

## PSCI 102 – INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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The URL for the Vanderbilt Library home page is <http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/>. The latest version of this handout may be found at <http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/romans/handouts/psci102.pdf>. The LibGuide for this class is available at <http://libguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/PSCI102-Atkinson>.

### General Periodical and Newspaper Articles

Start in a periodical database like Proquest which provides both popular and scholarly articles on many topics. Vanderbilt Library home page → “[Find Articles and Databases](#)” (upper right) → “Top Databases” (near top)

#### **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. **E-mail: articles.**

**Search Tip #1:** Before you search, you can limit the number of databases you look at: click on the downward arrow to the right of “Databases:” and choose “**Interdisciplinary: Proquest Research Library.**”

**Search Tip #2:** Consider using the \* (asterisk) to substitute for word endings.

**Search Tip #3:** After entering your basic search, look at the “**suggested topics**” above the results you get. Click on the most appropriate one to get a list of the items that focus most on that topic.

Another tip: After entering your basic search, if you don't get many results, look at the list of results. From the titles of the articles listed, you may see other words or terms that will focus your topic better.

**Some articles are available in full-text** (the whole article is available) **directly on Proquest. You must look up others by clicking on “Find a copy” and then on the  button. See if the article is available online through another database or in print in the library. Also, click on “Cite this” and choose the citation style you want from the pull-down list, to find out how to cite the article.**

#### **Proquest Newspapers. (Database)**

To the right of the Database box, click on “Select Multiple Databases.” Then click on “Clear All Databases.” Scroll down to the bottom and select the historical newspapers or click on “ProQuest National Newspapers Core,” and then click on “Continue.” Enter your subject in the search box and select a data range. Click on the “Search” button.

**ProQuest National Newspapers Core** includes:

- \* The New York Times (1980-present) ; \* The Wall Street Journal (1984-present);
- \* Washington Post (1987-present); \* Los Angeles Times (1985-present);
- \* Christian Science Monitor (1988-present)

#### **LexisNexis Congressional, 1789-1969; 1970-. (Database)**

Indexes Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports, Congressional hearings, and other Congressional publications. **CRS Reports** provide information on public policy issues for members of Congress. They often cover the issues involved and the possible alternative solutions. **Hearings** include the text of prepared statements given by expert witnesses at Congressional committee meetings. **The Congressional Record** contains the floor speeches of members of Congress. **Use the ! (exclamation mark) to substitute for word endings.**

### Political Science Journal Articles & Papers

At the Vanderbilt Library home page, on the right under “Find Articles and Databases.” In the “Need a database to find an article?” section, enter initials of the database in the “search for database by name” box and press [enter].

#### **Worldwide Political Science Abstracts (WPSA), 1975-. (Database)**

**The most comprehensive Political Science 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. **Use the \* (asterisk) to substitute for word endings. E-mail: citations.**

### **PAIS International, 1972-. (Database)**

Covers current events, public policy issues, and the social sciences in general--including economic and social conditions, government and politics, and international relations. Indexes a broad range of materials--books, pamphlets, and publications of the U.S. government and of international organizations. **Use the \* (asterisk) to substitute for word endings. E-mail: citations.**

### **CIAO (Columbia International Affairs Online) (Database)**

Includes working papers from university research institutes, occasional papers series from NGOs, foundation-funded research projects, conference proceedings, journal abstracts, books, policy briefs and economic indicators, and maps and country data. To search for more than one term, put a plus sign in front of each. Provides links to more than 160 related sites and to the home pages of contributing institutions. **Use the \* (asterisk) to substitute for word endings.**

### **JSTOR.** (<http://www.jstor.org/search/>) and **Project MUSE.** (<http://muse.jhu.edu/search/search.pl>)

Full-text online backfiles of core scholarly journals on many subjects. JSTOR's full-text coverage begins at the first issue of each journal and usually ends within five years of the present. Project MUSE has more current issues, but covers fewer journals.

## **Books**

At the Vanderbilt Library home page → "Find Books and Other Items" (upper left) → "Acorn"

Acorn is the catalog for all nine libraries in the Heard Library system, as well as a few other libraries on campus (like the Women's Center and the Family Resource Center). It lists almost all books in all Vanderbilt libraries and most U.S. government publications distributed after July 1976. It lists which periodicals we subscribe to, but does not list individual articles. **Use the \$ (dollar sign) to substitute for word endings.**

**For books by a specific author,** enter the author's name (surname first), then select "author begins with" from the drop-down menu

**For a specific book,** enter the first few words of the title, then select "title begins with" from the drop-down menu

After finding the call numbers for the books you want, check the location chart by the main elevators to find out the level on which those books are shelved. Look at other books shelved near the books listed in Acorn, since they will be about similar subjects.

**Keyword Searching:** For items on a topic, enter the keywords for the topic, and select "words anywhere" from the drop-down menu. Two hints:

(1) **Use Boolean operators and or or** to connect each keyword or phrase with the others.

**AND** narrows a search by retrieving **only** records that contain all of your search terms. The computer displays only the parts of the sets that overlap.

EXAMPLE: **discrimination and housing** will retrieve only records that contain both discrimination and housing.

**OR** broadens a search by retrieving **all** records that contain even one of your search terms. The computer adds together sets of records.

EXAMPLE: **gender or sex** will retrieve all records that contain either gender or sex or both.

(2) **Use a \$ to substitute for word endings** (for example, working paper\$). This is for keyword searching **ONLY**. To search for a phrase, enclose the phrase with single rather than double quotes (for example, 'north atlantic treaty').

## **Websites**

**Terrorism: Attacks and Responses** (<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/romans/terrorism.html>)

Includes a section on "Terrorist Organizations," for information about individual groups.

**Google** (<http://www.google.com/>)

Professors, librarians, and researchers of all kinds use Google, and there's no reason that you shouldn't. However, beware that there is nobody who checks for accuracy or fairness on the Internet. **To narrow your Google search to more dependable web sits, click on "Advanced Search" and choose one or both of these options:**

**Google Scholar** (<http://scholar.google.com/>). Searches specifically for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from all broad areas of research.

**Google U.S. Government Search** (formerly Uncle Sam) -- Searches all U.S. federal, state and local government .gov and .mil sites, as well as select government sites with .com, .us, and .edu domains (e.g., .usps.com, .ca.us, and ndu.edu).