

GOVT 2091 – Political Analysis March 2006

Library Resources.

Aims of the class:

1. Demonstrate how to find books on your topic in the Library's collections and through the Online Catalogue.
2. Demonstrate how to find references to journal and newspaper articles on your topic. [Electronic Database searching].
3. Discuss the search strategies needed when searching for articles and numerical data.
4. Demonstrate how to locate government resources available on the Internet via the Library's *Government Guide* and via web search engines.

Library Home Page: <http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/>

Government Guide: <http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/government/>

Finding books via the online catalogue:

Go to the Catalogue by clicking on *Catalogue* on the top menu bar of the Library's Home Page, or go directly to <http://opac.library.usyd.edu.au/>. Use *keyword* and *subject* to find books on your topic. If you do not know the exact subject heading for your topic, start with a keyword search to find books on the topic and then look for appropriate subject headings in the full catalogue records to refine your search. See the keyword search examples to see how to construct your keyword search. You can also find edited books on your topic by including the term "edited" in your keyword search.

Finding journal articles: Electronic Databases:

Electronic Databases are used to search for journal articles on a topic. They are found on the Library's home page by clicking on *Databases and Electronic Resources* on the menu bar. You can go to an alphabetical title list, or use listings by subject.

Subject Databases: Structuring Your Search:

AND Refines or narrows your search. Retrieves records that contain ALL of your search terms.

Examples:

Civil liberties and Australia

Identity and political participation

OR Expands your search. It is how you cover variation in your topic or in spelling. Retrieves records that contain ANY of your search terms.

Examples:

Inequality or equality or wealth or income

Political participation or vote or voting

Globalisation or globalization

NOT Excludes terms from your search.
 Examples:
Power not electricity (advisable to use this function cautiously)

Truncation: Allows you to search for all the variation of a single word.
 Examples:
 Democra* = democracy, democracies, democratisation, democratization ...

Major databases for government and politics:

APAIS – Australian Public Affairs Information Service, APA-FT (APAIS Full Text)	Major database for Australian scholarly journals. Strong for politics, economics and social issues.
AGIS, AGIS Plus Text	This database is produced by the Australian Attorney General’s Department. It covers all aspects of Australian law – including roles of government and constitutional law. 1975+. Full text is available for many references.
Worldwide Political Science Abstracts	Abstracts international political science literature and allied fields of international relations, law and public administration.
PAIS (Public Affairs Information Service)	Major international database dealing with political and social issues. Very good for foreign relations.
Factiva	Full text database of a wide range of local and overseas newspapers, including News Ltd and Fairfax Ltd newspapers. Archives go back 7-22 years.
Econlit	Major database for economics. Covers most economic topics. Strong for scholarly and theoretical works.
Expanded Academic Index ASAP	Covers most academic disciplines. Strong for politics, economics, social issues and current affairs. International coverage. Partial full text. [Web access]
Web of Science	Broad coverage of the social sciences, international in scope. Strong for politics, economics and social topics. It allows users to search current and retrospective information from nearly 8,500 journals, across more than 230 disciplines. Also allows cited reference searching to track a paper's influence.

Finding statistical data. Numerical Databases:

ABS	Online database of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Contains all standard publications published since 1998 in pdf format. Also includes time series data for economics and labour subjects. There is also an online version of the yearbook and selected census data.
IFS – International Financial Statistics	Time series data from the International Monetary Fund. Covers economics and financial indicators for a wide range of countries.
SourceOECD	Includes the full text of all OECD publications, such as <i>OECD Economic Outlook</i> , and <i>OECD Economic Surveys</i> . It also includes a range of OECD databases such as Main Economic Indicators, Main Industrial Indicators, National Accounts, Social Expenditure, Economic Outlook and many others.
World Development Indicators	Time series database from the World Bank. Contains over 500 different series in 5 major categories – people, environment, economics, states & markets, global links. Time coverage is 1960-2002. [Available in Fisher Library only via “Additional Databases” folder on desktops.]

Off-Campus Access to Electronic Resources

In brief, if you have internet access via a University of Sydney extro account, you will not need to provide passwords for most web-based databases. If you have a commercial internet provider, in most cases access is available after providing your name and 15-digit student ID barcode number. In some cases both extro and non-extro users may need a special login and password obtainable from your Unikey account via: <http://db.usyd.edu.au/myuni/library/library.stm>. See the Library web page at <http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/databases/wam.html> for full details of access. Non-web databases are only available on Library workstations.

Finding relevant materials on the www:

Use the **Government Guide:**

(<http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/government/>) to locate full text government documents such as party policy documents, press releases/media statements and speeches in parliament. Use the path

Find information by document type to get started.

