The Official Publications Collection is based in the Taylor Library & European Documentation Centre. A floor plan showing the location of each section of the collection is on display near the entrance to the Taylor Library & EDC.

UK Official Publications

Parliamentary Papers


From the 2006/07 session all House of Commons papers are available on the Public Information Online database.

Both of these databases can be accessed through Primo or our Official Publications subject page.

Members of the public can access the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers database using the Walk-in Users Service at The Sir Duncan Rice Library.

House of Commons

- Paper copies of House of Commons Sessional Papers 1894-1980/81 are kept in store and are available, for consultation or loan, on request.
- In addition to the Command Papers included in the House of Commons Sessional Papers, there is a set of unbound Command Papers, in the Taylor Library.
- British Parliamentary Papers 1800 - 1899 is a collection of selected House of Commons Papers and Command Papers published by the Irish University Press. The collection is arranged chronologically by subject and is housed in the Taylor Library.

As individual reports within the Sessional Papers or individual papers within the Command Papers are not catalogued, please contact the Official Publications staff if you require help identifying the appropriate volume or need assistance.

House of Lords

House of Lords Bills (from 1956/57 onwards) and House of Lords Papers (from 1955/56 onwards) are available in electronic format on Public Information Online.

In addition the Taylor Library has copies of:
- House of Lords manuscript minutes, committee books and voting records 1620 - 1714 (on microfilm)
- House of Lords Sessional Papers 1714 - 1805 (Oceana reprint) (paper)

Parliamentary Debates

The Taylor Library has paper copies of:
- Parliamentary debates of the House of Commons, House of Lords (commonly known as Hansard) and the Parliamentary History and cover the period from 1066 to 2007/08
- Debates of the Standing Committees of the House of Commons 1966/67 to 2006/07
- In addition the House of Commons and House of Lords Debates are available on Public Information Online from 2008/09.
- A Hansard database covering the period 1803 - 2005 is available.

Parliamentary Journals

The Taylor has copies, some in paper and some on microfiche of:
- House of Commons Journal 1547 to date
- House of Lords Journal 1509 to date

UK Acts

The Taylor Library has paper copies of:
- Public and General Acts
- Statutes of the Realm 1066 - 1713
- Statutes at Large 1225 -1800
- Public General Statutes 1797 to date
- Local and Private Acts 1797 to date

Fully consolidated UK Acts are available on the legal database, Westlaw UK. See the Library guide on Westlaw UK – legislation.

Statutory Instruments

The university holds paper copies of:
- Statutory Rules & Orders and Statutory Instruments revised to December 1903 v.1-12
- Statutory Rules & Orders and Statutory Instruments revised to 1948 v.1-25
- Statutory Instruments 1953, 1956 - 2000

The legal database Westlaw provides links to some full text UK Statutory Instruments from 1947 onwards.
Government department publications
Paper holdings are listed in the Library catalogue. The Key Non-Parliamentary Papers section of Public Information Online includes documents from UK government departments and agencies.

Scottish Parliamentary publications
The Library holds:
• Acts of the Scottish Parliament 1999 to date
• Bills including explanatory notes, other accompanying documents, and policy memos 1999 - 2007
• Official Report: Written Answers
• Scottish Parliament Papers 1999 - 2007
From Session 3 (2007) onwards all Scottish Parliament material is available in full text from the Public Information Online database.

The Scottish Parliament website has material from 1999 onwards.

Fully consolidated Acts of the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Statutory Instruments both from 1999-are available on Westlaw which can be accessed through Primo or from the Law subject page.

The Library also holds paper copies of The Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland 1235 – 1707.

These are also available on The Records of the Parliaments of Scotland (RPS) website. This is a fully searchable database containing the proceedings of the Scottish Parliament from the first surviving act of 1235 to the union of 1707.

Scottish Government publications
The Library has a collection of documents published by the Scottish Government (also referred to as the Scottish Executive) since 1999. These are all listed on the Library catalogue.

Recent documents are available on the Scottish Government website, as well as on Public Information Online.

National Assembly for Wales
Acts from 2008 onwards (formerly designated as Measures up to 2012) are available in electronic format on Public Information Online.

Northern Ireland Assembly
Bills, Papers, Committee Reports and Debates from 2007/08 and Acts from 2000 are available in electronic format on Public Information Online.

European Documentation Centre
The Library holds or can help source the following types of documents:
• Official Journal of the European Communities L, C and S series
• COM documents (Commission working documents)
• European Parliament debates and reports
• European Court Reports
• Eurostat publications
• Studies and background papers

While much of this material is no longer received in hard copy, EU official documents and legislation can be traced and accessed via the Europa website. The EDC staff can help you trace this material.

OECD collection
The Library has a collection of OECD documents from 1961 to 2003. From 2004 all OECD books, periodicals and statistical data are available in electronic format via the OECD iLibrary.

This database can be accessed through Primo or the subject page for official publications.

Census reports
The library has access to most of the published British census reports from 1801 to 2001.
• Great Britain 1801 - 1851
• England & Wales 1861 - 2001
• Scotland 1831 - 2001 (including the 1851 census of religious worship & education)
• Northern Ireland 1961 - 1991
• Ireland 1841 - 1911

Use the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers Database for 19th and early 20th Century census materials. Online Historical Population Reports (OHPR) provides online access to population reports for Britain and Ireland from 1801 to 1937.

UK Data Service provides a one stop gateway to data and support services which allow users and researchers in UK Higher and Further Education to access the UK censuses from 1971-2001. It also provides access to other important census related resources.

For the 2011 Census:
• England and Wales - see Office for National Statistics website
• Scotland – see Scotland’s Census website
• Northern Ireland – see the website of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Irish Parliament
The Taylor Library has paper copies of:
• Journal of the House of Commons of the Kingdom of Ireland 1613 - 1789

League of Nations
The Taylor Library has paper copies of:
• Treaty Series 1920 – 1946
United Nations

The Taylor Library has paper copies of:

- UN Treaty Series v.1–1420, 1946 - 1986
- UN General Assembly 1950/51 - 1986
- UN Resolutions 1946 - 1986
- UN Key Resolutions 1946 - 1996
- UN Document Index 1950 – 1982
- UN Security Council 1946 – 1966
- UN Conference on Trade and Development 1975 - 1986

Check the catalogue for other UN titles shelved at other Aberdeen University Library locations.

The Official Document System (ODS) website covers all official UN documentation from 1993 onwards. It also provides access to resolutions of the General, Security and Economic and Social Councils from 1946 onwards.

All treaty information is available from the UN Treaty Database.

If you have any problems tracing official publications please contact the dedicated OP Help Desk on the upper floor of the Taylor Library.

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