

SEARCH STRATEGY FOR POL. SCI. 244--THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS PROF. BRUCE OPPENHEIMER

The location and call number of each publication is given in parentheses at the end of its bibliographic entry. All publications in this guide are shelved on the 4th level (the main floor) unless otherwise stated.

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

Members of Congress

Almanac of American Politics, 1972-. (Database; Latest on READY REF JK 1012 .A44--Bookcase 1)

Politics in America, 1982-. (Database; Latest on READY REF JK 1010 .P64--Bookcase 1)

These two sources provide very similar coverage. Both are arranged alphabetically by state. For each state, provides profiles of Governors, U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, and each Congressional district. For Senators and Representatives gives biographical information, committee assignments, election results, key votes, and interest group ratings. *Politics in America* also gives data on campaign finances.

Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1996. (GOVT REF Alcove JK1010.A5 1997 - West Wall; also e-Book; <http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>)
Paragraph-long biographies with bibliographic references.

Congressional Directory, 1809-. (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cdirectory/index.html>; Latest in GOVT REF Alcove Y 4.P93/1:)
Presents biographical information about Congressional leaders and members of Congress, including committee assignments, staff, and seniority. Lists committees and subcommittees and their members. Biannual.

Directory of Congressional Voting Scores and Interest Group Ratings. Michael J. Sharp. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2000. 2 vol. (GOVT REF JK1051 .S555 2000)

Members of Congress: A Bibliography. Edited by Robert U. Goehlert, Fenton S. Martin, and John R. Sayre. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1996. (REF Z 7165 .U5 G568 1996)

United States Congressional Elections, 1788-1997: the official results of the elections of the 1st through the 105th Congresses. Michael J. Dubin. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1998. (GOVT REF JK1967 .D77 1998)

Periodical Articles

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

* *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. 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. To see if Vanderbilt has an electronic version of an article indexed in PAIS, go to the Vanderbilt Library home page. Click on "E-Journals" (on the left), click on the initial letter of the periodical the article is in. If that periodical is listed, click on its title. See if the issue is listed. **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. **E-mail: articles.**

Ways you can limit your search to reduce the number of articles that match your search:

Before you search:

(1) click on "Databases Selected" (which is under the "Basic Search" tab), and then click on "clear all databases," you can further limit your search to the Research Library Core, International Module, Military Module, and the Social Science Module or other modules.

(2) specify a "date range" in the box below the main search box;

(3) check "full-text articles only";

After you get your results:

(4) click on "magazines" or "scholarly journals, including peer-reviewed."

Newspaper Articles and Newsmagazines

CQ Weekly [Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report], 1946-. (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. **Good source for identifying on which issues which members of Congress played an important role.** 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* (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.

LEXIS-NEXIS Academic, 1973-. (Database)

Best source for full-text newspaper articles. **Good sources for identifying media coverage.** 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.**

Step One: from the pull-down menu, choose "General News" to search major national papers; choose "U.S. News" to get regional papers. If you choose to look at regional papers, at **Step Two**, you choose which region.

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.

Books and U.S. Government Documents on Acorn

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

Vanderbilt's online library catalog. Acorn 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 \$ to substitute for word endings. To search for a phrase, enclose the phrase with single rather than double quotes (for example, 'north atlantic treaty'). Default operator: and.

Internet Sites

At the Vanderbilt Library home page, on the right under "Research Assistance," click on "Subject Guides" and choose the page you want.

Data Archives and Related Resources (<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/central/data.html>)

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

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

Public Policy Issues and Groups (<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/romans/pubpol.html>)

At the Vanderbilt Library home page, on the right under "Databases and E-Resources," click on

Reference Tools (<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/ref/>) – for dictionaries, encyclopedias, biographical sources, statistical information, and much more

World Wide Web Search Engines (<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/Internet.html>) – for Google, Yahoo!, and many other search engines

Finding U. S. Government Information

A. Indexes

Almost all U.S. government publications (also known as documents) issued after 1976 are listed on Acorn. You can also use *PAIS* (see above) or these indexes to identify and locate U.S. government information on your subject:

LEXIS-NEXIS 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. Includes *CIS/Index* Analysis of appropriate bills gives information about relevant public policies. Includes:

CIS/Index (paper version: GOVT REF Alcove Z1223.A66--North Wall) - search for hearings by subject, title, and witness name and affiliation

Publications - search the full-text of committee reports and prints, house and Senate Documents, bills, and *The Congressional Record*.

