USER GUIDE FOR DOING RESEARCH ON THE EU

This is a step-by-step guide to finding specific types of information on the EU, either online or in any other format available. The resources are numerically organized by their breadth of content and their ease of use. If these steps do not produce results, please contact the Reference Desk of the Government Information Service, McLennan Library Building, 2nd floor, for more help.

Legislation

Case Law

1. Consult the Nahum Gelber Law Library Reference Desk

Judgments and opinions of the European Court of Justice and the Court of First Instances

1. Consult the Nahum Gelber Law Library Reference Desk
Policies, current, by topic

1. EUROPA Activities website (http://europa.eu.int/index_en.htm) – Organized in 32 subject areas, good starting point for a topic overview.
2. SCADPlus (http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/scad_en.htm) – Fact sheets summarizing EU legislation and policies on specific topics.
4. Directorates-General website (http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs_en.htm) – Key sites on current policies, external relations and services.
5. A to Z index of EU websites (http://www.eurunion.org/infores/euindex.htm) – Exhaustive list of websites compiled by the Delegation of the European Commission to the United States. There are links to policy areas from the left-hand menu.

Policies, past or historical

   • 1967-Present:
     ▪ GovInfo: ZZ EMA G26 (print)
     ▪ Nahum Gelber Law Library: DOCS E2 (print)
legislation in progress and eliminating the need to research back from issue to issue in order to reconstruct a documentary record. Each piece of passed legislation is summarized.


3. Search MUSE using keywords such as Europe and policy and your topic of interest (i.e. education, health, welfare, etc.).

4. White papers (http://europa.eu.int/comm/off/white/index_en.htm) – Proposals in specific policy areas. Used for discussion and political decision.

Legislation, current only (updated/consolidated laws)

   - Nahum Gelber Law Library KJE 920.5 D57 (print)
   - GovInfo ZZ EM O36 (print)

Legislation, past or present

Without any citation, but with topic

   - 1984-1985: GovInfo ZZ EM O36 (print)
• 1986-1999: GovInfo ZZ EM O36 (microfiche)
• 1991-Present: Nahum Gelber Law Library KJE 920.5 D57 (print)
• 2001-Present: GovInfo ZZ EM O36 (print)

2. Alphabetical Index to the Official Journal – The index is difficult to use. It uses the EUROVOC thesaurus (English: GovInfo ZZ EM O29, French: GovInfo ZZ EM J56)
   • 1965-1981: GovInfo ZZ EM J56 (print) – French
   • 1973-1985: GovInfo ZZ EM O28 (print) – English
   • 1977-1999: GovInfo ZZ EM O28 (microfiche) – English and French


5. CELEX (http://europa.eu.int/celex/htm/celex_en.htm) – Also available from Justis, Lexis, WestlaweCarswell. Similar to but more complete and with more advanced search facilities than EUR-Lex. Login name: enlu0000  Password: Europe – NO LONGER UPDATED

With a reference to a document in the Official Journal (OJ)


2. The OJ in print or microfiche
   • 1952-1972: GovInfo ZZ EM O30 (print)
   • 1973-1976:
     ▪ series C: GovInfo ZZ EM O23 (print) STORAGE
     ▪ series L: GovInfo ZZ EM O24 (print) STORAGE
   • 1977-1999:
     ▪ series C: GovInfo ZZ EM O23 (microfiche)
     ▪ series L: GovInfo ZZ EM O24 (microfiche)
With a directive number

1. CELEX (http://europa.eu.int/celex/htm/celex_en.htm) – Also available from Justis, Lexis, WestlaweCarswell. Similar to but more complete and with more advanced search facilities than EUR-Lex. Login name: enlu0000   Password: Europe – NO LONGER UPDATED
2. EUR-Lex Search by Natural Number (http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/RECH_naturel.do) – Portal to EU law
3. Methodological Index of the Official Journal – Cross-references directive, regulation and decision number to the Official Journal. There are two different section: “Acts whose publication is obligatory” and “Acts whose publication is not obligatory”
   - 1965-1981: GovInfo ZZ EM J56 (print) – French
   - 1973-1985: GovInfo ZZ EM O28 (print) – English

Legislation, unpassed or not yet in force

2. Prelex (http://europa.eu.int/prelex/apcnet.cfm?CL=en) – Use the standard or advanced search. Progress of proposed legislation. Timeline with links to relevant documents. Traces the path of all Commission proposals (legislative and budgetary dossiers, conclusions of international agreements, since 1975, full text since 1999) and communications from their transmission to the Council or the European Parliament right through to their adoption, rejection or withdrawal.
4. EUR-Lex Search in Preparatory Acts (http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/RECH_actes_preparatoires.do) – Portal to European Communities law. Very complete database but difficult to search if there is no reference to a specific document. Make sure the box “Restrict your search to acts in force” is unchecked.

5. Bulletin of the European Union (http://europa.eu.int/abc/doc/off/bull/en/welcome.htm) – Full text online since 1996. Official monthly record of events and policy actions for all the institutions. Each entry opens with a section headed “References” giving the full history of legislation in progress and eliminating the need to research back from issue to issue in order to reconstruct a documentary record.

