



Congressional Serial Set

Henry Madden Library • California State University, Fresno

What It Is

The Congressional Serial Set is composed of publications compiled by order of Congress. Although the criteria for what material was included in the Serial Set changed over time, in general it contains congressional documents and selected other material from the executive branch and nongovernmental organizations.

Congressional publications in the Serial Set include House and Senate committee reports on legislation; House and Senate manuals, administrative reports, and other internal publications; and reports of investigations by or for Congress. Executive branch materials include messages from the President; survey, research, and statistical publications; and annual reports of federal agencies. Neither congressional debates nor committee hearings are included in the Serial Set.

The first 14 Congresses (1789-1816) were not part of the official Serial Set, and were published later in the *American State Papers*.

What We Own & Where It Is

1789 – 1951 Gov Info microprint, *Readex U.S. Serial Set*.

1 – 81th Congress (includes the *American State Papers*)

American State Papers # 01 - 038; Serial Set # 1 – 11483

Access is by Serial Set number and document series + number.

1951 – 1969 Gov Info microfiche, *CIS U.S. Serial Set*.

82nd – 91st Congress, 1st session

Serial Set # 11484 - 12880

Access is by Serial Set number and document series + number.

1970 – present Gov Info microfiche, *CIS Microfiche Library*.

91st Congress, 2nd session – present

Access is by year and CIS number.

The *CIS Microfiche Library* includes all Serial Set material *except*

1. reports on private bills and ceremonial matters
2. texts of annual reports and other documents by executive branch departments that were issued by those departments

1994-1995 – present Internet, *GPO Access*

104th Congress - forward

Many House and Senate reports and documents are available on the Internet through *GPO Access* at either:

GPO Access at the Government Printing Office: www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aaces002.html

How to Find Information in the Serial Set (Indexes to the Serial Set)

1789 - 1969 *CIS U.S. Serial Set Index*.

Gov Info Reference Z 1223 Z9 C65

1970 - present *CIS Index to Publications of the United States Congress*.

Gov Info Reference KF 49 C62

To find maps in the Serial Set:

1789 – 1969 *CIS U.S. Serial Set Index: Index and Carto-Bibliography of Maps*.

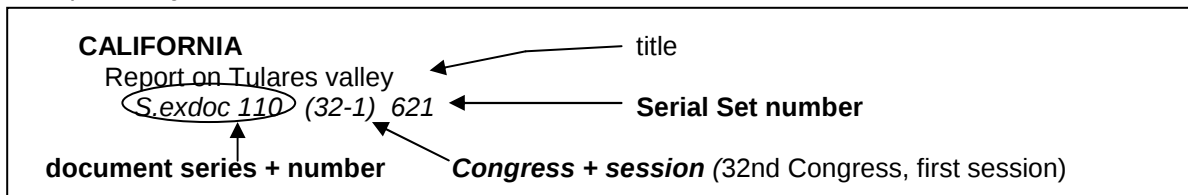
Gov Info Reference Z 1223 Z7 C62

How to Use the CIS Indexes

1789 – 1969 CIS U.S. Serial Set Index

Step 1. Select a time period and look up a topic in the subject index.

example: **Subject Index**

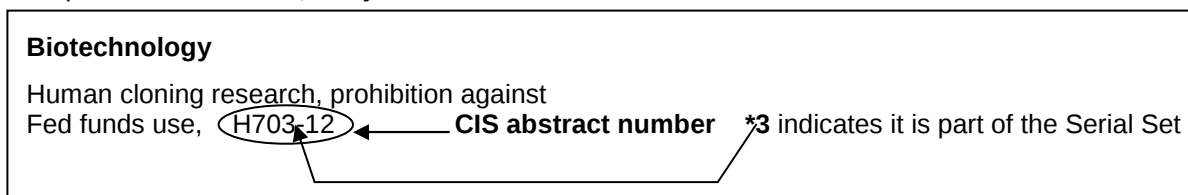


Step 2. Take the **document series + number**, **Congress + session**, and the **Serial Set number** to the Maps & Gov Info desk. We will retrieve the material from our microprint or microfiche sets.

1970 - Present CIS Index to Publications of the U.S. Congress

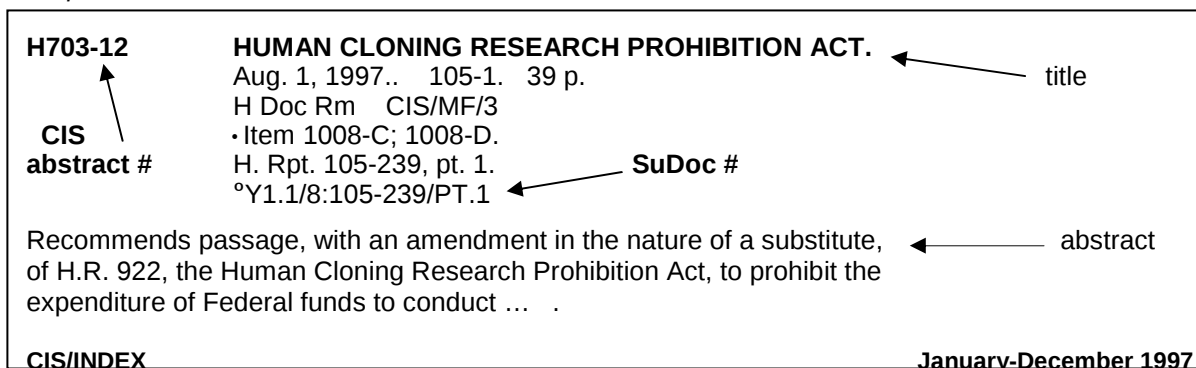
Step 1: Choose a time period and look up a topic or name in the index volume for that period. CIS-abstract numbers which have a third digit* of **0, 3, 4** or **5** are Serial Set documents. (Others are committee prints or hearings, and not part of the Serial Set.)

example: **Index Volume, Subjects and Names**



Step 2: Look up the abstract number in the abstract volume for the SAME YEAR as of the index volume you used. The abstract volume gives a full description and summary of the item.

example: **Abstract Volume**



Step 3: Take the **index year**, **CIS abstract number**, and **SuDoc #** to the Maps & Gov Info desk for access to the *CIS Microfiche Library* or the U.S. depository collection.

