

PSCI 101: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

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The location and call number of each publication is given in parentheses at the end of its bibliographic entry. All publications in this guide may be found on the 4th level (the main floor) of the Central Library unless otherwise noted.

The URL for the Vanderbilt Library home page is <http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

* indicates that the source is a good starting point.

Indexes

At the Vanderbilt Library home page, on the right under “Databases and E-Resources,” click on “Articles and Databases.” Then click on the initial letter of the database name and choose the database you want.

Popular vs. scholarly articles: length (popular is often short; academic often long), vocabulary used in the article title and abstract, availability at newsstands, intended audience (general or academic), bibliography (usually only with academic articles).

CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts, 1975-. ([Database](#))

Provides citations, abstracts, and indexing of the international serials literature in political science and its complementary fields, including international relations, law, and public administration / policy. Includes merged backfiles of *Political Science Abstracts*, 1975-2000, and *ABC POL SCI*, 1984-2000. Use the * (asterisk) to substitute for word endings. **E-mail: citations.**

PAIS on Silver Platter, 1976-. ([Database](#))

Covers economic, political, social, and international issues. Indexes books, government publications, and selected articles in 1400 periodicals. Use the * (asterisk) to substitute for word endings. For periodicals and for some monographs, you can click on “check for holdings” to see if we subscribe to the item. **E-mail: citations.**

* *Proquest*. ([Database](#))

Provides citations and summaries of articles from over 4,000 publications, with many in full-text. Indexes a broad range of social sciences publications, numerous general-interest magazines such as *Time* and *Newsweek*, and recent issues of major newspapers. Use the * (asterisk) to substitute for word endings.

You can limit your search to “full-text articles only” and to “scholarly journals, including peer-reviewed.” If you click on “Databases Selected” (which is under the “Basic Search” tab), you can further limit your search to the Social Science Module or other modules. E-mail: articles.

Current News

* *FACTS.com*, 1980-. ([Database](#))

Facts on File, 1941-. (Latest in READY REF D410.F3--Bookcase 1)

Keesing's Contemporary Archives, 1931-. (Latest in READY REF D410.K4--Bookcase 1)

Loose-leaf news digests covering world events. More complete coverage of the U.S. in *Facts on File* and of other countries and international organizations in *Keesing's*, which includes partial texts of documents and speeches as well as news summaries. *Facts on File* is weekly; *Keesing's* is monthly. *FACTS.com* is the online version of *Facts on File*.

* *LexisNexis Academic*, 1973-. ([Database](#))

Best source for full-text newspaper articles. Also indexes business, legal, and medical information and general reference sources. Access other LexisNexis products from *Academic's* search page. Use the ! (exclamation mark) to substitute for word endings. **E-mail: articles.**

Proquest. ([Database](#))

Indexes *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*. Use the * (asterisk) to substitute for word endings. After you get your initial results, **you can click on the “newspapers” tab above the yellow line to limit your search to newspaper articles. E-mail: articles.**

News: Newspapers and Broadcast Media. (<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/romans/news.html>)

Links to Internet sites for newspapers and other news sites. Most newspaper sites include only the latest issue. Includes world news sources.

World News Connection: Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) (Database).

The latest two years of full text and summaries of foreign newspaper articles, speeches, TV & radio broadcasts, books, and reports translated into English. (Vanderbilt IP addresses only.)

Internet Sites

At the Vanderbilt Library home page, under "Research Assistance" on the right, click on "Subject Guides." Then click on the guide you want. Government Information is also listed under "Databases and E-Resources."

How can you evaluate Internet sites?

Sponsoring Group: identified, reputable, funding source, advertising, "about us" page?

Content: impartial or biased, well-argued or inflammatory, sources well-documented, information verifiable, updated?

URL: what type of domain is it? .com – company (for-profit) .edu – educational institution; .gov – government; .mil – military; org – organization (not for profit)

* **Comparative Politics** (<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/romans/polsci/comparative.html>)

Government Information (<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/romans/govt/>)

Links to top Internet sites on economic, social, political, and consumer topics; statistical sources; government branches and agencies; defense; foreign relations; other countries; and international organizations.

Resources for Political Science (<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/romans/polsci.html>)

At the Vanderbilt Library home page, under "Databases and E-Resources," click on "Internet Search Engines":

World Wide Web Search Engines (<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/Internet.html>)

Type in your topic in the box for one of these search engines and click on "search" to find links to sites on that topic.

Other Comprehensive Sites

* **U.S. Dept. of State** (<http://www.state.gov/>)--current issues, fact sheets, statements, communiqués, speeches, and testimony, related sites, embassy contacts, and other country/regional information

* **Current World Information Knowledgebase**--Current World Leaders (<http://www.cwik.com/cwik/db/default.asp>)--key demographic, economic, geographic, and political information for countries, dependent territories, and international organizations

Database Europe--Albert-Schweitzer-Gymnasium Erlangen (<http://www.datenbank-europa.de/indexe.html>)

Foreign Government Resources--Louisiana State Univ. (<http://www.artsci.lsu.edu/poli/foreign.html>)

Foreign Government Resources on the Web--Univ. of Michigan Document Center.
(<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/foreign.html>)

* **General Foreign Government Resources**--Jim Church, Univ. of California at Berkeley
(http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/doemoff/gov_forgen.html)

* **SYBWorld / Statesman's Year Book**--Palgrave Macmillan (<http://www.sybworld.com/views/home.html>)--political, economic and social information on countries; basic information on international organizations, including web addresses

