

Electronic Databases

Funk and Wagnall's New Encyclopedia

Coverage: Current

Full Text: Full text of encyclopedia entries

Description: This database contains encyclopedia articles. A search for individual countries brings up entries describing information related to land and resources, population, the economy, and government and history.

STAT-USA/Internet (National Trade Data Bank)

Coverage: 1976 to current

Full Text: Yes

Description: Access the GLOBUS & NTDB section for current and historical trade-related releases, international market research, trade opportunities, country analysis, as well as the National Trade Data Bank, which is a searchable database. Domestic economic information is included in the STATE OF THE NATION section.

World Almanac

Coverage: Current

Full Text: Not an academic article database, but does contain many entries from Funk and Wagnall's New Encyclopedia.

Description: The World Almanac contains statistics, biographies, encyclopedia entries, cultural information, holidays, etc. One may look up countries by name for country profiles which include information related to land and resources, the population, the economy, government and history.

Internet Resources

The World Factbook (CIA)

Location: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

Bell Library's most current print edition (2007) is at the Reference Desk (PREX 3.15:).

An excellent source for quick facts about a specific country. Countries are listed alphabetically, and each profile consists of the following categories: Geography, People, Government, Economy, Communications, Transportation, and Military.

U.S. Census Bureau

Location: <http://www.census.gov/>

Description: Mostly U.S. data. Provides population, economic, agricultural, and many other types of information related to the United States. Data for a specific area may be accessed in a number of ways, including a zip code search, a place name search and via a clickable map.

The World Factbook Reference Maps

Location: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/docs/refmaps.html/>

Description: Part of The World Factbook Internet home page, this site includes many digitized maps of the different regions of the world. Also included is a map featuring the Standard Time Zones of the world.

International Monetary Fund

Location: <http://www.imf.org/>

Description: This web site includes an index of recent news releases as well as a list of IMF publications including order information, international fund rates, and data standards. The full text of the World Economic Outlook, available in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is included under Publications.

United Nations Economic and Social Development

Location: <http://www.un.org/esa/>

Description: Sections on trade, human rights, women, population, social development and crime prevention are included in this web site sponsored by the United Nations. Upcoming events and conferences dealing with economic and social development are profiled.

United Nations Statistics Division

Location: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/databases.htm>

A site which provides a comprehensive portal to various statistical related internet sources from the United Nations and government agencies from countries around the world.

World Bank

Location: <http://www.worldbank.org/>

Description: This web site includes information on more than 100 countries with developing economies. Summaries of these countries' economic progress, as well as fact sheets with economic data are included. A list of World Bank publications and a data section are also included. Data may be accessed by either country or topic.

Print Resources

DICTIONARIES

Oxford Dictionary of the World (Ref G1035.094 1995)

A reference work that provides topographical descriptions of places in every country of the world, along with descriptions of peoples, languages, and religions along with definitions of important geographical and environmental terms. The work includes about 10,000 entries.

ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND ALMANACS

Geo-Data: The World Geographical Encyclopedia (Ref G103.5.G36 2003)

This reference work is intended to provide the reader with comprehensive descriptions of the physical geography of the world's 207 countries and dependencies. For each country and dependency, a Key Facts selection is provided with information about the geographic entity's physical area, relative location, coordinates, border length, coastline length, territorial seas, highest point, lowest point, population, largest city and capital city. For each country or dependency entry, information about mountains and hills, inland waterways, coastlines and islands, climate and vegetation, the human population and natural resources is provided along with a map.

World Almanac (AY 67 .N5 W7) - The most current edition is at the Reference Desk.

This resource provides a wealth of information about many different topics. Issued annually, it includes basic facts about each country, including a short historical summary, as well as several maps and drawings depicting the flags of most of the world's countries.

World Book Encyclopedia (Ref AE 5 .W55)

The entries for each country in this easy-to-read encyclopedia include information on the geography and government of the country, as well as the way of life of its people. Each entry also includes political and topographical maps.

World Geographical Encyclopedia (Ref G63 .E5213 1995 v.1-5)

Encyclopedia of world regional geography published in the mid-1990s. The work is broken into volumes organized by region – Africa volume 1, Americas volume 2, Asia volume 3, Europe volume 4, Oceania volume 5.

ATLASES

Atlas of the World (Ref Atlases G1021 .N38 2005)

This National Geographic atlas contains detailed country and major city maps.

CIA Maps (blue file cabinets in Reference area)

These maps, generally 8 1/2 X 11 in size, provide topographical and political detail for individual countries and regions of the world. They are organized in folders alphabetically by the name of the country or region. Each country folder may contain several maps.

Collins Essential Atlas of the World (Reference Atlases G1021 .H59843 1999)

Maps containing topographical and political detail for individual countries and regions of the world. The first section includes basic demographic information listed alphabetically by country (area, pop., languages, religions and currency) and maps depicting the world's time zones, physical features, vegetation, climate, population patterns, health, wealth, tourism, and global telecommunications.

The TIMES Atlas of the World (Reference Atlases G1021 .T5644 1999)

This atlas includes detailed color maps of all the regions of the world. It also includes an extensive city index as well as population statistics, charts and graphs.

OTHER PRINT

General

Area Handbook Series (Also known as Country Studies)

Search by Title (Area Handbook Series) in Portal to see entire list of countries available.

For a specific country, search by Title in Portal for country name + a country study (ex: Japan a country study). This resource presents much of the same information available in the CIA World Factbook, but in a much more extensive format. Irregularly updated, each volume of the Area Handbook Series features chapters dealing with the historical setting of the country, the society and its environment, the economy, the government and its politics, and national security.

