

SIRS GOVERNMENT REPORTER®

RESEARCH STRATEGIES OVERVIEW

W I N D O W S / M A C V E R S I O N

THE DATABASE

SIRS Government Reporter® is the one source for current and historic government documents; landmark and recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions; information about federal departments, agencies, elected leaders and more.

EASY SEARCH METHODS

U.S. Government Documents delivers thousands of carefully selected, full-text documents and graphics from departments, agencies and commissions of the U.S. government. These documents provide valuable information concerning a wide variety of topics: health, science, economics, the environment, politics, foreign affairs, workplace issues, business and the military. Users can locate and print or save full-text along with corresponding bibliographic citations.

The U.S. Government Documents database is searchable by several methods.

Tree Browse includes the following options:

- **Documents by Subject Tree** locates documents by exploring categories, topics and subtopics in a five-level "subject tree."
- **Documents by Department/Agency** organizes documents according to the publishing agency.
- **Country Profile Documents** accesses documents from the Background Notes series published by the U.S. State Department.
- **Census Bureau Documents** contains documents published by the U.S. Census Bureau, displayed by topic.

Keyword Search allows users to pinpoint specific information by using key words with logical operators and truncation.

Subject Headings accesses documents indexed primarily according to Library of Congress subject headings.

ADDITIONAL DATABASES

U.S. Supreme Court accesses hundreds of full-text case documents, both landmark and recent, dating back to the inception of the Court. Cases are selected for their constitutional and/or social value. U.S. Supreme Court decision documents are searchable by the following methods: Tree Browse, Keyword Search, Subject Headings and Case Listing.

Historic Documents contains more than 200 selected full-text documents, treaties and speeches of exceptional historic value. Documents are searchable by Title Browse and Subject Headings.

National Archives provides primary sources from the National Archives and Records Administration to illustrate social, political and cultural themes in U.S. history. Annotated bibliographies, time lines, glossaries and brief biographies frequently enhance each historical unit. Documents are searchable by Tree Browse and Subject Headings.

Directories provides often requested information in the following sections:

- **Congressional Committees** provides a path to information on members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives via Congressional committees and subcommittees.
- **Congressional Members** locates information about members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives by state, office or last name.
- **Federal Agencies** supplies background and contact information for hundreds of federal departments and agencies.
- **U.S. Justices** supplies statistical and anecdotal information on all past and current U.S. Supreme Court justices.
- **U.S. Presidents** provides a brief biographical description and portrait of each U.S. president.



Five databases and numerous search methods make government information easily accessible.

RESEARCH STRATEGIES WORKSHEET

SOME OF THE TOPICS COVERED IN THE FULL TEXT ARTICLES DATABASES

- Aggressive Driving
- Alzheimer's Disease Research
- Antarctica Research
- Anthrax Vaccinations
- Bald Eagle Recovery
- Berlin Wall, Anniversary of Fall
- Bioterrorism
- Census 2000
- Chandra X-ray Observatory
- Child Labor
- Class Size
- Coast Guard History
- Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
- Earthquakes in Turkey
- Egypt Air Flight 990 Disaster
- Electronic Commerce
- Galileo Mission
- Gambling
- Gamma Ray Bursts
- Heart Disease and Women
- Hurricane Season 1999
- Hypersonic Planes
- Influenza Activity
- International Sanctions
- John F. Kennedy Jr.'s Death
- Land Mines
- Lunar Prospector Mission
- Mars Climate Orbiter Mission
- Mars Polar Lander Mission
- Menopause
- Middle East Peace Process
- Military Training in Puerto Rico
- Panama Canal Handover
- Pesticide-Related Illnesses
- Prescribed Burning
- Privacy of Medical Records
- Rabies and Pseudorabies
- Religious Freedom
- Russia/Chechnya War
- School Violence
- Thimerosal in Vaccines
- Tuberculosis
- U.S. Foreign Relations
- Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Welfare Reform
- West Nile Virus
- WTO, Seattle Summit
- Y2K Date Problems

EXAMPLE WORKSHEET

What topic are you researching? international terrorism

DOCUMENTS BY SUBJECT TREE:

Select one of the following categories as a starting point.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Arts & Humanities | Domestic Affairs | Federal Procedures |
| International Affairs | Military Affairs | Scientific Research |

DOCUMENTS BY DEPARTMENT/AGENCY:

Choose a list of departments and/or agencies that interest you.

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>Federal Bureau of Investigation</u> | <u>State Department</u> | <u>Defense Department</u> | <u>Central Intelligence Agency</u> |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|

COUNTRY PROFILE DOCUMENTS (BACKGROUND NOTES):

Does your topic involve an international issue? What country or countries would be useful to study for your research topic?

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| <u>Libya</u> | <u>Ireland</u> | <u>Israel</u> | <u>Iran</u> |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|

CENSUS BUREAU DOCUMENTS:

Select subjects providing statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau that may provide information about your topic.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| <u>International</u> | _____ | _____ | _____ |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|

KEYWORD SEARCH:

List all the key words or phrases you can think of relating to your research topic. Key words or phrases may be linked by *and*, *or* or *not*. Think of words with similar meanings, as well as irrelevant usages that you can eliminate from your search by using *not*. (Word plurals and tense variations can be included by typing an asterisk (*) after the common word root, i.e., TERROR* for terrorism, terrorist, or terrorists, etc. Do not use this shortcut when using two-word combinations on the same keyword line.)

- | | | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| <u>terror*</u> | <u>AND</u> | <u>international</u> | <u>NOT</u> | <u>domestic</u> |
|----------------|------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|

SUBJECT HEADINGS:

List several subjects that may lead to information about your chosen topic.

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>terrorism</u> | <u>terrorists</u> | <u>terrorist bombings</u> | <u>victims of terrorism</u> |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|

WORKSHEET

What topic are you researching? _____

DOCUMENTS BY SUBJECT TREE:

DOCUMENTS BY DEPARTMENT/AGENCY:

COUNTRY PROFILE DOCUMENTS:

CENSUS BUREAU DOCUMENTS:

KEYWORD SEARCH:

SUBJECT HEADINGS:
