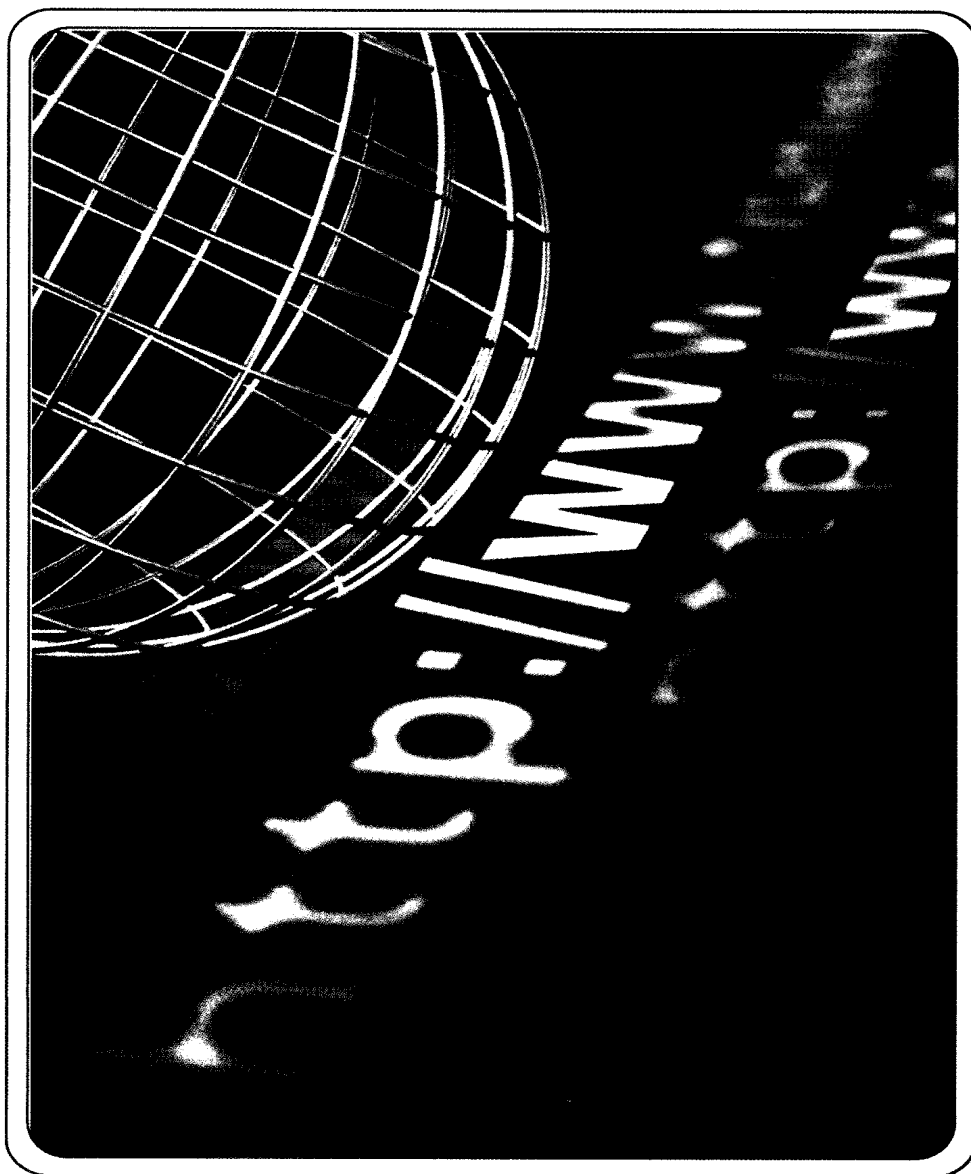


# A GUIDE TO LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET

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AN INTRODUCTION TO PARLIAMENTARY  
AND POLICY ORIENTED WEBSITES

**A Guide to  
Legislative Research  
on the Internet**

**An Introduction to Parliamentary  
and Policy Oriented Web Sites**

Produced by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) in collaboration with the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia.

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# I. Introduction

The Internet can be an extremely useful research tool. Many organisations, policy institutes, governments, and research institutions have web sites where one can access a wide range of information. This document is intended as an introduction to using the Internet for both parliamentary and policy oriented research.

