

FOLLOWING THE MONEY: TIPS ON MATCHING DONATIONS AND DEEDS
IRE Conference, Phoenix, Ariz., June 13, 1997
(From Alan C. Miller, Los Angeles Times)

Finding legislation

Bills can be located using the following online sources:

- 1) On the Internet, the Library of Congress' THOMAS home page (<http://thomas.loc.gov>) and the Government Printing Office (<http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress>) provide searchable databases of bills from the 103rd-105th Congress.
- 2) In addition, the Library of Congress Information System (LOCIS) has searchable databases of bills introduced in Congress back to the 97th Congress (1981-82). To reach this system you must telnet to locis.loc.gov and then select option 2 (Federal Legislation) from the main menu. The search system is somewhat difficult to use at first, but online help is available. Obtainable information includes lists of co-sponsors and the status of bill.
- 3) Bill text/tracking is also available through Nexis Legis Library.
- 4) Copies of bills are provided to depository libraries. These are often on microfiche. Bills in the current Congress can also be obtained by calling 202-225-3456. To find out the status of a bill in the current Congress, call 202-225-1772.

Congressional Votes

- 1) The Congressional Record, which includes records of votes on the House and Senate floor, is also available through THOMAS and GPO for the 103rd-105th Congress. In addition, Nexis has the Congressional Record back to the 99th Congress.
- 2) Many libraries also receive the hard copy of the daily Congressional Record.
- 3) Another good source for information on votes is CQ Weekly Report, a Congressional Quarterly publication that tracks the status of major legislation and includes listings of how each member voted in major roll call votes.

Floor Statements

As with congressional votes, statements by members of Congress during debates or submitted as "extension of remarks" can be searched in the Congressional Record at the Thomas or GPO sites, in Nexis and in the hard copy of the Record.

Hearings

- 1) Some hearing information (witness lists, prepared statements, etc.) are available through the congressional committee's web pages. Senate committees can be reached through links from <http://www.senate.gov> and House committees through <http://www.senate.gov>. Committees might begin making more information available online in the near future.
- 2) Full transcripts of hearings are more difficult to locate. Some committees will provide copies of transcripts upon request.
- 3) On Nexis, the Federal News Service has transcripts of many, but not all, hearings.
- 4) Some hearing transcripts also go to depository libraries.
- 5) The Congressional Information Service (CIS) publishes an index of hearings. The printed index is available at many libraries. An online version is available on Nexis.

Postscript

The above information is far from a complete list of resources but rather some useful starting points. The Library of Congress' legislative branch Internet resource page at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/legislative/congress.html> provides additional information and links to many more useful sites. The Library of Congress also has a 45-page "Guide to United States Government Legislative Documents" in the Library of Congress. A link to this guide is available at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/ncp/lcgovd.html>.