International Government Information: The Basics & A Bit Beyond

Jim Church International Documents Librarian University of California, Berkeley April 17, 2012

International Governmental Organization (IGO) Definition

Defined in the Yearbook of International Organizations¹

"Based on a formal instrument or agreement between the governments of nations states"

"Includes three or more nation states as parties to the agreement"

"Has a permanent secretariat performing ongoing tasks"

1. Yearbook of International Organizations, 1992–93, 29th edition, Vol.1, 1649

Broad IGO Framework

International Governmental Organizations may be global, regional, or theme based.

- Global United Nations System of Organizations
- Regional European Union, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Organization of American States (OAS)
- Economic, Financial and Trade Organizations World Trade Organization, Regional Development Banks, OECD
- Cultural, Historic and Linguistic Organizations Commonwealth of Nations, La Francophonie

United Nations: Brief History

"United Nations" first used in the Declaration by United Nations in January 1942 when representatives of 26 nations pledged to continue fighting against the Axis powers.

The first international organizations were established for specific purposes, e.g. International Telecommunication Union was founded as the International Telegraph Union. In 1899, the International Peace Conference held at the Hague developed instruments for settling crises peacefully, preventing international conflict, and codifying the rules of war.

The forerunner of the United Nations was the League of Nations, established in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles.

In 1945, country representatives met in San Francisco to draw up the UN Charter. The United Nations Charter and Statute of the International Court of Justice was signed in June 1945 by representatives of the 50 countries. The United Nations officially came into existence on October 24,1945.

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED

To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

To regain faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

To establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

To promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

To practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and

To unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

To ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

To employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.

United Nations Focus Areas

- International Peace & Security
- Development
- Human Rights
- Humanitarian Affairs
- International Law

United Nations Principal Organs

- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Economic Social Council
- Secretariat
- International Court of Justice
- Trusteeship

See <u>Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs</u> for a detailed summary and analytical overview of the duties of major United Nations Organs.

General Assembly



The main UN deliberative body. Consists of all members of the United Nations. May discuss any matter within scope of the United Nations Charter.

Opening session begins in September followed by a "general debate" which lasts about two weeks.

Plenary and committee meetings scheduled until the end of December. May call emergency special sessions in times of crisis.

Considers reports from other United Nations bodies.

Elects ten non-permanent members of the Security Council and with the Security Council, members of the International Court of Justice.

Most General Assembly resolutions require a simple majority vote when a vote is taken. Resolutions are non-binding. See GA Rules of Procedure for more info.

General Assembly Main Committees

- First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee). Disarmament and international security
- Second Committee (Economic and Financial Committee). Economic questions
- Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee).
 Social and humanitarian issues
- Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee).
 Political subjects not dealt with by the First Committee and decolonization
- Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary Committee).
 Administration and budget of the United Nations
- Sixth Committee (Legal Committee). International legal matters

General Assembly Agenda

- The UN doesn't do a good job explaining its parliamentary procedures. There is no chart "How a General Assembly Resolution is passed" or a database for legislative histories.
- The General Assembly agenda is primarily determined by Secretary General & the <u>General</u> <u>Committee</u>, which is comprised of the President of the General Assembly, the vice presidents, and the chairs of the Main Committees.
- A preliminary list of agenda items is prepared by the Secretary General and given the number "50" (e.g. A/67/50). An annotated version is later given the number "100" (e.g. A/66/100) which provides a history of each item.
- A memorandum of the Secretary-General is also submitted to the General Committee which provides background information on the session and proposes allocation of agenda items to the Plenary & Main Committees. It is given the number "1" of the General Committee (A/BUR/67/1).
- The final agenda is adopted by the plenary and assigned the number "251" (e.g. A/67/251). The final allocation of agenda items to the Plenary and Main committees is assigned the number "252" (A/67/252).
- For a more detailed explanation see the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Research Guide to General Assembly Parliamentary Documents

Other General Assembly Bodies

- Human Rights Council
- International Law Commission
- UN Commission on International Trade Law
- Other Subsidiary & Ad Hoc Bodies

Security Council

Primary responsibility is maintenance of international peace and security, pacific settlements of disputes, and actions with respect to breaches & threats to the peace.

Five permanent members and ten nonpermanent members elected by the General Assembly.

The only UN body empowered to authorize the use force or take punitive action against countries or individuals



Subsidiary bodies include Sanctions Committees, the Counterterrorism Committee, and the International Criminal Tribunals for Yugoslavia and Rwanda. See <u>Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council</u> for more information.

