



## Researching the European Union

Twenty-seven countries currently comprise the European Union: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Three additional countries have applied for membership: Croatia, Macedonia, and Turkey. Research could be approached on a country by country basis or on the Union as a whole. The sources selected for this guide have been chosen because of the wealth of information that they provide.

### What's Freely Available Online

- European Union Websites

*Europa: Gateway to the European Union.* <http://europa.eu>

Available in 23 languages, Europa is the official website of the Union, providing information about the union and its institutions and member countries and information about living in the Union. Researchers can find information on nearly anything dealing with the Union in this site, including current and historical legislative documents, statistical data on the Union and its constituent countries, and current news about the Union. The statistical portion of the site, known as **eurostat**, is loaded with statistics on economic issues, social cohesion, environment, public health, and numerous other topics.

Archive of European Integration. University of Pittsburgh. <http://aei.pitt.edu>

The AEI is an electronic repository and archive for research materials on the topic of European integration and unification. The AEI collects two types of materials: certain types of independently produced research materials and official European Community/European Union documents.

European Integration History Index. <http://vlib.iue.it/hist-eur-integration/Index.html>

The European Integration History Index is a joint project between the European University Institutes Library, the Historical Archives of the European Union, and the Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe. It provides access to a wide range of historical documents covering the European Community since the end of World War II.

- Information on Individual Countries

CIA. *World Factbook.* <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook>

Updated approximately every two weeks, the *CIA World Factbook* has long been a standard country reference. Country profiles include maps, geographical information, information on the people, government, economy, communications, transportation, and military, and a special focus on transnational issues. The Factbook is still published in book form on a yearly basis, but the full content is available online. Previous editions of the content can be downloaded from the CIA's website.

Library of Congress. *Portals to the World.* <http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/portals.html>

*Portals to the World* provides links to authoritative, in-depth information about the nations and other areas of the world. Linked information includes: General Resources, Business, Commerce, and Economy, Culture, Education, Embassies, Genealogy, Geography and Environment, Government and Politics, Law, History, Language and Literature, Libraries and Archives, Media and Communications, National Security, Organizations, Recreation and Travel, Religion and Philosophy, Science and Technology. Links are selected by subject specialists at the Library of Congress.

Statistics Belgium. *Country Portal.* [http://statbel.fgov.be/port/cou\\_en.asp](http://statbel.fgov.be/port/cou_en.asp)

The *Portal* provides access to facts and figures about every country in the world. Links provide access to freely available information coming from individual country websites and from various international organizations, such as the World Health Organization and the International Monetary Fund.

U.S. Census Bureau. *International Data Base*. <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/>

The federal government collects statistical data on nearly every aspect of American life. Additionally, the Bureau gathers and makes available population data on other world countries. Data include country summaries, detailed population figures including fertility, mortality, and migration, and even country population rankings from 1950 to 2050.

U.S. Census Bureau. *2008 Statistical Abstract*. "International Statistics."  
[http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/international\\_statistics.html](http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/international_statistics.html)

The *Statistical Abstract of the United States* is one of the most frequently referenced sources for statistical data on the U.S. Included in the Abstract is a section of international statistics that cover agricultural production and trade, climate and the environment, the economy, finance, foreign commerce and aid and military, government receipts, expenditures, and debt, labor force, natural resources and energy, population and households, prices, telecommunications and computers, and vital statistics, health, and education. Available online, these tables are available in both PDF and Excel spreadsheet formats.

U.S. Department of State. *Country Background Notes*. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn>

The Background Notes are updated periodically and include facts about the land, people, history, government, economy, political conditions, and foreign relations of world countries. Each country profile includes a map and links to additional relevant information.

- Online Books and Articles

*Google Books*. <http://books.google.com>

Google is currently working with nearly a dozen major research libraries and numerous publishers to scan full books into the Google Book collection. Libraries currently cooperating with Google include university libraries such as Columbia University and Harvard University and national libraries such as the Bavarian State Library and the National Library of Canada. The full text of books in Google is searchable using the standard Google search interface. Not all books are available in full text online due to copyright restrictions, but many of those restricted by copyright feature multiple page previews that help a researcher decide if the book would be useful. As of June 2008, a search on the European Union in Google Books turns up nearly 5000 items. Over 1500 of these are fully available for free through Google Books.