- **Finding Parliamentary debates**

To get the full texts of debates in the Commonwealth Parliament since 1981, go to <http://search.aph.gov.au/search/Parlinfo.asp>

or click on *Document Type*, then *Parliamentary Debates (Hansards)* then *Australia* then *Search by subject, speaker etc* from the *Government Guide*. This link connects you to a search engine that defaults to a search for all parliamentary publications, not just the Hansards. You will need to scroll down the page to limit the search to Hansards by clicking on **Choose a collection** and then select **Chamber**. A list of document types will appear – remove all ticks except for **Senate Hansard** and/or **House Hansard** from the list.

State Hansards are also available via the pathway above, or directly via:

<http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/government/austdocs.html#statehansard> however they have a different search interface to the Commonwealth site.

- **Finding the text of Acts and Bills**

Acts can be located via *Government Guide - Document type - Legislation*. This link takes you to a range of databases that you can search to find the full text of the Act. Most databases include both Federal and State acts.

Bills of the Commonwealth and NSW governments can be found via the pathway *Government Guide - Document type - Bills*.

- **Finding policy documents**

1.) Use the websites of political parties. These can be found via the *Government Internet Guide - Document Type - Parties/Policies*.

2.) Use the press/media releases of the federal or state governments. Media releases often announce new policies or changes in policy.

You can use:

<http://www.australia.gov.au/media-sites> or click on *Document Type*, then *Media Releases* from the *Government Internet Guide*. Note that the media releases of State Government can be found via the link:

<http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/government/austofficial.html#statestable>

3.) Use *Ministerial document service : daily collation of Ministers' and Opposition Leaders' statements*. Found Fisher Reference 354.94005 8, covers the years 1988/89-June 2001.

4.) Use parliamentary debates (see **Finding Parliamentary debates** above). The second reading speech of a bill is the major debate of policy issues.

5.) Use the *Capital Monitor* database.

To find policy documents for countries other than Australia, you will need to

- use a list of national governments such as <http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/government/int.html#natgov> and then locate the main government website (or the websites of government agencies) to find press releases, **or**
- use a list of political parties such as <http://www.politicalresources.net/> to find party policy documents, **or**
- use a list of parliamentary sites such as <http://www.polisci.umn.edu/information/parliaments/index.html> to find parliamentary debates.

- **Finding Election Results**

Use the *Government Guide* to locate the election results in Australia via *Government Guide - Document type – Elections - Australia*. There are links to recent elections and archives of previous elections at both State and Federal levels.

Finding Government reports on the WWW

These are mainly in two forms:

a) Papers tabled in parliament

Use the Government Guide

(<http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/government/govinternet.html>) to go to the Commonwealth parliamentary papers database:

Go to *Document Type*

Go to *Parliamentary Papers*

Go to *Australia*.

This takes you to an index of Commonwealth parliamentary papers produced by the parliamentary Library: <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/parlpapers.htm>

b) Papers produced by government agencies

Use the Government Guide

Go to *Official Government Sites*

Go to [Australian Government Home Page](#)

Choose a topic eg immigration

Choose a relevant agency eg [Dept of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs \(DIMIA\)](#)

Check for *publications* on the main menu.

You can also use web search engines such as GOOGLE to search the web directly.

A list of search engines can be found via the Library Home Page by clicking on *Search* at the top left of the menu bar, then on *Search the Internet*, then *Search Engines*.

Remember to carefully assess sites found via the web, using such principles as:

Content: *substance, depth, uniqueness*

Authority: *institutional affiliation, developer credentials*. See if the page lists the author and institution that published the page and provides a way of contacting him/her

Accuracy: (including currency): See if the page provides accurate information and it is objective in presenting the information.

Currency: Check that the page is current and updated regularly (as stated on the page) and the links (if any) are also up-to-date.

Finding Government Publications in the Library's Collections

The Library receives a large range of Government publications. The main location for Government Publications is on the 9th Floor of the Fisher Research Library. In this collection the publications are arranged by their geographic coverage and the type of publication.

For example:

G = Government publications
AUS = Commonwealth of Australia
P = Parliamentary Papers

G = Government publications
AUS = Commonwealth of Australia
D = Debates (also known as Hansards)

If you are searching for Commonwealth Parliamentary Papers – you need to know that they are filed by a paper number within the year they were published. If you do not know the paper number, there are indexes for Parliamentary Papers in the Reference Collection. They are located at: Fisher Reference 328.9404 1. There is also an online index at <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/parlpapers.htm>

If a report is quite significant or the Library receives it on a regular basis (i.e. department annual reports), then extra copies will be included in the Fisher Research Collection. You can then search for specific reports through the Library catalogue. Some tips for searching for government reports on the catalogue:

- ◆ If searching by Author – remember you have to put country or state before the department name.
 - ◆ e.g. australia dept of foreign affairs
- ◆ Many reports become known colloquially by the chairperson's name. If that is all the detail you have then search the catalogue by **keyword**.
- ◆ e.g. Burdekin Report on homeless children – you would search burdekin **and** homeless children.

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