United Nations Peace-Keeping Operations



The Security council authorizes the creation of Peacekeeping Forces administered by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

Currently there are there are more than 120,000 military, police and civilian personnel serving on sixteen UN peacekeeping operations on four continents, including missions in Cyprus, Kosovo, East Timor, Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan, Liberia, and the DR Congo.

Historically 66 peacekeeping operations have been deployed by the United Nations, 53 of them since 1988. There are also currently eleven sanctions committees authorizing sanctions against countries or groups of individuals.

Detailed information and history about UN Peacekeeping Operations can be found on the DPKO web site.

Economic & Social Council

Fifty-four members from countries distributed from continents around the world.

Charged with promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic progress and development.

Addressing economic, social, and health-related problems, and promoting universal respect for and observance of fundamental freedoms.

Fostering international cultural and educational cooperation.

ECOSOC: Regional Commissions



Five Regional Commissions around the world that report to ECOSOC.

Mandated to promote the economic development of their regions and strengthen economic relationships between countries in that region.

Among the most important UN publishers & producers of statistical information.

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

ECOSOC Functional Commissions

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Commission on Population and Development

Commission for Social Development

Commission on the Status of Women

Commission on Sustainable Development

Statistical Commission

Secretariat



Secretary General of the United Nations

- The UN Charter describe the Secretary General as the "Chief Administrative Officer" of the United Nations. Appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a renewable five year term.
- The Secretary General may also "bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security."
- Uses his "good office" as an advocate for world peace, economic development, disarmament, and humanitarian intervention.
- Authors <u>Annual Report of the Secretary General on the Work of the Organization</u>.

Offices of the Secretariat

Carries out the diverse day-to-day work of the Organization, servicing the other Principal Organs of the United Nations. Departments and offices include:

Office of Legal Affairs

Department of Political Affairs

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Department of Peacekeeping Operations

Office of Disarmament Affairs

Department of Public Information

UN Offices in Geneva, Nairobi, & Vienna

Documents vs. Publications

Definition of IGO Documents and Publications

Documents are official records of meetings of IGOs and other material issued in the exercise of their functions, while publications are destined to inform the public about the particular organization and its activities. Documents are usually intended primarily or exclusively as working tools for internal use... publications are intended for wider distribution in the first place."²

Most IGOs have extensive publications programs

Much IGO documentation is available on the Internet

Most IGOs limit the release of some internal documentation. Some are more restrictive than others

2. International Information: Documents, Publications and Electronic Information of International Government Organizations, 2d ed. Peter Hajnal, editor. Libraries Unlimited, 1993, 25.

UN Sales Publications

0 Geneva Publications
I General Information and Reference

II.A Business, Economics, Science and Technology

II.B Economic Development

II.C World Economy

II.D Trade, Finance and Commerce

II.E Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

II.F Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) I

II.G Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

II.H Public Administration

II.K Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

II.L Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) I

III.A United Nations University (UNU)

III.B United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) III.C International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)

III.D United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
III.E United Nations Industrial Development
Organization (UNIDO)

III.H United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
III.M United Nations Office for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
III.N United Nations Inter-regional Crime and Justice
Research Institute (UNICRI)

III.P International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

III.Q United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

III.S International Organization for Migration (IOM)

III.T International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO)

III.U Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

III.W International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)

III.Y United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

IV Social Ouestions

V International Law

VII Security Council and Peacekeeping Operations

VIII Transport and Communications

IX Disarmament and Atomic Energy

X International Administration

XI Narcotic Drugs (including United Nations Office on Drug and Crime – UNODC)

XIII Demography

XIV Human Rights (including Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – OHCHR)

XVI Public Finance and Fiscal Questions

XVII International Statistics

XX United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Official Records

Official Records are the final records of the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, and the Trusteeship Council, sometimes referred to as GAOR, SCOR, ESCOR and TCOR. They always contain the words "Official Record" on the title page.

Include speeches, resolutions and decisions, and main committee reports. Resolutions are important documents. Decisions are much less so and are often about appointments & budgets. Resolutions & decisions are published as supplements to the Official Records.

Official Records also include reports of major committees. UNIQUE is the best source for current and historical listings.

Parliamentary or masthead documents are "everything else." Some are of marginal interest; others are important information sources.

