The American State Papers contain 6,354 legislative and executive documents of Congress from 1789 to 1838 and constitute rich primary source material on many aspects of early American history. The Readex version provides superior topical access to the 38 volumes, which were published in ten document classes: I: Foreign Relations; II: Indian Affairs; III: Finance; IV: Commerce and Navigation; V: Military Affairs; VI: Naval Affairs; VII: Post-office Department; VIII: Public Lands; IX: Claims; and X: Miscellaneous. Approximately two-thirds of the documents cover the first 14 Congresses (1789-1817) while the remaining third overlaps with the first two decades of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set (1817-1980). Unlike the Serial Set, the American State Papers do not include House and Senate journals.

STARTING & SEARCHING AMERICAN STATE PAPERS

From the library’s World Wide Web homepage (https://www.uhcl.edu/library), click on Databases and then on A to find the American State Papers hyperlink. See sample Advanced Search form below.

Example 1

Enter search terms. Connect multiple terms with a Boolean operator (AND, OR, NOT).

If desired, limit to items with tables, maps, or illustrations.

Example 2

Enter last name first when searching for an Author. Names can be entered in either order when limiting to the Personal Name field, which is used for subject or topical treatment of an individual.

In full text searching, both singular and plural forms of a term will be retrieved and highlighted in page images. For a full text personal name search, it is advisable to use quotes for an exact match or an adjacency operator (see tips below). Try all options (Author, Personal Name, full text) when researching a person.

Tips: Enter Boolean operators, proximity operators, or truncation symbols directly into the search box.

and  land claims and indian lands  narrows results by finding both terms
or   slave or slavery  broadens results by finding either term
not  jefferson not monticello  narrows results by excluding documents that contain Monticello
“ ” “john Quincy Adams”  finds the exact phrase John Quincy Adams
adj[x]  bill adj3 rights  finds the first term within 3 words of the second (defaults to 1 if not specified)
near[x]  Adams near10 Jefferson  finds the first term within 10 words of the second (defaults to 1)
?  wom?n  single-character wildcard that broadens results by finding woman or women
*  right*  multi-character wildcard that finds rights, rightful, rightfully, etc.
Use **Browse** to find items by Subject, Publication Category (annual reports, hearings, presidential communications and messages, etc.), Standing-Committee Author, Document Class, or Congress. Once selected, most choices include sub-categories.

**VIEWING & WORKING WITH RECORDS**

1. **Search for:** Adams-Onis Treaty
   - For Best Results, try the Topic Link: Adams-Onis Treaty (1819)

2. **Document view:**
   - Click title or **First Page** to access a document.
   - **Full Citation** identifies and links to corporate and personal authors, relevant subjects, notes, and more.
   - Click adjacent box to add a citation to “My Collection” for later viewing or emailing during a current search session.
   - Select a tab and then a desired link.
   - Click Previous, Next, or choose a specific page to navigate the document.
   - If desired, perform a new search by clicking a relevant topic link.
   - Social Issues sub-topics include alcoholism, antislavery movements, assimilation, asylums, etc.

For more information, refer to onscreen help, or consult a research librarian (see **Ask a Librarian** on the library homepage).