



subscribe.html>. The daily and monthly alert services send email messages with links to GAO reports and testimony released in the previous day or over the course of the past month. Subscribers can also choose to receive alerts only when the content is related to a selected topic, such as homeland security or veterans' affairs. GAO offers an RSS feed as well.

Commercial Sources (paid subscription services)

- CQ.com, <www.cq.com>, provides alert services with legislative news, analysis, and documents.
- GalleryWatch.com, <www.gallerywatch.com>, has a Legislative Tracking and Notification Service.
- LexisNexis, <www.lexisnexis.com>, and Westlaw, <<http://west.thomson.com>>, each carry legislative databases such as the *Congressional Record*, and each offer alert services.

§2.60 From Bills to Laws: Documents and Information Resources

Legislation is introduced, debated, amended, and passed by Congress.

The final version of legislation, the enrolled bill, is sent to the president.

Resources:

- THOMAS, <<http://thomas.loc.gov>>
- GPO Access, <www.gpoaccess.gov/bills/>



Legislation is signed into law by the president.

The White House sends the signed copy to the National Archives, Office of the Federal Register (OFR). The National Archives assigns a public law number and the Government Printing Office (GPO) prints the bill as a public law, or "slip law."

Resources:

- National Archives, OFR, <www.archives.gov/federal-register/laws/>
- GPO Access, <www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/>



(continued on page 39)

§2.60 From Bills to Laws: Documents and Information Resources (continued)

Public laws are compiled chronologically for *Statutes At Large* volumes.

The annual volumes are compiled by the OFR and printed by the GPO. Current volumes are not yet available on a free web site, although GPO plans to put some volumes online in the near future. They are available for sale from GPO or can be used at a local GPO Federal Depository Library.

Resources:

- GPO Online Bookstore, <<http://bookstore.gpo.gov>>
- GPO Federal Depository Library Directory, <www.gpoaccess.gov/libraries.html>

(Laws are also compiled in the commercially published *United States Code Congressional and Administrative News* from Thomson-West, <<http://west.thomson.com>>.)



Public laws of a “general and permanent” nature are compiled by topic for the United States Code.

The Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives assigns law text to the Code’s topical hierarchy. The official *U.S. Code* is published by GPO every six years, within interim supplements. Many researchers prefer to use unofficial versions that are published commercially on such for-fee online services as Westlaw, <<http://west.thomson.com/store/>>, or free services such as Cornell University’s Legal Information Institute.

Resources:

- House Law Revision Counsel, <<http://uscode.house.gov/>>
- GPO Access, <www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/>
- Cornell Legal Information Institute, <www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>

(The Code is also published commercially as the *United States Code Annotated*, from Thomson-West, <<http://west.thomson.com>>, and the *United States Code Service*, from LexisNexis, <www.lexisnexis.com>.)



The United States Code is continually amended as new bills are signed into law.