

**HOW TO START RESEARCHING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT:  
WHERE TO START TO FIND BASIC INFORMATION. INCLUDES  
THE CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENCY AND OTHER AGENCIES OF  
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT**

September 7, 2009 revisions by Stephen Perry

- 1) <http://govengine.com>
- 2) <http://govspot.com> and <http://www.usa.gov/>
- 3) **OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT SEARCH ENGINE:** [www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov)  
and <http://america.gov>
- 4) Where to Find Free Government Information:  
[http://freegovinfo.info/find\\_government\\_information](http://freegovinfo.info/find_government_information)

**Congressional Research Service Reports**

The Congressional Research Service, an arm of the Library of Congress, serves the legislative process by providing Congress with non-partisan and in-depth legislative research and analysis on a variety of topics. CRS produces or updates more than 3,000 studies and other publications each year, none of which are distributed to the public.

For more information about CRS and their reports, see [Stephen Young, CRS Reports, LLRX.com \(July 15, 2002\)](#).

**For one web site to CRS REPORTS, see:**

<http://www.law.umaryland.edu/marshall/crsreports/index.asp>

**Another Great site for CRS Reports is:**

<http://searchenginewatch.com/2236441>

- 5) The University of Michigan Government Documents Site:  
<http://www.lib.umich.edu/government-documents-center/>
- 6) University of Chicago Law Library: Internet Links for U.S. Government by Subject: <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/law/subject.html> and:  
<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/law/uslaw.html>

- 7) Finding Congressional and U.S. Documents from the Past:  
<http://www.llrx.com/columns/reference44.htm>
- 8) U.S. Federal Government Agencies Data: (from Duke University Libraries)  
<http://library.duke.edu/research/subject/guides/uspubpol/who-usgovernment.html>  
and: <http://www.law.duke.edu/lib/researchguides/government>
- 8) How to Effectively Locate Federal Information on the WWW (from the University of California San Diego)  
<http://gort.ucsd.edu/pcruse/universe/structure.html>
- 9) Agency Approach to Locating Government Information (from the University of California at Santa Barbara):  
<http://www.library.ucsb.edu/ala/tutorials/agency.html>
- 10) UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO GOV BLOG:  
<http://cubgovpubs.blogspot.com/> Provides ongoing commentary on the latest government documents that have just been releases.
- 11) FREE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (with explanations):  
<http://freegovinfo.info/> Notice the tabs at the very top of the page for more useful information.
- 12) GOV BLOG FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY (extensively covers International Issues, has RSS feeds and covers hot button topics, such as emerging legislation, Immigration, etc.) :  
<http://sunsite3.berkeley.edu/govblog/> Really an excellent source of Information
- 13) U.S. Congress InfoPack: Embassy of South Africa  
<http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/infopack03.html>
- 14) Subject Guide to U.S. Government Documents: Maintained by Professional Librarians <http://www.browsetopics.gov/>
- 15) **Government Information Online** – Ask a Librarian  
<http://govtinfo.org/>

Sometimes the answers you need are only available in hard-to-find government publications, so if you don't have a government documents

librarian right at hand, you can use this "free national online information service supported by nearly thirty public, academic, and state libraries throughout the United States.

Participating librarians specialize in finding government information sources of all kinds, and will try to answer your questions through chat or email."

16) U.S. MAPS by topic: <http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Maps.shtml>

17) Subject Guide to US Government Documents from Hamline University: [http://www.hamline.edu/bush/research/guides\\_govdocs/index.html](http://www.hamline.edu/bush/research/guides_govdocs/index.html)

18) **U.S. GOVERNMENT MANUAL** 2009-2010: Provides addresses and Phone numbers of US Government Agencies as well as descriptive information. <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gmanual/index.html>

#### **WEB SITES ON THE U.S. PRESIDENCY:**

American Presidents Project:

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/index.php>

Internet Public Library Site on the U.S. Presidency:

<http://www.ipl.org/div/potus/>

Inaugural Addresses of the U.S. Presidency:

<http://www.bartleby.com/124/>

The American Presidency Project of the Smithsonian:

[http://americanhistory.si.edu/presidency/5d\\_frame.html](http://americanhistory.si.edu/presidency/5d_frame.html)

**American President: An Online Reference Resource**, from the Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia.

<http://millercenter.org/academic/americanpresident>

**Advice to the President.** <http://advicetothepresident.c>

The Carnegie Corporation of New York designed this Web site to compile links to papers of potential interest to the Obama administration. It offers links to papers in 49 policy areas, with five major subdivisions: defense, fiscal policy, foreign policy, homeland

security, and the economy. The papers were written by 144 groups and agencies that include newspapers and newsmagazines, think tanks, advocacy groups, and policy centers. The site lists papers from across the political spectrum, although its focus on the incoming Obama administration and the associated changes it seeks to enact means that most of the papers offer critiques of existing US policy along with plans for reform.

### **WHERE TO FIND STATISTICS FOR THE U.S. BASIC SITES:**

The best one is probably this one:

**Federal Agency Statistical Reports: WHERE TO FIND STATISTICS ON THE US** [http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/fed\\_reports.html](http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/fed_reports.html)

**U.S. CENSUS BUREAU:** <http://www.census.gov>

**U.S CENSUS SUBJECTS A to Z:**  
<http://www.census.gov/main/www/subjects.html> (A to Z SUBJECTS)

**U.S. CENSUS TIP SHEETS:**  
[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/tip\\_sheets/012774.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/tip_sheets/012774.html) and

**U.S. CENSUS NEWS ROOM:**  
<http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/news/index.html>

**AMERICAN FACT FINDER, A PROJECT OF THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU AT:**  
[http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?\\_lang=en](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en)

**CENSUS ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES:**  
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/censusatlas/>

**STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE UNITED STATES:**  
<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>

**BASIC U.S. STATISTICS:** [www.fedstats.gov](http://www.fedstats.gov) and  
[www.statusa.gov](http://www.statusa.gov)

and for **ECONOMIC STATISTICS:**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/fsbr/esbr.html>

### **THE U.S. ECONOMY AT A GLANCE**

<http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.us.htm>

This Department of Labor site presents key economic statistics including: Unemployment Rate, Average Hourly Earnings, Consumer Price Index and much more

**CURRENT ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT** (yearly report, on the U.S. Economy with statistics):

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/cea/pubs.html> (updated every year)

### **COUNTY AND CITY DATABOOK FOR U.S. STATISTICS: 2007:**

<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/ccdb07.html>

(Population, Crime, Economics, Trade Data and all other statistics on the U.S.)

### **UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LIBRARIES, BOULDER. Statistical**

**Guides:** <http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/subject/Statistics.htm>

**DATA.GOV:** The new <http://Data.gov> includes a searchable [data catalog](#) that includes access to data in two ways: through the "raw" data catalog and using tools. Please note that by accessing datasets or tools offered on Data.gov, you agree to the [Data Policy](#), which you should read before accessing any dataset or tool. If there are additional datasets that you would like to see included on this site, please [suggest more datasets](#) here. For more information on how to use Data.gov, [view our tutorial](#) (<http://www.data.gov/howtouse>)

### **STATEMASTER.COM:** <http://www.statemaster.com/index.php>

This site is a unique statistical database which allows you to research and compare a multitude of different data on US states. Site has compiled information from various primary sources such as the US Census Bureau, the FBI, and the National Center for Educational Statistics.

More than just a mere collection of various data, StateMaster.com

goes beyond the numbers to provide you with visualization technology like pie charts, maps, graphs and scatterplots, as well as thousands of map and flag images, state profiles, and correlations.

Other major U.S. Statistics may be found at:

<http://www.statisticsresources.info>

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All Sites working as of this date

Other related resources available at: <http://tinyurl.com/chn36u>