GOVT2991 Political Analysis

Library Research Skills

Presented by
Karen Chilcott
Faculty Liaison Librarian,
Arts & Social Sciences Services Team
University of Sydney Library
Purpose of the session

– To develop effective Research skills using Library resources, including:

– Demonstrate how to find Resources on your topic in the Library’s collections and through Online Resources.

– Identify Primary and Secondary Sources

– Demonstrate how to find
  – Statistical Data
  – News Sources
  – Opinion Polls & Election Data
  – Government Documents
  – Policy Documents
  – Books in Library Catalogue
Primary Sources

What is a Primary Source

- provides a first hand account of an event or time period.
- Often created at the time an event occurred
- Can include resources recorded later. Such as;
  » autobiographies,
  » memoirs
  » oral histories
- Within the Social Sciences Primary Sources can include
  » articles or papers describing experiments
  » studies conducted and written by researchers
**Types of Primary Sources**

Some types of primary sources include:

- published materials (books, magazine and newspaper articles) written at the particular time
- handwritten documents, such as diaries and journals
- speeches, interviews, letters
- memoirs and autobiographies
- manuscripts
- maps
- laws and court cases
- records of government agencies
- records of organizations
- Numerical data sets such as census figures, opinion polls, surveys or interview transcripts, statistical reports
Secondary Sources

What is a Secondary Source

– Offers an analysis or a restatement of primary sources
– Involves generalisation, synthesis, interpretation, commentary or evaluation.
– Examples include:
  » dictionaries,
  » Encyclopedias
  » textbooks
  » books and articles that interpret or review works
  » biographies,
  » dissertations
Finding Primary Sources

Autobiographies
- Use Library catalogue – Include “biography” in search

Media Reports
- Use Library Databases & Electronic Resources – (News Services)
- Use Library Guides – (Government Documents – Australia)

Statistical Reports
- Use Library Databases & Electronic Resources - (Statistics)
- Use Library Guides – (Statistics Australian)

Opinion Poll data and Election results
- Use Library Guides - (Statistics Australian) or (Government Documents Australia)

Parliamentary debates & Speeches
- Use Library Guides – (Government Documents Australia)
Useful Library Web Pages

The following Library Sites will be useful for finding the required materials

- **Library Catalogue**
  

- **Databases and Electronic Resources**
  
  - Government and International Relations
  - News Services
  - Statistics

- **Library Guides**
  
  [http://libguides.library.usyd.edu.au/](http://libguides.library.usyd.edu.au/)
  - Government Documents - Australia
  - Statistics – Australian
  - Policy Studies
Finding statistical data

Go to Database Page – **Statistics**

– **Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)**
  – Online database of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), containing all standard publications published since 1998 in pdf format

– **ABS TableBuilder**
  – Online tool for creating tables and graphs from ABS survey data – Use either Census TableBuilder or Survey TableBuilder

– **ADA / ICPSR (Australian Data Archives) / (Inter-University Symposium for Political and Social Research)**
  – Over 2,000 data sets from Australian and non-Australian studies.

– **OECD iLibrary (Formerly SourceOECD)**
  – Includes the full text of all OECD publications, as well as a range of OECD databases such as Main Economic Indicators, Main Industrial Indicators, National Accounts, Social Expenditure, Economic Outlook and many others.

– **World Bank Open Data (World Development Indicators)**
  – Includes World Bank Development Indicators: 900 indicators organised in six sections: World View, People, Environment, Economy, States and Markets, and Global Links

– **IMF eLibrary Data** – formerly IFS : International Financial Statistics
  – Time series data from the International Monetary Fund. Covers economics and financial indicators for a wide range of countries
Finding News databases

Go to Government & International Relations Database Guide

– **Factiva**
  – Full-text news, commentary, pictures and media transcripts from over 8,000 overseas and Australian news media sources.

– **Proquest News & Newspapers**

– **TVNews via Informit Online** (September 2007 - 2012)
  – TVNews indexes Australian television news, current affairs programs, and selected documentaries from the free-to-air networks. Links are to the video files and there are no transcripts available

– **Capital Monitor**
  – Parliamentary and legal information from federal and selected state sources. Monitors Bills, Acts, High Court and Tax rulings, elections and budgets. Tracks information by selected popular topics.

