

Congressional Hearings Helpful Hints

Congressional Hearings

Content and File Format
Fielded Searches
Maximum Responses
Identification Codes
Catalog of Available Hearings

Sample Searches

Search by Subject
Search by Date

[Additional Instructions for Searching Databases](#)

Congressional Hearings

Content and File Format

The [Congressional Hearings](#) databases contain selected House and Senate hearings for the 105th Congress (1997-98). The House and Senate appropriations hearings for fiscal year 1998 are included. Documents are available as [ASCII text](#) and [Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format \(PDF\)](#) files. [1] Graphics, including scanned images of camera-ready copy, are available from the PDF files but are not included in the ASCII text files.

Fielded Searches

Fielded searches allow you to make your search more specific by limiting your results by preselected elements, such as type of hearing.

The fields for the *Congressional Hearings* databases are as follows:

Type of hearing: House hearings and Senate hearings

Options are also available to include the FY 1998 House appropriations hearings, the FY 1998 Senate appropriations hearings, or both.

To select or deselect a field, click on the appropriate box. You may search for one or multiple types of hearings with a single query. Queries that do not specify a field will perform a search of all of the available hearings.

Note: The fielded-search page automatically defaults to both the House and Senate hearings, excluding the appropriations hearings. If you do not wish to search one of these types of hearings, you must deselect the corresponding checkbox.

Maximum Responses

The maximum responses you may receive from a query is set at a default of 40. To locate a larger number of documents (up to 200), you must change the setting. All of the *GPO Access* search pages provide a box in which you may change the maximum number of returned documents. Generally, 40 responses should be adequate to retrieve the document for which you are searching. If you cannot find a desired document with the default 40 responses, you may want to try making your query more specific before expanding the number of returned documents.

Identification Codes

In the list that displays your query results, the title of each *Congressional Hearings* document is preceded by an identification code. The identification code contains two elements: a Congress number and a database abbreviation. For example, in the listing “[105 Sen. Hrgs.] NOMINEES TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES,” “105” indicates that the hearing is from the 105th Congress, “Sen. Hrgs.” stands for Senate hearings, and “NOMINEES TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES” is the title of the document. The phrase “Congress House Hearings” replaces “Sen. Hrgs.” for House documents in the database section of the identification code.

Identification codes for the House and Senate appropriations hearings include the name(s) of the agency (or agencies) receiving the appropriation, the fiscal year of the appropriation, and a part number for that document, as in the following example: “[VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Appropriations for 1998 - Part 8].”

Catalog of Available Hearings

To view a current catalog of House and Senate hearings available via *GPO Access*, click on the “submit” button on the search page without having entered any query terms and then select the appropriate document from the results list.

Sample Searches

The following sample searches are provided as guides to popular types of searches in the *Congressional Hearings* databases. They are performed in the *Congressional Hearings* database for the 105th Congress with marks in the checkboxes for House and Senate hearings. [2]

Note: Whenever you enter a query, make sure that you deselect any default settings that may interfere with your search. The *Congressional Hearings* databases automatically default to the House and Senate hearings.

Search by Subject

This type of search returns documents that are related to a specific subject. The word(s) that you enter as your search term(s) may appear anywhere within the document.

Query: **"drug interdiction"**
Alternative: **drug ADJ interdiction**

Results: [105th Congress House Hearings] OVERSIGHT OF THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE
 [105 Sen. Hrgs.] TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS
 [105 Sen. Hrgs.] U.S. AND MEXICAN COUNTERDRUG EFFORTS SINCE
 (Other documents were returned that are not included here.)

Search by Date

This type of search returns hearings based on a specified date. As in a general subject search, the date may appear anywhere in the document, as the date of the hearing or as a reference within the course of the proceedings.

Query: **"october 1998"**
Alternative: **october ADJ 1998**
Results: [105th Congress House Hearings] THE CONSEQUENCES OF PERJURY AND
[105th Congress House Hearings] INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT OF HEALTH CARE
[105 Sen. Hrgs.] THE YEAR 2000 TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM: PENSIONS AND
(Other documents were returned that are not included here.)

Footnotes

[1] Users with the free Adobe Acrobat Reader software can view documents as they appear in the printed version. This software is available from Adobe's Web site at the following URL:
<http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>.

[2] The results of these sample searches are described as they appear on the Web interface. The display of the results may vary for users of the WAIS client and SWAIS software.

[Questions or comments](#) regarding this service? Contact the **GPO Access User Support Team**
by Internet e-mail at gpoaccess@gpo.gov;
by telephone at **1-202-512-1530** or **toll-free at 1-888-293-6498**;
or by fax at **1-202-512-1262**.