

Glendale College Library Information Competency Workshop

Government Resources

PUBLIC RESOURCES (print and online)

Almanac of American Politics REF 328.73 A445

Occupational Outlook Handbook REF DESK 371.42 U58o also: <http://www.bls.gov/OCO/>

Statistical Abstract of the United States REF DESK 317.3 S797 also:

<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab>

United States Government Manual REF DESK 353 U58 also: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gmanual/index.html>

Statesman's Year-book: The Politics, Cultures, and Economies of the World REF DESK 320.03 S797

SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES (available on campus or remotely)

CQ Researcher - reports on current, controversial issues

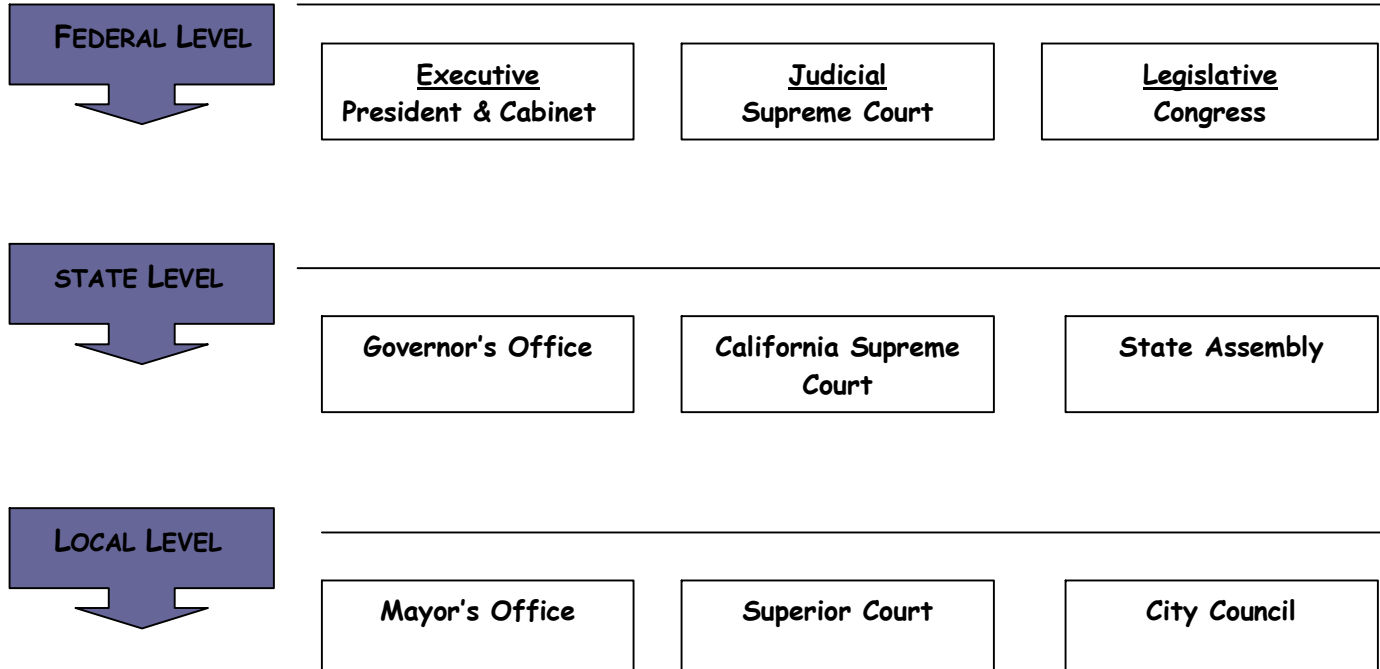
LexisNexis ACADEMIC - legal news & reviews, federal & state cases, case law, codes, and regulations, including U.S. Supreme Court cases, and international legal information.

RAND CALIFORNIA - An online source for California and U.S. statistics.

CountryWatch - country-specific information (political, economic, social, environmental, etc.)

WEB RESOURCES at:

<http://www.glendale.edu/library/instruction/LibWorkshops/GovResOnline.html>



Government Resources

Class Activity: Exploring Databases

Exercise Objective: This exercise will help you explore and understand the scope, content, and organization of some of the databases that contain information about governments.

1) **RAND California** is a very good source for statistics on specific demographics. It is also a useful database for creating your own statistical charts or graphics for your assignments

a) Go to **RAND California** and click on the **California Statistics** link. Explore the links you find there and write down some categories that look interesting to you. For example, under the link for *Education*, "SAT Scores" and under *Community*, "Number of Crimes" are interesting to look at.

b) Now, from **RAND**, click on **What's New**. Write down two data collections that look interesting. Explore one or both of these collections. Look at the short descriptions of information at the top and at the dates in red. Now, tool around and design a graph by selecting various categories.

2) **CQ Researcher** publishes reports on current controversial topics. It's a great place to go to find background information on various issues and to find how the government may or may not be involved in these issues.

a) Use the **Quick Search** feature to search for information about "hip-hop" or, if you prefer, try "gender and learning" as a topic. Describe the report that you find. What are some of the sections of the report that look interesting to you?

b) Is **CQ Researcher** published by a government agency? _____

Government Resources

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- 3) *CountryWatch* publishes information about all the recognized countries of the world.
- a) Use the menu in **Quick Links** to select a country that interests you. Explore the different parts of the report for that country. List some of the different kinds of information you find in the report.

- b) Return to the *CountryWatch* home page and next explore the **Country Data** section of the database. Choose 3 countries/regions from the first menu and "add" them. Choose the years you want to include by selecting from the "dates" menu. Choose 3 categories that interest you from the third menu. Click on "display results" to create your statistical report.

Government Resources

Class Activity: Exploring Databases

Exercise Objective: This exercise will help you to (a) understand the organization of information on government websites, (b) determine which government site is most appropriate for your information need, (c) think critically and analyze the way information is presented to you determine its relevance.

A) Select one of the following topics for this exercise:	B) Select one of the following government websites for the topic you have chosen:
<input type="checkbox"/> Club Drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Baby Abandonment/Baby Surrender <input type="checkbox"/> California Native American Heritage and Tribal Laws <input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles Neighborhood Crime Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/> www.usa.gov <input type="checkbox"/> www.ca.gov <input type="checkbox"/> www.lacounty.info <input type="checkbox"/> www.ci.la.ca.us

Respond to the following questions with your observations and be prepared to report to the class about your search.

1. Which topic did you select?

2. Which government website did you choose to explore? Why? *If more than one website has information on your topic, how is the information on each site different?*

3. Describe what you found on your topic (reports, statistics, research findings, etc.)?

4. How relevant or helpful was this information to your topic? How could you use this information?

- 5a. Were you able to find the information by navigating through the structure and organization of the information or did you ultimately have to use the search engine to find what you were looking for?

- 5b. How could this website be improved, especially to retrieve the kind of information you were looking for?