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United Kingdom parliamentary publications: proceedings of Parliament

INTRODUCTION

The proceedings of Parliament are of two types: a record of what has been done, reported in the *Journals of the House of Lords* and the *Journals of the House of Commons*, and a record of what has been said, reported in the *Parliamentary Debates* of both Houses, commonly called the *Hansard*. In addition there are the business papers that any meeting requires and which are the minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda papers of the forthcoming one. As parliamentary meetings (sittings) are both lengthier and more frequent than normal business meetings, the necessary business papers are both bulkier and more complex.

The pattern of parliamentary publishing changed radically between 2010 and March 31st 2016. At that date the last contracts with TSO for print publication ceased and the British Library ceased to hold the material in hard copy.

This guide will tell you about the Library's historic print collections and subscribed electronic resources, how to access these, and what is available free on the Internet.

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1. THE JOURNALS

The *Journals of the House of Lords* began in 1510 (1509 Old Style), and the *Journals of the House of Commons* in 1547. In both cases the *Journals* were kept in manuscript and were first printed retrospectively in the mid-eighteenth century. They were then printed after each session up to vol. 267 (2011) (Commons) and vol. 245 (2012/13) (Lords). Early volumes cover multiple sessions. There are sessional indexes in most volumes and cumulative indexes covering decades and longer periods.

The *Journals* are basic accounts of business done such as bills read and committed, records of reports and papers received, motions submitted, resolutions and orders made, the results of divisions and so on. Apart from the speech from the throne at the opening

of Parliament (reported in both *Journals* though the speech is made in the Lords only) there is no record of what is said. The language of both *Journals* is formal, even archaic, and early indexes are idiosyncratic. However they are invaluable, for example, for following the progress of a bill, and, if it failed, for discovering at least the formal reason for this. The indexes have such a level of detail that it is often unnecessary to consult the *Journals* proper. In the eighteenth century it was not uncommon for the House to order the more important papers to be printed in its *Journals* so that papers such as government spending estimates or treaties, which in the nineteenth century would be found in the bound set of parliamentary papers, can be found at this time in the *Journals*.

1.1 Print holdings

The Library holds complete print sets of both the Commons and Lords Journals from the 16th century up to when they ceased to be produced in hard copy in March 2016. You can find both sets, with their accompanying indexes, in the social sciences reading room at St Pancras:

House of Commons Journal, 1547-2011	Shelfmark: BS.Ref.6
House of Lords Journal, 1509 [i.e. 1510]-2012/13	Shelfmark: BS.Ref.5

The Library has microfilmed its print sets of Lords and Commons Journals. The microfilms are kept in cabinets in the social sciences reading room at St Pancras, and can be ordered using paper tickets. Shelfmarks are SPR.Mic.P.59 for the Commons Journals 1547-1959/60 and SPR.Mic.P. 58 for the Lords Journals 1509-1960/61.

1.2 Online sources

The UK Parliament website offers editions of the *Commons Journal* [<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmjournal.htm>] in web page format and associated PDFs (1997 onwards) and scanned historic editions of the *Commons Journals* (1835-1997) in PDF only. Documents in PDF have used optical character recognition (OCR) to enable users to search the scanned images. *House of Lords Journals* are also available on the Parliament website from session 1997/98 in pdf and html [<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/lords/house-of-lords-journal/>]

British History Online offers full text of the Lords Journals up to vol. 64, 1831/32 and Commons Journals up to vol. 85, 1830 [<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/catalogue>].

Proquest's *UK Parliamentary Papers* database includes Journals of the Commons and Lords for the years 1688-1834. We subscribe to this resource and access is available in both the St Pancras and Boston Spa reading rooms, but not remotely.

2. THE DEBATES

The history of the reporting of debates in Parliament is long and complex. Parliament guards its privacy fiercely and for a long time it was forbidden to report what was said within the House. Nevertheless from the seventeenth century some debates appeared, compiled in secret and published at considerable risk. Often only the record of a single debate was issued but gradually more extensive reporting occurred. Compilations held by the Library can be found most easily in the Library's printed catalogue under the heading **ENGLAND. – Parliament. – Parliamentary Proceedings. 1. - Collections.** A bibliography of such debates, annotated with the Library's pressmarks, is kept at the Reference Enquiry Desk.

