



RESEARCHING FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

FEDERAL REGISTER AND CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Federal Register

Published every weekday since 1936, the Federal Register (FR) contains rules, proposed rules, agency notices, and executive orders and proclamations. Each issue of the FR contains a table of contents organized alphabetically by agency name for easy searching. The FR is accessible via:

1. GPO Access (1994-Present)

Location: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>

The Government Printing Office (GPO) publishes browsable and searchable PDF or text versions of the Federal Register. Use the “page number” search tool to retrieve an exact citation. You can sign up to receive the FR table of contents via email at <http://listserv.access.gpo.gov>.

2. HeinOnline (1936-2007)

Location: Charlottelaw.org → Law Library → Library Databases

Hein publishes the complete Federal Register in PDF format. However, the most recent issues of the Federal Register are not available on Hein.

3. Westlaw (1936 – Present)

Location:

FR database (1981-Present)

FR-ALL (1936 – Present)

FR-OLD (1936-1980)

Westlaw does not provide PDFs of the Federal Register, but you are able to take advantage of enhanced search options.

4. LexisNexis (1980 – Present)

Location: FEDREG database

Like Westlaw, Lexis provides enhanced search options but does not offer PDFs.

Code of Federal Regulations

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) collects and codifies individual Federal Register issues. The CFR is divided into 50 general titles. Some of the CFR titles correspond to the titles of the USC but many do not. Titles are updated on a quarterly basis:

Title 1-16	January 1
Title 17-27	April 1
Title 28-41	July 1
Title 42-50	October 1

The CFR is accessible via:



1. Code of Federal Regulations (2007)

Location: Atrium, KF 70 .A35

Charlotte School of Law Library is building a collection of print CFR volumes.

2. GPO Access (1996- Present)

Location: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>

The CFR is available in either text or PDF at GPO Access online. Exact citations can be accessed using “Retrieve by CFR citation”.

The CFR is also available in the eCFR (electronic CFR). This edition is continuously updated like Lexis and Westlaw but is considered unofficial. The eCFR is available, in text form only, at: <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=%2Findex.tpl>

3. HeinOnline (1938-1983)

Location: Charlottelaw.org → Law Library → Library Databases → Hein → Federal Register Library

HeinOnline has the CFR in PDF format.

4. Westlaw (1984 - Present)

Location: CFR; earlier years are organized by the pattern CFR2006, CFR2005, etc.

5. LexisNexis (1981 – Present)

Location: CFR database. Earlier years are organized by the pattern CFR06, CFR05, etc. Legal → Federal Legal U.S. → CFR

Indexes

Full text online keyword searching is useful when distinctive terms are known. However, when less information is known, it is difficult to find relevant results. The indexes listed below offer a quick method to finding a relevant section of the CFR or FR.

1. West’s Code of Federal Regulations: General Index (2007)

Location: Reference, KF 70 .A34 W47

This four volume index, updated yearly, indexes the CFR in great detail.

2. HeinOnline: Federal Register Indexes (1939 – 2006)

Location: Charlottelaw.org → Law Library → Library Databases → Hein → Federal Register Library

Hein’s historical indexes are reproduced in a PDF format.

3. Westlaw: Regulations Plus Index (2007)

Location: CFR → Regulations Plus Index

Updating

In the past, regulations were updated in print using the List of Sections Affected (LSA). However, with a continuously updated CFR online, this process has been streamlined.



1. Westlaw

Westlaw updates within one to two weeks. To update a regulation, search the Federal Register from the date to the present. CFR sections can be KeyCited to find references to new cases, administrative decisions and secondary sources.

2. LexisNexis

Lexis updates regulations within two weeks of publication. To update a regulation, search the Federal Register from the date to the present. CFR sections can be Shepardized to find references to new cases, administrative decisions and secondary sources.

3. Gpoaccess.gov

The e-CFR will update within a few days of new federal regulations.

The United States Code and the CFR

Lexis publishes tables that correlate the CFR to the USC. These tables allow a researcher to compare the regulations with the statutory framework.

USCS Tables

Location: Atrium KF 62 1972 .L38

The USCS includes both CFR to USCS and USCS to CFR tables.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE LAW RESOURCES

[United States Government Manual](#)

Summarizes the activities and purpose of executive agencies as well as providing basic information about the judicial and legislative branches.

Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents

1. GPO Access (1993 – Present)

Location: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/wcomp/index.html>

2. HeinOnline (1965 – 2006)

Location: Charlottelaw.org → Law Library → Library Databases → Hein → U.S. Presidential Library → Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents

3. Westlaw (2000 – Present)

Location: WCPD database

LLMC Digital Administrative Researches

Location: Charlottelaw.org → Law Library → Library Databases → LLMC Digital → U.S. Federal → Executive

1. U.S. Presidential Messages and Papers (1789-1914)



2. U.S. Presidential Proclamations and Executive Orders (1954-1989)

3. Independent Agencies and Government Corporations (Coverage varies)
LLMC digital has placed many historical volumes online including Federal Trade Commission decisions (1914 -1999), Railroad Labor Board decisions (1920-1926) and Security & Exchange Commission decisions and reports (1934-1997).

4. Public Papers of the Presidents (1929 – 1932, 1945 – 2001)

More Resources

Books

[Administrative Law and Process in a Nutshell](#) / Ernest Gellhorn, Ronald M. Levin
Location: Course Reserves, KF 5402 Z9 G4 2006

[Administrative Law and Practice](#) / Charles H. Koch, Jr.
Location: Legal Treatises, KF 5407 K63

A three-volume, in-depth treatise on administrative law and procedure.

[A Guide to Federal Agency Rulemaking](#) / Jeffrey S. Lubbers
Location: Legal Treatises, KF 5411 L83 2006

[Fundamentals of Legal Research](#) / Roy M. Mersky, Donald J. Dunn
Location: Reference, KF 240 M469 2002

Chapter 13 of this text covers how to research administrative law.

Web sites

[How to research U.S. administrative law](#)
Tutorial from Georgetown University School of Law.

[Office of the Federal Register](#)

Full-text access to federal laws, presidential documents, administrative regulations, and more. The Office also oversees the Electoral College and the Constitutional amendment process.

[Regulations.gov](#)

Find, view, and comment on federal regulations and other actions.

[Administrative Procedure Database Archive](#)

Links to the administrative codes and registers of all 50 states, as well as to various federal resources. Also has a bibliography of reports, articles, and papers sponsored by the Administrative Conference of the U.S.