

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON FOREIGN COUNTRIES

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Guides to Official Publishing:

Guide to Official Publications of Foreign Countries (edited by Gloria Westfall). Bethesda MD: CIS, 1990. A valuable resource for any larger library wishing to develop its foreign documents collection. Key sources in 17 categories of documents comprising a core collection for 157 countries are identified and briefly described. Information on availability is given for each entry, general acquisition notes are given for each country, and a brief overview of acquisition information is given in the introduction.

Bleaney, C. H. Official Publications on the Middle East: a Selective Guide to the Statistical Sources. Durham, England: Middle East Libraries Committee. 1985. (Avail-

able from Ithaca Press, 13 Southwark St. London SE1, England).

A small guide covering the Middle East and North Africa, it provides information on the types of statistical data available for each country, listing also census and development plans through 1985.

Cherns, J.J. An International Survey and Review of the Role, Organization and Principles of Official Publishing. Oxford; New York: Pergamon Press, 1979.

Because of its age, this guide should be used with caution. It is still useful, however, because it provides a survey of government publishing for 20 countries, some of which still have no more recent guide to their documents.

Dow, Susan L. "A Selective Direc-

tory of Government Document Dealers, Jobbers, and Subscription Agents", The Serials Librarian, v.14, no. 1-2, 1988. p.157-186.

Profiles document dealers including those dealing with foreign documents. Includes address and telephone numbers, availability of catalogs, scope of documents supplied and formats, service charges or minimum orders required, and service time. Information up to date as of June 1986.

Johansson, Eve, ed. Official Publications of Western Europe. London: Mansell, 1988. 2 vols.

For 18 western European countries the authors discuss principal documents, publication and distribution, bibliographic control, and library collections and availability.

Porges, Laurence. Sources d'Information sur l'Afrique Noire Francophone et Madagascar. Paris: Ministere de la Cooperation, 1988. (Available through Documentation Francaise, 124 rue Henri Barbusse, 93308 Aubervilliers, France). French.

This guide to publications in French speaking Africa discusses

libraries and research institutes in the region, official gazettes and other government publications, and presents general and specialized bibliographies covering the countries included. The second half of the book is devoted to annotated bibliographies of sources related to 18 African countries.

Walker, George, ed. Official Publications of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, 1945-1980: A Select Annotated Bibliography. London: Mansell, 1982.

This bibliography emphasizes works of the 1970's and covers 9 countries. Each country chapter typically covers bibliographies and reference works, constitutional documents, law and legislative documents, party documents, statistics, international relations, economic, social, and cultural affairs.

Westfall, Gloria. Bibliography of Official Statistical Yearbooks and Bulletins. Alexandria, VA: Chadwyck Healey, 1986.

Provides content analysis of publications of the national statistical offices of approximately 180

nations. Notes on availability have been included also.

Foreign Government Publications:

Australia. Australian Statistics Bureau. Yearbook Australia.

Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics. Annual. (Available on standing order from either ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616 Australia, or Australian Government Publishing Service GPO Box 84, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia. Also available through Faxon and Bennett-EBSCO subscription services.)

This source includes a statistical review of the economy and social conditions in Australia but its roughly thirty chapters also describe many aspects of Australian life such as history, government, international relations, geography, demography, culture, and the territories of Australia. Also includes maps, charts, and diagrams.

Canada. Statistics Canada. Canada Yearbook. Ottawa: Statistics Canada. Biennial. (Available through standing order from Statistics Canada, Publications Sales and Services, Room 1710, Main Building, Ottawa,

Ontario K1A 0T6, Canada. Also available through Faxon.)

Includes both statistical and descriptive information on demography, natural resources, science, industry, government, the economy and many other aspects of Canadian life. Appendices include the constitution, a government directory, and a list of recent legislation. Statistics Canada Catalog, available from the address above (or through Faxon) lists other publications of this agency. (Note: IU has had problems receiving items on its standing order with Statistics Canada in the past year.)

France. Direction de la Documentation. A propos: Actualites de la Documentation Francaise.

Paris: Documentation Francaise. Monthly. (Available free from : La Documentation Francaise, 124 rue Henri Barbusse, 93308 Aubervilliers, France).

French.