See Also Library Guide - Government Documents – Australia (Media resources & releases)
Finding Opinion Polls & Election Information

- Use the [Library Guides](https://libguides.usyd.edu.au/) to find links to information

- Statistics Australian (Opinion Poll Data – Australia) page

- Media & Communications - (Journalist Toolkit) page: also has information on Opinion Polls including links to some international sites

- Government Documents – Australia
  - Has a page on Elections and Electoral Information including
    - The [Australian election portal](http://www.elections.gov.au/) which provides an entry point to national, state and territory electoral websites.
    - Online & Print References to election related sites and material

- The National Library of Australia’s [Pandora Archive](http://pandora.nla.gov.au/) includes political information on parties and election campaigns
Finding Government Documents - 1

Useful Library Guides

  • This guide includes a link to another useful guides and a tutorial called Finding Australian Government Reports

– You may also find Information via
  • Australian Government Entry Point
  • Other Government Entry Points
  • Parlinfo Search
Parliamentary Debates:

- The verbatim record of parliamentary debates published by the various parliaments is commonly called Hansard. Included are answers to questions, texts or petitions, and the occasional report which has been incorporated in Hansard without being read in parliament.

Parliamentary Reports

- These are documents which have been presented to parliament and ordered to be printed.

Government Reports

- Papers produced by government agencies
- Go to the web site of the relevant government agency and check their menu or page for links to publications
Finding Government Documents - 3

Parliamentary Bills and Acts

– Federal Parliament information on Bills and Acts can be found by searching Parlinfo.

– For State Information look at the State Government Entry points, which for each state are usually www.state.gov.au


– Legislation information can also be found by searching on free Websites such as AustLII - Australasian Legal Information Institute which provides free internet access to Australasian legal materials.)
Finding Policy Documents

- Use the **Policy Studies** subject guide
  - This guide will assist you to identify
    - Government departments and agencies involved in creating policy
    - sources where policy is published or recorded
    - sources which allow you to trace the history of a specific policy area
    - sources which analyse and discuss policy

- Search Parlinfo for policy information
  - Media Releases; Parliamentary Debates (the second reading speech of a bill is the major debate of policy issues); Committee Reports; Library Publications; political parties

- Use the websites of political parties to search for policy documents
Finding Policy Document

International

To find policy documents for countries other than Australia

- Search the websites of national governments (or government agencies) to find press releases.

- Use a list of political parties such as http://www.politicalresources.net/ to find party policy documents.

- Links are available to some international sites on the Policy Studies guide under the Tab ‘Comparative and Global Policy Issues’
Finding Books

Finding Books in the Online Catalogue

Go to the Catalogue by clicking on Catalogue tab from the Library's Home Page, or go directly to http://sydney.edu.au/library

• Use keyword to find books on your topic.
• If you wish to search for autobiographies you will need to add the keyword “biography” to your search.
• The library does not use the term autobiography.
• You can also find edited books on your topic by including the term "edited" in your keyword search.
Finding Journal Articles

— You can find articles in journals by searching our databases and ejournal collections.

Databases:
— provide access to the content of journals within broad or specific subjects areas
— index articles, essays, conferences papers, websites, book reviews, reports and occasionally book chapters
— sometimes provide full-text versions of articles

Cross Search:
— a simple and fast search engine that searches multiple collections at the same time,
— Searches the library catalogue as well as a variety of bibliographic databases
Additional Sources

Government Documents International – Library Guide

– The Library Guide to International Government Documents has not been updated for some time and is currently not listed on the Library Guides list.

– The old guide is available at the following URL

  http://libguides.library.usyd.edu.au/intlgovdocs

– Beware some of the information on this guide is out of Date

– Library locations will probably be incorrect as much of this material has been moved to either the Storage library or the Law Compactus
Further Help

Need further assistance?

Contact your Faculty Liaison Librarian

Karen Chilcott (Faculty Liaison Librarian)
Arts & Social Sciences Library Services Team
Level 2, Fisher Library North
The University of Sydney
T: 02 935 17289
E karen.chilcott@sydney.edu.au

Use “Ask us Now” service
http://usyd.libanswers.com/