

PALEY LIBRARY SEARCH GUIDE: POLITICAL SCIENCE

The purpose of this guide is to give you an overview of resources useful for constructing literature reviews in Political Science. The lists of specific titles are intended to suggest areas to look at for a thorough search and are by no means comprehensive. Send questions to Rick Lezenby, Political Science librarian at: rlfile@temple.edu and Susan Golding, Government Documents librarian at: sgolding@temple.edu

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I. Find articles

1. Recent articles appearing in peer-reviewed academic journals are often the most important source of literature in academic projects. Use research *databases* on the Web at: <http://www.library.temple.edu>. From the library home page, follow the link to "Find Articles" and then to either the full "A-Z" list of all titles, or the Social Sciences subject list for these databases:

ABI/INFORM Complete Full-text of Wall Street Journal, Financial Times and primarily of business interest.
Academic Search Premier Covers scholarly and general interest publications with some full-text.
Access World News Full-text newspapers: local, national, and international
Business Source Premier Covers scholarly and general audience articles focused on business and economics.
CQ Press Political Reference Suite CQ Press's reference titles on government and politics
CQ Researcher Weekly single-topic coverage of issues frequently important to public policy
GPO Government documents from the Federal government with links to full-text of recent publications.
Historical Abstracts and *America: History and Life* History journals with some links to full-text of articles.
iPOLL Comprehensive source of national polling data.
LexisNexis Academic Full-text. Some research journals, although best for mag., newspaper, legal coverage.
LexisNexis Congressional Full-text of congressional publications, house and senate.
LexisNexis Statistical Full-text of statistical publications from federal, state, and non-government sources.
National Journal Policy Central Gateway to journals and news services related to the National Journal.
PAIS International Covers public affairs journal articles, books, hearings, reports, government publications
PsycINFO Psychology journals, book chapters, dissertations, research reports.
Social Science Abstracts Indexes core journals in the social sciences likely to be found in academic libraries
Web of Science Journal citations of high-impact publications, with abstracts and links to references.
World News Connection Translated text of all types of media from countries around the world
Worldwide Political Science Abstracts Covers scholarly political science journals

2. Once you've gathered your citations, look up [journal titles](#) in the program called **Journal Finder** (<http://vv4kg5gr5v.search.serialssolutions.com/>), which is linked from the library home page (library.temple.edu) This program searches databases that have the complete text of articles *and* Diamond, the library catalog (diamond.temple.edu) for issues in print.

3. For journals only in print, the latest issues-- usually the current year-- are kept in the Current Periodicals section of Paley. Older issues are bound like books and kept in the *Paley Stacks* (bookshelves) on the second and third floor by call number. Some journals may have complete articles--full-text-- on the Web. If the journal is not available at Temple, you may request a photocopy through Interlibrary Loan and expect to get it by email in about a week. For a more detailed explanation of the using the online catalog for periodical holdings and a map of the Paley Library floors, see Fact Sheet *Finding Books and Serials*.

4. **Other internet sources** A wide range of materials can be found using the Web. Keep in mind that most peer-reviewed academic journals will *not* be available for free-- if at all. You might want to start with a guide:

Political Science	http://guides.temple.edu/political_science
Government Documents	http://www.library.temple.edu/books_more/gov_docs/index.jsp

II. Find books

More detailed treatments of a topic and collections of essays or articles can be found in books. Use the Diamond catalog (<http://diamond.temple.edu>) to find books. Some things to keep in mind:

1. Try "Keywords" searches. Look up the terms you think best characterize your topic and try to find the most specific

evant to your topic will be together on the shelves because of how subjects are assigned.

3. Examples of subject headings: Political parties--United States; Elections--United States; United States--politics and government--1989; (or --1993.) Political Science books generally are classed in the range of Library of Congress call letter **J**, Law is generally **K**, and American history is **E**.
4. The Diamond catalog also includes **Government Documents**, mostly federal, in print and linked to the Web. Government Documents in paper-form have their own ordering system (called Superintendent of Documents --or SuDoc numbers) and kept mostly on the Ground Floor of Paley. (See handout for *Gov. Documents*.)

III. Find background information in political science.

A. You may want to use dictionaries and encyclopedias about political science to get an overview of your topic, to define terms you don't understand, and to get a list of books and articles to begin your research.

Dictionaries and encyclopedias on political science and governments include:

<i>The Encyclopedia of American Political History</i>	REFSTK E 183 .E48 2001
<i>Encyclopedia of American Foreign Policy</i>	REFSTK E 183.7 .E52 2002
<i>Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations</i>	REFSTK G 63 .W67 2004
<i>Political Risk Yearbook</i>	REFSTK HD 2755.5.P654x
<i>Information sources of political science</i>	REFIDX JA71 .I446x 2005
<i>The Statesman's Yearbook</i>	REFSTK JA 51.S7
<i>Oxford Companion to Politics of the World</i>	REFSTK JA 61 .O95 2001
<i>The Encyclopedia of Democracy</i>	REFSTK JC 423.E53 1995
<i>Political handbook of the world</i>	REFSTK JF37.P6
<i>Encyclopedia of the American Legislative System</i>	REFSTK JF 507 E53 1994
<i>CQ Guide to Current American government</i>	REFSTK JK 1.C14
<i>Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report</i>	REFSTK JK 1 C15
<i>CQ's Guide to the Presidency</i>	REFSTK JK 516 C57
<i>Almanac of American Politics</i>	REFSTK JK 1012 A44
<i>CQ's Guide to U.S. Elections</i>	REFSTK JK 1967 C662
<i>United States Code Annotated</i>	REFSTK KC 102.A2
<i>Encyclopedia of the American Constitution</i>	REFSTK KF 4548 .E53 2000

IV. Find statistics.

You may want to locate statistical information to support or elucidate other material. For example:

<i>Statistical Abstract of the United States</i>	Reference Area 22 HA202 .S9; SIC
<i>Polling the Nations</i> (Results of polls)	Research database
<i>LexisNexis Academic and LexisNexisStatistical</i>	Research databases
<i>Government Documents: an Introduction</i>	http://library.temple.edu/articles/subject_guides/gov_docs.jsp

VI. Find dissertations.

You will find Temple theses and dissertations listed in the catalogs by author, title, and subject. Search by Keywords, using the word "theses" and another term. Also try the name of the school granting the degree as a Subject search, for example: POLITICAL SCIENCE -- TEMPLE UNIVERSITY -- THESES. A circulating copy of a dissertation is shelved alphabetically by author's last name on the east side of the third floor. A second copy is on microfilm in the Library Depository. A third non-circulating copy is in the Templana collection on the Mezzanine. Recent Temple dissertations are also online in the database *Proquest Digital Dissertation*., For dissertations from other institutions as well as Temple, use the database *Proquest Digital Dissertations*, Non-Temple works must be purchased from UMI or borrowed through Interlibrary Loan.

VII. Other collections, archives and centers for research in political science.

Contemporary Culture Collection: Paley Library, Room 132, Mezzanine, 204-8667, Mon. - Fri., 10 - 4

This collection contains books and journals produced by alternative and independent presses, political organizations, social reform and liberation movements, and radicals in the professions.

Government Documents Collection: Paley Library, First Floor Reference Area and Ground Floor

See the Fact Sheet *Finding Government Documents* for more information.