A monthly sales catalog from Documentation Francaise, the largest publisher and distributor of French government publications. (Other publishers are Imprimerie Nationale, Institut de la Statistique

et des Etudes Economiques, and Direction des Journaux Officiels.) A yearly catalog is also published.

France. Direction de la Documentation. Cahiers Francais. (French Notebooks) Paris: La Documentation Francaise. 5 issues per year. (Available through Faxon). French.

Each issue contains articles covering a topic of current interest.

Recent issues have dealt with the education system, employment, and global strategy and defense.

France. Direction de la Documentation. Regards sur l'Actualite. (Views of Current Events) Paris: La Documentation Francaise. Monthly. (Available through La Documentation Francaise). French.

A good source of information on current events in France. Recent issues have dealt with the budget, integrating immigrants into society, biomedical research, oil prices and their effects on the economy. Each issue also includes a chronology of the month's key events.

Germany. German Information Center. The Week in Germany. New York: German Information Center. Weekly. (Available at no charge

from: German Information Center, 950 Third Avenue. New York, NY 10022). English.

Each issue consists of 4-8 pages summarizing the week's events that involve Germany. Emphasis is on politics and economics, but other events may be covered as well. A particularly useful way to keep up with the changing situation in Germany, as well as to learn the German viewpoint on current world events.

Germany. InterNations.

Sonderdienst and Sozial Report. Bonn: InterNations. 10-12 issues per year. (Available at no charge from: InterNations,

These are just two of the series available from InterNations which provide brief articles on different aspects of life in Germany. Sonderdienst (Special Report) covers a variety of topics. Recent issues have focused on political parties in the German parliament, a chronology of German unity, and environmental conservation. Recent issues of Sozial Report (Social Report) covered topics such as consumer rights in Germany, housing policy, and the 35 hour work week for

German workers.

Great Britain. British Information Services. Survey of Current Affairs. London: HMSO. Monthly. (Available from UNIPUB or through standing order with Faxon).

Produced by the Central Office of Information primarily for overseas readers, each issue covers current events discussed in Parliament, as well as economic, environmental, cultural, and external affairs. Information on related documentation is included making it also a selection tool and a limited current index to parliamentary papers and debates.

Great Britain. Central Office of Information. Britain: an Official Yearbook London: HMSO. Annual. (Available from UNIPUB).

A good reference source for an overview of many aspects of life in Great Britain with chapters on government, overseas relations, law, education, environment, energy, the arts, and much more. Includes maps, photographs, some statistics, and a brief outline of British information sources.

Great Britain. Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Commonwealth

Yearbook. London: HMSO. Annual. (Available from UNIPUB).

Includes brief chapters on each of the Commonwealth nations covering their economies, history, and constitutional development. Tables provide selected statistics on Commonwealth nations.

Great Britain. Stationery Office. HMSO Annual Catalog and HMSO Monthly Catalog. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office. (Available from UNIPUB)!

These catalogs serve as identification and selection tools for HMSO publications as well as a limited index to parliamentary papers. Each issue covers parliamentary publications and documents produced by British agencies and international organizations. An alphabetical index is included in both the monthly and annual index.

Japan. Japan Information Center. Japan Report. New York: Consulate General of Japan. Monthly. (Free from: Japan Information Center, Consulate General of Japan, 299 Park Avenue, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10171).

Monthly issues averaging 8 pages summarize government actions

and reports and discuss economic news and social trends.

Japan. Japan Institute of International Affairs. White Papers of Japan: Annual Abstract of Official Reports and Statistics of the Japanese Government. Tokyo: Japan Institute of International Affairs. Annual. (Available from The Institute, 19th Mori Building, 2-20 Toranomom 1-Chome, Minato-ku Tokyo. Also available through Faxon).

White papers are official reports of Japanese executive branch agencies which describe government policy, social, economic, or political conditions. Examples of regularly issued reports are: White Paper on International Trade or Informatization White Paper. This guide provides a list of reports published, English translations of selected reports, selected statistics and policy speeches.

