

Political Science 265: Politics & Society in Eastern Europe

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General Tips on Researching

- Before you start searching, think about—and jot down—what you already know. Are there events, people, organizations or special terms you can use as “hooks” to find information on your topic? Also, what are key dates?
- Don’t head to a general Web search engine first. Wait until later in your research, when you are looking for something quite specific. Instead, use specialized **Web Gateways** (see below) to browse for a site that is likely to contain the kind of information that interests you. Also, the News Sites and **Topical Web Sites** listed in this guide (also below) are a rich source of related material themselves.
- Plan to use a wide variety of sources for the most balanced understanding of controversial issues—try to find reports from more than one organization, and articles from more than one journal.
- Explore electronic sources via keyword searches, and follow the “leads”/links with the relevant descriptors/subject headings to see more items categorized under those areas .
- Truncate to retrieve different word forms:
*democra** finds *democrat, democracy, democratically, democratique*
(truncation symbol is not * in every database or catalog — check your help documentation).
- Use Boolean OR to allow for alternate words being used:
romany OR gypsies finds items including *romany, gypsies*, or both *romany* and *gypsies*
“OR = More!”
- Use Boolean AND when you want items where the subjects “coincide:”
poland AND crime finds items containing both terms. AND = fewer, more focused results.
- Jot down what you’ve used and what descriptors/subject headings look promising.
- And of course... *you are always welcome to talk to me about your research*. Drop by the Reference Desk, or, you can contact me to make an appointment (email: sgass@wheatonma.edu; phone: x3700).

Finding Books

Use **ELIZA** to find what Wallace Library owns.

>> **Access** from [Library Home Page](#) or at <http://library.wheatoncollege.edu/>

Use **WorldCat** to find items on your topic owned by other libraries around the world.

It is possible to order books (*not* videos, rare/old books, articles or journal issues) via Interlibrary Loan directly from WorldCat. Ask at the Reference Desk to learn how to use this huge database effectively.

>> **Access** from the *Wallace Library Electronic Resources* page:

<http://www.wheatoncollege.edu/library/resources/electronic> [under *Reference Databases*]

ELIZA uses **Library of Congress Subject Headings** to categorize material.

Here are some **sample Subject Headings** to try in ELIZA, WorldCat, or other library catalogs:

- Poland – Social conditions
- Europe, Eastern – Politics and government
- Yugoslavia – Ethnic relations
- Slovenia – Economic conditions
- Nationalism – Bosnia and Hercegovina
- Human rights
- Post-Communism

Reference Books for Background Research

***Countries and Their Cultures*, 4v., 2001**

Ref GN307 .C68 2001

From the international association Human Relations Area Files, Inc., at Yale. Contributors are social scientists and others with first-hand knowledge. Topics include public space, marriage and family, political life, and gender roles. Bibliographies of recommended readings are included.

Country Studies: Area Handbook Series from the Federal Research Division, Library of Congress

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>

Wallace owns many in print too. Search ELIZA by keyword for *country X AND country study*.

In-depth reports on 101 countries, most published between 1988-1998. "Originally intended to focus primarily on lesser known areas of the world or regions in which U.S. forces might be deployed."

***Dictionary of East European History Since 1945*, 1994**

Ref DJK5 .H43 1994

Each chapter addresses a particular country, with a chronology, various topical entries, and bibliographies.

Encyclopedia of Eastern Europe, 2000

Ref DJK6 .E53 2000

People, events, organizations, history, politics, and culture. Each article contains suggestions for further reading.

***Ethnic Relations in Eastern Europe: A Selected and Annotated Bibliography*, 2001**

Ref DJK26 .Z9947 2001

Also online [PDF format]: <http://lgi.osi.hu/publications/default.asp?id=17>

Bibliography from George Soros' Open Society Institute. Items marked "EN" are in English.

***Europa World Year Book*, 2v., 2001**

Ref JN1 .E85

For each country you get summaries of recent history, economic affairs, social welfare, education – Recent statistics on: demography, economic sectors, finance & trade, transport, tourism, communications media, education – National constitutions.