*Google Scholar*. <http://scholar.google.com>

Google's own description of Scholar is that it "provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From one place, you can search across many disciplines and sources: peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, abstracts and articles, from academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories, universities and other scholarly organizations." The same limitation that applies to Google Books applies to Google Scholar: copyrighted materials are indexed and searchable but the full text may not be directly available for free. Scholar currently indexes over 1.3 million scholarly sources on the European Union online.

*Findarticles.com*. <http://findarticles.com>

Affiliated with the BNET Business Network, Findarticles covers both free and for pay articles from a wide variety of publications. The default search is for articles from free and premium sources, but a researcher can limit a search just to free content and quickly find articles on a wide variety of topics. A quick search of the free content on the European Union uncovers over 21,000 articles.

- University and Research Institute Sites devoted to the European Union

Council for European Studies at Columbia University. <http://www.ces.columbia.edu>

The Council calls itself the "leading academic organization for the study of Europe." Its focus is on promoting multidisciplinary research in European Studies. The Council lists more than a 100 institutional affiliates from around the world. Online content includes articles and working papers on a variety of topics.

*ERPA: European Research Papers Archive.* <http://www.eiop.or.at/erpa/>

The ERPA network was established to provide online access to working papers from research institutes studying European integration. The collection currently contains around 1200 papers from a dozen institutes, including the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research and the Centre for European Studies. The database is searchable by keyword and provides abstracts and full text of documents included in the collection.

*European Union Center of Excellence European Studies Center.* University of Pittsburgh.  
<http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/euce.html>

The EUCE/ESC is at the core of the interdisciplinary study of Europe and the European Union at the University of Pittsburgh. In cooperation with academic and research units throughout the University, the center offers a wide array of programs for students, faculty, and the public. The Center's Newsletter features articles on topics of current interest to those researching the Union. The Center also makes available online its Policy and Working Paper Series.

### **What's Available Through Your Library**

Academic libraries and public libraries will provide access to a wide variety of materials in many formats, including books, government publications, audiovisual materials, and magazine, journal, and newspaper articles. Material availability and scope are largely dependent on the size of the library and the population it serves. While public libraries open their doors to all users, academic institutions may limit access only to their primary clientele. State supported academic libraries normally have an open doors policy that allows area researchers access to their physical collections and databases. Restrictions on checking out materials and accessing databases off site may apply.

- Library Catalogs

The library catalog is the library's database of what it owns. While it typically does not search the full text of materials in a library's collections, it searches all the available description of its holdings. Catalog entries typically include standard bibliographic information on each item owned (author, title, publishing information, date, etc.), physical description of the item (number of pages, special features such as illustrations and maps, bibliography, index, etc.), subject analysis of the item (usually based on Dewey Decimal or Library of Congress Subject headings), and location information for the item. Many entries also include tables of contents and summary information.

Different libraries use different catalog systems, but many of the search features are similar enough that a veteran library user will find it easy enough to go from a public library to an academic library and still find what he or she needs.

WorldCat. <http://www.worldcat.org>

WorldCat is a worldwide collaborative library catalog that provides access to information about materials in libraries everywhere. A researcher can look for books, music CDs, videos, government publications, anything that a library might typically house. WorldCat also includes links to online resources that have found their way into library catalogs. The web interface to WorldCat allows for a simple keyword search of the 1.2 billion cataloged items. An "advanced search" is also available to accommodate more specific needs. The catalog currently shows 92,267 matches for the keyword phrase "European Union."

