

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

I. SCOPE

This overview focuses on Library of Congress holdings in international relations, a multidisciplinary field concerned with relations between nation states, the organization and function of government agencies concerned with foreign policy, and the activities and issues surrounding multinational corporations. International relations material is found in the Library's general book and periodical collections, as well as in its special collections of legal publications, manuscripts, microforms, and subscription electronic databases located in various custodial divisions of the Library.

II. SIZE

As of October, 2007 there were over 56,000 titles in the JX classification and 5,859 titles in JZ classification in the library's catalog, which do not include relevant books in international law items, history, or foreign area studies (which may be classed K, D, E, or F). (See Political Science CPS for additional information on JX and JZ classification)

III. GENERAL RESEARCH STRENGTHS

The Library of Congress has a very strong collection of material dealing with international relations that is both wide-ranging and rich in historical content. The book collections are complemented by printed archives and documents, and by collections of personal papers of diplomats and secretaries of state, as well as historical serials such as the *Foreign Relations of the United States* series and *British Documents on Foreign Affairs—Reports and Papers from the Foreign Office Confidential Print*.

IV. AREAS OF DISTINCTION

The Library's collections are comprehensive for international relations. The Manuscript Division's varied holdings provide a remarkably complete and nearly unparalleled record of this country's most significant foreign policy initiatives. Notable holdings in the subject include the papers of more than half of the individuals who served as secretary of state from the first secretary Thomas Jefferson, who assumed office in 1789, to Alexander Haig, who resigned in 1982. More than two hundred other manuscript collections held by the Library consist of the papers of diplomats or contain significant material relating to America diplomacy. The papers of W. Averell Harriman comprise one of the richest collections of primary source material on modern American foreign policy, especially the development of the cold war.

The Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division houses the official sound recordings of the meetings of the United Nations General Assembly and its major committees and commissions. Produced by the U.N. Sound Recording Unit largely between 1946 and 1963, these sixteen-inch acetate discs contain full, unedited transcription of U.N. proceedings in the original languages of the speakers and include special addresses by foreign dignitaries and rare voice recordings of contemporary African and Asian leaders.

The Library's Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room houses United Nations depository materials, both current and retrospective. The official records are produced by major bodies of the United Nations that hold meetings, such as the General Assembly, Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council. They are final, official versions of selected documents, primarily meeting records, important annual reports, resolutions and decisions. Many U.N. documents are available in microform.

The Library's Microform Reading Room has numerous related collections including *League of Nations documents and publications, 1919-1946*. This collection of over 25,000 published and unpublished documents reflects all the activities and areas of the League of Nations. Included are documents, serial publications (e.g. the League's *Official Journal*), and miscellaneous materials, among them the *Minutes of the League's Director Meetings* and the Reports of the Mandatory Powers.

V. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The Library's International Relations collection is increasingly made up of important electronic resources. Some assets are digitized materials from the library's numerous collections and various formats. Others are online resources available from partner institutions and libraries. The Library also collects and preserves electronic information, including Web sites, of historical importance to the Congress and the American people.

American Memory is a compilation of some of the Library of Congress's unparalleled collections of historical documents, moving images, sound recordings, and print and photographic media. *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation* contains the records of Congress from the Continental Congress and Constitutional Conventions through the 43rd Congress. These records include *Treaties between the United States and Foreign Nations* and *The Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States*.

Frontline Diplomacy: The Foreign Affairs Oral History Collection of the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training provides a unique view of the life and times of American diplomats. This online resource is a compilation of interview transcripts from U. S. diplomatic personnel. These personal statements reveal their experiences and motivations, as well as other crucial elements to understanding how the U.S. built international relations.

In 2000, the Library established a pilot project to collect and preserve these born digital archives of primary source materials. The Library of Congress Web Archives (LCWA) is

composed of collections of archived web sites selected by subject specialists to represent web-based information on designated topics. These Web archives include but are not limited to topics related to International Relations such as the Crisis in Darfur, Sudan, Web Archive, 2006.

The library provides access to a variety of electronic resources in International Relations including online subscription databases, CD-ROMs, and online service. Some of these online subscription databases include: *Columbia International Affairs Online*, *AccessUN*, *JSTOR*, *PAIS*, *HeinOnline*, and *World Affairs Online*.

VI. WEAKNESSES/EXCLUSIONS

The Library of Congress's collections in the area of international relations are very extensive and benefit from its exchange programs and overseas offices. However, because the discipline spans so many classes, it is sometimes difficult to access material housed in the different custodial collections; i.e., Specific Reading Rooms, the Law Library, etc. Although the JX classification has been revised into JZ (international affairs) and KZ (international law), there remain legacy materials in the JX classification.