



British Parliamentary Papers

Reference Desk
(402)554-2661

UNO Library owns three types of British Parliamentary Papers—journals, debates and sessional papers. The journals are a record of what transpired in Parliament. The debates are a record of what was said there. The sessional papers are collections of documents (e.g. reports, bills, white papers) produced by Parliament.

The following are the documents UNO Library owns, giving call numbers and locations. For each type of document, indexing is identified and examples are provided.

I. JOURNALS

Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. *Journals of the House of Commons*. Microcard J301.K5 v1-155. 11 boxes of cards. Covers 1547 - 1900. Some debates and sessional papers are also included.

Index: Indexes are located at the end of each volume on microcard. Reference is made to date rather than page number.

II. DEBATES

A. *Parliamentary History of England from the Earliest Times to 1803...* 36 volumes. (*Cobbett's Parliamentary History of England*). Microcard J301.H4. 2 boxes of cards. Covers 1066-1803.

Index: There is no subject index. Use the detailed table of contents in each volume.

B. *The Parliamentary Debates* [Hansard]. (Authorized edition). Readex Microprint. Microcard J301.H22. Covers 1803-1891.

1st series (1803-1820) (v. 1-41.) (*Cobbett's Parliamentary Debates*). 2 boxes of cards.

2d series (1820-1830) (v. 1-25). (*Cobbett's Parliamentary Debates*). 1 box of cards.

3rd series (1830-1891) (v. 1-356).

4th series (1892-1908) (v.1-199).

House of Lords debates are included as an appendix.

Index:

For series 1-2 (1803-1830), the index is included at the end of the second series (1830).

For series 3-4, the last volume for each session is (or includes) a general index for the volumes of that session.

Citation example: vii [1806] 836, 860, 1019
 volume date column numbers
 number

The previous citation would be found in the microcard box labeled as follows:

Hansard Debates
Cobbett's
Parliamentary Debates

1803-1820
41 v. First Series
Vol. I-XX
Nov 22, 1803-
July 24, 1811

The header on the microcard where the documents in columns 836 and 860 are located appears as follows:

Hansard's Debates 1066-1918	Columns 799-998
Cobbett's Parliamentary Debates 1803-1820	
Vol. VII, 1806. 1st Series.	

C. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. *The Parliamentary Debates (Hansard)* (official report). Fifth series. London: HMSO, 1909-1918. Readex Microprint. Microcard J301.H6 v. #(s) year(s). Library owns v. 1 (1909) - v. 111 (1918) on microcard. (6 boxes of cards). [Library also owns v.829 #882 (1972) - v.961 #1129 (1979) in printed copy at Third Floor J301.H6 V3 year.]

Index: (for both microform and printed versions.) The last volume for each session is (or includes) a general index for the volumes in that session.

D. Great Britain. Parliament. House of Lords. *The Parliamentary Debates (Hansard)* (official report). Fifth series. London: HMSO, 1909-1918. Readex Microprint. Microcard J301.H6 v#(s) year(s). Library owns v. 1-32 on microcard. (1 box of cards). [Library also owns 1972 - 1983 in printed copy at J301.H6 v.327 #816 1972 - v.444 #1229 1983. Indexes are incomplete.]

Index: (for both microform and printed versions.) The last volume for each session is or includes a general index for the volumes in that session.

III. SESSIONAL PAPERS

Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. *Parliamentary Papers Printed by Order of the House of Commons from the years 1731-1800...[and] 1801-1900.* Readex Microprint. 235 boxes of cards: second series 1731-1800 (Abbott Collection), 4 boxes; 19th century annual series 1801-1900, 231 boxes. Microcard J301.K6 v.1-106 1731-1900. This set is a reissue of the original official documents, and can be considered complete for the House of Commons for the time period covered.

Indexes: There are three comprehensive indexes for the Readex microprint set of *British Parliamentary Papers* UNO Library owns:

1. *Irish University Press Series of British Parliamentary Papers. [General] Index 4.* 8 volumes. Ref Z2009.I687 v#. Covers 1696 - 1899. This is a printed index.
 - v. 1. - 1696-1834 - *Hansard's Catalogue*
 - v. 2. - 1801-1852 - Reports of select committees
 - v. 3. - 1801-1852 - Accounts and papers
 - v. 4. - 1852-1869 - Bills, reports, estimates, accounts

- and papers
- v. 5. - 1801-1852 - Bills, printed by order of the House of Commons
- v. 6. - 1870-1879 - Bills reports, estimates, accounts, and papers.
- v. 7. - 1880-1889 - "
- v. 8. - 1890-1899 - "

Citation example: 1826 (404.) IV 1
 session of paper volume page
 Parliament number number number

There are numerous volumes per session of Parliament. The page number given represents the sequential page number for an entire volume. These are usually handwritten on the microcard; there are 100 pages per card. The paper number is not necessary for locating the document, but can be used to verify that the correct document has been found. It is located at the bottom of the page when reading the microcards.