Thomas G. Carpenter Library Catalog. <http://nf.catalog.fcla.edu/nf.jsp>

The official database of the Thomas G. Carpenter Library, the catalog allows researchers to search the library's collections using either simple keyword or by using more complex strategies that include searching by Library of Congress Subject Heading, by author, by title, or by a combination of means. Searches can also be limited by type of material, by location, and by format. Items covered by the catalog will also show up in WorldCat, but researchers visiting the library will save time by using the library's own catalog. The catalog currently shows 1160 matches on the keyword phrase "European Union." 260 of these are online.

Jacksonville Public Library Catalog. [http://jpl.coj.net/web2/tramp2.exe/log\\_in?setting\\_key=English](http://jpl.coj.net/web2/tramp2.exe/log_in?setting_key=English)

The JPL catalog searches the collections of the Main Library and its 20 branches. Basic searching offers simple keyword access to library collections. Advanced and "Power" searching are available for researchers who need more options for limiting a search. The catalog currently shows 54 matches for the keyword phrase "European Union."

- Standard References

A library's Reference Collection is typically a good starting place for nearly any project. Specialized encyclopedias, handbooks, and dictionaries can provide a researcher with key terminology and even topic ideas that can lead to more in-depth studies. The following are reference books available at the Thomas G. Carpenter Library in its second floor Reference Collection that may be available at other academic and public libraries as well.

Cook, Bernard A. Europe Since 1945: An Encyclopedia. New York: Garland, 2001. Call Number: D1051.E8735 2001

Cook, Chris, John Paxton, and Chris Cook. European Political Facts of the Twentieth Century. Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2001. Call Number: JN12.C643 2001

Cordell, Karl, and Stefan Wolff. The Ethnopolitical Encyclopaedia of Europe. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004. Call Number: GN492.E86 2004

Countries of the World and Their Leaders Yearbook. Detroit: Gale Research Co, 2008. Call Number: G1.C88

Dun's Marketing Services, and Dun & Bradstreet International. Exporters' Encyclopaedia. New York: Dun and Bradstreet International, 2007/2008. Call Number: HF3011.E9

Europa Publications Limited. The Europa World Year Book. London: Europa Publications, 2008. Call Number: JN1.E85

Euromonitor PLC. World Consumer Income and Expenditure Patterns. Europe. London: Euromonitor, 2001. Call Number: HC240.9.I5W677

Everett-Heath, John. Place Names of the World: Europe : Historical Context, Meanings and Changes. Houndmills, Basingstoke: Macmillan Press, 2000. Call Number: D905 .E94 2000

International Monetary Fund. International Financial Statistics. Washington: International Monetary Fund, 2008. Call Number: HG3881.I626

Leach, Rodney. Europe: A Concise Encyclopedia of the European Union from Aachen to Zollverein. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2000. Call Number: JN30 .L424 2000

Martin, Frederick, John Scott Keltie, Isaac Parker Anderson Renwick, Mortimer Epstein, S. H. Steinberg, and John Paxton. The Statesman's Year-Book. London: Palgrave, 2008. Call Number JA51.S7

McEvedy, Colin, David Woodroffe, and Colin McEvedy. The New Penguin Atlas of Recent History: Europe Since 1815. London: Penguin, 2002. Call Number: G1797.21.S1M3 2002

Ramsay, Anne. Eurojargon: A Dictionary of European Union Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Sobriquets. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2000. Call Number: HC241.2 .E97 2000

Stearns, Peter N. Encyclopedia of European Social History from 1350 to 2000. New York: Scribner, 2001. Call Number: HN373.E63 2001

- U.S. Government Publications

One of the most prolific publishers in the world, the U.S. government publishes materials in a variety of formats, including print, online, and CD. The Carpenter Library's Documents Collection is physically located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the library adjacent to the Reference Collection.

To find government publications on the Union or any of its constituent nations, use the library's catalog and limit the search to Government Documents. A search of the catalog using "European Union" as a keyword phrase and limited to documents as a location produces 51 results.

Many of the publications found using the above strategy are hearings before the Congress. Hearings, bills, and resolutions are searchable online using the Thomas website (<http://thomas.loc.gov>). A quick search of bills before the current Congress (110<sup>th</sup>) containing the phrase "European Union" reveals a total of 181. A quick search of the *Congressional Record* turns up a total of 319 matches.

