Political Science

A Guide to Selected Resources

Reference & Fact Finding

Congressional Digest
This is a monthly publication devoted to current issues before Congress including background information, recent legislation, and pro and con arguments from Congressional debates and testimony from committees. Balanced presentation of important debates before Congress, the Supreme Court, and international bodies. Index of recent topics with links to full text at: http://congressionaldigest.com/index-of-recent-topics/ Also available through the Library database, *Academic Search Premier*

CQ Researcher
Online access to weekly reports that provide background information on current topics of widespread interest. Designed as a starting place for research, each issue contains analysis, charts, a chronology, statistics, pro-con discussions, and an annotated bibliography

Issues and Controversies
Provides analysis for more than 250 controversial topics. Includes basic facts, historical and statistical information, pro/con discussions, selected historical source documents, maps and graphics, and sources for additional research.

Politics in America [REF JK 1010 .C76]
Similar to the Almanac of American Politics, this source gives a brief overview of each district, especially the political climate.

U.S. Government Manual [http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=GOVMAN] As the official handbook of the Federal Government, the United States Government Manual provides comprehensive information on the agencies of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches. It also includes information on quasi-official agencies, international organizations in which the United States participates, and boards, commissions, and committees.

Books & Articles

WorldCat Discovery is a single search box on the Library's homepage that searches:

- All library-owned print books, including textbooks and reserves
- Millions of ebooks through eBook Central, Google Books, and the Hathi Trust Digital Library
- Journal articles, conference papers and newspaper articles from most of the Library's databases
  - Some databases are better suited to being searched directly (see the next section)
- And books and articles outside of our library by selecting *Libraries Worldwide*
  - Request items from other libraries using the "Request Items" button

Simply enter your terms into the single search box on the Library home page, and click Search. Use the resulting options (print book or article; date range; author, etc.) on the left of the results page to refine your search.

Browse the Call Numbers of print books (find and look around the below locations in the book shelves):

J - Political Science
KF - Law of the United States

Specific Subject Heading Searching: For example: Enter “su:(public policy)” in WorldCat Discovery

Public Policy
Trade Regulation
Industry and State
Political Science
Conservatism
Liberalism
United States -- Politics and government -- 20th century

Other Article Databases

WorldCat Discovery searches MOST of the library databases. Those listed here are either NOT available via WorldCat Discovery or contain content that must be found or are better found directly in the relevant database. Each database below will include a note indicating not found (NF) or better found (BF).

If you cannot access the full text of an article in these databases, place an Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery request.

Nexis Uni (NF)
News, company and industry information, financial information, and full text articles.

Great Websites!

Political Science Portals | Government Portals | Issues and Polls

Political Science Portals

National Political Index [http://www.politicalindex.com/]
This site provides access to some 3,500 sites divided into 32 areas. Includes links to federal, state, and local government agencies, college and university political science departments, politically oriented Usenet groups, electronic journals, and more.

GPO Access [http://www.gpoaccess.gov/]
This is a comprehensive gateway to publications of the U.S. Government Printing Office.

USA.gov [http://usa.gov/]
"The World Wide Web information portal for the United States Federal Government." this site serves as the "first resource to find any government information on the Internet, with topics ranging from business and economy to money and benefits to science and technology." A search engine is provided; you can also browse by the branch of the government; by Interesting Topics; or by Featured Subjects which highlight interesting and timely information. There are also links to state and local government information.

Issues and Polls

Public Agenda Online [http://www.publicagenda.org]
Public Agenda, a nonpartisan, nonprofit research organization devoted to public opinion, policy analysis, and citizen education. Public Agenda Online provides 18 issue guides that cover such topics as: abortion, America's global role, crime, the economy, education, the government, the family, the federal budget, gambling, health care, illegal drugs, immigration, Internet speech / privacy, Medicare, race, right to die, social security, and welfare. Extensive information on each issue includes an overview, facts and trends, different perspectives, links to news stories, and results of public opinion polls.

Public Policy Issues and Groups [http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/govt/pubpol.php]
From the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University, this site provides links sources of information and advocacy groups (pro and con)related to over 50 issues.

Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports [http://digital.library.unt.edu/govdocs/crs/]
The Congressional Research Service (CRS) "works exclusively as a nonpartisan analytical, research, and reference arm for Congress." Users can browse the reports by name, number, or subject, or conduct a keyword search. Subject areas include: Environment/Natural Resources, Economic Policy, Education, Government and Law, Foreign and Defense Policy, Health, and Science and Technology. Reports may be viewed in plain text or .pdf format.

Gallup Organization [http://www.gallup.com]
Here you will find surveys of public opinion on business, political and social issues.

PollingReport.com [http://www.pollingreport.com/]
Online presence of The Polling Report, a bi-monthly "independent survey of trends affecting elections, government, and business." Users may select from polls grouped in three categories (Politics and Policy, Business/ Economy, or The American Scene), browse the most recent additions, or choose from selected polls featured on the main page. The Web site is updated whenever a new poll is released, which means almost daily. Includes Gallup, Harris, Yankelovich, Princeton Survey Research Associates, network news polls, more. Main categories are Politics and Policy; Business / Economy; American Scene; Insights; and National Barometer; with an extensive table of contents.

The Television News Archive [http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu]
Hunting for the date something aired on a major network news program? Since August 5, 1968, *The Television News Archive* has recorded, abstracted, and indexed national television newscasts.