However, for most purposes it is unnecessary to consult these early debates, as William Cobbett included most of them in his *Parliamentary history of England...to the Year 1803* which is on the open shelves in the Social Sciences Reading Room. Cobbett continued this work in a contemporary report of debates (*Cobbett's Parliamentary debates*) still then compiled from secondary sources such as newspapers. In 1811 Cobbett was bought out by T.C. Hansard who reprinted Cobbett's volumes to that date and continued to report current debates. The debates became known as *Hansard's Parliamentary Debates* and the term *Hansard* has been used for the debates to the present day, although the firm ceased to be connected with the project in 1892. The name was restored to the title page in 1943.

The original series of Cobbett's/Hansard's debates continued to 1820 when a 'New Series' started with the reign of George IV. A third series was begun with the reign of William IV in 1830 which continued until 1892. In 1892 the contract to report parliamentary debates was put out to tender and the firm of *Hansard* lost. As a result of the tender process the 4th series (1892-1908) was described as 'authorised'. All four series are very similar. The debates of both houses are reported in the same volume, with the Lords' debates first followed by the Commons', day by day. The principal speeches are reported in full but backbenchers' speeches are generally summarised. Although the reports got fuller over time and additional matter was included such as division lists and written answers to questions, none of the first four series can be described as verbatim.

In 1909, amid growing dissatisfaction, Parliament took over its own reporting. As a result, the fifth series, now called 'official', displays two major changes. Firstly, the reported debates of the two Houses were issued in separate series. Secondly, the debates were for the first time reported substantially word for word. The reports are not literally verbatim - grammatical errors, hesitations and repetitions are silently corrected - but the substance of what was said is neither omitted nor changed. The House of Commons' debates series reached volume 1000 of the fifth series part-way through session 1980/81. At this point a sixth series was started with vol.1. The House of Lords' fifth series continues.

From session 1999/2000 the House of Commons has also sat in the Grand Committee Room just off Westminster Hall. This allows more time for individual MPs to raise issues of importance to them through a series of Private Members' adjournment debates. Westminster Hall Commons debates are also collected in a separate sequence after the debates in the Chamber with column numbers beginning at 1. From 1999/2000 a small 'wh' next to the column number signals a Westminster Hall debate.

Throughout all the series, each bound volume contains an index. There is also a cumulative index to the debates of each parliamentary session. Originally this was published in the last volume of debates held in the session, but it is now issued separately and appears some considerable time after the rest of the volumes. There is a further index covering the first two series (1803/1830) but, apart from this, there are no cumulations longer than a parliamentary session. The indexes consist of a name index with entries for the contributions of MPs or peers and a subject index with entries under the topics of debates, questions or statements. Names and topics appear together in a single alphabetical sequence. The references in the volume indexes are to the columns where the debates, etc. are to be found. *Hansard* has always been printed in two columns to the page and it is the columns, not the pages, that are numbered. The sessional indexes refer to the volume as well as the columns. To Sept. 12th 2014 both Houses printed written answers to parliamentary questions in the official report of their debates. Those questions asked and answered in the House are properly reported in the main debates but many are not reached before business moves on and many more are put down in the first place for a written answer. These were all collected at the end of the volume. The House of Commons printed them in a separate sequence with column numbers starting from 1 and printed in italics; there was only one sequence for the House of Lords. Until the end of 1983 the index indicated a Commons written answer only by printing the column reference in italics. From 1984 a small 'w' was added to the column number as in '123w' instead of '123'.

Parliament's contract with TSO for print publication of *Hansard* ceased on March 31st 2016. The Library purchased print copies of Daily *Hansard* from a private supplier to the end of the session on May 17th 2016 and continues to buy the bound volumes from the same source.

2.1 Print holdings

The Library holds complete sets of *Hansard's* and Cobbett's Parliamentary debates on open access in the social sciences reading room:

Cobbett, W. Parliamentary history of England ... to the year 1803	Shelfmark: BS.Ref.11
Parliamentary debates, 1803-1908	Shelfmark: BS.Ref.12
House of Commons debates, 1909-	Shelfmark: BS.Ref. 13
House of Lords debates, 1909-	Shelfmark: BS.Ref.14

The Library also has microform duplicates of some of the print series of debates:

Cobbett, W. Parliamentary history of England ... to the year 1803	Shelfmark: SPR.Mic.A.186
Parliamentary debates 1803-1908	Shelfmark: SPR.Mic.A.187
House of Commons Division lists 1836-1909	Shelfmark: SPR.Mic.E.328

The microforms can be ordered for delivery to the social sciences reading room using paper request tickets; they cannot be consulted elsewhere.

