW <http://lib.law.washington.edu/>

LexisNexis Congressional Universe (Contact a reference librarian for access information)

### *Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories* by Nancy Johnson

At Your Library (catalog search)

- SU <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/library/research>
- UW <http://lib.law.washington.edu/>
- KCLL <http://www.kcll.org/>

Hein Online (Contact a reference librarian for access information)

### *Statutes at Large*

Look up Public Law version of an act - includes references to hearings and the Congressional Record

At Your Library (catalog search)

- SU <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/library/research>
- UW <http://lib.law.washington.edu/>
- KCLL <http://www.kcll.org/>

Hein Online (Contact a reference librarian for access information)

LexisNexis

Westlaw

## Federal Regulations

### *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)*

GPO Access <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html> 1996-current

At Your Library (catalog search)

- SU <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/library/research>
- UW <http://lib.law.washington.edu/>
- KCLL <http://www.kcll.org/>

Hein Online (Contact a reference librarian for access information)

LexisNexis

Westlaw CFR

### *USCS Index and Finding Aids to CFR*

At Your Library (catalog search)

- SU <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/library/research>
- UW <http://lib.law.washington.edu/>
- KCLL <http://www.kcll.org/>

- Westlaw - Select “Administrative Code” link near the bottom of the left menu if you already have a U.S.C. section. Or, if you are searching the CFR database, select the “RegulationsPlus Index” link on the upper right corner.

- West’s Code of Federal Regulations General Index

At Your Library (catalog search)

- SU <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/library/research>
- UW <http://lib.law.washington.edu/>
- KCLL <http://www.kcll.org/>

- Parallel Table of Authorities and Rules (Located in the Index volume at the end of the CFR)

At Your Library (catalog search)

- SU <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/library/research>
- UW <http://lib.law.washington.edu/>
- KCLL <http://www.kcll.org/>

GPO Access <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfr-table-search.html> (free!)

### *Federal Register (FR)*

GPO Access <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> 1994-current

At Your Library (catalog search)

- SU <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/library/research>
- UW <http://lib.law.washington.edu/>
- KCLL <http://www.kcll.org/>

Hein Online (Contact a reference librarian for access information)

LexisNexis

Westlaw FR

*List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA)* <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/lisa/index.html>

Lists Federal Register pages of new or proposed rules that may affect the CFR.

At Your Library (catalog search)

- SU <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/library/research>
- UW <http://lib.law.washington.edu/>
- KCLL <http://www.kcll.org/>

*Legal Trac* (Contact a reference librarian for access information)

An efficient way to find legal periodical articles. Print versions are known as Current Law Index and Legal Resource Index.

At Your Library (catalog search)

- SU <http://www.law.seattleu.edu/library/research>
- UW <http://lib.law.washington.edu/>
- KCLL <http://www.kcll.org/>

## **Additional Resources**

- University of Washington Gallagher Law Library's guide on *U.S. Administrative Law Research* <http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/adminus.html>
- University of Washington Gallagher Law Library's guide on *Federal Legislative History* <http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/fedlegishist.html>
- *A Research Guide to Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations* <http://www.llsdc.org/sourcebook/fed-reg-cfr.htm>
- Administrative Procedures Act, [5 USC §§ 551 et seq.](#)
- *U.S. Government Manual* <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gmanual/index.html> Great resource if you're trying to figure out what agency regulates in the area of research.
- *ABA Section of Administrative Law & Regulatory Practice* <http://www.abanet.org/adminlaw/>

The following resources can be found by searching your local law library's catalog (some libraries may not have all resources or may have an older edition available):

- *Federal Administrative Procedure Sourcebook* 3<sup>rd</sup> (American Bar Association, Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice 2000)
- *Administrative Law* 2d by Alfred C. Aman, Jr. and William T. Mayton (West 2001)
- *Administrative Law Treatise* 4<sup>th</sup> by Richard J. Pierce (Aspen Law & Business 2002)
- *Administrative Law* 3<sup>rd</sup> by Bernard Schwartz (Little Brown 1991)
- *Understanding Administrative Law* 4<sup>th</sup> by William F. Fox, Jr. (Lexis 2000)
- *Administrative Law and Process in a Nutshell* 5<sup>th</sup> by Ernest Gellhorn and Ronald M. Levin (West 2006)
- *Pike and Fischer Administrative Law* 3<sup>rd</sup> edited by John W. Willis (Pike & Fischer 1989-)