

RESEARCH GUIDE

U.S. Foreign Policy

George Mason University Libraries

Many resources covering U.S. foreign policy are available in the print and electronic collections of GMU Libraries. Reference materials, circulating books and U.S. Government publications are among the sources that provide information on this topic. Provided here are suggestions and starting points for researchers; please contact reference staff for further assistance.

THE LIBRARY CATALOG

Books, documents and media on U.S. Foreign Policy can be searched in a number of ways in the GMU Libraries online catalog. Author, title and keyword are among the possible ways to search the catalog. Another very precise means of searching is use of Library of Congress standardized Subject Headings; the following is a sampling of headings that are useful for locating foreign policy resources:

To locate background or general information:

United States—Foreign Relations
Diplomatic and Consular Service, American
Intervention (International Law)
United States Congress—Decision Making

To locate specific foreign policy issues

North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975

To locate U.S. relations with a nation or region:

United States—Foreign relations —South Korea
United States—Foreign relations —Baltic States
United States—Foreign relations —Developing Countries

To locate U.S. relations during a specific time period

United States –Foreign Relations—21st century
United States—Foreign Relations—1945-1989

GUIDES TO THE LITERATURE

Burns, Richard. **Guide to American Foreign Relations Since 1700**. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clío, 1983. **Fen Ref E183.7 .G84 1982**

ENCYCLOPEDIAS

- Brune, Lester. **Chronological History of U.S. Foreign Relations**. New York: Routledge, 2003. **FenRef E183.7 .B745 2003**
- Burns, Richard, ed. **Encyclopedia of Arms Control and Disarmament**. New York: Scribners, 1993. **Fen Ref JX1974 .E57 1993**
- DeConde, Alexander. **Encyclopedia of American Foreign Policy**, 2nd ed. New York: Scribner's, 2002. **FenRef E183.7 .E52 2002**
- DeRouen, Karl. **Historical Encyclopedia of U.S. Presidential Use of Force, 1789-2000**. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2001. **FenRef E176.1 .H56 2001**

DICTIONARIES

- Berridge, Geoff. **A Dictionary of Diplomacy**. N.Y.: Palgrave, 2001. **FenRef JZ1405 .B47 2001**
- Evans, Graham. **The Penguin Dictionary of International Relations**. London: Penguin Books, 1998. **Arl Campus Ref JZ1161 .E94 1998**
- Ziring, Lawrence. **International Relations: A Political Dictionary**. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC - Clio, 1995. **FenRef JX1226 .P55 1995**

DIRECTORIES

- International Information Directory**. Washington: CQ Press, 2000. **Fen Ref JZ5514 .I57**
- Scholars' Guide to Washington, D.C. for Peace and International Security Studies**. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 1995. **FenRef JX1905.5 .J36 1995**

HANDBOOKS AND GUIDES

- Brecher, Michael. **Crises in the Twentieth Century**. New York: Pergammon Press, 1988. **FenRef D443 .B713**
- Diplomatic Handbook**. New York: Longman, 1988. **Fen Ref JX 1662 .F4 1988**
- Krieger, Joel. **The Oxford companion to Politics of the World**. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. **FenRef JA61 .O95 2001**
- Rengger, N.J. **Treaties and Alliances of the World**. London: Cartermill, 1995. **FenRef JX4005 .T72 1995**

ELECTRONIC DATABASES

The following online indexes provide access to periodical and journal articles on U.S. foreign policy. Some of these databases also include the text of reports and briefings from policy institutes important to the foreign policy community. From the GMU Libraries Homepage, choose "Databases-Alphabetical" and then select one of the following resources. Off-campus, remote access to these licensed databases is available only to GMU affiliates.

Columbia International Affairs Online (CIAO) Journals, working papers and policy briefs from institutes and research groups.

CQ Weekly Report Summary articles on Congressional legislation, Committee work and bill status; overviews of many foreign policy issues and interventions back to the 1980's.

Current Issues LexisNexis Provides full-text of reports, statements and speeches as well as articles on contemporary policy issues.

