GOVERNMENT RESOURCES
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REFERENCE COLLECTION - for short summaries

Reference books can help you understand key terminology and theory in the field of government and related areas. They are also a good source of concise, historical information about your topic.

The following sections of the Reference collection are good “First Stops” for research on government.

JK - AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEMS

Sample Titles:

♦ American Political Dictionary
  1300+ concepts, government agencies, court cases and statutes are defined and then explained within their historical and contemporary contexts.

♦ Encyclopedia of American Public Policy
  Resource that will answer a variety of questions in history, government, economics, and other topics in the Social Sciences.

♦ Encyclopedia of the Democratic Party

♦ Encyclopedia of the Republican Party

♦ Encyclopedia of Third Parties in America
  Provides extensive details of more than 115 parties.

♦ Guide to Interest Groups and Lobbying in the United States

♦ History of the U.S. Political System
  Three-volume collection of original essays and primary documents that examines the ideas, institutions, and policies that have shaped American government and politics throughout its history.

♦ Logic of American Politics
  Topics cover the Nationalization of Politics, Institutions of Government, and Public’s Influence on National Policy.
U.S. Federal Government

- Checks and Balances: The Three Branches of the American Government
  Coverage of the U.S. federal government's inner-workings. Both historical and practical elements are addressed.

- Congressional Directory

- Encyclopedia of Government and Politics

- Guide to Congress
  Helps readers understand Congress as a vital institution in American Political life.

- Oxford Guide to the United States Government
  Biographies of Presidents, Vice Presidents, members of Congress, and Supreme Court justices as well as articles about buildings, departments, events, issues and concepts, and laws and decisions.

- United States Government Manual
  Updated annually. Directory information and description of functions of the U.S. federal executive, legislative and judicial branches and their agencies. This is the official government publication.

U.S. State and Local Government

- Book of States
  Updated annually. Tables compare the 50 U.S. states in areas such as: Constitutions, Officers, Legislature, Judiciary, Finances, Management, Personnel, Regulatory activities, Air Quality, Economic development, Gaming (gambling), Health Care and Information Technology.

- Texas State Directory
  Almanac of Texas government and guide to Texas decision-makers.
  Online version available @ http://www.txdirectory.com/online/
OTHER HELPFUL REFERENCE AREAS AND SOURCES

D/E - UNITED STATES HISTORY

♦ American Presidents
  REF E176.1.A6563

♦ Encyclopedia of Minorities in American Politics
  REF E184.A1.E574

♦ Presidents: A Reference History
  REF E176.1.P918

K - LAW, CONSTITUTION, SUPREME COURT

♦ American Treaties and Alliances
  REF KZ236.A43
  Lists treaties, conventions, declarations and agreements from 1620 to 1999, which were important to U.S. history and foreign relations. Includes summary, discussion, of importance and sometimes excerpts from the treaties/alliance document.

♦ Encyclopedia of the American Constitution
  REF KF4548.E53
  Insightful, and thorough essays by leading constitutional scholars, law school professors, judges, historians, and political scientists on practical and theoretical topics dealing with every aspect of constitutional law in the United States.

♦ Encyclopedia of Civil Rights in America
  REF KZ236.A43
  Comprehensive reference source on the human rights and civil liberties that are legally recognized in the U.S.

♦ Great American Court Cases
  REF KF385.A4G68
  Nearly 800 cases, mostly argued before the Supreme Court, that have shaped American law.

♦ Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court
  REF KF8742.W567
  Helps readers understand the Supreme Court from its origins and how it functions to the people who have shaped it and the impact of its decisions on American life and the path of U.S. constitutional law.

♦ Historic U.S. Court Cases: An Encyclopedia
  REF KF385.A4J64
  Collection of essays looks at over 200 major court cases, at both state and federal levels, from the colonial period to the present. Organized thematically.

♦ West's Encyclopedia of American Law
  REF KF154.W47
  Covers a wide variety of persons, entities and events that have shaped the U.S. legal system. It is the most complete reference source of its kind.
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Search for newspaper, magazine and journal articles. Access the databases from the Library’s webpage. If you are not on campus, click on “Off-Campus Access.”

http://epcc.libguides.com/onlinedatabases

♦ LexisNexis Academic (Includes articles from over 2,500 newspapers, 1,000 magazines and journals, & 1,000 newsletters. Also a great source of legal information.)

♦ El Paso Times - NewsBank (News coverage includes El Paso Times back to 1999.)

♦ Also try searching Academic Search Complete, Gale Researcher, MasterFILE Premier, and Research in Context.

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