

Cerritos College Library

In the Wilford Michael Library & Learning Resource Center

AMERICAN POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Getting Background Information on Your Topic

Within the guidelines of the assignment given to you by your instructor, select a topic that is of interest to you. Once you have selected a topic for your paper, use the general reference books available in the library to get background information on your topic. Reference books such as the encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, and the current issue titles listed below are a good starting point for your research because they help you become better acquainted with your topic.

Reference Books

Reference books are a good starting point for your research because they help you become better acquainted with your topic. Listed below are some reference books that may be useful in your research.

The Almanac of American Politics

REFDESK JK1012 .A44 2008

The American Political Dictionary

REFERENCE JK9 .P55 1993

Congressional Quarterly's Politics in America

REFDESK JK1012 .C63 2008

Elections A to Z. CQ's American Government A to Z Series

REFERENCE JK1976 .M57 2003

Municipal Yellow Book: Who's Who in the Leading City and County Governments and Local Authorities

REFDESK JS141 .M86 2008

Encyclopedia of Minorities in American Politics

REFERENCE E184 .A1 E574 2000

Encyclopedia of Women in American Politics

REFERENCE HQ1236.5 .U6 E53 1999

A Historical Guide to the U.S. Government

REFERENCE JK9 .H57 1998

How to Track Politics on the Internet

REFERENCE JK1764 .M39 2000

The Encyclopedia of Third Parties in America

REFERENCE JK2261 .E474 2000

America Votes

REFERENCE JK1967 .A8

California Blue Book

REFERENCE JK8731 .C32 2000

Directory of Congressional Voting Scores and Interest Group Ratings

REFERENCE JK1051 .S555 2000

Encyclopedia of American Parties, Campaigns, and Elections

REFERENCE JK9 .B56 1999

Encyclopedia of Governmental Advisory Organizations

REFERENCE JK468 .C7 E5 2002

Presidential Administration Profiles for Students

REFERENCE JK511 .P78 1999

Federal Agency Profiles for Students

REFERENCE JK421 .F42 1999

How Government Works

REFERENCE JK271 .H74 1999

Encyclopedia of American Public Policy

REFERENCE JK468 .P64 J33 1999

The Supreme Court, A to Z

REFERENCE KF8742 .A35 S8 2007

AMERICAN POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

The United States Government Manual

REFDESK JK421 .A3 2007-08

Vital Statistics on the Presidency: Washington to Clinton

REFERENCE JK518 .R34 1998

Books

Use the *Library Catalog* available on the Cerritos College *Library Home Page* to find books available in the Cerritos College Library. Books can provide a broad overview of a topic or in-depth information.

You can search for books by author, title, subject, or keyword. The general call number for books relating to *American Government* is **JK**.

Magazine, Journal, and Newspaper Articles

Journal and magazines usually provide the most current information on a topic. Journal articles are more scholarly or professional while magazine articles tend to be shorter and more general. Newspaper articles, while not usually scholarly or professional, can give you the most current news and some additional facts on your topic.

To find articles on your topic, use one of the online databases listed below. These databases usually provide full-text articles on almost every topic. They are available via the *Library Home Page*. Conduct your search in these databases by using subject headings and keywords similar to those you used to locate books.

Databases for American Government include:

EBSCOhost*Ethnic News Watch***Facts.com****Gender Watch****Gale Databases***Project Muse***NewsBank****RAND California**

Internet Sites

The Internet can be a valuable source for supplementing the information you have gathered from books and periodicals. It is important that you evaluate the information you get from the Internet to determine if it is reliable and useful to your research. A few Internet sites that may be useful are listed here.

Thomas – U.S. Legislative Information

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Browse Government Resources

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/news/extgovd.html>

U.S. House of Representatives

<http://www.house.gov/>

FedWorld

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

U.S. Senate

<http://www.senate.gov/>

Official California Legislative Information

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

Supreme Court of the U.S.

<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/>

Congress.org

<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/home/>