Package 'congress'

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Title A Tool for CongressData

Version 1.0

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Description A tool that imports, subsets, and exports the CongressData dataset assembled by Matt Grossmann, Caleb Lucas, Josh McCrain, and Ian Ostrander. The Congress-Data contains approximately 800 variables concerning all US congressional districts and covers 1789-2021. The dataset tracks characteristics of congressional districts, the members of congress themselves, and the behavior of those members in policymaking. Users with only a basic understanding of R can subset this data across multiple dimensions, export their search results, create custom aggregations (member-session) of the dataset, identify the citations associated with their searches, and more.

License GPL (>= 3)

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

Language en-US

Roxygen list(markdown = TRUE)

RoxygenNote 7.1.2

Imports stringr,
dplyr,
readr,
rlang,
tidyselect,
congressData

Remotes ippsr/congressData

R topics documented:

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aggregate_cong_dat   *Load CongressData into the R environment*

Description

`aggregate_cong_dat` loads either a full or subsetted version of the full CongressData dataset into the R environment as a dataframe.

Usage

```
aggregate_cong_dat(
  states = NULL,
  related_to = NULL,
  sessions = NULL,
  census_nonperc_vars = "Mean",
  census_perc_vars = "Mean",
  bill_vars = "Mean",
  com_vars = "Mean",
  else_vars = "Mean"
)
```

Arguments

states
: Default is NULL. If left blank, returns all states. Takes a string or vector of strings of state names.

related_to
: Default is "". Provide a string to search a variable's name, short/long descriptions from the codebook, and its citation for non-exact matches o f a search term. For example, searching 'tax' will return variables with words like 'taxes' and 'taxable' in any of those columns.

sessions
: Default is NULL. If left blank, returns all sessions. Input can be a single session (e.g. 50) or a two sessions that represent the first and last that you want in the outputted dataframe (such as c(1,20)).

census_nonperc_vars
: Default is 'Mean'. Method to aggregate from member-years to member-sessions. One of "Mean", "Sum", or "First". Requires a string.

census_perc_vars
: Default is 'Mean'. Method to aggregate from member-years to member-sessions. One of "Mean", "Sum", or "First". Requires a string.

bill_vars
: Default is 'Mean'. Method to aggregate from member-years to member-sessions. One of "Mean", "Sum", or "First". Requires a string.

com_vars
: Default is 'Mean'. Method to aggregate from member-years to member-sessions. One of "Mean", "Sum", or "First". Requires a string.

else_vars
: Default is 'Mean'. Method to aggregate from member-years to member-sessions. One of "Mean", "Sum", or "First". Requires a string.

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get_cong_data *Load CongressData into the R environment*

Description

`get_cong_data` loads either a full or subsetted version of the full CongressData dataset into the R environment as a dataframe.

Usage

```
get_cong_data(states = NULL, related_to = "", years = NULL)
```

Arguments

states	Default is NULL. If left blank, returns all states. Takes a string or vector of strings of state names.
related_to	Default is "". Provide a string to search a variable's name, short/long descriptions from the codebook, and its citation for non-exact matches o f a search term. For example, searching 'tax' will return variables with words like 'taxes' and 'taxable' in any of those columns.
years	Default is NULL. If left blank, returns all years Input can be a single year (e.g. 2001) or a two year that represent the first and last that you want in the outputted dataframe (such as `c(1989,20001)`).

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get_var_info *Get information regarding CongressData variables*

Description

`get_var_info` retrieves information regarding variables in the CongressData dataset. The information available includes: the years each variable is observed in the data; a short and long description of each variable; and the source and citation/s for each variable. Citations are available in both bibtex and plain text.

Usage

```
get_var_info(var_names = NULL, related_to = NULL)
```

Arguments

var_names	Default is NULL. Takes a character string. If left blank the function does not subset by variable name. Note that this searches variable names, it does not subset by the specific string you provide. So "over65" will return a variable called 'over65' along with another called 'percent_over65'.
related_to	Default is NULL. Takes a character string. If the user supplies a character string, the function searches the other relevant fields (variable name, short/long description, and source) for string matches. Not case sensitive.

Details

Specifying no arguments returns all the information for all the variables in the CongressData dataset.

Examples

```
# returns all variable information
get_var_info()

# match var names that contain "over65" - note this returns multiple variables
get_var_info(var_names = "over65")

get_var_info(related_to = c("pop","femal"))
```

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