

HOD 2100--PUBLIC 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.

Library home page: <http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

* indicates that the source is a good starting point.

Background Information

These sources give background and history, the current problem or situation, and proposed solutions. They are also good places to look when you are trying to decide on a speech topic. **At the Vanderbilt Library home page, on the right under "Databases and E-Resources," click on "Articles and Databases" or "E-Journals" as appropriate. Then click on the initial letter of the database name and choose the database you want.**

Congressional Digest, 1921-. *Supreme Court Debates*, 1998-. *International Debates*, 2003-. (Kept in GOVT Office; present your Vanderbilt ID card)

Excerpts of pro and con statements by members of Congress and interest group representatives (*Congressional Digest*), briefs submitted to the Supreme Court (*Supreme Court Debates*), and speeches by ambassadors and representatives of international organizations (*International Debates*). Each issue covers a single topic. Ask for a list of recent topics at the GOVT Office.

* *CQ Electronic Library*. ([Database](#))

Access to *CQ Public Affairs Collection*, *CQ Congress*, *CQ Researcher*, *CQ Supreme Court Collection*, and *CQ Weekly*. Access is also available via individual title entries and URLs. See individual titles for descriptions.

CQ Public Affairs Collection ([Database](#))

A first-stop site for in-depth reports (from *CQ Researcher*), historic documents, and primary source materials, statistical overviews, directory contact information, and web links on public policy issues.

CQ Researcher, 1991-. ([E-Journal and Database](#); READY REF H35.E35--latest five full years and current issues--Bookcase 1; earlier vols. on 6th level under PER H35.E35)

Best overview source for identifying what's at issue and how the topic developed. Each report covers a single subject. Use the * (asterisk) to substitute for word endings. For the paper version, the blue pages provide a cumulative index.

CQ Weekly [Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report], 1946-. ([E-Journal and Database](#), 1983-; Latest five years: GOVT REF Alcove JK1.C15--West Wall)

Best source for current developments on political issues and campaigns and on activities of all three branches of government. Choose Archive "Search Articles" and use the * (asterisk) to substitute for word endings. For the paper version, the yellow pages provide a cumulative index.

The annual *Congressional Quarterly Almanac Plus* (GOVT REF Alcove JK1.C66--West Wall) and quadrennial *Congress and the Nation* (GOVT REF Alcove JK1001.C6--West Wall) summarize and arrange *CQ Weekly* information by topic.

National Journal, 1969-. ([E-Journal](#); Latest five years: GOVT REF Alcove JK1.N28--West Wall)

Weekly newsmagazine of politics and government. Focuses more on economic than social issues. Use the electronic version that comes directly from National Journal. Use the * (asterisk) to substitute for word endings.

* *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*. ([Database](#))

Pro and con opinions about broad controversial issues. Online version also includes links to basic reference articles, selected magazine and newspaper articles, and web sites of important organizations concerned with each issue.

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."

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.

- * **Public Policy Issues and Groups** (<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/romans/pubpol.html>)
Links to top Internet sites on a wide range of controversial issues ranging from abortion to welfare.
- * **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.

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)

Periodical and Newspaper Articles

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.

How can you tell if an article is popular or scholarly?: 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).

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

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

E-mail: articles.

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. You can click on “Check Library Holdings” to see if Vanderbilt has the item. To see if Vanderbilt has an electronic version of an article look at the Acorn Internet record and click on the URL. **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.

U. S. Government Information

Congressional Hearings (Microfiche GOVT Y 4. __)

Testimony on proposed legislation, an existing government program, or an event by representatives for the administration, interest group representatives, state and local officials, members of Congress, and others. Search on *LEXIS-NEXIS Congressional*, Acorn or *PAIS* to identify hearings on your topic. Other transcripts you can consult:

Congressional Record, 1789-. Official record of the floor debates and votes of Congress. Online versions: via *GPO Access*: (http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces150.html) and as part of *LexisNexis Congressional*, 1970- (**Database**). Paper and microfiche versions. (GOVT X __).

The White House (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/>) Includes “Presidential News and Speeches.” Look at the “In Focus” topics on the left as well as click on the pull-down “policies in focus” menu.

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

Indexes U.S. Congressional hearings and committee prints and documents from other Congressional units. Includes text and status of Congressional bills; information about members of Congress and their districts, **text of prepared statements before Congressional hearings**, and text of ***Congressional Record***, which contains the floor speeches of members of Congress. Use the ! (exclamation mark) to substitute for word endings.

- * ***Statistical Abstract of the United States*** (U.S. Bureau of the Census), 1879-. (Latest in GOVT REF Alcove C/2(2) C 3.134--South Wall; also READY REF; <http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/02statab/statistical-abstract-02.html>)

The basic annual U.S. statistical handbook, including almost 1,600 tables, of social, economic, and political statistics. Use the source notes at the bottom of each table to lead you to other statistical publications on your topic.

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. Use the ! (exclamation mark) to substitute for word endings.