Demographic Yearbook (Ref HA 17 .D45)

Statistics are presented in a tabular format similar to the Statistical Yearbook. Topics covered include, but are not limited to, population, infant mortality, birth and death rates, and marriages and divorces. A special topic section covering economic characteristics is also included, as well as a subject index.

Statistical Abstract of the World (Ref HA 154 .S68)

This resource, which is organized alphabetically by country, presents statistics related to demographics, education, government and law, the labor force, finance, economics and trade. Maps and charts are included, as well as a keyword index.

Statistical Yearbook (Ref HA 12.5 .U63)

This resource from the United Nations, includes many different types of statistics related to population and social science, economic activity, and international economic relations. The information is organized by topic, or type of statistic, and is presented in tabular format. An index is included.

Cultural Information

Encyclopedia of World Cultures (Ref GN 307 .E53)

This multi-volume set, organized by region, presents information on such topics as history and cultural relations, settlements, economy, kinship, marriage and family, sociopolitical organizations, and religion and expressive culture for each separate culture in that particular region.

Encyclopedia of Social and Cultural Anthropology (Ref GN 307 .E525 1997)

Organized alphabetically by topic, this one-volume encyclopedia provides a guide to the ideas, arguments and history of the discipline of social and cultural anthropology. Also included are a biographical appendix, glossary, and name, people, place and subject indexes.

Holidays, Festivals, and Celebration of the World (Ref GT 3925 .T46 1994)

This resource contains up-to-date information about more than 1,400 holidays, festivals, celebrations, commemorations, holy days, feasts and fasts, and other observances from all parts of the world. Each entry gives the date of the event along with a brief description of its origin.

Holiday Symbols and Customs (3rd ed.) (Ref GT 3930 .T43 2003)

A guide to the legend and lore behind traditions, rituals, foods, games, animals, and other symbols and activities associated with holidays and holy days, feasts and fasts, and other celebrations, covering calendar, ethnic, religious, historic, folkloric, national, promotional, sporting, and ancient events, as observed around the world. Entries are in alphabetical order; refer to index for all entries on a particular topic.

Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life (4 Vols.) (Ref GN 333 .W67 1998)

Provides information on approximately 500 cultures of the world, covering twenty different areas of daily life including clothing, food, language, and religion. Each volume contains a volume-specific country index and glossary, and an index covering the whole set.

Region Specific Information

Statistical Abstract of Latin America (Ref HA 935 .S8)

This resource is a one-volume source for statistics and data series on Latin America and globalization. It focuses on the 20 countries of Latin America and includes statistics on world totals and non-Latin American countries where appropriate. All data is in tabular format and there are several maps of the region at the front of the book. The index in the back of the book references table numbers.

South America, Central America and the Caribbean (Ref F 1406.5 .S68)

This resource is organized into three parts. Part One consists of a series of essays dealing with the historical background of the region. Part Two consists of country surveys for all countries of the region. Each country survey contains information on the history and economy of the country, as well as statistical data, directories and a bibliography. Part Three consists of regional information, such as regional organizations, research institutes, and the major commodities of the region.

The Middle East and North Africa (Ref DS 49 .M5)

See the description above for *South America, Central America and the Caribbean*.

The Far East and Australasia (Ref DS 1 .F3)

See the description above for *South America, Central America and the Caribbean*.

Statistical Abstract of the United States (Ref HA 202)(Also Available Electronically through Portal) - The most current print edition is at the Reference Desk. This important resource, organized in tabular format, contains many different types of statistics related to the United States. The index at the back of the book references table numbers.

Government Information

Encyclopedia of Democracy (Ref JC 423 E53 1995)

The resource, arranged in standard encyclopedia format, includes articles on many different topics related to democracy. An extensive index is included in each volume.

Political Handbook of the World (Ref JF 37 .P6)

This resource contains country profiles, arranged alphabetically, featuring the country's political background, constitution, government structure and foreign relations. An in-depth look at the country's political parties, with a brief synopsis of each, is included, as well as information on the legislature and cabinet. Information on the country's ambassadors to the U.S. and UN are included at the end of each entry.

Statesman's Yearbook (Ref JA 51 .S7)

Entries for each country of the world are included. Each profile features key historical events, territory and population data, information about the country's constitution and government as well as economic data, defense and energy and natural resources. A chronology of world political events from the past year is included at the beginning of each volume.

U.S. State Department Background Notes (blue file cabinets in Reference area)

Search by Title (Background Notes) in Bell Library's catalog - Portal to see entire list of countries available.

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

Updated as needed, the Background Notes provide an in-depth look at a particular country's political and social organization. Information on foreign trade and United States relations with that country are included, as well as historical highlights, government officials and embassy locations.

World Development Indicators (Ref HC59.15 .W656 2004)

The World Bank's premier annual compilation of data about development. Organized in six thematic sections: World View, People, Environment, Economy, States and Markets, and Global Links. The tables cover 152 economies and 14 country groups—with basic indicators for a further 55 economies.

Worldmark Encyclopedia of National Economies (4 Vols.) (Ref HC 15 .W675 2002)

Presents analytical and statistical economic information for 200 countries and dependencies around the world, including gross domestic product, key manufacturing and service industries, top exports and imports, infrastructure, and government influence on the economy. Includes maps to aid in understanding of geographic issues that affect economic conditions.

For More Information

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