The **Guide to Legislative Research on the Net** is a starting point for using the Internet for research. It is hoped that these web sites will help build awareness of how to use the Internet and the type of information available. It is important to note that this guide represents only the tip of the iceberg - for each topic area there are probably many more useful web sites. Many of the sites contain links to other relevant organisations and institutions. The National Democratic Institute is not responsible for the content of these web sites, they are suggested simply as resources that might be useful for conducting legislative and policy oriented research.

Nine general topic areas have been identified:

- \* Legislative
- \* General Research Databases
- \* Budget
- \* Constitutions
- \* International Treaties and Human Rights
- \* Ethics
- \* International Organisations
- \* Health
- \* General Research

Each web site is annotated with the web address and a short description of the organisation and information available.

**Note:** A number of the web sites included in this Legislative Research Guide provide access to downloadable reports, papers and other documents. Downloading is the transfer from one computer to another and is an easy way to obtain information. The time necessary for downloading depends upon the size of the document and the speed of the computer.

Some of the sites providing downloadable documents and papers may require special software called Adobe Acrobat Reader to read the materials. It is typically stated clearly if downloads require this programme. Adobe Acrobat Reader can be downloaded free of charge from Adobe [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

An Internet site is like a house - the **home page**, or first page on the site is the front door, **web pages** are like the rooms, and **links** are like the hallways.



Using the home page of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) web site as an example, some key elements in Internet research are identified below:

This series of characters identifies the Internet address of the web page being viewed. To access the web sites in the Legislative Resource Guide, type the web address provided into this space and press "Enter."

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The title bar reads "Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar contains "http://www.ipu.org/". The main content area displays the IPU website with a globe graphic and the text "INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE 1889". Below this is a section titled "Your site on parliamentary democracy" with a list of links including "WHAT IS THE IPU?", "FUNCTIONING AND DOCUMENTS", "MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITY", "FUTURE MEETINGS", "STATUTORY CONFERENCES", "SPECIALIZED MEETINGS", "INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL", "COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS", "PUBLICATIONS", "PRESS RELEASES", "ASGP", and "USEFUL LINKS". On the left side, there are buttons for "Version française", "Monthly Journal", "What's new at this site", "Quick search", and "Feedback". At the bottom, a "HOT TOPIC" section highlights the "Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments".

Many web sites, particularly ones with a great deal of material, allow the user to search for specific information within the site. Sites in the Legislative Research Guide such as libraries, catalogs and databases, where this function is particularly helpful are identified by a magnifying glass.



**Links** are a quick way to move from one web page or web site to another. By clicking the mouse on a link, the user is transferred to another web page in the same web site or to a different site. The IPU site includes links to information on their web site as well as to Parliaments throughout the world. Links can be identified by different colour text.

# II. Search Engines

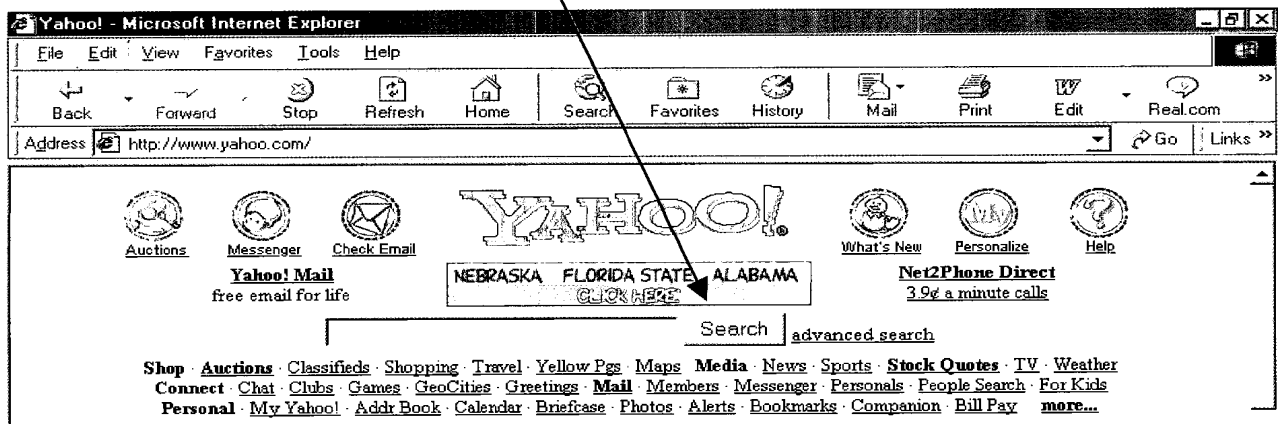
An easy way of utilizing the Internet for research is by using search engines. These web sites can be used to find the specific web site of an organisation or institution like the *British Parliament* or for information on a general topic by entering a word or phrase, such as *Military Expenditure*. When using search engines for general research it is important to be as specific as possible. A list of commonly used search engines is provided below:



- Yahoo – [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)
- Webcrawler – [www.webcrawler.com](http://www.webcrawler.com)
- Altavista – [www.altavista.com](http://www.altavista.com)
- Excite – [www.excite.com](http://www.excite.com)

- Lycos – [www.lycos.com](http://www.lycos.com)
- Hotbot – [www.hotbot.com](http://www.hotbot.com)
- Dogpile – [www.dogpile.com](http://www.dogpile.com)

To use the Yahoo search engine, enter the word or phrase you are interested in finding information on in the space provided and click your mouse on the “Search” Button.



A list of websites containing the word or phrase requested will be presented. When searching for "Military Expenditure," for example, one site is provided. For additional suggestions, click your mouse on "Go To Web Page Matches" which will list individual web sites containing the word or phrase.

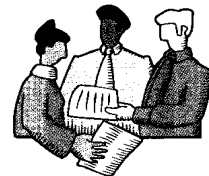
The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window with the title "Yahoo! Search Results for military expenditure - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar contains "http://search.yahoo.com/search?p=military+expenditure". The page features the Yahoo! logo, a "Personalize" link, and a "Help - Check Email" link. A search result summary states "Found 0 categories and 1 site for military expenditure". A large banner for "Yippee! 100 FREE business cards!" is displayed. Below the banner is a navigation bar with tabs for "Categories", "Web Sites", "Web Pages", "Related News", and "Net Events". The "Web Sites" tab is selected, showing "Yahoo! Site Matches (1 - 1 of 1)". The search path is "Government > Military > Weapons and Equipment". A single search result is listed: "Stockholm International Peace Research Institute - Military Expenditure and Arms Production - monitors, describes, and analyses trends and developments in military expenditure and arms production world-wide." A button labeled "Go To Web Page Matches" is positioned below the result, with an arrow pointing to it. To the right, there is a "Search Books!" section with the "amazon.com" logo and links for "MILITARY EXPE...", "Buy Books Here", and "Search Amazon!". At the bottom, there is a search input field containing "military expenditure", a "Next Search" button, and a link for "advanced search - help".



## III. Legislative Sites

The sites in the Legislative section include information on comparative Parliamentary systems and legislation, general legislative materials and links to governments and ministries throughout the world.

### Inter- Parliamentary Union – [www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org)



The IPU maintains an excellent site for comparative Parliamentary information. In addition to links to national parliaments worldwide, the web page contains links to the following research tools:

**Parline Database** – information and materials on specific parliaments and parliamentary issues (eg, one can search for information on the Namibian parliament, or on budget processes). The database is organized by both country and topic.

**Library Database “Parlit”** – a database of articles and books on parliamentary issues.

**Women in Parliament** – data on the representation of women in Parliament, categorised by region and country.

**Bibliographic Database “Women in Parliament”** – a database of articles and books on gender issues in Parliament.

The site also provides numerous links to other relevant organizations, sources of parliamentary related materials, and information about the IPU.

### Worldwide Governments on the WWW – [www.gksoft.com/govt/en/world.html](http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en/world.html)



This site is an excellent source for comparative information about government structure and policies. It is entirely text based and loads quickly. The site provides links to web sites on the following topic headings:

#### **Multigovernmental Institutions**

**Heads of State**

**Parliaments**

**Law Courts**

**Representatives in Foreign Countries**

**Political Parties**

**Auditing Institutions**

#### **Broadcasting**

**Currency**

**Elections**

**Intellectual Property**

**Statistics**

**Tourism**

For example, the Political Parties heading provides links to the official web sites of political parties in over 100 countries and the Broadcasting heading provides direct links to web sites of Ministries of Information and Broadcasting throughout the world. The information can be presented by both topic headings or by country.

