

**The United States Senate:  
An Institutional Bibliography  
1789-present**

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**Introduction**

This selective bibliography, compiled by the United States Senate Historical Office, is designed to provide general readers and scholars with a guide to articles, documents, and books on the institutional development of the Senate. In addition to covering the fundamental powers of the Senate, the bibliography includes sources on Senate practices, customs, and rules of procedure. While illustrative case studies are listed, the bibliography's emphasis is on the historical evolution of the institution, not isolated occurrences. Studies on individuals and the current status of the Senate have, for the most part, been excluded. For a comprehensive list of sources on U.S. senators, consult the congressional document, *Senators of the United States: A Historical Bibliography* (1995), which is listed under the Bibliographies subheading of the Reference section of this bibliography. Also see the on-line Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress (<http://bioguide.congress.gov/>).

The bibliography contains over six hundred sources arranged by subject headings and subheadings. The sources may be listed under multiple headings if they cover more than one subject. Under each heading, the sources are further divided by the time period of their first publication. The publication time periods are 1789-1889, 1890-1939, 1940-1989, and 1990 to the present. The chronological divisions are meant to reveal trends in Senate scholarship as well as to aid researchers interested in sources published during a particular period. If the source is a reprinted book, the citation will often include the latest publication information.

Periodically, citations will be added to the bibliography provided that they meet the criteria determined by the Senate Historical Office. Suggestions for additions are encouraged. Send your comments regarding the bibliography to [historian@sec.senate.gov](mailto:historian@sec.senate.gov).

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### **XIII. Finding the Sources**

Most of the books listed on the bibliography are available at large academic and research libraries, while a number of the more recent, popular titles can be found in local public libraries. Consult a reference librarian for information regarding library holdings. If the library does not have the book you are seeking, you may be able to order it through an inter-library loan service.

The Library of Congress (LC) in Washington, DC has copies of every book on the bibliography. The LC catalog is accessible on-line (<http://catalog.loc.gov/>). You may browse the catalog by subject, author, title, or call number. Once a book title is brought to the screen, click on "full record" to get a complete bibliographic citation.

The bibliography's twentieth-century articles are generally located in scholarly journals held in academic libraries and the Library of Congress. Public library reference librarians can often obtain copies of journal articles for a small fee. Check your local library for details. Nineteenth-century articles may be found in a variety of sources, including scholarly journals and social commentary magazines. Ask a reference librarian to help you locate obscure titles.

Copies of government documents are held in federal depository libraries. Almost every U.S. congressional district or territory has at least one federal depository library located within its borders. A complete listing of federal depository libraries is available on-line (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/libraries.html>). If possible, go to the federal depository library in person and provide the reference librarian with the document and Congress numbers included in the bibliography's citation. Copies of recent documents may be purchased, or available at no cost, from the Government Printing Office (GPO). Check the GPO Access catalog for holdings (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html>). Original congressional documents are located at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC (<http://www.archives.gov>).

Questions regarding the locations of sources may be addressed to:  
[historian@sec.senate.gov](mailto:historian@sec.senate.gov).