

U.S. GOVERNMENT - BASIC REFERENCE WORKS AND SOURCES
By Jonathan Bean, Updated by Jian Anna Xiong, 1/25/2007

GENERAL

Encyclopedia of American Political History, ed. Greene (1984)

Library Location: LC Oversize Books, Basement E183 .E5 1984

Encyclopedia of American Political History, ed. Finkelman and Wallenstein (2001)

Ref. Q. 973.03 E561. Reference (non-circulating), 1st Floor

Congressional Quarterly's Guide to U.S. Elections, 4th ed. (2001)

Ref. JK1967 .C662 2001. Reference (non-circulating), 1st Floor

*National Party Platforms, 1840-1972

Ref. JK2255J6 X1973 (1980 supplement also available). Reference (non-circulating), 1st Floor

*The Presidents: A Reference History, rev. ed. (1996)

Ref. E176.1 P918 1996. Reference (non-circulating), 1st Floor

United States Congress: A Bibliography (1982)

Location: Dewey Books, McLafferty Annex 328.73016 G594u

The Supreme Court Compendium, ed. Lee Epstein (1996) Ref. 347.7326 E64s 1996.
Reference (non-circulating), 1st Floor

Government Agencies. Donald R. Whitnah, ed. (1983)

Location: LC Books, Basement JK421.G65 1983;

Location: Dewey Books, McLafferty Annex 353.04 G721

A Historical Guide to the U.S. Government. George Kurian (ed.) (1998)

Reference (non-circulating), 1st Floor. [352.30973 H6731998](#)

BIOGRAPHY

Almanac of American Politics, ed. Michael Barone (1972-present)

Location: Dewey Books, McLafferty Annex 328.73 A445 (except most recent year, which is on 1 floor, Reference, JK 1012.A44)

*American National Biography [Ref. 920.073 A5125 1999]

Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1996

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>

Biographical Directory of the United States Executive Branch, 1774-1990

Location: LC Books, Basement E176 .B578 1990

Current Biography (1940-present; Cumulative index for 1940-1985 and subsequent 5 year periods)

Ref.CT100.C8 Location: Reference (non-circulating), 1st Floor

Political Profiles: Eisenhower Years; Kennedy Years; Johnson Years; Nixon/Ford Years

Ref. 920.073P769 Location: Reference (non-circulating), 1st Floor

HISTORICAL STATISTICS

Statistical abstract 1878-2007

<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/statab.html#Top>

US Decennial Censuses 1790-2000

<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/decennial/index.htm>

The data is down to the city level.

The statistical history of the United States, from colonial times to the present, 1970

Location: Dewey Books, McLafferty Annex. Call Number: 317.3 U58HC1976

Historical statistics of the United States : earliest times to the present / Susan B. Carter ... [et al.]. v. 1. Population -- v. 2. Work and welfare -- v. 3. Economic structure and performance -- v. 4. Economic sectors -- v. 5. Governance and international relations.

Location: LC Oversize, Basement Call Number: Oversize HA202 .H57 2006

Historical statistics of the United States, colonial times to 1970.

Location: Reference (non-circulating), 1st Floor. Call Number: q. 317.3 U58h 1970. Also available: Reference (non-circulating), 1st Floor. Call Number: q. 317.3 U58h 1970. Also available: Government Documents Reference, McLafferty. K. C3.134/2:H62/1789-1970/PT.-

Statistical Abstract of the United States (annual, 1878-present)

(2004-present) Available at: information desk on 1st floor. HA 202.A39. 2003 Available at Government Documents Reference, McLafferty Annex: C3.134: (1878-2002) Available at: Government Documents. Call number: C3.134:

FedStats: <http://www.fedstats.gov/>

PERIODICAL INDEXES

PAIS Bulletin (1915-) "Public Affairs International Service" Bulletins.

*Poole's Index to Periodical Literature: 19 c. index.

Ref. 050 P8221938. On-line: <http://poolesplus.odyssey.com>

*Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature: 20 century periodical index.

PUBLIC OPINION

American National Election Studies Data Sourcebook, 1952-1986

Ref/324.973092M652A] Library Location: Reference (non-circulating), 1st Floor.

American National Election Studies Data Sourcebook, 1952-1978 Dewey Books,

McLafferty Annex. **Call Number:** [Q. 324.973092 M652A](#)

*The Gallup Poll: Public Opinion: 1935-2001. The years 1935-1971 appeared in 3 volumes, followed by annual editions. There is a cumulative index in Reference.

Call number: HN90.P8 G35. Roper Polls, 1935-present also available on-line within Morris Library only.

