

FINDING GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Government information includes any publications issued by local, state, national or international governments. If you are writing a research paper, a search for government information on your topic should be an essential step in your research. The government publishes information on many topics; in fact, it is hard to think of a topic you would **not** find in government documents.

Government information includes laws, regulations, statistics, consumer information, etc. It may be in the form of reference works, books, periodicals, bibliographies, pamphlets, maps, and cd-roms. Nowadays many federal and state documents (often in full-text) are available on the Internet.

Federal Government Information

FirstGov.gov (<http://firstgov.gov>)

This site is "the first resource to find any government information on the Internet, with topics ranging from business and economy to money and benefits to science and technology." Users can search for information using the search engine or browse by a branch of government. Includes links to state and local information.

Federal Web Locator (<http://www.infoctr.edu/fwl/>)

The most comprehensive collection of web sites for Federal agencies and departments.

FedWorld (<http://www.fedworld.gov>)

Good place for finding U.S. government published information. Produced by the National Technical Information Service, the goal of this service is to provide a location for the public to locate, order and have delivered to them, U.S. government information.

California Government Information

California Voter Foundation (<http://www.calvoter.org/>)

Home of the California voter guide for past and upcoming elections, as well as links to new political district maps. Find information about statewide ballot measures, candidates, campaign finance, lobbies, etc.

Project Vote Smart (<http://www.vote-smart.org/>)

Tracks the performance of more than 34,000 political leaders. Resources include voting records, issues information, biographies of all the current Congress members, organizations, educational reference materials, directories of political information, etc.

You can type in your zip code and get back information on all your state and federal representatives.

International Government Information

CountryWatch.com (<http://www.countrywatch.com/>)

An up-to-date source of information on 191 countries. Provides basic data such as population, profile, currency, map, and current time, as well as short profiles in the following areas: people, history, economy, agriculture, energy, metals, and environment. Also provides current news wire stories about the country. A DVC Library subscription database.

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