Institution Profile
Founded in 1834, Tulane University is one of the country’s most highly regarded and selective independent research universities. Located in New Orleans, Tulane is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, a select group of 63 schools with “pre-eminent programs of graduate and professional education and scholarly research.” The Howard-Tilton Memorial Library is Tulane’s main library. In addition to supporting the school’s undergraduate and graduate programs, it is a major cultural resource for researchers and scholars throughout the Louisiana-Gulf Coast region.

Challenge
Few will forget the horrifying pictures of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. While the residents of New Orleans struggled to rebuild their homes and lives, Tulane University was also rebuilding. Among a long list of affected areas, congressional publications from the Library’s extensive collection were lost or damaged in the storm. The Library needed to either restore the damaged material or procure donations of congressional hearings and serial set materials.

Solution
Driven by necessity, the Library decided to purchase several components of the LexisNexis® Congressional Collection. “We needed to quickly replace much of the material lost or damaged due to Hurricane Katrina,” explained Eric Wedig, Chief Bibliographer for Social Sciences and Government Publications.

Tulane first added the LexisNexis® U.S. Serial Set Digital Collection – Part I which captures key aspects of American life from the early 19th century onward.

Subsequent purchases included:
• LexisNexis® Congressional Hearings Digital Collection, featuring both published and unpublished hearings to give researchers an unparalleled record of the events and public policy issues, as well as the actions that Congress took in response;
• LexisNexis® U.S. Serial Set Maps Digital Collection, more than 56,000 historically-important maps covering everything from the exploration of the Amazon in the 1800s to flood protection and beach erosion studies over time;
• LexisNexis® Congressional Research Digital Collection, delivering a behind-the-scenes look at the congressional action that goes into crafting legislation.
• LexisNexis® U.S. Serial Set Digital Collection – Part II, which expands on the original serial set with published House and Senate documents and reports from 1970 to the present, as well as Senate executive documents and reports from 1817-1978; and
• LexisNexis® Congressional Record Permanent Digital Collection, offering primary source accounts Congressional debates for greater insights into the legislative intent that has shaped American policies.

Situation Today
Five years after Hurricane Katrina – and with LexisNexis Congressional Digital Collections in place – Tulane’s Library patrons have a clear path to comprehensive congressional research through a single, easy-to-use interface.