***Historical Atlas of East Central Europe*, 1993**

Ref G2081 .S1 M3 1993

Maps and tables from the year 400 to the dawn of the Post-Communist era, 1992.

***Human Development Report*, United Nations Development Programme**

Ref HD72 .H85 1996-present [latest in print: 2001]

Also online, 1990-present, at <http://hdr.undp.org/reports> [latest online: 2002]

Essays on special annual themes and tables covering the full range of Human Development Indicators.

OECD Economic Surveys

Search in ELIZA & look for your country. Library has copies in print; electronic access available for many.

***Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas of the Balkans*, 2001**

Ref G1996 .S1 H8 2001

Maps from the 6th century to 1999. Includes bibliography.

***World Development Indicators 2001*, World Bank**

Ref HC 59.15. W656 2001

Statistics on economy, demographics, social indicators, environment, markets, infrastructure, technology, trade, aid, labor.

See also: *World Bank Atlas 2002* -- Ref HC 59.15.W567 2002

Excerpts of *World Development Indicators*, visualized through maps.

Finding Articles with Indexes/Databases

>> Access any of these databases through the *Wallace Library Electronic Resources* page:

<http://www.wheatoncollege.edu/library/resources/electronic>

[Choose the *Alphabetical* list under *Reference Databases*.]

EconLit, 1969-present

Indexes journal articles, books and working papers in economics. *Ask at Reference Desk to be signed in.*

Historical Abstracts, 1955-present

Indexes journal articles, book reviews, and dissertations pertaining to the history of the world from 1450 to the present. Material on America and Canada is not included (for that see *America: History & Life*).

PAIS International, 1972-present

Indexes journal articles, books, directories, conference papers, pamphlets, reports, and government documents on political, social, and public policy issues.

SocioFile, 1974-present

Indexes journal articles, dissertations, conference papers, and books in sociology and related disciplines.

Wilson Social Sciences Abstracts, 1984-present

Indexes articles in 350+ key international, English-language periodicals in the social sciences, including anthropology, area studies, economics, political science, psychology, and sociology.

Selected Journals

Central Europe Review: The Fortnightly Journal of Central & East European Politics, Society & Culture

<http://www.ce-review.org>

Now merged with *Transitions Online* (see below), CER still contains archives. Try Search by subject to see stories arranged by country.

East European Constitutional Review – from NYU Law School

<http://www.law.nyu.edu/eecr/>

Eastern European Politics and Societies

Full Text in *Infotrac, Expanded Academic*. Click on link to *InfoTrac* (from Electronic Resources Page:

<http://www.wheatoncollege.edu/library/resources/electronic>), click on *Expanded Academic*, and search for articles within the journal.

Journal of Democracy

Electronic subscription via Project Muse. Look up by title in ELIZA and use link to connect.

Transitions Online

<http://www.tol.cz>

Covers current issues in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. TOL Wire offers a daily selection of news briefs and analyses, in English translation, from selected independent newsrooms across the former Soviet Union, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Balkans.

World Press Review

In print in Wallace Library and online: <http://worldpress.org>

News Databases

Keesing's Record of World Events, 1960-present

To access: see [Wallace Library Electronic Resources](#) web page. Link to [Alphabetical List](#) of Databases.

Concise summaries of political and economic news drawn from the world's press and wire services.

Coverage includes every country in the world, international organizations and treaties, as well as such topics as disarmament, space, aviation and the environment.

World News Connection, 1994-present

To access: see [Wallace Library Electronic Resources](#) web page. Link to [Alphabetical List](#) of Databases.

Translations of news stories as reported from around the world.

Make sure you click on the database's Exit icon when you are done with WNC. (We have a license for only one user at a time—if you don't click exit the next person won't be able to get in.)

LexisNexis Academic, 1980s-present

To access: see [Wallace Library Electronic Resources](#) web page: link in lower right hand corner

Primarily a database of news stories. Search by general region is possible in *Guided News Search* – select *World News*.

