

UNITED STATES - FEDERAL

Updated: June 28, 2022

Online Legal Information

This chart provides status information about free online access to federal primary legal materials.

	Session Laws	Code of Statutes	Register	Administrative Code	Appeals Court Opinions	Supreme Court Opinions
Publications Title	Public and Private Laws	United States Code	Federal Register	Code of Federal Regulations	U.S. Court of Appeals Opinions	U.S. Supreme Court
Official Status	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
(Notes)						Only the bound volumes of the United States Reports contain the final, official text of the opinions of the Supreme Court.
Authentication	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
(Notes)	Authentication provided by the GPO using digital signature technology.					
Online Preservation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
(Notes)						
Permanent Public Access	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
(Notes)						
Copyright Claimed	No	No	No	No	No	No
(Notes)						
UELMA Adopted	No					
Universal Citation Adopted	No					

Where to Get Help With Your Research

For help with federal legal information questions, it might be helpful to consult with a law library close to where you live. The Public Library Toolkits provide references to local law libraries that are happy to help researchers with their legal questions. Some of the federal courts also have public libraries. If there is nothing close by, several sources, including the Law Library of Congress, will answer legal research questions via email.

Resources	Website	Description of Services
Public Library Toolkits	https://www.aallnet.org/lispsis/resources-publications/public-library-toolkit/	The toolkits were created and are maintained by members of AALL's Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section. Each document contains current links to primary law within the state, and many of the documents also have references to bar associations, legal clinics, libraries, and print resources explaining the legal research process.
govinfo	https://www.govinfo.gov/	govinfo is a service of the United States Government Publishing Office (GPO), which is a Federal agency in the legislative branch. govinfo provides free public access to official publications from all three branches of the Federal Government. Documents on govinfo were created using digital signatures on each document as evidence of the document's integrity and authenticity.
U.S. Courts	https://www.uscourts.gov/	This is the website of the federal courts. The "Federal Court Finder" will identify local courts, many of which have libraries that are open to the public. Each individual court has its own website, which contains helpful resources, such as opinions, court rules, forms, announcements, research guides, and other helpful material.
Law Library of Congress	https://www.loc.gov/research-centers/law-library-of-congress/about-this-research-center/	The Law Library of Congress has an impressive collection of material on its site, including research guides, digital collections of historical legislative and regulatory records, research reports, as well as links to other government sites. Appointments are encouraged for visitors, but the Law Library of Congress can also be reached by phone or email at this page: https://ask.loc.gov/law/