* **WWW Virtual Library**

African Studies Internet Resources--WWW Virtual Library: African Studies--Columbia Univ.
(<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/africa/cuvl/>)

Asian Studies WWW Virtual Library--Matthew Ciolek, Australian National Univ. (<http://coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVL-AsianStudies.html>)

Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC)--Univ. of Texas at Austin (<http://lanic.utexas.edu/>)

Middle East Studies--WWW Virtual Library--Univ. of Texas Middle East Network Information Center
(<http://link.lanic.utexas.edu/menic/>)

WWW Virtual Library: REESweb: Russian and East European Studies Internet Government and Public Affairs Resources--Univ. of Pittsburgh. (<http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/reesweb/>)

WWW Virtual Library: West European Studies Home Page--Univ. of Pittsburgh
(http://www.library.pitt.edu/subject_guides/westeuropean/wwwes/)

- * **Zárate's Political Collections, 1945-** (Roberto Ortíz de Zárate) (<http://www.terra.es/personal2/monolith/>)
Heads of state and government for all countries of the world.

Reference Books

SURVEYS

- * **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Databases (Database)**
Includes (1) *EIU Country Data* (annual, quarterly, and monthly economic indicators and forecasts: 278 series on 117 countries or 40 regional aggregates); (2) *EIU Country Profile* (overviews of 36 countries, including basic data); and (3) *EIU Country Reports* (overviews and analysis of key political and economic policies of 36 countries, including political outlook, economic policy outlook, and economic forecast). All are full-text; no remote access.
- The Europa World Year Book, 1959-** (Latest in READY REF JN1.E85--Bookcase 1)
Covers international organizations and both European and non-European countries. For each country, reports on constitution, government, political parties, religion, the media, finance, trade and industry, transportation, tourism and culture, and atomic energy, and gives a statistical summary. Annual.
- * **Political Handbook of the World, 1928-** (Latest in READY REF JF 37 .P6--Bookcase 1)
Recent political history for each country, including information about parties, legislature, and cabinets.
- * **Regional Surveys of the World.**
Africa South of the Sahara (Latest in READY REF DT 351 .A37)
Central and South-Eastern Europe (Latest in READY REF HC244 .A1 C46)
Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia (Latest in READY REF HC244 .A1 E293)
Middle East and North Africa (Latest in READY REF DS 49 .M5)
South America, Central America and the Caribbean (Latest in READY REF F 1408.29 .S68)
South Asia (on order)
USA and Canada (Latest in READY REF HC101 .U548)
Western Europe (Latest in READY REF HC240 .W488)
Uses same format as *Europa Year Book*. Covers major and smaller countries and territories, including geography, recent history and politics, economy, statistical survey, directory, and selected bibliography.

The World Guide: An Alternative Reference to the Countries of Our Planet, 1997/98- (Latest in REF. JF60 .G8413)

POLITICAL PARTIES

- Political Parties of the World.** 4th ed., 1996. (REF JF 2051 .D39 1996)
- World Encyclopedia of Political Systems & Parties.** 3rd ed., 1999. 3 vols. (REF JF2011.W67)

PARLIAMENTS AND ELECTIONS

- Current World Leaders, 1978-** (REF D 839 .C875)
Includes state, government, and political party leaders.
- Heads of State and Government.** 2nd. ed., 2000. (REF JF 37 .D3)
Arranged by country; then by date.
- The Societies of Europe: Elections in Western Europe since 1815.** 2000. (REF JN 94 .A956 C373)
Provides local and party results.

Statistics

- LexisNexis Statistical, 1973-** ([Database](#))
Indexes statistical publications issued by the U.S. government since 1973 and about 2,000 titles from international intergovernmental organizations since 1983. Provides direct access to many statistical tables.
- STAT-USA/Internet (Database)** - U.S. Economics and Statistics Admin. (ESA)
"State of the Nation" includes the "top 50" economic indicator releases and foreign exchange rates. "Globus and NTDB (National Trade Data Bank)" covers demographic, political, and socio-economic conditions in over 200 countries,

including general Country Commercial Guides and Market Research Reports that cover a specific industry. Vanderbilt IP addresses only.

Books and Government Publications on Acorn

At the Vanderbilt Library home page, on the left under “Catalogs and Collections,” click on “Acorn.”

Acorn, Vanderbilt's online library catalog, lists almost all books in **all Vanderbilt libraries** and most U.S. government publications since 1976. It lists which periodicals we subscribe to, but does not list individual articles.

First, choose the type of search you want to perform by clicking on the pull-down menu. If you know the exact author or title, choose the “begins with” options; otherwise, choose the “keywords” options. Second, enter your search and click on search. Use a \$ (dollar sign) to substitute for word endings. To search for a phrase, enclose the phrase with single rather than double quotes (for example, 'north atlantic treaty').

Keyword Searches

(1) Use the **and** boolean operator **between** two different concepts to get **only** the records that contain both concepts. Use the **or** boolean operator to connect similar terms **within** a concept to get **all** the records that contain either term. (2) Use nesting (putting a parenthesis before the first term and after the last term) to combine the terms **within** a concept before connecting the concepts together. (3) Use truncation symbols to get all forms of a term.

EXAMPLE: **(wordA1\$ or wordA2\$) and (wordB1\$ or wordB2\$)**

(germany or france) and (employ\$ or unemploy\$)

(germany or france) and employment policy

On Acorn and other databases, look at the subject headings or descriptors to find other terms with which to modify your search.