Model UN Workshop
Tools and resources for accessing UN documents and information

United Nations
Dag Hammarskjöld Library
Reference Team
29 August 2013
How to Find UN Documents and Information

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UN Documentation Research Guide

  - Excellent starting point to learn about UN documents;
  - Information on principal organs and the types of documents they produce;
  - Access to list of resolutions and actions taken by the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;
  - Overview of basic research tools;
  - Individual sections on the General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC;
  - Guide for special topics such as International Law, Human Rights, Environment, etc.
  - A-Z and topical list of UN Resources.
Finding UN Documents

- **Online databases**
  - Official Document System (ODS)
    - From 1993, all resolutions, older documents are being added retrospectively
  - UNBISnet
    - From 1979, with links to full-text when available in ODS
  - UN-I-QUE
    - Comprehensive coverage - UN documents of a recurrent nature
UNBISnet

  - The catalogue of the UN Library in New York;
  - Coverage from 1979 to today;
  - Contains information about UN documents, sales publications and non-UN titles held by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library;
  - Links to full text of documents and other resources when available;
  - Contains separate databases for speeches and voting information.
UNBISnet Bibliographical Records

- Search UN Documents
  - By title
  - By subject
  - By author
  - By type of material
- Search the library’s holdings of non-UN material
UNBISnet - Index to Speeches

- Search by:
  - Country/organization name (including President of GA)
  - Speaker’s name
  - Meeting record number
  - Topic (keyword)
  - Date of speech
- Links to the full-text of the meeting record when available.
UNBISnet - Voting Records

- Provides the recorded vote for all resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and Security Council (1946-present).
- Search by
  - Resolution symbol
  - Keyword
  - Date
Official Document System (ODS)

- Full text searchable database of UN documents;
- Provides online access to masthead documents and official records;
- Coverage begins in 1993;
- Coverage from 1946 on:
  - Resolutions;
  - Security Council plenary documents;
  - Supplements to the General Assembly Official Records;
- Older documents are continuously added.
Official Document System (ODS)

- Classic interface:
  - Allows for searching by
    - Agenda item
    - Title
    - Session

- Google interface:
  - Limit results by
    - Language
    - Issuing body
    - Year
UN Terminology database (UNTERM)

  - Multilingual terminology database which provides United Nations nomenclature, technical or specialized terms and common phrases in all six official UN languages.
  
  - Use the UNTERM to search for:
    - Translation of terms and phrases into all six official UN languages;
    - Finding the meaning of UN abbreviations and acronyms;
    - Finding country information such as name, currency, capital, language in six languages, image of a country’s flag, date of entry into the UN, ISO country codes.
UN-I-QUE

  - Ready-reference tool
  - Types of documents include:
    - Annual/sessional reports of committees/commissions;
    - Annual publications;
    - Reports periodically/irregularly issued;
    - Reports of major conferences;
    - Statements in the General Debate.
  - Use UN-I-QUE to find:
    - Reports of the Main Committees on each of the Agenda items;
    - Sessional reports of subsidiary bodies reporting to the General Assembly;
    - Various recurrent reports of the Secretary-General.
UN Member States on the Record

  - Provides direct access to official documents reflecting the views of each UN Member State;
  - Consolidates information otherwise scattered in multiple databases.

Includes:

- Key documents related to membership in the UN for each Member State;
- Statements made before the principal organs;
- Draft resolutions sponsored;
- Periodic reports submitted on Human Rights conventions.
UN Journal

  - Provides information on meetings being held on the day, including forthcoming ones;
  - Provides summary of meetings held the day before;
  - Provides daily list of documents issued;
  - Issues dating back to 2003 available from UN Journal website.
Press releases

  - Provides detailed information on the sessions: speech, text of resolutions, voting results;
  - Very useful until the meeting records are published;
  - Press releases are not official documents;
  - Available online from October 1995 to the present.
United Nations Yearbook

http://unyearbook.un.org/

- United Nations activities during the year;
- Online coverage going back to 1946/1947;
- Reproductions and citations of key documents;
- Principal reference work of the United Nations.
Information about Member States

- A Member States position on a subject or topic can be obtained through...
  - Draft resolution(s) sponsored
    - use UNBISnet to search for these
  - Speech made on the topic
    - Search the Speech Index in UNBISnet or the meeting record
  - How it voted in a resolution
    - Use the Voting record database or the meeting record
Tutorials and FAQs

- Video tutorials and basic explanation on how to find UN Documents available at:

- Ask DAG – The library’s FAQ database
  - A database of frequently asked questions and their answers
  - Submit a question and have it answered by a librarian
UN Mobile apps

- Plenty of great applications developed for and/or by the UN
- Learn, explore, share and get involved!
Dag Hammarskjöld Library

- **Website**

- **Research Guides and Resources**

- **Ask DAG**

- **Twitter**
  - [@UNLibrary](http://un-library.tumblr.com/)

- **Tumblr**