The above citation would be found in the box labeled as follows:

British
Sessional
Papers
*
House of Commons
*
1826
VOLS I-XXIX

The header on the microcard where the document is located appears as follows:

British Sessional Papers 1826 Vol. IV
House of Commons pp.1-99

2. Cockton, Peter. *Subject Catalogue of the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers 1801-1900*. Chadwick Healey, 1988. Ref Z2009 C63 1988. 5 volumes. This printed index is limited to the nineteenth century and is the most comprehensive printed index for that period. See the example in "1." above for how to locate documents.
3. *British Sessional Papers Collection of Indexes*. Readex Microprint. Microcard J301.K6 Index. 428 cards in 4 cases. See Genisys for what's in each case (box). Covers 1696 - 1900. These are shelved at the end of the British sessional papers set. These indexes are more comprehensive than any of the printed indexes.

There are also two other indexes which provide *selective* coverage of the *British Parliamentary Papers* set on microcard:

4. Ford, Percy. *Select List of British Parliamentary Papers 1833-1899*. Ref J301.M3 1969. Indexes committee publications relating to economic, social and constitutional questions. Check the Introduction for further information on this index's coverage.

5. *Irish University Press Series of British Parliamentary Papers. Annual List and General Index of the Parliamentary Papers Relating to the East Indies 1801-1907*. Special Index 1. Ref Z3208.A4 T73.

APPENDIX

UNL Love Library also owns the British Parliamentary Papers, in printed volumes instead of on microcard. They have the entire *Irish University Press 1000 Volume Series* of the *British Parliamentary Papers*, which provides only selective coverage of the Sessional Papers compared with the complete Readex microcard set which UNO has. The *Irish University Press* volumes are grouped and named according to broad subjects, e.g. Industrial Relations, which alone has 44 volumes. UNO Library does have one subject set from the *Irish University Press 1000 Volume Series* -- Stage and Theater (3 volumes) at Third floor PN2044.G6 I7 v.#. This set covers 1831-1892.

Once related citations have been selected using the sessional papers indexes discussed above, UNO patrons may borrow individual volumes of the *Irish University Press 1000 Volume Series* from UNL through Interlibrary Loan, using Part 1 of the Checklist below (which UNO owns) to identify the I.U.P. volumes needed.

Index: Irish University Press. *Checklist of Parliamentary Papers in the Irish University Press 1000-Volumes Series, 1801-1899*. 1972. Ref Z2009.I73.

Below is an example illustrating how to use the *Checklist* and *IRIS*, UNL's catalog, to identify the UNL call number, including volume number, for a needed document.

Entry identified in the Subject Catalog of the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers 1801 - 1900:
1837(220) XLII 223.

Entry from Part 1 of *Checklist*:

1837	(220)	Thompson, Whitcher...	Canada	8
Session no.	Paper no.	Short Title	Subject Group	IUP Volume no.

To identify which volume is needed from UNL, proceed as follows:

1. Go to *IRIS* (UNL's online catalog).
2. Type in **British Parliamentary Papers** as a title.
3. Click on **Limit Search** button.
4. Change drop-down box to **Words in the Title**. Type in **Canada** and click the **Limit/Sort Items** bar.
5. The volume number needed in *IRIS* is the same as the volume number given with the subject group in the *Checklist*. The call number of the item needed is then Love Folio F1031.5.I74 v.8 in this case.

UNO Library has three other indexes to the *Irish University Press 1000 Volume Series*:

1. Irish University Press. *Index to British Parliamentary Papers on Australia and New Zealand, 1800-1899*. Ref Z2009.I683 v.#.
2. Irish University Press. *Index to British Parliamentary Papers on Canada and Canadian Boundary, 1800-1899*. Ref Z2009.I684.
3. Irish University Press. *Index to British Parliamentary Papers on Children's Employment*. Z2009.I685.

Instructions for using these indexes are in the Preface to each.

If using the *Irish University Press 1000 Volume Series*, be sure to start your research early, since it takes two to three weeks to receive an interlibrary loan order from UNL. Alternately, you can drive down to Lincoln and check out the volume(s) you need with your UNO ID.

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