## **Political Resources on the Net - [www.politicalresources.net](http://www.politicalresources.net)**



Political Resources on the Net provides links to sites in countries throughout the world and is an easy way to access information on political and legislative systems. Information is provided for the following categories:

**Media**  
**Political Parties**  
**Elections**

**Government**  
**Constitutions**  
**Trade Directory**

Country information is organized by region – Africa, North America, Central America-Caribbean, South American, Europe, Middle East, Asia and Australia-Oceania.

## **European Center for Parliamentary Research and Documentation - [www.europarl.eu.int/dg4/cerdp/en/public/default.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/dg4/cerdp/en/public/default.htm)**



This web page, through the “Assemblies” link, provides access to the official web sites of over 30 European parliaments. The site also has a link to the European Union Parliament homepage where information on the structure of the institution and current EU legislation is provided.

**Key Parliaments:** **Canada – [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca)**  
**Australia – [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au)**  
**Great Britain – [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)**  
**South Africa – [www.parliament.gov.za](http://www.parliament.gov.za)**  
**US – [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) or [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)**  
**New Zealand – [www.parliament.govt.nz](http://www.parliament.govt.nz)**  
**Germany – [www.bundestag.de](http://www.bundestag.de)**

These countries provide extensive information on their respective Parliaments, including web pages for individual committees, and may be a good place to start for general comparative research.

## **National Council of State Legislatures – [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org)**



The National Council of State Legislatures is a bipartisan organisation, which acts a source of information, research and publications for state legislators and their staff. Their site provides links to Legislatures in all 50 US states and some US territories. Web sites of individual legislatures provide information on specific state policy, legislation and committee systems.

## **Legislative Glossaries - [www.legis.state.la.us/glossary.htm](http://www.legis.state.la.us/glossary.htm) [www.leginfo.ca.gov/glossary.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/glossary.html)**



These sites contain extensive glossaries of legislative terms such as “deferred” and “veto.” Though American focused, most terms are defined universally. Explanations of frequently used abbreviations are also provided.

## **Acts of Parliament – UK – [www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts.htm](http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts.htm)**

**South Africa – [www.polity.org.za](http://www.polity.org.za)**

**Nigeria – [www.nigerianlaws.com/frames/docs/stats/stats.html](http://www.nigerianlaws.com/frames/docs/stats/stats.html)**

**Australia – [www.aph.gov.au/legis.html](http://www.aph.gov.au/legis.html)**

**US – [thomas.loc.gov/governance](http://thomas.loc.gov/governance)**



The above web sites provide links to legislation in the respective countries. For most countries, these legislative databases are searchable and one can review legislation by date and topic area.

## Commonwealth Parliamentary Association – [www.comparlhq.org](http://www.comparlhq.org)

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is comprised of 142 member national, state, provincial, and territorial parliaments. Their web site provides information on the organisation as well as comparative data on representation of women in Parliament. The association maintains an information center where one can email questions. A link to this center is located on the site.

## Parliamentary Monitoring Group – [www.pmg.org.za](http://www.pmg.org.za)

The Parliamentary Monitoring Group is a South African organisation providing oversight to the South African legislative process. The site can be used to both review parliamentary business and also identify ways of participating in committee hearings. The web site provides information on the following:

**Committee Minutes**  
**Requests for Submissions**  
**Bill Status**

**Parliamentary Schedule**  
**Parliament information and links**  
**Bills, White Papers, and Acts**

Registration, requiring an email address, is necessary to access some of the information.

## Leg Net – [www.legnet.org](http://www.legnet.org)

The Leg Net web site provides comparative legislation on a number of topic areas. Although the site is American based, it is intended to provide an international perspective. Subject headings include:

**Crime**  
**Customs and Tariffs**  
**Defense**  
**Education**  
**Environmental Issues**

**Foreign Investment**  
**Government Reform**  
**Immigration**  
**Social Welfare**  
**Health Care**

## Congressional Research Service – [www.senate.gov/governance/~dpc/crs](http://www.senate.gov/governance/~dpc/crs)

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) is part of the legislative branch of the US government. CRS works exclusively as a non-partisan analytic, research and reference arm of Congress. The CRS mission is to support an informed national legislature. This site provides access to selected CRS reports in the following categories:

**Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources**  
**Economic Policy/Housing/Transportation**  
**Education/Public Welfare**  
**Government and Law**

**Foreign and Defense Policy/Immigration**  
**Health**  
**Reference/General Interest**  
**Science and Technology**

## IV. General Resource Databases

The General Resource Database section includes organizations and institutes providing access to papers, documents, data and other materials that may be helpful in researching general policy issues.

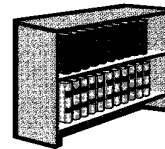
### **Institute for Development Studies (ELDIS) – [www.ids.ac.uk](http://www.ids.ac.uk)**



ELDIS is the web-based database of development resources of the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Sussex. It includes a large collection of research completed at the institute as well as direct links to documents from other sources (World Bank, other research institutes). Information in the collection is divided into the following subheadings:

**Aid, Growth and Development**  
**Poverty**  
**Sustainable Livelihoods**  
**Health Sector Reform**  
**HIV/AIDS**  
**Microcredit**  
**Debt Relief**  
**Education Fees**  
**Gender and Development**

**Land Tenure**  
**Civil Society**  
**Child Labour**  
**Agricultural Marketing Reform**  
**Pension Reform**  
**Urban Water**  
**Lome Convention**  
**Desertification**  
**GM Crops**



Country profiles are also available.

### **UNDP – [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)**



The United Nations Development Programme web site provides information including reports and publications in the following research areas compiled from their offices world wide:

**Gender and Development**  
**Environment**

**Governance**  
**Poverty**

### **CIDA Virtual Library on International Development – [w3.acdi-cida.gc.ca](http://w3.acdi-cida.gc.ca)**



The Canadian International Development Agency's Virtual Library includes information in the following general topic areas:

**Development and Development AID**  
**Economy and Finance**  
**Environment**

**Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance**  
**International Relations**  
**Social, Cultural and Socio-economic Development**

## **World Bank – [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)**



The World Bank site includes information about the organisation, ongoing programmes (e.g. anti-corruption), current research and published reports, as well as general economic data. Country specific information is also available. Research headings include:

**Agriculture**  
**Domestic Finance**  
**Education**  
**Environment**  
**Governance**  
**Health and Population**  
**Infrastructure**  
**Industry**

**International Economics**  
**Poverty**  
**Private Sector Development**  
**Public Sector Management**  
**Rural Development**  
**Social Development**  
**Urban Development**

## **International Monetary Fund (IMF) – [www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)**



This site provides information about the organisation as well as publications, working papers, policy discussion papers, and staff country reports. Country level data and information on standards and codes is also available.

## **International Development Research Center – [www.idrc.org.za](http://www.idrc.org.za)**



The International Development Research Center, based in Johannesburg, provides information on the following topic areas with a South and Southern Africa focus:

**Food Security**  
**Equity in Natural Resource Use**  
**Bio Diversity Conservation**

**Sustainable Employment**  
**Health Policy**  
**Information and Communication**

## **Overseas Development Institute – [www.oneworld.org/odi/](http://www.oneworld.org/odi/)**



The Overseas Development Institute is a British thinktank specializing in development issues. Their web site provides access to ongoing research and publications. ODI research specifically focuses on the following topic areas:

**Forest Policy**  
**Humanitarian Policy**

**Economic Development**  
**Rural Policy**

## **World Trade Organisation – [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)**



The WTO web site provides access to extensive information produced by the organisation including documents and statistics. Information about the WTO and general world trade issues are also available. The links to “Resources” or “A to Z” are the easiest methods for accessing information on the site.

## **National Democratic Institute for International Affairs – [www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org)**



The National Democratic Institute is a US based organisation working to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions world wide. The organisation has ongoing programmes in over 40 countries. Their web site includes papers and documents on their six programmatic areas:

**Citizen Participation**  
**Election Processes**  
**Political Party Development**

**Civil-Military Relations**  
**Legislative Development**  
**Women’s Participation**

## **International Foundation for Election Systems – [www.ifes.org](http://www.ifes.org)**



The International Foundation for Election Systems is an American based organisation aiding countries worldwide in developing their election systems. The IFES web site includes links to election law and election commissions in countries throughout the world. In addition, the site includes the Administration and Costs of Elections (ACE) web site, an electronic encyclopedia of election administration. The site also includes a link to the Association of African Election Authorities.

## V. Budget Sites

The Budget section includes sites with information on comparative budget processes and policy materials.



### **International Budget Project – [www.internationalbudget.org](http://www.internationalbudget.org)**



The International Budget Project provides information on budget processes and analysis. Their library provides downloadable materials on the following topic areas:

**Budget Analysis**  
**Budget Guides and Training Materials**  
**Budget Process**  
**Budget Transparency**  
**Development Economics**  
**Fiscal Decentralization**  
**Health**

**Macroeconomic Analysis**  
**Military and Defense Issues**  
**Municipal and State Budgets**  
**Poverty and Economic Conditions**  
**Taxation and Revenue Issues**  
**Transition Economies**

### **World Bank Public Expenditures Online – [www.worldbank.org/publicsector/pe/spending.html](http://www.worldbank.org/publicsector/pe/spending.html)**



Public Expenditure is one of the World Bank programme areas and the web site provides information on the following subject areas:

**Role of the State**  
**Public Spending and Budget Deficits**  
**Public Spending in a Market Context**

**Public Spending for Equity**  
**Fiscal Federalism and Public Spending**

The page also suggests relevant sources for additional research and information.

### **Congressional Budget Office – [www.cbo.gov](http://www.cbo.gov)**



The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office provides Congress with the necessary expertise to assess the President's budget. Its staff of economists and public policy experts provide Congress with cost estimates of various policy options. The Congressional Budget Office web page provides information on the US Budget process including documents, studies and reports, technical papers, cost estimates and testimony. The site also contains links to legislative and executive budget agencies including the General Accounting Office, House and Senate Budget committees, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

## VI. Constitutions

The Constitution section includes web sites with links to national constitutions of countries throughout the world.



**University of Wuerzburg – [www.uni-wuerzburg.de/law/home.html](http://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/law/home.html)**

This site contains links to country information and constitutions of over 80 countries. Country information is available for an additional 45 countries.



**University of Richmond – [www.urich.edu/~jpjones/confinder/#1-L](http://www.urich.edu/~jpjones/confinder/#1-L)**

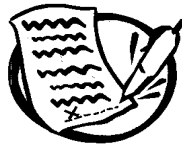
Links to constitutions from over 100 countries. Many available in numerous languages.





## VII. International Treaties & Human Rights

The International Treaties and Human Rights section includes web sites with links to major international treaties and conventions as well as institutions providing access to human rights research and publications.



**Multilateral Conventions Tufts University – [www.tufts.edu/departments/fletcher/multilaterals.html](http://www.tufts.edu/departments/fletcher/multilaterals.html)**



The Tufts University page provides links to multilateral treaties and conventions organized by the following subject headings:

**Atmosphere and Space  
Flora and Fauna — Biodiversity  
Cultural Protection  
Diplomatic Relations  
General**

**Human Rights  
Marine and Coastal  
Other Environmental  
Trade and Commercial Relations  
Rules of Warfare; Arms Control**

There is also a link to the UN Treaty database.

**University of Minnesota Human Rights Library – [www1.umn.edu/humanrts/](http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/)**



The University of Minnesota Human Rights Library maintains a large collection of human rights related materials. The web site provides access to information in the following topic areas:

**Treaties and other International Instruments  
Other UN Documents  
Regional Material (including African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights and African Human**

**Bibliographies and Research Guides  
Refugee and Asylum Resources  
Human Rights Education  
US Human Rights Documents**

## **Women's Human Rights Resources – [www.law-lib.utoronto.ca/diana/](http://www.law-lib.utoronto.ca/diana/)**

The University of Toronto's Women's Human Rights Resources is an international project that compiles downloadable documents and articles in subject areas including:

**Education**  
**Equality**  
**Health and Wellbeing**  
**Labour and Employment**  
**Political Rights and Participation**

**Race and Gender Issues**  
**Refugee and Immigration Law**  
**Reproductive Rights**  
**Social and Economic Welfare**  
**Violence Against Women**



## **Amnesty International – [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)**

Amnesty International has offices in 162 countries worldwide working to promote human rights. Their web site provides information on the organisation as well as documents, publications and reports on individual countries and specific programmatic themes. Information is available from 1996 to present.



## **Freedom House – [www.freedomhouse.org](http://www.freedomhouse.org)**

Freedom House is a US based organisation concerned with democracy and political freedom. The organisation compiles yearly "Freedom in the World" and "Press Freedom" rankings which are accessible through the web site.



## VIII. Ethics Sites

The Ethics section includes organisations involved in anti-corruption efforts worldwide. Comparative information as well as documents and publications are available through these sites.



### **Transparency International – [www.transparency.de](http://www.transparency.de)**



Transparency International provides information on corruption related issues world wide. Their web site contains a corruption index ranking levels of corruption in countries throughout the world, the organisation's quarterly newsletter, working papers (both issue and region oriented), and their National Integrity Systems source book.

### **America's Accountability/Anti-corruption Project – [www.respondanet.com](http://www.respondanet.com)**

The America's Accountability/Anti-corruption Project web page provides ethics related information, documents, material on National Integrity Projects and links to anti-corruption organisations worldwide. The site is primarily US and Latin America focused.



### **US Office of Government Ethics – [www.usoge.gov](http://www.usoge.gov)**



The US Office of Government Ethics provides access to all laws and regulations on Federal Conflict of Interest Statues and Standards of Conduct for Executive Branch employees. Their web site includes information on the office and the regulations and statues are available in the online Resource Library.

### **US Ombudsman Association – [www.usombudsman.org](http://www.usombudsman.org)**



The US Ombudsman Association is an organisation of public sector ombudsmen in the US. Their web site provides general information on public ombudsmen as well as a model Ombudsman Act and model Shield Law. Links to other relevant web sites are also accessible.

## VIII. Ethics Sites

The Health section includes web sites with general health policy information as well as research and data on health issues in Southern Africa.



### **World Health Organisation – [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)**



The World Health Organisation web site contains links to the following information:

**Basic Documents**  
**WHO Bulletin**  
**Evidence of Health Policy**

**Library**  
**Statistical Information**

### **UNDP Aids Project – [www.undp.org/hiv/](http://www.undp.org/hiv/)**



The UNDP AIDS Project provides issue papers, publications and public statements from the organisation. Information is also available about the programme activities of the organisation as well as conferences and seminars. The documents available are international and date from 1990 to present.

### **Health System Trust – [www.hst.org.za](http://www.hst.org.za)**



The Health Systems Trust is a South African based health policy organisation. Their web page provides information on their ongoing programmes as well as information on South African health policy and legislation.

### **Network for Equity in Health in Southern Africa – [www.equitynet.org.zw](http://www.equitynet.org.zw)**



The Network for Equity in Health in Southern Africa is a Zimbabwe based organisation. Their programmatic focus includes monitoring equity in health within the region and the study of health issues within the context of globalization, governance, resource allocation and health, and health services issues. The site has links to research documents and comparative health data for the SADC region.

### **National Institute for Health – [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)**



The American National Institute of Health provides recent publications on medical related research. The site is somewhat American focused. Documents are downloadable from the Office of AIDS research, although Adobe Acrobat Reader is required.

## X. International Organizations

The International Organization section includes the web sites of major international organisations.



**Southern Africa Development Community – [www.sadc.int](http://www.sadc.int)** 


The SADC information web page includes country profiles, regional news and organisational information.

**SADC Committee of Central Bank Governors – [www.sadcbankers.org](http://www.sadcbankers.org)** 

The SADC Committee of Central Bank Governors web page provides economic data including statistics, and information on economic development and financial systems. The site also provides information on their IT forum, and ongoing projects and initiatives including Payment systems, Exchange controls and training.

**Organisation of African Unity – [www.oau-oau.org](http://www.oau-oau.org)** 

The OAU web site provides information on the structure of the organisation as well as news of current developments and links to other African web sites.

**United Nations – [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)** 

Information is available on the UN's five programme areas – peace and security, International Law, Humanitarian Issues, Economic and Social Welfare, and Human Rights. Publications and International treaty databases are also accessible.

**European Union – [www.europa.eu.int](http://www.europa.eu.int)** 

Information on EU organisational structures and institutions as well as an EU policies, arranged alphabetically by subject, are available on the site.

**Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)** 

The OECD is an organisation of 29 countries with similar market economies and democratic governments. Their web site contains information on the organisation as well as documents on numerous policies and areas of concentration, such as trade and public management, dating back to 1991. Country level information is also available.

## XI. General Research Sites

The General Research section includes web sites that provide information on individual countries. These sites may compliment legislative or policy research.