2.2 Online sources

From July 11th 2014 Lords and Commons written questions and answers can be found in a searchable database on the Parliament website

[<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-questions-answers/>].

Lords and Commons debates from May 2010 can be accessed online on the Parliament website through a searchable database [<http://hansard.parliament.uk/>]. You can also read Commons debates from November 1988 to March 2016 in the Hansard Archives [<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/hansard/commons>] and Lords debates from November 1995 to March 2016 [<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/hansard/lords>]

Earlier Lords and Commons debates from 1803-2005 were digitised in the 1990s and are available free [<http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/>]. There's the Hansard text itself by volume, Lords sittings, Commons sittings and Westminster Hall sittings as well as Written Answers, Written Statements, Lords reports and Grand Committee reports. This site also includes extracted lists of People who are recorded as having spoken, Constituencies, Offices, Acts, Bills and Divisions.

We have also licensed access to these subscribed online databases which are available in the Boston Spa and St Pancras reading rooms:

- *The UK Parliamentary Papers* database issued by Proquest includes selected pre-Hansard debates and access to the *Historic Hansard* 1803-2005.
- *Public Information Online* produced by Dandy Booksellers offers Commons and Lords daily Hansard from 2008/09.
- *Official Publications Online* produced by TSO offers Commons and Lords Hansard from 2009. You can browse by date or search by keyword with date filters

3. STANDING AND GENERAL COMMITTEES DEBATES

Traditionally the committee stage of a public bill was considered by the whole House which resolved itself into a committee for the purpose and this is still standard practice for the House of Lords. From the late nineteenth century the House of Commons began to establish a standing committee for the purpose. Eventually several standing committees came into existence, identified by the letters A,B, C, etc. As debates within these committees were not held on the floor of the House, they were not reported in *Hansard*. From 1919 onwards, Standing Committee Debates were published in a separate series, which is now on the open shelves. Up to session 2005/06 the debates of each Standing Committee were reported in alphabetical order followed by the other standing committees, the Scottish and Welsh Grand Committees, the Northern Ireland Committee and the committees to examine statutory instruments and EU legislation. Within each committee the debates were then reported in chronological order. The bound volumes, which were slow to be published, could cover the debates of more than one committee and there were no continuous column numbers. At the beginning of session 2006/07 the standing committee system was reformed. Standing and grand

committees were redesignated as general committees to differentiate them from select committees. Public bill committees were established as a type of general committee for clause by clause consideration of draft legislation. Each public bill committee is named after the bill it considers. For example, a committee considering a bill titled the Climate Bill would be called the Climate Bill Committee. Evidence sessions from public bill committees are now included in their reported debates instead of being issued as House of Commons papers as before. Transcripts of the debates at each sitting of a committee are published under a generic title *Parliamentary Debates House of Commons Official Report General committees Public Bill Committee or Welsh Grand Committee, etc*, followed by the subject of the bill or topic under consideration by the general committee and the number and date of the sitting. For example a typical title page might read: *Parliamentary Debates, House of Commons, Official Report, Public Bill Committee, Welfare Reform Bill, 13th sitting, Tuesday 28 November 2006 (morning)*. The annual bound volumes produced under the new system begin with the Public Bill Committee debates followed by the debates of the other general committees (grand committees, delegated legislation committees, European committees, etc. However, none have been produced since 2006/07. Production of general committee debates in print ceased at the end of the 2014/15 session.

3.1 Print holdings

Print standing and General/Public Bill Committee debates are kept on open access in the social sciences reading room:

Standing Committee debates, 1919-2005/06	Shelfmark: BS.Ref.23
General/Public Bill Committee debates, 2006/07-2014/15	Shelfmark: BS.Ref.23

3.2 Online sources

The most convenient source for accessing the Standing and General Committee debates online is the Parliament web site.

Standing Committee debates are available in full text from session 1997/98 to 2005/06 on the Parliament web site

[<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/hansard/commons/gc-debates/previous-sessions/>]

General Committee debates are also available in full text 2006/07- 2014/15

[<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/hansard/commons/gc-debates/>]

Public Bill Committee debates in full text 2006/07-2009/10

[<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/stand.htm>]

Subsequently, Public Bill and General Committee debates can be found in Hansard Online [<http://hansard.parliament.uk/>]. You will need to search by the title of the Bill, e.g. *Digital Economy Bill* or the name of the Committee.

