

PSCI 115 – AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

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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/>.

Deciding where to start:

- Background information?** These sources give background and history, the current problem or situation, and proposed solutions. These sources may be found at: www.library.vanderbilt.edu (go to "Find articles & databases")

CQ Researcher (Database) (including *CQ Global Researcher*)

Balanced view. Best overview source for identifying what's at issue and how the topic developed. Each report covers a single subject. Browse by topic or search for keywords. View it as a black & white PDF (choose at top right). *Global Researcher* covers more international topics.

Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center. (Database)

Biased views, so get a view from each side. Pro and con opinions about broad controversial issues. Online version also includes links to basic reference articles, selected magazine and newspaper articles, primary sources, statistics, and web sites of important organizations concerned with each issue. Use the * (asterisk) to substitute for word endings. Paper versions shelved on READY REF H33 .O666—Bookcase 1)

SEARCH HINT: You need to critically evaluate your sources (especially websites). Use the C.R.A.P. Test.

- Books?** Start in Acorn, the library catalog: acorn.library.vanderbilt.edu
Acorn is the catalog for all 9 libraries in the Heard Library system, as well as a few other departmental libraries on campus (like the Women's Center and the Family Resource Center).
- General journal, magazine, or newspaper articles?** Start in a periodical database like ProQuest or InfoTrac which both provide popular and scholarly articles on many topics. They may be found at: www.library.vanderbilt.edu (go to "Find articles & databases")

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.

- **Specialized Political Science journal or magazine articles?** If ProQuest and InfoTrac don't have what you need for your assignment, consider a more specialized database for scholarly articles on your topic. They may be found at: www.library.vanderbilt.edu (go to "Find articles & databases")

You can search both WPSA and PAIS at the same time. Click on "change: specific databases" and click on that both WPSA and PAIS. Both databases use the * (asterisk) to substitute for word endings. E-mail: citations.

Worldwide Political Science Abstracts (WPSA), 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.


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.

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

Full-text electronic 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.

- **A specific journal, magazine or newspaper?** Many of our article databases have fulltext (the whole article is in the database). However, sometimes you'll only get a citation for an article that looks perfect for your paper.

If there is a  button, click it for links that will check for fulltext copies or to see if we subscribe to the journal title through Acorn, the library catalog.

If there is no  button, look up the title of the journal or magazine (not the title of the article) in Acorn to find out whether or not Vanderbilt subscribes to it. If we have any online access to the journal (from another database), Acorn will have a  button at the top of the record.

- **Not available at Vandy?** If we don't have what you need at Vanderbilt, you can go to other resources like Athena or Kudzu or WorldCat and use our Inter-Library Loan service. Generally, it takes between 3 days to 3 weeks to deliver requested materials.
- **Websites?** Click on "Get help with research." Then click on "Subject Guides" that librarians have created for different topics: www.library.vanderbilt.edu/heard/subject.shtml

International Relations

<http://lib11.library.vanderbilt.edu/diglib/polsci.pl?searchtext=PoInterRelations&Type=Simple&Resource=DB&Website=POLITICAL>

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.

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

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

Remember! Evaluate whether the article or website you find will meet Professor Ray's standards.