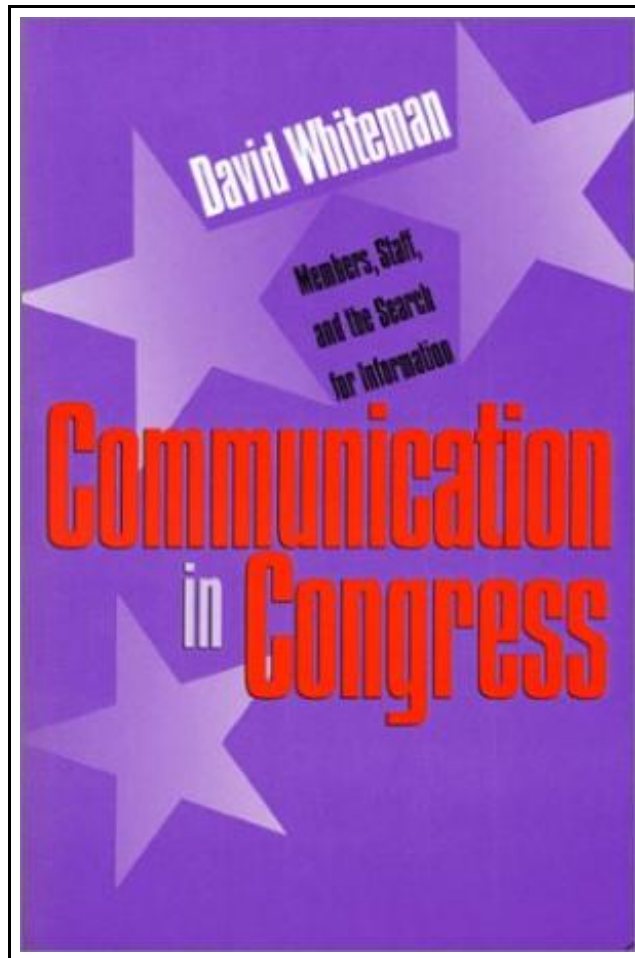


## Communication in Congress: Members, Staff and the Search for Information



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University Press of Kansas. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Communication in Congress: Members, Staff and the Search for Information, David Whiteman, Does Congress know enough to legislate for the nation? Reforms over the last two decades, increasing the number of congressional staff and enhancing congressional support agencies, have dramatically expanded the availability of policy information. In a groundbreaking new study of congressional communication networks, David Whiteman finds that, although on any particular issue there are very few in Congress undertaking extensive searches for information, the collective base of information generated by all searches is unexpectedly comprehensive. As Whiteman reminds us, communication lies at the core of congressional decision making and thus at the core of representative democracy itself. Treating each congressional office as an "enterprise" composed of the elected official and associated personal and committee staff, he explores how enterprises develop the communication networks they need to obtain information and policy analysis from interest groups, executive agencies, congressional support agencies, and policy research organizations. Relying on network analysis and more than 300 interviews with senators, representatives, and staff members during the 99th Congress, Whiteman provides an in-depth analysis of congressional communication based on four specific issue networks in the health and transportation policy domains. After determining each enterprise's level of interest in each issue, he contrasts the extensive searches of the few enterprises that have chosen to become involved in the issue with the much more limited searches of the vast majority of enterprises merely staying attentive to developments. Whiteman is particularly careful to assess the place of policy analysis within the full range of information sources available to enterprises. By following a sample of policy analysis projects throughout the course of an entire Congress, he is able to establish that Congress is using, much more than previously acknowledged,...

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