We have also licensed access to these subscribed online databases which include General/Public Bill Committee Debates and which are available in the Boston Spa and St Pancras reading rooms:

- Public Information Online offers full text of Public Bill Committee and General Committee debates from 2006/07.
- Official Publications Online offers a collection of General/Public Bill Committee debates covering 2009-2015

4. COMMONS BUSINESS PAPERS

These are the oldest continuously printed records of Parliament. The first volume covers session 1680/81 and the series continues from session 1689/90 to the present. The series was originally called *The Votes* and 'votes' in this context means records of decisions taken, which we would now call minutes. In 1817 they were reorganized and renamed *Votes and Proceedings* and both terms are used for the set. At the same date a number of agenda papers began to be issued with the set and together they are referred to as the 'Vote Bundle'. Various series are included in the Bundle (not all appear every day and many are now transitioning to electronic only publication). When last seen in print in March 2016, they were issued to all MPs stapled together, generally in the following order:

- Order paper - detailed agenda for the day's business, including private business
- Future business - this historically comprised six sections: section A, business for future days; Section B, business to be taken at sittings in Westminster Hall; Section C, Remaining orders and notices; Section D, Other future business; Section E, Business to be considered in European Committees; and Section F, Notices of written ministerial statements. By March 2016 it had been simplified and consisted of Section A, Calendar of Business and Section B, remaining orders and notices and was issued as part 2 of the order paper.
- Votes and proceedings - the minutes of the previous day's sittings, later cumulated to form the Journals described earlier. The series includes appendices listing papers laid before the House, members nominated to standing/general committees, and papers laid by select committees. It also included texts of petitions or government responses to them to the end of session 2006/07. These were headed '*Supplement to the votes and proceedings*' and should not be confused with the *Supplement to the votes* described below. From 2007/08 all petitions and observations on them have been printed in full in *Hansard*. The *Votes and Proceedings* for the day the petition was presented will record the petition's subject matter, a description of the petitioners, and whether the petition was submitted formally or informally.
- Notice paper - contains notices of questions and motions given the previous day for future consideration (or notices given earlier and withdrawn the previous day). It is printed on blue paper and is often referred to as 'the blues'. It includes Early Day Motions (EDMs). These are motions set down for consideration 'at an early day' (nowadays 'for which no day has been fixed'). In either case it means 'never' and the purpose of an EDM is not to debate the issue but to test the strength of opinion within the House by gathering as much support as possible for the motion. These are best traced electronically through the fee-based

Parliament index (where they are given in full text with a list of supporters) or through the Parliament website [<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/early-day-motions/>]. The database can be searched by EDM number, by Member (MP), by date and by topic and goes back to the 1989/90 session of Parliament.

- Supplement to the Votes - contains a list of proposed amendments to public bills. Amendments for consideration that day are on white paper and amendments for future consideration on blue paper.

From 27 October 1997, the arrangement of the Vote Bundle was simplified. From then onwards it started with a section headed *Summary Agenda* and the remaining series were simplified and given more meaningful headings. As the Library has shelved the Vote Bundle as a single entity from session 1994/95, the internal arrangements are no longer relevant for retrieval.

Discontinued series previously part of the Vote Bundle include:

- Written answers (1902/15) - also printed in *Hansard*
- Division lists (1836-1990/91) - also duplicated in *Hansard*
- Reports of the Select Committee on Public Petitions (1833/1974) these include only abstracts of the petition examined, but about 10% of texts were published in full in appendices to the reports. After 1909/10, as the number of petitions had dwindled, the reports of the Committee were bound with the *Supplement to the Votes* until 1974 when the Committee was abolished. Petitions were published as part of the *Votes and Proceedings* to the end of session 2006/07. From 2007/08 all petitions and observations on them have been printed in *Hansard*. Even where the full text of the petition has been printed, the lists of petitioners have never been included. Before 1833 petitions were published in another discontinued series, *Appendices to the Votes* which existed from 1803/04 to 1870 and intermittently to 1890.

