

RESEARCH GUIDE

Public Policy

George Mason University Libraries

The study of the policy sciences covers a number of fields and disciplines. These include political science, economics and trade, urban and social welfare, peacekeeping and transportation policy. The following guide offers a starting point for research by listing and highlighting selected print and electronic resources available to students at the GMU Libraries. Please consult a reference librarian for additional assistance with your public policy research.

LIBRARY CATALOGS

GMU Library Catalog * WRLC-ALADIN Catalog * OCLC WorldCat

GMU Library users have access to three main Library Catalogs for looking up holdings information on books, journals and media resources. The GMU Library Catalog provides information on resources held in one or more of GMU's four libraries-Arlington, Fenwick (Fairfax), Johnson Center (Fairfax), or Mercer (Prince William). ALADIN, the Washington Research Libraries Consortium Catalog contains information on resources available at any of the 9 libraries that are members of that consortium group. OCLC-Worldcat is an international union catalog that contains information on resources held in libraries worldwide, including George Mason University. All three catalogs may be accessed on-line from any computer, and may be searched using keywords, subject terms, author and title information. Some **Library of Congress subject headings** for public policy research are listed below:

Subject Headings:

policy sciences
social policy
evaluation research (social action programs)
government spending policy – United States
technology and state – United States
transportation and state – United States
economic development projects-United States
intergovernmental fiscal relations-United States

REFERENCE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY RESOURCES

- HN17.5.B57 2002**
ACL Ref, Fen Ref
The Blackwell dictionary of social policy, edited by Pete Alcock, Angus Erskine, Margaret May. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Pub., 2002.
- H97.S483 2004**
ACL Ref
Dictionary of public policy and administration, Jay M. Shafritz. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, c2004.
- JK468.P64 J33 1999**
ACL Ref, Fen Ref
Encyclopedia of American public policy, Byron M. Jackson. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, c1999.
- H97.E6 1994**
ACL Ref, Fen Ref,
PWL Ref
Encyclopedia of policy studies, edited by Stuart S. Nagel. New York; M. Dekker, c1994.
- JK9.E526 2004**
ACL Ref
Encyclopedia of public administration and public policy, edited by David Schultz. New York: Facts On File, c2004.
- JF1351.H267 2001**
ACL Ref, Fen Stacks
Handbook of comparative and development public administration, edited by Ali Farazmand. New York: Marcel Dekker, c2001.
- H97.H359 2002**
ACL Ref, Fen Ref
Handbook of public policy evaluation, edited by Stuart S. Nagel. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications, c2002.
- JF1338.A2 H34 1999**
Fenwick Ref
Handbook of Research Methods in Public Administration, edited by Gerald J. Miller, Marcia L. Whicker. New York: Marcel Dekker, c1999. Also available as an e-book through NetLibrary.
- H97.B37 2005**
ACL Ref
A practical guide for policy analysis: the eightfold path to more effective problem solving, Eugene Bardach. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2005.
- H96.P65**
ACL Ref, Fen Ref
2000-2006
Policy experts, Washington, D.C. : Heritage Foundation, c2000-. Also available online as a searchable database. Merger of: Guide to public policy experts; and: Directory of public policy organizations.
- JK274.S74 2001**
ACL Ref
Vital statistics on American politics, 2001-2002, Harold W. Stanley, Richard G. Niemi. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, c2001.

ELECTRONIC DATABASES

The following resources are available via <http://library.gmu.edu>, under “**databases.**” The databases most relevant to Public Policy research are listed under “Public Affairs and Policy Studies.”

Off-campus access to databases is restricted to GMU students, faculty and staffonly

Columbia International Affairs Online (CIAO)

Columbia International Affairs Online (CIAO) is a comprehensive resource that provides access to research in international affairs and policy issues. The CIAO database contains a wide range of materials including conference proceedings, policy briefs, journals, and working papers from NGOs, university research institutes and associations.

Digital National Security Archive

Comprehensive collection of primary documents is provided in full-text, including more than 55,000 important declassified documents regarding critical U.S. policy decisions.

EconLit

Updated monthly

Indexes and abstracts 400 journals as well as working papers, dissertations and books.

Produced by the Journal of Economic Literature.

EIU Viewswire

Timely analysis on key economic, political and business developments around the world. Each day, the EIU ViewsWire supplies 100-150 analytical articles on any of 195 countries. Updated daily

Global Legal Information Network (GLIN)

Public database of laws, regulations, judicial decisions, and other complementary legal sources contributed by governmental agencies and international organizations. Each document is accompanied by a summary in English and subject terms selected from the multilingual index to GLIN. All summaries are available to the public, and public access to full texts is also available in participating jurisdictions.