Testimony - search hearings by witness name, by committee, or by keyword

Members - biographical information and committee assignments, personal characteristics, bills sponsored, key votes, floor statements, votes, and campaign finance including which people, companies and organizations have contributed to a campaign

Also search for bills, laws, regulations, committee rosters and schedules, and hot bills and topics.

GPO on Silver Platter, 1976-. (Database)

Compact disc version for 1976 to date of *The Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications*, 1895- (GOVT REF Alcove GP3.8--South Wall). The most comprehensive finding aid for U.S. government publications. A catalog of all documents received by the Government Printing Office. Subject headings are the same as for Acorn. Use the * (asterisk) to substitute for word endings.

B. Statistics**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; **Online version:** <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-03.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.

LEXIS-NEXIS 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. Includes full-text of some publications, 1995 to present, and direct links to originating government web sites where available. Non-depository documents indexed in ASI are available on microfiche (GOVT Microfiche 669--rose cabinet with green labels).

C. Transcripts**Congressional Hearings** (Microfiche GOVT Y 4. __)

Contain the testimony of people interested in a government program or initiative or interested in the passage or defeat of a bill: spokespersons 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.

Congressional Record [title varies], 1789-. (GOVT X __)

Official record of the floor debates and votes of Congress. Speeches about a bill can be found on the day it was introduced in each chamber of Congress and during the debates before it is voted on in each chamber. Good sources for which issues on which the member of Congress on the floor. Online version: *Congressional Record Online via GPO Access* (Database; <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/crecord/index.html>). Also available on *LEXIS-NEXIS Congressional* (Database).

GPO Access (U.S. Government Printing Office), 1994-. (Database; <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html>)

Search and retrieve full-text from over 50 online databases, including the *Congressional Record*, the *Federal Register*, the *The Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*, Supreme Court cases, and others.

Reference Books**General**

Congress A to Z: A Ready Reference Encyclopedia. 4th ed. 2003. (REF JK 1021 .C555 2003)

Congressional Quarterly's American Congressional Dictionary. 3rd ed. Walter Kravitz. 2001. (REF JK 9 .K73 2001)

The Encyclopedia of the United States Congress. Donald C. Bacon and others. 4 vols. 1995. (REF JK 1067 .E63 1995)

Includes comprehensive essays on major topics and shorter entries on committees, most important former members, major laws, and many other topics.

Guide to Congress. Congressional Quarterly. 5th ed. 2000. (REF JK 1021 .C565 2000)

Comprehensive coverage of the origins and development of Congress, powers, procedures, pressures, support, perquisites, elections, and conduct. Many tables in the Appendix.

How to Research Congress. Fenton S. Martin and Robert U. Goehlert. 1996. (REF JK 1108 .M349 1996)

Official House and Senate sites

- * United States House of Representatives (<http://www.house.gov/>)
Member, committee, and leadership directory; floor and committee hearings schedules; roll-call votes; the legislative process; includes committee web sites.
- * United States Senate -- (<http://www.senate.gov/>)
Senators and leadership; committees; legislative activities; Senate history, procedures, and terminology; includes committee web sites
- * Virtual Reference Desk -- U.S. Congress. Senate
(http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/reference/b_three_sections_with_teasers/virtual.htm)
Information on Senators and leadership, committees, and legislative activities; history, procedures, and terminology.

The Presidential-Congressional Political Dictionary. Jeffrey M. Elliot and Sheikh R. Ali. 1984. (REF JK 9 .E4 1984)

Vital Statistics on Congress. 1980-. (GOVT REF JK 1041 .V58--West Wall)

Organizations of Congress

Committees in the U.S. Congress, 1789-1946. David T. Canon. Washington: DC: CQ Press, 2002. 4 vol. (GOVT REF JK1029 .C64 2002)

Committees in the U.S. Congress, 1947-1992. Garrison Nelson with Clark H. Bensen. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1993-. 2 vol. (GOVT REF JK1029 .N45 1993)

Elections

America at the Polls, 1960-2000: John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush; A Handbook of American Presidential Election Statistics. Edited by Alice V. McGillivray, Richard M. Scammon, and Rhodes Cook. 2001. 2 vols. (REF JK 524 .A733 2001)
Presidential elections statistics by county, 1920 to the present.