4.1 Print holdings

Appendices to the <i>Votes</i> , ca.1803 - ca.1890 bound with the <i>Votes</i> and <i>Votes and Proceedings</i>	Shelfmark: BS.91/8(3)
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The Vote Bundle, past and present, is complex and difficult to use. It is also among the rarest of parliamentary publications and the British Library is the only library in London apart from the House of Commons Library and the Parliamentary Archives with a substantially complete historic set up to March 2016. As well as being rare and complex, the Vote Bundle is little used by the general public. Parts of permanent importance are generally reprinted - the *Votes and Proceedings* as the *Journals*, the *Division Lists* and *Written Answers* in *Hansard*, etc. *Early Day Motions* and material on petitions are in occasional demand; these have been dealt with in some detail previously. British Library holdings and their shelfmarks are:

Vote Bundle, 1994/95-March 2016	Shelfmark: BS.91
Individual series prior to 1995 are shelved separately as follows:	
<p>Order Papers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1817-47 bound with the Votes and Proceedings • 1847/48-1978/79 bound with the Notice Papers • 1979/80-1993/94 	<p>Shelfmark: BS.91/8(3)</p> <p>Shelfmark: BS.91/4</p> <p>Shelfmark: BS.91/4(2)</p>
<p>Private Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1817-47 bound with the Votes and Proceedings • 1847/48-1992/93 	<p>Shelfmark: BS.91/8(3)</p> <p>Shelfmark: BS.91/5</p>
Votes, 1680-1816	Shelfmark: BS.91/8(3)
Votes and Proceedings, 1817-1993/94	Shelfmark: BS.91/8(3)
<p>Notice Papers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1817-47 bound with the Votes and Proceedings • 1847/48-1978/79 (including Order Papers) • 1979/80-1993/94 	<p>Shelfmark: BS.91/8(3)</p> <p>Shelfmark: BS.91/4</p> <p>Shelfmark: BS.91/4</p>
<p>Standing Committee Proceedings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1966/67-1978/79 bound with Supplement to the Votes • 1979/80-1993/94 	<p>Shelfmark: BS.91/8(3)</p> <p>Shelfmark: BS.91/8(6)</p>
<p>Public Bill List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1886-1979/80 bound with Supplement to the Votes • 1981/82-1992/93 	<p>Shelfmark: BS.91/8(3)</p> <p>Shelfmark: BS.91/8(7)</p>
European Communities Documents List, 1990/91-1992/93	Shelfmark: BS.91/8(8)
<p>Supplement to the Votes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1837-44 bound with Votes and Proceedings • 1845-1993/94 shelved with Votes and Proceedings • 1979/80-1990/91 [Amendments in 	<p>Shelfmark: BS.91/8(3)</p> <p>Shelfmark: BS.91/8(3)</p> <p>Shelfmark: BS.91/8(4)</p>

Committees] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1979/80-90/91 [All other amendments] • 1991/92-1993/94 [All amendments] 	Shelfmark: BS.91/8(5) Shelfmark: BS.91/8(5)
Division Lists, 1836-1990/91	Shelfmark: BS.91/3
Written Answers, 1902-15	Shelfmark: BS.91/7
Reports of the Select Committee on Petitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1833-1909/10 • 1910/11-1973/74 bound with Supplement to the Votes • Appendix to the Reports shelved with the Reports 	Shelfmark: BS.91/6 Shelfmark: BS.91/8(3) Shelfmark: BS.91/6
Appendices to the <i>Votes</i> , ca.1803 - ca.1890 bound with the Votes and Votes and Proceedings	Shelfmark: BS.91/8(3)
Appendices to the Votes and Proceedings, 1969/70-1993/94	Shelfmark: BS.91/8(3)

All of this material is shelved in at our Boston Spa site in Yorkshire, and you need to allow 48 hours for delivery. It must be consulted in the social sciences reading room at St Pancras and cannot be sent elsewhere. You can order material from within Explore the British Library [<http://explore.bl.uk/>]; if you cannot find a record for the series click on Request Other Items on the home page and follow instructions.

The Library has microform duplicates of only two of the print series of the Vote Bundle:

Select Committee on Petitions. Reports and Appendices, 1833-1900	Shelfmark: SPR.Mic.E.357
Appendices to the Votes	Shelfmark: SPR.Mic.E.356

The microforms can be ordered for delivery to the social sciences reading room using paper request tickets

4.2 Online Sources

The Vote Bundle, like other Parliamentary materials, has now transitioned to electronic-only publication. The process was completed in March 2016, when print ceased to be available outside of the House itself-

The set of daily Commons business papers published on the Parliament website can help you keep up to date with what is happening in the House.