Homeland Security Digital Library

Provides access to U.S. policy documents, presidential directives, and national strategy documents, as well as specialize resources such as dissertations, reports, and position papers from universities, research institutions, think tanks, U.S. local and state agencies, and international organizations.

InfoTrac One File

InfoTrac One File is a comprehensive resource for articles on a variety of subjects. The database contains citations and fulltext content covering the social sciences, humanities, business and general interest research

JSTOR

The complete text (full back runs) of core scholarly journals in Anthropology, Asian Studies, Ecology, Economics, Education, Finance, History, Mathematics, Philosophy, Political Science, Population Studies and Sociology.

National Journal Group's Policy Central

The National Journal Group produces a variety of news and current affairs publications covering the interests of politics, policy and government affairs. In addition to access to the National Journal Magazine, Policy Central contains a fulltext bulletins from a variety of these sources including Congress Daily, The Hotline, Technology Daily, and The Almanac of American Politics.

PolicyFile

PolicyFile is an electronic resource of public policy research from public policy think tanks, academic institutes and non governmental organizations. In addition to indexing and abstracting a variety of reports and analytical papers on governmental and legal topics from policy think tanks, the database also includes the fulltext of some publications.

Proquest Research Library

The Proquest Research Library provides access to more than 1,800 periodicals covering a wide variety of topics and subjects. The database has a number of advanced features and contains fulltext documents for many articles on public policy, business and current events and includes scholarly as well as popular resources.

Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS) International and Archive

The PAIS database includes abstracts and citations for research articles and reports on public affairs and policy information. George Mason University Libraries subscribes to both the current and archived versions of this resource which provides fulltext access to some documents as far back as 1915.

Worldwide Political Science Abstracts

The Worldwide Political Science Abstracts database provides citations, abstracts, and indexing for public policy and affairs literature. The resources included are international in scope and cover a variety of general and scholarly journals.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS AND STATISTICS

The Government Documents Department, First Floor of Fenwick Library, has a depository collection of publications of the U.S. Government and the State of Virginia; many of these are important background resources for policy research. These government publications are included in the **GMU** online **catalog**, and can be searched by agency, subject, title, etc. The Arlington Campus Library is a European Union Depository and contains many official publications for international research.

Electronic Resources

Off-campus access to databases is restricted to GMU students, faculty and staff only.

American Factfinder Web-based access to the Census 2000 data, including the Economic Census and the American Community Survey.

CenStats Provides access to the U.S. Census Dept.'s databases such as the Annual Survey of Manufacturers and County Business Patterns.

GPO Access Offers full text access to a variety of U.S. Government information including Regulations, legislation, and budget materials.

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research

ICPSR maintains and provides access to a vast archive of social science data for research and instruction.

Lexis Nexis Academic

The Lexis Nexis platform provides access to combination of legal, government and news related resources.

STAT-USA This Commerce Department website provides U.S. business, trade and economic Information.

THOMAS Full text of current and historical U.S. legislative material.

VA Legislature Provides coverage of the most recent session of the Virginia State Legislature.

Government Internet Resources on Policy and Evaluation

Congressional Budget Office <http://www.cbo.gov>

Cost estimates, studies and reports that provide the Congress with nonpartisan analysis are provided here.

General Accounting Office <http://www.gao.gov>

As the investigative arm of Congress, this agency conducts program evaluations; some reports are full-text online.

Office of Management and Budget <http://www.omb.gov>

Works cooperatively with agencies of the U.S. Government to offer financial policy management.

Office of Science and Technology Policy <http://www.ostp.gov> Created to act as a source of scientific and technological analysis for major Federal policies.

ELECTRONIC JOURNALS

Electronic journals can be accessed via <http://library.gmu.edu>, under "E-Journal Finder." The following is only a brief listing of e-journals. Search the E-Journal Finder for more titles.

"Many electronic journals are also available in print.

- **Administrative Science Quarterly: 1956 – 2003**
- **Contemporary Economic Policy: 1987 –**
- **Economic Policy Review: 1994 –**
- **Forum for Applied Research and Public Policy: 1997 – 2002**
- **Journal of Policy Analysis and Management: 1981 –**
- **Policy Studies: 2000 –**
- **Policy Studies Journal: 1972 –**
- **Social Policy: 1994 - 2003**

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Congressional Research Service <http://www.cnire.org/NLE/CRS/Detail.cfm>

Over 1,100 CRS Reports covering policy topics in 26 categories can be found here in full text.

Open CRS <http://www.opencrs.com/>.

Open CRS provides citizens access to CRS Reports that are already in the public domain and encourages Congress to provide public access to all CRS Reports.

National Council for Science and the Environment <http://ncseonline.org/>.

The Council works closely with those creating and using environmental knowledge, including research, education, environmental, and business organizations, as well as governmental bodies at all levels.