Japan. Prime Minister's Office. Organization of the Government of Japan. Tokyo: Institute of Administrative Management. Irregular. (Available from Institute of Administrative Management, P.O. Box 1106 Sun-Shine 60, Higashi-

Kebukuro 3-1- 1, Toshimaku, Tokyo, 170 Japan or from OCS America, Inc. Order Dept. Rm 1186, National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045, 202-347-4233.)

Contains organization charts and descriptions of the Cabinet, Prime Minister's Office, and ministries. Also includes councils, public corporations, the constitution, and other laws related to government. Those more specifically interested in trade and business should consult the MITI Handbook which is an in-depth guide to the organization and activities of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (updated irregularly, 9th ed. 1988, available from Overseas Public Affairs Office, MITI, 3-1, Kasu Migaseki 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100, Japan or from OCS America, Inc.).

For other Japanese titles available from OCS America, Inc. write or call for their catalog: Japanese Publications in English: List of Publications-Governmental and Similar.

Mexico. Banco Nacional de Mexico. Review of the Economic Situation of Mexico. Mexico, D.F.: Banco Nacional de Mexico. Monthly.

(Available at no charge from: Banco Nacional de Mexico, Socorro Correa, Avenida Madero 21, 2nd floor, Mexico, D.F. 06000). English.

A monthly overview of the Mexican economy with graphs and charts. Articles analyze topics such as inflation, the public sector debt, foreign trade and international agreements.

Saudi Arabia. U.S. Embassy. Saudi Arabia. (There are two embassy publications by this title: a quarterly and a monthly. Both are free from: Information Office, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, 601 New Hampshire Ave, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037).

Both publications are glossy with lots of color photographs. The monthly newsletter is slighter, consisting of around 8 pages of short articles on current events and news briefs. The quarterly issues average around 25 pages with slightly more substantial articles. Both publications contain a page of advice for travellers in each issue.

South Africa. Communications Service. South Africa: Official Yearbook. Pretoria: Bureau for Information. Annual. (Available

from The Bureau, Private Bag X475, 001 Pretoria, South Africa).

This comprehensive yearbook covers history, economy, literature, government, agriculture, sports, and more. Includes color photos and maps, statistics, and bibliographies of books and official publications.

South Africa. Department of Environment Affairs. Conserva. Pretoria: Department of Environmental Affairs. Bimonthly. (Available at no charge from: The Department. Private Bag X447, Pretoria 0001, South Africa). English and Afrikaans.

Articles may appear in English or Afrikaans in issues averaging around 25 pages with lots of color photographs and illustrations. Although the focus is on environmental issues in Africa, there are interesting articles on topics such as endangered species, fish of Antarctica, and global sea level rise.

Spain. Diplomatic Information Office. Espana. Madrid: Diplomatic Information Office. Monthly. (Available free from: DIO, Plaza de la Provincia 1, 28012 Madrid, Spain). English.

A current affairs newsletter for Spain, each issue is approximately 16 pages long with color photos and illustrations. Topics covered are foreign affairs, home news, regional autonomy, society, culture, the media, and sports.

Sweden. Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Enviro: Magazine of Transboundary Pollution. Solna, Sweden. Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. 2 issues per year. (Free from: Enviro, SNV, S-17185 Solna, Sweden). English.

Designed to inform overseas readers of actions in Sweden to deal with air and sea pollution and the acidification of the environment, each issue includes color photos, charts, and maps. While the focus is on the Baltic region, articles provide an interesting perspective on another country's actions on issues such as the phase out of CFC's, the banning of harmful chemicals, and emission limits for vehicles.

Sweden. Swedish Institute. Sweden in Brief. 4th ed. Stockholm: Swedish Institute, 1989. (Free from Swedish Institute, Box 7434, S-10391, Stockholm, Sweden or Swedish Information Service, 825

Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022).

A brief illustrated handbook on life in Sweden including people, government, economy, education, cultural policy, and history. Many other publications are also available free from the Swedish Information Service. A useful series is Fact Sheets on Sweden which consists of 2-4 page reports on a wide variety of topics, each updated every few years.

U.S. Government Sources on Foreign Governments:

U.S. Bureau of the Census. World Population. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office. Annual. (Available through GPO).

This report summarizes demographic data for countries and territories with a population of at least 5000. Broad categories of coverage in the 1989 edition were world population trends, components of population change, contraceptive prevalence, and urbanization.