- Library Databases

Library databases provide access to resources that are not freely available on the web: sources like journal articles and magazine articles and even full books. While the Internet is a wonderful resource for finding information on a world of topics, copyright and intellectual property laws restrict the open distribution of materials that normally appear in print format. Libraries subscribe to databases as a means of providing researchers with access to many more materials than the physical library building can hold.

*Databases at the Thomas G. Carpenter Library.* The Carpenter Library subscribes to more than 200 different databases covering everything from art and history to law and economics. A complete listing of library databases categorized by subject is available from the library's website (<http://www.unf.edu/library/guides/bases.html>). Because these are copyrighted materials, access from off campus is restricted only to current UNF affiliates (students, staff, and faculty). Non-UNF researchers must use the databases in the library.

*Databases at the Jacksonville Public Library.* The Public Library subscribes to quite a few databases that provide additional online content for library users. Because these materials are copyrighted and licensed, researchers without a Public Library Card are limited to in-library use of the databases. Those users with library cards can access the databases anywhere with the proper login. A listing of databases by categories is available online (<http://jpl.coj.net/res/db/index.html>).

#### Selected Databases

(Database descriptions are based on information obtained from the publishers.)

- General Databases

#### *Academic OneFile* (Gale/Infotrac) (UNF)

*Academic OneFile* is a comprehensive, subscription-based database that currently contains more than 12,000 journals covering topics from Science, Technology and Medicine to the humanities. A majority of the academic journals are peer-reviewed and in full text, available in HTML and PDF formats.

#### *Florida Electronic Library* (Gale/Infotrac) (JPL)

The *Florida Electronic Library* is a gateway to select Internet resources that offers access to comprehensive, accurate, and reliable information. Available resources include electronic magazines, newspapers, almanacs, encyclopedias, and books, providing information on topics such as current events, education, business, technology, and health issues. The Florida Electronic Library offers information for all age groups, including homework help for students and resources for teachers. Access is offered free of charge to any Florida resident possessing a current, public library card.

#### *Gale Virtual Reference Library* (UNF & JPL)

*Gale Virtual Reference Library* delivers a wealth of eBook reference content in a database format, allowing libraries to choose exactly which titles to make available to their patrons. The sources that *Gale Virtual Reference Library* offers in eBook format include multi-volume encyclopedias, biographical collections, business plan handbooks, company history compilations, consumer health references, and specialized reference sources. Subjects covered include arts and humanities, biography and genealogy, business and industries, general and consumer interests, government and political science, health and medicine, law, science and technology, and social sciences.

#### *Research Library* (ProQuest) (UNF)

From business and political science to literature and psychology, *ProQuest Research Library*<sup>™</sup> provides one-stop access to a wide range of popular academic subjects. The database includes more than 3,950 titles—over 2,700 in full text—from 1971 forward. It features a highly-respected, diversified mix of scholarly journals, trade publications, magazines, and newspapers. This combination of general reference volume and scope makes it one of the broadest, most inclusive general reference databases ProQuest has to offer.

- Encyclopedias

#### *Britannica Online Academic Edition* (UNF)

*Britannica Online* combines content from the world-renowned *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* and *Thesaurus*, and articles from magazines and journals. *Britannica* articles are scholarly and often provide references to other sources of further information.

- Business Databases

#### *ABI/Inform* (ProQuest) (UNF)

One of the world's first electronic databases, *ABI/Inform* has been a premier source of business information for more than 30 years. The database contains content from thousands of journals that help researchers track business conditions, trends, management techniques, corporate strategies, and industry-specific topics worldwide. Coverage: 1971 - present.

#### *Business Full Text* (Wilson) (UNF)

*Wilson Business Full Text* is a full text database that indexes and abstracts articles from English-language periodicals published in the United States and elsewhere, including the leading business magazines and trade and research journals, plus the full text of selected periodicals. The abstracts range from 50 to 150 words and describe the content and scope of the source articles. Indexing and abstracting begin in 1982. Full text coverage begins in January 1995.