News Gateways

Hoppa: Press Agencies in Eastern Europe and Balkans

<http://hoppa.com/ea/PressAgencies>

Kidon Media-Link

<http://www.kidon.com/media-link>

International news links—newspapers; newsmagazines; TV news stations/programs; radio news stations/programs; and news agencies. *Browse* by region/country/language. Sources in English will be coded “en.” *To browse international news sources in English*, select English from Language pulldown menu and click “Go.”

News Sites

Alternative Information Network

<http://www.aimpress.ch/index.htm>

“A network of independent journalists in former Yugoslavia and the southern Balkans which provides a service of in-depth information in the local languages and in English.”

Inter Press Service News Agency

<http://ipsnews.net>

“The world's leading provider of information on global issues... backed by a network of journalists in more than 100 countries. Its clients include more than 3,000 media organizations and tens of thousands of civil society groups, academics, and other users.”

OneWorldNet

<http://www.oneworld.net>

An “international network” of non-profits devoted to the mission of “harnessing the democratic potential of the internet to promote human rights and sustainable development.” Many ways to access news by topic or region.

Press Now

<http://www.pressnow.org>

“Founded in 1993 [Press Now] supports independent media in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina (FBiH and RS), Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosova, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Vojvodina and Belarus.”

Institute for War & Peace Reporting

<http://www.iwpr.net>

IWPR “strengthens local journalism in areas of conflict. By training reporters, facilitating dialogue and providing reliable information, it supports peace, democracy and development in societies undergoing crisis and change.” Reports on the Balkans and the War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague.

General Web Gateways

EastWest Institute: Links by Subject

<http://www.iews.org/links.nsf/Subject?OpenView>

REENIC: Russian and East European Network Information Center, University of Texas

<http://reenic.utexas.edu/reenic.html>

REESWeb: Russian & East European Studies Virtual Library, University of Pittsburgh

<http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/reesweb>

Topical Web Sites

Crime, Drug Traffic, Corruption

Anti-Corruption Gateway for Europe and Eurasia

<http://www.nobribes.org>

Transparency International

<http://www.transparency.org>

United Nations Office for Drug Control & Crime Prevention

http://www.odccp.org/crime_cicp_sitemap.html

Democracy, Civil Society, Freedoms

Civil Society International

<http://www.civilsoc.org>

Freedom House

<http://www.freedomhouse.org>

Index for Free Expression

<http://www.indexonline.org>

NGONet.org – administered by Freedom House Budapest

<http://www.ngonet.org>

Soros Foundations Institute

<http://www.soros.org>

Sponsors wide variety of programs in the US & internationally. For example, see *Project Syndicate*, which “focuses on enhancing the independence of media and strengthen the journalistic, ethical, and business practices of privately owned newspapers in postcommunist Eastern Europe:” <http://www.project-syndicate.cz>

Economics

Economic Reconstruction & Development in Southeast Europe – European Commission / World Bank Office for South East Europe

<http://www.seerecon.org>

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

<http://www.ebrd.com>

Owned by the European Community and the European Investment Bank, “EBRD is the largest single investor in the region.”

Seeurope.Net

<http://www.seeurope.net/en>

News with an economic slant , this time from Southeast Europe. Sponsored by the Bulgaria Economic Forum.

Environment

World Resources Institute

<http://www.wri.org>

Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

<http://www.rec.org>

Health

UNAIDS: The Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS

<http://www.unaids.org>

Public Health Links, Europe – from the WWW Virtual Library

[Note: editor terminally ill; you may find some bad links, but many are working in this well-organized list]

<http://www.ldb.org/vl/geo/europe>

World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe [UN Agency]

<http://www.who.int/dk>

Human Rights

Amnesty International

<http://www.amnesty.org>

Human Rights Watch

<http://www.hrw.org>

Migration & Ethnic Relations

European Research Centre on Migration and Ethnic Relations

<http://www.ercomer.org>

European Roma Rights Center (ERRC)

<http://errc.org>

ERRC is “an international public interest law organisation which monitors the human rights situation of Roma and provides legal defence in cases of human rights abuse.”

Good luck to all of you with your papers! Don't hesitate to contact me if you get stuck, need ideas about where else to look, or would like to make sure you are getting the most out of electronic indexes/databases.

— Shana Gass, Reference/Instruction Librarian
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