The Gallup poll: public opinion, 1972-1977

Reference (non-circulating), 1st Floor. [301.1543329 G175ga](#)

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Reference

Andrioti, Guide to U.S. Government Publications

Location: Government Documents Reference, McLafferty Annex Z1223.Z7A574;

Location: Government Documents Reference, McLafferty Annex Q. 015.73G946

Congress

*CIS US Serial Set: Invaluable reference guide to hearings and reports. *Location:* Government Documents Reference Shelves, McLafferty Annex

On-line version of indexes and unpublished hearings, 1789-present:

<http://web.lexis-nexis.com/congcomp>

From the left menu, you can choose to search

Congressional publications (committee prints, hearings, senate and house documents, senate and house reports, legislative histories, serial set): Many have full text online. If the full text is not available online, contact Morris Library GovDocs Office help you. The citation information that you found in the database will help the library staff find the information for you with less time.

Legislative history, bills, laws, US codes by keyword or document number

Code of Federal Regulations and Federal Regulations by keyword or document number or agency

Congressional record and rules (1985-present)

Members and committees of US Congress (101th -110th Congress)

*Congressional Record: proceedings and debates in U.S. House and Senate. Annual indexes. Replaced *Congressional Globe* (1833-1872), also available at SIUC and on-line:

*Congressional Debates, 1774-1873: Gov. Docs and
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>

Congressional Globe (1833-1872): (Gov Docs);
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwgc.html>

Annals of Congress (1789-1824): (Gov. Docs);
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwac.html>

Register of Debates (1824-1837): (Gov. Docs);
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwrd.html>

*Congress and the Nation: *Very* useful chronological guide to politics, 1945-present. Ref. 328.73 C749c Location: Reference (non-circulating), 1st Floor. V.1-9

Congressional Quarterly Almanac: largely duplicates *Congress and the Nation*, but contains major Supreme Court decisions and voting records of congressional representatives.

Directory of Congressional Voting Scores and Interest Group Ratings.
Call number: Q.328.730775 S531d 2000 Reference (non-circulating), 1st Floor
Presidents:

*Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States

Government Documents Reference, McLafferty Annex.

Reagan-Bush: [AE2.114:](#)

Hoover-Carter: Call number: [GS4.113:](#)

Supreme Court:

*United States Reports: official publication of Supreme Court decisions.

Location: MacLafferty Annex. Gov. Doc. K. JU6.8

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

General

WorldCat: This bibliographic database lists the holdings of 20,000 libraries and archives worldwide, including books; articles; manuscript collections, etc. Largely supplants

National Union Catalog of Manuscripts (NUCMC) [see below]

<http://www.lib.siu.edu/hp/books/> – Click on “Find Articles” – Click on “W” – Click on “World Cat”

National Inventory of Documentary Sources in the United States: 429 finding aids to National Archives, Library of Congress, and other federal archives.

Ref. Q. 091 N2772. Reference (non-circulating), 1st Floor

National Archives: www.archives.gov

Directory of Government Document Collections and Librarians (1991)

Location: Dewey Books, McLafferty Annex. 350.81 D598

Repositories of Primary Sources:

<http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html>

Congress

Guide to Research Collections of Former United States Senators, 1789-1995 (1996)

Guide to Research Collections of Former Members of the U.S. House (1988)

Members of Congress: A Checklist of Their Papers in the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress (1980)

Presidents

National Archives: http://www.archives.gov/presidential_libraries/index.html

Judiciary

Federal Judicial Center [<http://www.fjc.gov>]

INTERNET SOURCES

American Political Development: www.americanpoliticaldevelopment.org

American Presidency Project: www.americanpresidency.org

An outstanding collection of resources related to the American presidency, including all *Public Papers of the Presidents* on-line for free. Also includes audio and video of famous presidential speeches, from the 19 century to the present.

Code of Federal Regulations <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfr-table-search.html>

Congress Link <http://www.congresslink.org/>

Congressional Biographical Directory:

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>

Congressional Collections at Archives:

http://www.archives.gov/records_of_congress/repository_collections

*Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1873
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>

*Congressional Universe

<http://web.lexis-nexis.com/congcomp>

Federal Government Resources: Historic Documents

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/fedhis.html>

Federal Judicial Center: <http://www.fjc.gov>

FedStats: <http://www.fedstats.gov/>

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

*Findlaw: <http://www.findlaw.com> Fantastic search engine for current and historical material, including full court opinions since 1893

USA.Gov: www.usa.gov

GPO Access: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html>

H-Pol: <http://www.h-net.org/~pol>

Journal of Policy History: <http://www.slu.edu/departments/jph/>

National Archives: <http://archives.gov>

NUCMC: <http://lweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html>

Presidential Libraries: http://www.archives.gov/presidential_libraries/index.html

Repositories of Primary Sources:

www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html

Society for Federal Government History www.shfg.org

Supreme Court Decisions, 1937-1975: text of over 7,000 cases at

<http://www.fedworld.gov/supcourt/index.htm>

Supreme Court Historical Society: <http://www.supremecourthistory.org/>