Title	Discontinued Date	Current Location on Parliament Site
Order Papers	March 2016	With Business Papers http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/
Future Business	March 2016	With Business Papers http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/
Votes and Proceedings	March 2016	With Business Papers http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/
Supplement to the Votes	March 2016	From 2007/08 amendments lists are published on Bill "home pages" http://www.parliament.uk/business/bills-and-legislation/
Private Business	???	Business relating to Private Bills is available from 1999/2000 http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/private-business/
Public Bill List	April 2010	Replaced by Progress of Public Bills http://www.parliament.uk/business/bills-and-legislation/current-bills/public-bill-list/
Public Bill Committee Proceedings	???	Proceedings from session 2007/08 onwards are available on the Bill's landing page http://www.parliament.uk/business/bills-and-legislation/
European Documents List	April 2010	Information on the documents considered by the European Scrutiny Committee can be found on their website: http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/european-scrutiny-committee/ . Information on upcoming debates on European Documents: http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/european-business/ . The Hansard of debates held in

		European Committees up to March 2016: http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/hansard/commons/gc-debates/european-committee/ . Subsequent European Committee debates are on the Hansard web pages http://hansard.parliament.uk/search/Commons/committee/European%20Committee/debates
European Business	???	From 2013, with the Business Papers http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/
List of Statutory Instruments	May 2011	With Business Papers http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmsilist/cmsilist.htm
List of Remedial Orders	April 2010	See under Joint Committee on Human Rights http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/human-rights-committee/remedial-orders/
Regulatory Reform Proposals	April 2010	????

The *Votes and Proceedings* from session 2009/10 are also available in the St Pancras and Boston Spa reading rooms on the subscribed database *Public Information Online*.

The Vote Bundle is also present on *Official Publications Online* from 2009, where it can be browsed chronologically.

4.3 House of Lords Minutes of Proceedings

For the House of Lords the equivalent to the Vote Bundle is its *Minutes of Proceedings*. This series exists in printed form only from 1824 onwards but the Library has a few manuscript volumes between 1793 and 1817. In fact the Library's holdings of the printed minutes are poor before 1843. Between 1838 and 1929 the *Minutes* were reprinted and issued as sessional papers of the House of Lords which are held on closed access at St Pancras at BS.96/1. The *Minutes of Proceedings* have little of the supplementary material associated with the Vote Bundle; indeed only one sub-series has been issued regularly. *Lists of rules, orders, etc (Statutory instruments, etc.* after 1948) has appeared since 1907 and is shelved together with *Minutes of Proceedings*.

House of Lords Minutes of Proceedings, 1825, 1833-1836, 1843-1850, 1861-2006.	Shelfmark: BS.96/4
House of Lords Business and Minutes of Proceedings, 2006-2016	Shelfmark: BS.96/4
List of Rules, Orders, &c. (later List of Statutory Instruments) which have been presented during the Session, and are required by statute to lie for an appointed number of days upon the table of the House, 1900-????	Shelfmark: BS.96/4

All of this material is shelved in at our Boston Spa site in Yorkshire, and you need to allow 48 hours for delivery. It must be consulted in the social sciences reading room at St Pancras and cannot be sent elsewhere. You can order material from Explore the British Library Library [<http://explore.bl.uk/>].

House of Lords Business and Minutes of Proceedings is free in full text on the UK Parliament website from session 1997/98 [<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/lords/>] and also available on the subscribed database *Public Information Online* from 2009.

5. CITATION

The *Journals* can be cited without difficulty. The *House of Commons' Journals* and the *House of Lords' Journals* can be abbreviated to HCJ or HLJ followed by the volumes and page number, e.g. HCJ Vol. 123, p.456. Citation of debates is slightly more complicated. For the first four series of the *Parliamentary Debates*, the abbreviation 'Parl. Deb'. is followed by the series, the volume number and the column reference in the form Parl. Deb. 3rd S.Vol.345, col. 647-721. The original series should be given as '1st S.' and the New Series as 'N.S.' or '2nd S.' The fifth and sixth series are cited as 'HC Deb' or 'HL Deb' as appropriate followed by the series, volume and columns references. References to written answers are best given with a small 'w' after the column reference. *Standing Committee Debates* should be cited as 'SC Deb' followed by the session then the volume, e.g. SC Deb., 1989-90, Vol.3. As there is no continuous numbering of columns, if a more precise reference is required, cite the committee, the topic of debate and the date and only then, if necessary, the column number, e.g. SC.B. Police Bill, 3 June 1984, col.6. Public Bill Committee debates should be cited in the form PBC Deb, bill title, date, column (if required), e.g. PBC Deb, Welfare Reform Bill, 28 Nov. 2006, col. 543.
