

Library Helpsheet: Find UK Parliamentary Papers Online



What are Parliamentary Papers?

Parliamentary Papers usually refer to documents relating to British Government

There are five main classes of parliamentary papers:

- House of Commons Bills
- House of Commons Papers
- Command Papers
- House of Lords Bills
- House of Lords Papers

The term 'Parliamentary Papers' also includes Hansard, which is the printed transcript of parliamentary debates

House of Commons and House of Lords Bills

A Bill is a proposal for a new law. Bills are introduced in either the House of Commons or House of Lords for examination, discussion and amendment.

House of Commons and House of Lords Papers

These are the working papers of Parliament and they are published by each house as a result of their work and of their committees. They include Votes and Proceedings, select committee reports and evidence, and sessional returns. House of Commons Papers and House of Lords Papers have separate numbering sequences, starting at one in every session. Therefore, papers are referred to in the format: 'HC 507 2000-01' or 'HL Paper 17 2004-05'.

Command Papers

Command Papers are government papers conveying information to Parliament. They typically include green papers, white papers, committee reports, commissioned reports and inquiry reports. Command Papers are published in numbered series and the prefix can be used to determine the period in which a paper was published:

- C 1 to C 9550 - 1870-1899
- Cd 1 to Cd 9239 - 1900-1918
- Cmd 1 to Cmd 9889 - 1919-1956
- Cmnd 1 to Cmnd 9927 - 1956 to November 1986
- Cm 1 onwards - November 1986 to date.

Finding Parliamentary Papers Online

ProQuest UK Parliamentary Papers (PUPP)

<http://parlipapers.proquest.com/parlipapers>

UEA Library recommends ProQuest UK Parliamentary Papers as the primary search tool for historical parliamentary papers and it can be accessed via UEA electronic resources.

External visitors may use this from the walk-in PCs on Floor 0.

ProQuest UK Parliamentary Papers (PUPP) is the main source of British Parliamentary Papers online and provides a comprehensive archive of sessional papers from 1688-2003. 17th and 18th century (1688-1834); 19th century (1801-1900)

- Histories and proceedings House of Lords and House of Commons (1660-1743)
- Private and local Bills and Acts (1695-1834)
- House of Commons and House of Lords debates (1774-1855)
- House of Lords papers (1714-1805) including Bills, Reports of Committees etc.
- Journals of the House of Commons (1688-1834) and House of Lords (1685-1834)

20th century (1901-2003/04 session)

Hansard

Hansard House of Commons and House of Lords (1803-2005) can be found and is easily searchable via PUPP. You can also access historic Hansard from 1806-2005 here:

<http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/>

Current Parliamentary Papers (2005 onwards):

- You can also search across all government publications including Command Papers on the site <https://www.gov.uk/>
- Post-2005 Hansard: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/hansard/> or try <http://www.theyworkforyou.com> which allows you to search by subject
- Current House of Lords and House of Commons Papers are published on the UK Parliament site and are available here: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/>

More information

The Parliament website contains a lot more information on the electronic versions of Parliamentary Papers. Please go here for further information:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/parliamentary-archives/>

The Parliamentary Archive is open to the public should you need to consult their records.

You can search their catalogue online here: <http://www.portcullis.parliament.uk/calmview/> please ensure that you contact them in advance if you need to consult their Archive.

The UEA has traditionally held some Parliamentary Papers and Hansard in print, but we now encourage users to access these resources through electronic means as this offers more scope for searching and is the quickest and most efficient means of access.

Cobbett's Parliamentary History of England is available online from the Library Catalogue.

We also have parliamentary session papers available on microfiche covering 1801-2006/7 in the Microfilm Room on Floor 02. Reading and scanning equipment is available.

If you locate a paper on our catalogue which you need to consult but which isn't available on microfiche or online please be aware there is a 72 hour turnaround for requests from our off-site store. Please contact the Library Helpdesk at Lib.Helpdesk@uea.ac.uk.

If you have any queries please contact your relevant HUM or SSF Academic Engagement Librarian <https://portal.uea.ac.uk/library/faculty-librarians>