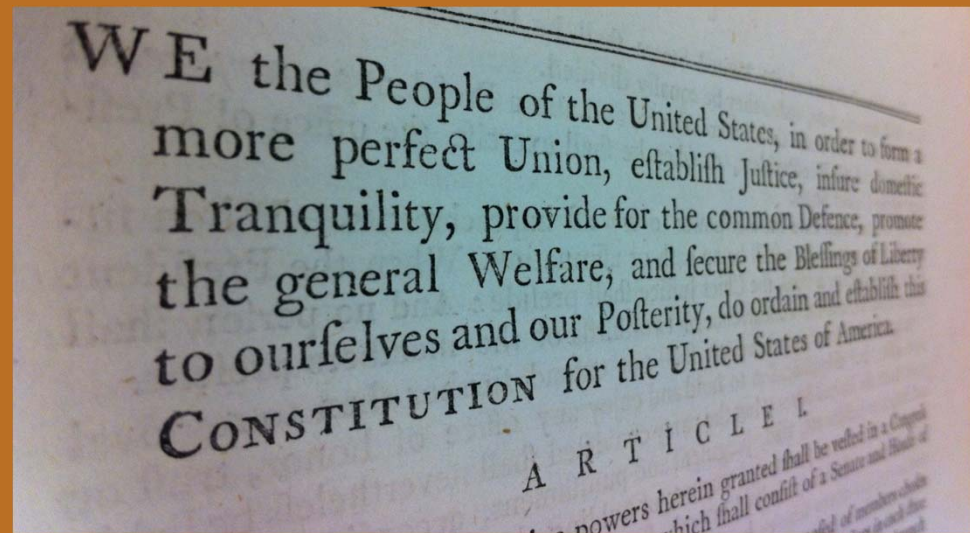


# Constitutional Research



# Constitutional Research

- Constitutions (federal and state):
  - Establish form and limitations of the government.
  - Interpretation of the text.
  - Mandatory authority within that jurisdiction

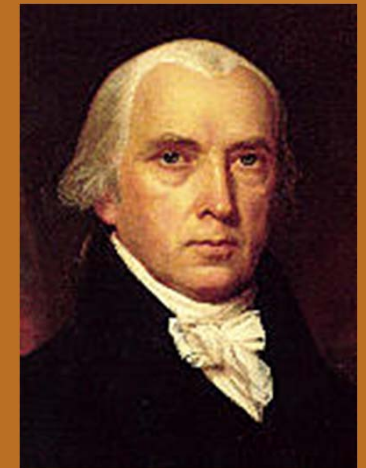


# Finding Constitutions

- Are usually published in the same set as the statutes
- Most common source for researching constitutions is the annotated codes
- There are also compilations of state and federal constitutions

# U.S. Constitution

- Entered into force in 1789 and amended 27 times
- Interpretation by the courts is very important

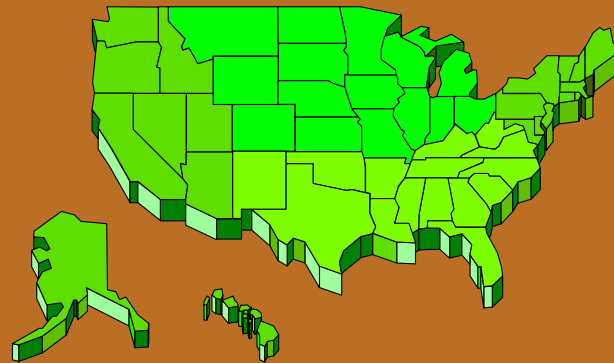


# U.S. Constitution

- Constitution of the United States of America Analysis and Interpretation (every 10 years)
- U.S. Code – 1<sup>st</sup> volume (text only)
- U.S.C.A. – first 10 volumes (text and annotations)
- U.S.C.A. – 7 volumes at the end (text and annotations)

# State Constitutions

- Each state has its own constitution
- As with federal constitution, interpretation by courts is very important



# Finding State Constitutions

- Starting point for research
  - State constitutional law sources
  - Annotated code for that state
  - Text only also in unannotated codes



# State Constitutions

THE WYOMING STATE  
CONSTITUTION  
A Reference  
Guide  
Robert B. Keiter and Tim Newcomb

- Reference Guides to the State Constitutions of the US
- State Constitutional Conventions – material from the conventions helps courts interpret what authors of the constitution had in mind.