America Votes, 1956-. (Latest in REF JK 1967 .A8)
Every two years provides post-World War II votes for President, Governor, and Senator, and county vote totals for the most recent President, Senate, and House elections. Biannual.

Congressional District in the 2000s: A Portrait of America. 2003. (GOVT REF Alcove JK 1341 .C65 2003); *Congressional Districts in the 1990s: A Portrait of America.* 1993. (GOVT REF Alcove JK 1341 .C64 1993); *Congressional Districts in the 1980s.* 1993. (GOVT REF Alcove JK 1341 .C63 1983); *Congressional Districts in the 1970s.* 1974. (GOVT REF Alcove JK 1341 .C66 1974)
About two pages of information about each Congressional district. Covers population, politics, voting groups, income and occupation, education, race and ancestry, industry and business, and media.

Congressional Elections, 1946-1996. 1998. (REF JK 1967 .C64 1998)

Congressional Quarterly's Guide to U. S. Elections, 1975-. (Latest on REF JK 1967 .C662 [call number varies])
Covers party conventions; the electoral college; gubernatorial and U. S. House and Senate elections, and Southern primaries.

Political Parties and Elections in the United States: An Encyclopedia. Edited by L. Sandy Maisael. 1991. 2 vols. (REF JK 2261 .P633 1991)

U.S. Primary Elections: A Handbook of Election Statistics, 1995/96- 1997-. (Latest in REF JK 2071 .C66) Continues *Congressional and Gubernatorial Primaries: A Handbook of Election Statistics, 1991/92-1993-4.* 1993-1995. (REF JK 2074 .M48 1993)

Campaign Finance

Almanac of Federal PACs, 1986-. (REF Ready REF JK 1991 .A744)
Congressional Quarterly's Federal PACs Directory, 1998-. (Latest in REF JK 1991 .C664)
Arranged by political action committee (PAC). Provides information about the PAC or parent organization. *CQ's Federal PACs Directory* also provides policy objectives and spending trends. Neither publication breaks down receipts and expenditures from individual donor or to individual politician

Campaign and Election Reform. Glenn H. Utter and Ruth Ann Strickland. Contemporary World Issues. 1997. (READY REF JK 1976 .U88 1997--Bookcase #1)
Includes chronology, biographies, survey data, organizational listings, and print and non-print resources.

FECInfo -- PoliticalMoneyLine (<http://www.tray.com/fecinfo/>)
Non-partisan federal candidate campaign money page, 1993-94 to date; political-action-committee and individual contributor by candidate: "who gave what to which Federal candidates when." Based on Federal Election Commission data.

Federal Election Commission (FEC) -- U.S. Federal Election Commission (FEC) (<http://www.fec.gov/>)
Campaign Finance Reports and Data for candidates, parties, and political action committees and About Elections and Voting, including primary schedule, recent election results, voter registration, and turnout. Also see FEC Electronic Publication List, which includes National Mail Voter Registration Form.

Interest Groups

American Directory of Organized Labor, 1992-. (HD 6504 .A63—5th level)

LEXIS-NEXIS Congressional, 1789-1969; 1970-. (Database)
Indexes U.S. Congressional hearings and other committee publications. Committee hearings contain the testimony of interest group representatives and experts. To find out more about your interest groups, you can look up the interest group to find out at which hearings a representative of a particular group gave testimony. Look at the summary of those hearings. Skim through four or five hearings to get a general idea of the positions taken by the group.

Government Agencies

Government Agencies. Edited by Donald R. Whitnah. Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Institutions. 1983. (GOVT REF Alcove JK 421 .G65 1983)
Dated, but gives good historical background.

A Historical Guide to the U.S. Government. Edited by George T. Kurian. 1998. (GOVT REF Alcove JK 9 .H57 1998)

International Relations (<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/romans/polsci/intlrel.html>)
Comparative Politics (<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/romans/polsci/comparative.html>)
Current News (<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/romans/news.html>)

The Historical Atlas Of State Power in Congress, 1790-1990. Kenneth C. Martis. 1993. (GOVT REF Alcove G 1201 .F7 M3 1993)