- History Databases

#### *America: History and Life* (UNF)

*America: History & Life* is the definitive index of literature covering the history and culture of the United States and Canada, from prehistory to the present. With indexing for 1,700 journals from 1964 to present, this database is without question the most important bibliographic reference tool for students and scholars of U.S. and Canadian history. The database also includes citations and links to book and media reviews. Strong English-language journal coverage is balanced by an international perspective on topics and events, including abstracts in English of articles published in more than 40 languages. In 2006, *America: History and Life* began adding retrospective coverage for the most important historical journals in *JSTOR*. By project's end, coverage for these journals will extend back to the late-19th century.

#### Historical Abstracts

*Historical Abstracts* is an exceptional resource that covers the history of the world (excluding the United States and Canada) from 1450 to the present, including world history, military history, women's history, history of education, and more - essential for libraries supporting upper-division and graduate research. This authoritative database provides indexing of more than 1,700 academic historical journals in

over 40 languages back to 1955. History and social science researchers have used Historical Abstracts to discover significant and groundbreaking work for more than 50 years. No other history research tool matches its scholarly standards or comprehensive coverage. In 2006, *Historical Abstracts* began adding retrospective coverage for the most important historical journals in *JSTOR*. By project's end, coverage for these journals will extend back to the late-19th century.

#### *History Resource Center* (Gale) (UNF)

The *History Resource Center: U.S.* is an integrated collection of primary documents, secondary reference sources, and journal articles covering all areas of U.S. history from pre-colonial times to the present day. It combines more than 1,000 primary documents -- invaluable to students conducting in-depth historical research -- with the broad background and overview coverage found in more than a dozen reference sources from the Gale Group, including standards such as *Scribner's Dictionary of American History* and *Dictionary of American Biography*. Complete full-text coverage of approximately 65 periodicals of interest to students and historians, as well as access to the citations for history journals from ISI's *Arts and Humanities Citation Index*.

- Humanities Databases

#### *Humanities Full Text* (Wilson) (UNF)

*Humanities Full Text* is a bibliographic database that cites articles from English-language periodicals and includes the full text of selected periodicals. Periodical coverage includes some of the best-known scholarly journals and numerous lesser-known but important specialized magazines. Full-text coverage begins in January 1995.

- Law, Government, and News Databases

#### *LexisNexis Academic* (UNF)

Access over 6,000 news, business, and legal sources. The outstanding news coverage includes deep backfiles and up-to-the-minute stories in national and regional newspapers, wire services, broadcast transcripts, international news, and non-English language sources. Use the included Company Dossier module to retrieve detailed company information and financial performance measures or identify and compare companies matching specific criteria. This product also provides access to the renowned *Shepard's Citations*® service for all federal and states court cases back to 1789. Legal resources for the European Union include: EUR-Lex European Union Cases; EUR-Lex EU Law Database: Legislation; EUR-Lex EU Law Database: Parliamentary Questions; EUR-Lex EU Law Database: Preparatory Acts; EUR-Lex EU Law Database: Treaties; and EUR-Lex EU Law Database: National Provisions Implementing Directives. The LexisNexis service also provides access to U.S. and international treaties and various other world legal documents.

- Social Sciences Databases

#### *Social Sciences Full Text* (Wilson) (UNF)

Coverage in the *Social Sciences Full Text* database includes a wide range of interdisciplinary fields covered in a broad array of social sciences journals. Abstracting coverage begins with periodicals published in January 1994. Abstracts range from 50 to 300 words and describe the content and scope of the source articles. Full text coverage begins in January 1995.

The above listed databases are only a sampling of what is available through area libraries. The Florida Electronic Library collection alone contains a wealth of information suitable for research on any topic and by almost any level of researcher. Further information on databases and database search strategies is available at your library. Ask for help if you need it.

This guide is also available online at: <http://www.unf.edu/~alderman/ResearchGuides/EU.pdf>