U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. World Factbook. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office. Annual. (Available through GPO).

Entries cover 1-2 pages and

include a small map and data on geography, people, government, economy, communications, and defense forces.

U.S. Department of Commerce.

Overseas Business Reports.

Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office. Issued and updated irregularly. (Available through GPO. Price per report varies).

Short reports for each country cover economic outlook, trade regulations, industry trends, transportation, credit, sales channels, and more.

U.S. Department of State. Background Notes. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office. Issued and updated irregularly. (Available through GPO).

4-10 page reports on 170 countries covering land, people, history, government, political conditions, economics, and foreign relations. Small maps are included.

U.S. Library of Congress. Accessions Lists. (Free from Field Director-LOC, PSC Box 123, APO, New York, NY 09148-0006).

There are currently five lists being produced: Brazil and Uruguay.

East Africa (covering 22 countries), Middle East (most Arab countries and Iran), South Asia (India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, and Afghanistan) and Southeast Asia (Brunei, Burma, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Laos.) Each includes entries for monographs and serials from non-official and government sources which have been acquired by Library of Congress field offices.

U.S. Library of Congress. Federal Research Division. Area Handbook Series. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office. Individual titles on over 100 countries, each updated irregularly. (Available through GPO, prices vary.).

Each book is prepared by a multidisciplinary team with information derived from a wide variety of sources. Each title describes and analyzes political, economic, social, and national security systems of the country and includes a bibliography for each chapter.

Commercially Produced Sources on Foreign Governments:

Africa South of the Sahara. London: Europa Publications Limited. Annual.

The entry for each country provides a directory and statistical summary like those found in the Europa World Yearbook. In addition, each entry also includes brief signed articles covering geography, recent history, and economics, as well as a bibliography. Articles covering problems and issues affecting the region as a whole are also included.

An Almanack for the Year of Our Lord... (Also known as Whitaker's Almanack) London: Whitaker. Annual.

A general reference book dealing primarily with Great Britain although a portion of the book provides very brief information on foreign and Commonwealth nations. It serves as a general almanac as well as a directory for British government, churches, social organizations, and education.

Catalog of British Official Publications not Published by HMSO. Cambridge: Chadwick Healey. Bimonthly with annual accumulation. (Available from Chadwick

Healey, 1101 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314).

Includes non-HMSO materials from over 400 agencies, nationalized industries, research institutes and other public bodies. Most documents listed are available on microfiche from Chadwick-Healey. Addresses are given for issuing bodies to request free copies or purchase directly, with prices given if items are not free.

Doing Business in... New York: Price Waterhouse World Firm Limited. Individual reports updated irregularly. (Available at no charge from: Price Waterhouse World Firm Limited, 33rd floor, 1285 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019).

A series on business conditions in approximately 75 countries where Price Waterhouse offices are located. Reports contain information on topics such as tax and labor laws, banking and finance, and investment incentives.

Europa World Year Book. London: Europa Publications Limited. Annual.

A valuable source of information on foreign countries as well as

intergovernmental organizations. Entries for each country include a current statistical summary, a directory of ministries, embassies, publishers, banks, churches, political organizations, etc. as well as a discussion of the country's constitution, history, economy, and more.

Mitchell, B.R. European Historical Statistics, 1750-1975 2nd rev. ed. New York: Facts on File, 1980 (2nd revised edition).

The sources for this publication have been official publications of European governments. Categories of information covered are climate, population and vital statistics, labor, agriculture, industry, trade, transportation and communication, finance, prices, education and national accounts.

The Statesman's Yearbook: Statistical and Historical Annual of the States of the World. New York: St. Martin's Press. Annual.

Entries of a few pages per country briefly cover topics such as history, area and population, climate, government, defence, economy, energy, and industry. For each country a list for further reading is included:

Statistical Abstract of Latin America. Los Angeles: UCLA Latin American Center Publications. Annual.

The goal of this publication is to provide the latest figures available for 20 countries of Latin America culled from more than 200 sources covering geography, transportation, population, housing, education, labor, industry, agriculture, trade and national accounts. Although the currency and coverage of some charts is limited, this is a valuable source since information can be very difficult to obtain directly from many Latin American countries.

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