Package 'uscongress'

May 12, 2025

Type Package

Title Fetch United States Congressional Records (1995-Present)

Version 1.0.0

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Description Fetch United States Congressional Records from their API <https://api.govinfo.gov/docs/> such as congressional speeches, speaker names, and metadata about congressional sessions, and detailed granule records. Optional parameters allow users to specify congressional sessions, and the maximum number of speeches to retrieve. Data is parsed, cleaned, and returned in a structured dataframe for analysis.

License GPL-3

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

Imports httr, dplyr, stringr, rvest, tibble

Suggests testthat, knitr, rmarkdown

NeedsCompilation no

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2025-05-12 08:30:02 UTC

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get_congressional_records

Retrieve and Process Congressional Record Speeches

Description

Queries the Congressional Record collection for a given session and date range, retrieves speech text and associated metadata from granules, and processes the information into a structured tibble. Supports limiting the number of speeches collected.

Usage

```
get_congressional_records(
  API_KEY,
  max_results = NULL,
  date_from = NULL,
  date_to = NULL,
  congress_session = 117
)
```

Arguments

API_KEY	Character string. Your API key for accessing the govinfo API.
max_results	Integer (optional). Maximum number of speeches to retrieve. If 'NULL', retrieves all available speeches.
date_from	Character string (optional). Start date (YYYY-MM-DD) for filtering records. If 'NULL', determined by session.
date_to	Character string (optional). End date (YYYY-MM-DD) for filtering records. If 'NULL', determined by session.
congress_session	
	Integer. Congressional session number (default is 117).

Value

A tibble where each row corresponds to an extracted speech, including columns for URL, date, title, speaker, and speech text.

Examples

```
if (nzchar(Sys.getenv("GOVINFO_API_KEY"))) {
  # Retrieve your govinfo API key from environment
  api_key <- Sys.getenv("GOVINFO_API_KEY")

  # Retrieve Congressional Record speeches from the 117th Congress (2021-2023)
  speeches <- get_congressional_records(
    API_KEY = api_key,
    max_results = 5,
```

```
        congress_session = 117
    )
    head(speeches)
}
```

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