### **US Library of Congress Country Studies – <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/>**

The US Library of Congress provides very thorough country studies for approximately 100 countries. These studies provide comprehensive information on a number of topic areas including:

**History  
Economics and Politics**

**Defense and Security  
Industry (Different Sectors)**



It is possible to search for specific information within each country study. This site is particularly useful for in depth research.

### **Atlapeia Online – [www.atlapeia.com](http://www.atlapeia.com)**



This site provides general country information, including currency, language, population, ethnicity and brief political histories. A good site for quick, basic information.

### **Africa News Online – [www.africanews.org](http://www.africanews.org)**



The Africa News Online site provides access to media organisation and major news stories in all countries in Africa. Information is organized by both region and topic headings.

### **Perry Castaneda Map Collection – [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map\\_collection/ Map\\_collection.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/Map_collection.html)**



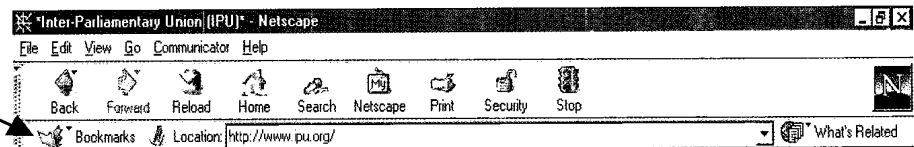
A very large collection of downloadable country and regional maps.

## XII. Favourites

Once you have discovered a particularly useful web site that you would like to return to, you may want to save it. Depending upon whether you are using Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer to access the Internet, the process of saving web sites is slightly different.

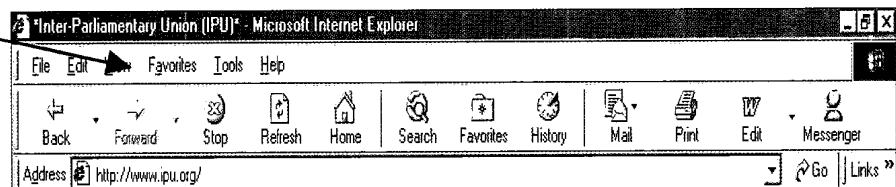
### **Netscape Navigator:**

Saved web sites are referred to as “Bookmarks” and can be added by clicking your mouse on the “Bookmark” icon and selecting “Add Bookmark.” Whenever you want to view the page again, click your mouse on “Bookmarks” and find the web site on the list.

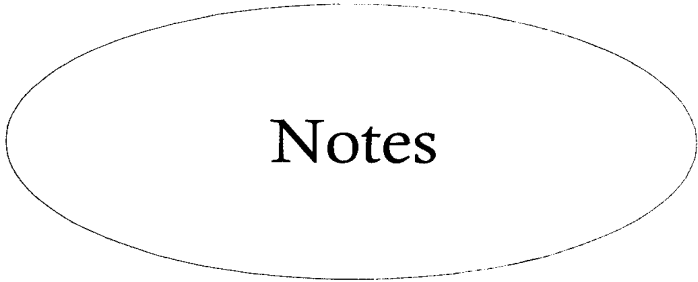


### **Microsoft Internet Explorer:**

Saved web sites are referred to as “Favourites” and can be added and deleted by clicking your mouse on the “Favourites” heading and selecting “Add Favourite.” Whenever you want to view this page again, click your mouse on “Favourites” and find the web site on the list.

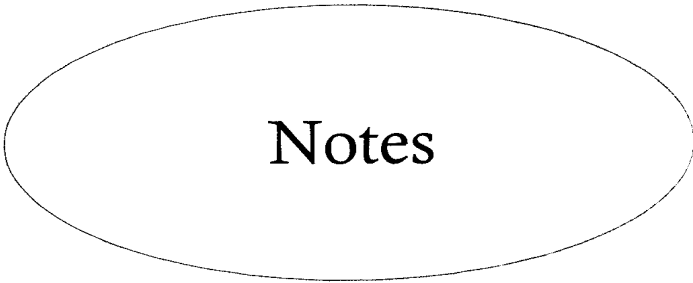


**Note:** When using the “Bookmark” or “Favourite” function the specific web page you are currently viewing will be saved. If you are interested in returning to the web site, it may be useful to save the home page.



Notes





Notes

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of Namibia