Expanded Academic Includes many peer-reviewed political science journals as well as news sources on foreign policy issues.

Government Periodicals LexisNexis Subject index and abstracts of U.S. Government agency periodicals on diplomacy, military strategy and intelligence.

JSTOR This full-text database includes scholarly journals on political science and area studies.

LexisNexis Academic Newspaper articles, world press accounts, broadcast transcripts, and opinion polls.

Public Affairs Information Service Indexing and abstracts of worldwide literature on global affairs, dating back to 1972.

World News Connection A searchable collection of world newspaper and broadcast texts from around the world.

Worldwide Political Science Abstracts The international literature of political science and foreign affairs is indexed in this databases.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Fenwick Library is a U.S. Government Depository Library and, as such, receives many print, electronic and microform copies of federal agency and Congressional publications. All government documents are searchable in the Libraries' online catalog, and are located in the Government Documents Collection, 1st Floor, C Wing of Fenwick Library. The following is a sampling of documents useful to the study of U.S. foreign policy.

American Foreign Policy Current Documents. Washington: U.S. Department of State.

Fenwick Documents **SI.71/ 2:year**

This reprint collection of foreign policy statements and documents includes material from the State Department and the White House during the mid-twentieth century. Check the Libraries' online catalog for exact years and holdings.

Area Handbook Series A continuing series of reference guides to 102 countries and regions of the world. These guides were prepared by the Library of Congress, and include information on foreign policy issues and relations with the U.S.

<http://memory.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>

Circulating and reference copies of many of these handbooks are available in Fenwick Library; search the online catalog under title, then input **Area Handbook Series** into the search box.

Background Notes

The Dept. of State publishes these overviews of nations throughout the world, which include information on the geography, people and economy of each country, along with background on relations with the U.S. Available online at:

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn>

Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

This report on the status of human rights in countries throughout the world is submitted to the U.S. Congress annually by the Department of State. The 2001 report is on available on CD-Rom in Fenwick Government Documents

The U.S. Department of State website includes archives of earlier years.

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt>

Foreign Relations of the United States This series of volumes provides a documentary record of major U.S. foreign policy activities. These volumes have been prepared by historians at the U.S. State Dept., and Fenwick Library's holdings cover the early 20th century through the 1960's.
Fenwick Documents S1.1:

Treaties in Force. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office. **Fenwick Docs S9.14:yr**
Treaties along with other international agreements entered into by the U.S. are included in this set. Published annually in two parts, it contains bilateral agreements by country in Part I and multilateral agreements in part II. Also useful for treaty research are **Treaties and Other International Acts (TIAS) S9:10:**

United States Participation in the United Nations. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, annual. **Fenwick Documents S1.70/8**
This annual overview presents issues before the United Nations and the U.S. position, along with information on the U.S. Mission and representatives.

U.S. Congressional Publications Y1.3 –Senate; Y1.2House;Y1.4 Congress
Official, print copies of Congressional documents are published by the U.S. Government Printing Office, and Fenwick Library Government Documents collection has some of these on microfiche and in print; all are listed in the online catalog. Researchers can also use several databases to retrieve Congressional documentation:
Congressional LexisNexis: Bill status, legislative histories, regulatory information and more can be found here; go to the alphabetical list of databases, from the Library HomePage.
GPO Access: Legislative resources can be found here, along with Executive & Judicial items.
THOMAS: Full-text legislative information from the Library of Congress.

SELECTED LIST OF SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

Fenwick Library Periodicals Dept, 1st Floor, has a large collection of print journals, both current and bound issues. Arrangement is **alphabetical by title**. Check the online catalog for exact holdings, and check the "**E-Journal**" locator for availability of online, electronic format. The following is a select list of journals important to the study of U.S. Foreign Policy.

Foreign Affairs

Foreign Policy

International Affairs

International Organization

International Studies Quarterly

Journal of International Affairs

NATO Review

ORBIS

Review of International Studies

World Affairs

World Politics

Barbara Hillson, Fenwick Reference Department, August, 2003.