Legislation implemented at the National level

1. Consult the Nahum Gelber Law Library Reference Desk

Treaties, founding or accession


Treaties between the EU and non-EU countries

1. EUR-Lex International Agreements (http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/en/accords/accords.htm) – Portal of the European Communities law
2. Official Journal – If a reference to the Official Journal is available

• CELEX (http://europa.eu.int/celex/htm/celex_en.htm) – Login name: enlu0000
  Password: Europe – NO LONGER UPDATED

• The Official Journal in print or microfiche
  • 1952-1972: GovInfo ZZ EM O30 (print)
  • 1973-1976:
    • series C: GovInfo ZZ EM O23 (print)  STORAGE
    • series L: GovInfo ZZ EM O24 (print)  STORAGE
  • 1977-1999:
    • series C: GovInfo ZZ EM O23 (microfiche)
    • series L: GovInfo ZZ EM O24 (microfiche)


5. Consult with the Nahum Gelber Law Library or Government Information

Full text

Looking for a Commission (COM) document

Include proposals for legislation, broad policy documents and reports on the implementation of policy

1. EUR-Lex (http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/COMIndex.do?ihmlang=en) – Spotty. Since 1999. For older COM documents, only the bibliographic information might be available.

2. Archives of the European Integration (http://aei.pitt.edu/) – University of Pittsburgh. Spotty. 1962-2001. Search by EU document number for a list of all COM documents available online. This is a very spotty list but it contains COM documents not available in any online database.

   - GovInfo ZZ EMA C51 (English)
   - GovInfo ZZ EMA C52 (French)

5. Official Journal of the European Union – You will need the title of the document to search in the Index.
   - The OJ in print or microfiche
     - 1952-1972: GovInfo ZZ EM O30 (print)
     - 1973-1976:
       - series C: GovInfo ZZ EM O23 (print) STORAGE
       - series L: GovInfo ZZ EM O24 (print) STORAGE
     - 1977-1999:
       - series C: GovInfo ZZ EM O23 (microfiche)
       - series L: GovInfo ZZ EM O24 (microfiche)

6. Few earlier COM documents were published.

**Publication (e.g. book, journal, magazine, etc)**

1. Search for it in MUSE
2. Web site of the agency of institution who published it, especially if it was published since 1998. See if they have a ‘publications’ section.
3. Contact the Government Information Service. If needed, you might have to request the publications through McGill University Libraries Interlibrary Loan.
Statistics

Statistics, recent (last few years)

1. Search in the EUROSTAT website (http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/) – This is the statistical office of the European Union. The site contains comparable data for European countries, most of it available within publications in PDF format, free of charge. Also, check the Data Explorer, available from the EUROSTAT homepage.

2. Directorate-General websites (http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs_en.htm) – The Directorates-General (DG) websites contain a wealth of information either in databases or in the publications section. The organization of the DG websites varies from one DG to the next.

3. Economic Survey of Europe – Since 1948. Published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. It includes an in-depth analysis of the EU economic conditions, along with explanatory tables and charts. It covers macroeconomic policies, output and demand, costs and prices, labour markets, foreign trade and payments.

   • GovInfo Journal

4. Statistical agencies of individual countries – European countries still publish their own data, which is usually more in detail than what is available from Eurostat, but not necessarily comparable. Many countries publish a statistical yearbook. Most of these are found through MUSE by “Browse an Index: Subject (LC) subject begins with” and entering the name of the country, followed by “- statistics - periodicals”. The websites of national statistical agencies generally distribute the latest statistics free of charge.

Time series

1. Search for online publications or data in Eurostat (http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/) – This is the statistical office of the European Union. The site contains comparable data for European countries, most of it available through the Data Browser or within publications in PDF format, free of charge.
2. Search MUSE for Eurostat publications

3. Non-European databases:
   - World Development Indicators, or WDI
     (http://www.library.mcgill.ca/edrs/launch/wdi.html) – (1960-Present) Data includes social, economic, financial, natural resources, and environmental indicators for over 200 countries.
   - International Financial Statistics, or IFS
   - United Nations Statistical Database, or UNSTAT
     (http://www.library.mcgill.ca/govdocs/cdinfo/UNSTATS.html) – Covers economic, social, financial and development topics. Complement with the print version (1948-Present): GovInfo Ref HA12.5 U63

5. International Historical Statistics: Europe 1750-2000 – This unique resource provides: population and vital statistics, labour force, agriculture, industry, external trade, transport and communications, finance, prices, education and national accounts going back as early as possible.
   - GovInfo Ref HA1107 M5 2003
   - Humanities & Social Sciences Ref HA1107 M5 2003

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7. Statistical Yearbook of the League of Nations, from the Northwestern University Library:
   (http://www.library.northwestern.edu/govpub/collections/league/stat.html) – It includes population and labour force, production and consumption, national accounts, prices, trade, and so on.
   - 1926-1942/44: GovInfo ZZ LN S79