![Paratext logo]

United States Documents Masterfile 1774-2020™

Single Search resource from the Continental Congress to the present.

United States Documents Masterfile
1774-2020™

Exploring U.S. Government Documents...

It is difficult to summarize the vast output of nearly 250 years of United States government publications from the Continental Congress to the 116th Congress of today.

Simply put, the U.S. government has published information on everything that reflects the American experience, chronicling the nation's development in the process. These publications are valuable to students and researchers in history, government, business, economics, sociology, education, legal studies, and the sciences.

However, despite the American tradition of open government, researching U.S. federal documents has long been challenging—something left largely to experienced specialists.

Furthermore many library budgets are stretched thin today, with fewer resources being allocated for document experts. Never has the need for time-saving, easy-to-use tools for document specialists been greater.

Paratext developed *United States Documents Masterfile (USDM)* to serve the rigorous demands of advanced users and content specialists in need of efficient tools, all the while permitting the non-specialist or general researcher to explore the vast cache of federal information effectively.

USDM aggregates foundational governmental document indexes and full-text collections to create an easy-to-use single index to U.S. government publications.

USDM continues to evolve with an editorial emphasis on adding full-text links to open access government documents.

New Content and Improved Metadata

USDM bridges the divide between historical federal information and publications produced after the Government Printing Office's (GPO) MARC cataloging of federal documents began in 1976.

The service goes further than simply covering GPO-published material: it also contains a wealth of non-GPO publications—generally known as "fugitive documents"—which make up as much as 55% of the federal output.

Looking to the future as well, *USDM* continues to keep pace with the vast output of contemporary federal publications. Recent additions include *Congressional Research Reports* and *Congressional Bill Summaries*:

- **CRS Reports** – once accessible only to Members of Congress, reports from the Library of Congress's Congressional Research Service (CRS) dating back as far as 1972 are now searchable in *USDM.* Paratext has incorporated data made public by the open government organization "EveryCRSReport.com," making these invaluable primers on current issues widely available in an easily-searched form.

- **Bill Summaries** – *USDM* also now includes 26,000 congressional bill summaries from the 113th Congress (January 2013) through our current 116th Congress. These summaries—originally created by the CRS for congressional use—are now easily searched by *USDM* users and include full-text links to relevant pages on Congress.gov.

Recent Enhancements to Search Functions

Based on conversations with document librarians, we have implemented new search structures and data enhancements to improve the value and accuracy of searches. Recent improvements include:

- Greatly improved Superintendent of Documents (SuDoc) number search to locate publications.

- For items without full text link, clear indication of how to locate the items within a library.

- New "Search Details" display shows synonyms, plurals, and variants searched.

- Improved filtering for over 70 U.S. governmental agencies/departments, taking into account organizational changes over time.

Enriched Descriptors and Improved Help Modules

It is challenging to create a research product which serves the needs of experienced document specialists while also remaining welcoming to the novice. Paratext continues to work to serve both groups and to this end has recently added:

- More extensive historical descriptions of core *USDM* sources.

- Thoroughly updated Help modules written for both novices and experts.

- Enhanced Widgets for quick access from LibGuides and other online platforms.

United States Documents Masterfile **produces results with one search quickly and easily.**

For example, search for 'supreme court nomination' and find 219 titles—70% of them unique, non-duplicate results—from 12 sources covering over 200 years of American history.

"Supreme Court Nomination"

- 10 records from: *U.S. Congressional Serial Set (Readex), 1817-1994*
- 55 records from: *Monthly Catalog of Government Publications, 1976-*
- 7 records from: Public Documents held by the Library of Congress, 1860-
- 2 records from: *Public Documents of the First Fourteen Congresses, 1789-1817*
- 45 records from: *Congressional Research Service Reports*
- 25 records from: ERIC, 1965-
- 4 records from: *Cumulative Title Index to US Government Documents, 1789-1976*
- 3 records from: *Congressional Record Predecessors*
- 4 records from: *Messages and Papers of the Presidents, 1789-1897*
- 36 records from: *Cumulative Subject Index to the Monthly Catalog of US Government Publications, 1895-1971*
- 15 records from: *Congressional Bill Summaries, 2015-*
- 13 records from: National Archives

Paratext

- The only historically comprehensive bibliography of American federal documents.

- Nearly 15 million records, with 10 million full-text links.

- Historical content reformatted with contemporary resources.

- Government-wide documents compiled into one easy source.

- Search historical indexes, including Greeley, Poore's, Ames, Hickcox, Cumulative Title and Subject Indexes, and the 1909 Checklist.

- Search over 2 million federally-funded technical and research reports.

"*U.S. Documents Masterfile* is a unique resource for government information librarians. Moreover, it is designed by people who know the idiosyncrasies of historical finding tools and how to bring them together via a seamless interface."

Jim Gillispie, Johns Hopkins University

Visit www.paratext.com to begin a trial for your library.