UN Document Symbols

Leading Elements for United Nations Principal Organs

A /-	General Assembly
E/-	Economic and Social Council
S/-	Security Council
T/-	Trusteeship Council
ST/-	Secretariat

Additional Leading Elements for Other UN bodies:

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DP/- United Nations Development Programme

FCCC/- Framework Convention on Climate Change

ICEF/- United Nations Children's Fund

TD/- UN Conference on Trade & Development

UNEP/- United Nations Environment Programme
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Elements Denoting Subsidiary Organs

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    -/AC.../- Ad hoc committee
    -/C.../- Standing main sessional committee
    -/CN.../- Commission
    -/SC.../- Subcommittee
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UN Documents Symbols Continued

Elements Denoting the Nature of the Document

```
    -/INF/ Information Series
    -/PV Verbatim Records of Meetings
    -/RES/ Text of adopted resolutions
    -/SR/ Summary records of meetings
    -/WP/ Working Papers
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Unique ID Number

```
A/50/485
E/CN.4/Sub.2/SR.5
S/1995/RES/25
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Sample UN Documents Symbols:

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A/49/100
A/49/100/Add.1
A/55/PV.41
E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/1
S/1996/1
S/RES/1376
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Does UN Documentation Still Matter?

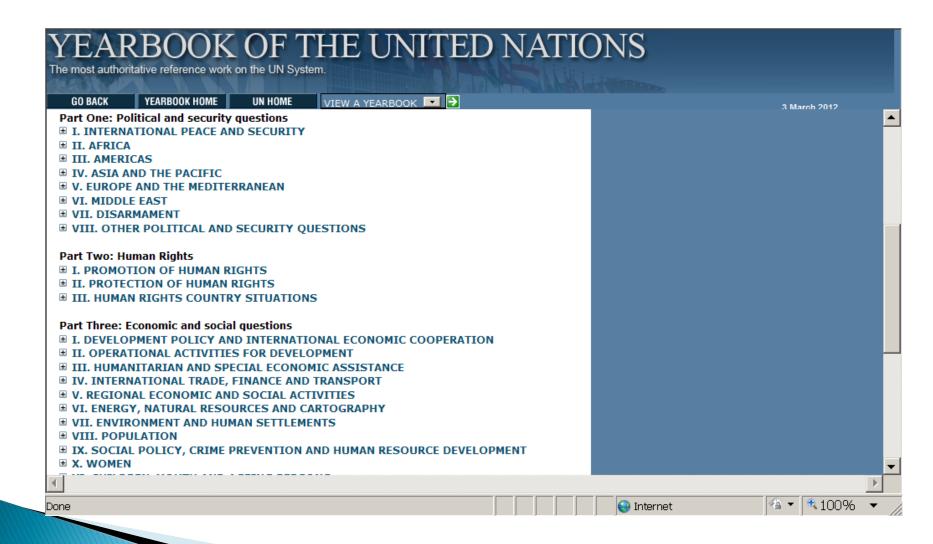
- Used more in the days of filing & locating paper documents and microfiche.
- Still helpful in understanding the nature of a document when it is retrieved or cited.
- Judicious use of documents symbols can be helpful in online searching.

Key Strategies for UN Reference

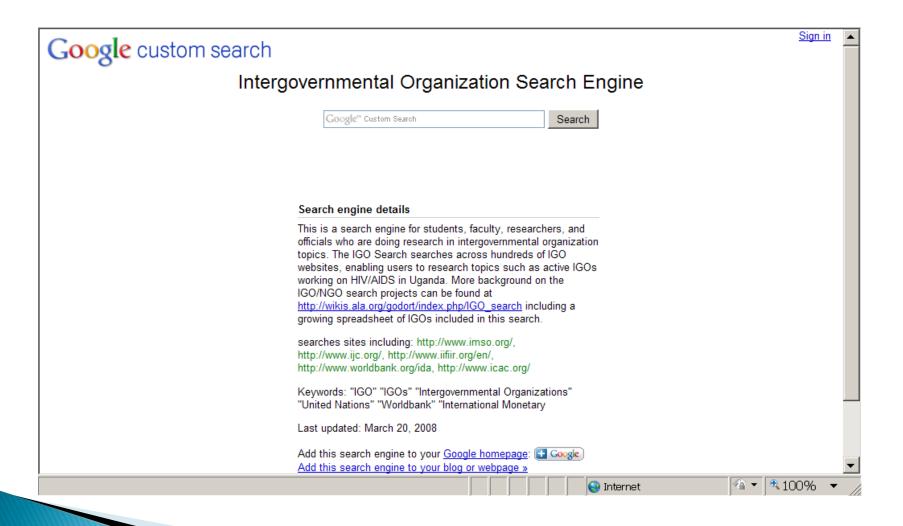
The UN 'reference problem' is there is *too much* documentation. Start with a reference work for most topics. Use the reference work to locate key documents by UN symbol.

- Encyclopedia of the United Nations and International Organizations (Print and via Routledge Politics & International Relations Online)
- The Yearbook of the United Nations
- A Global Agenda: Issues Before the United Nations (UN-USA Press)
- United Nations Handbook (New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- The UN at Glance
- United Nations Global Issues
- Consult the <u>United Nations Documentation Research Guide</u>

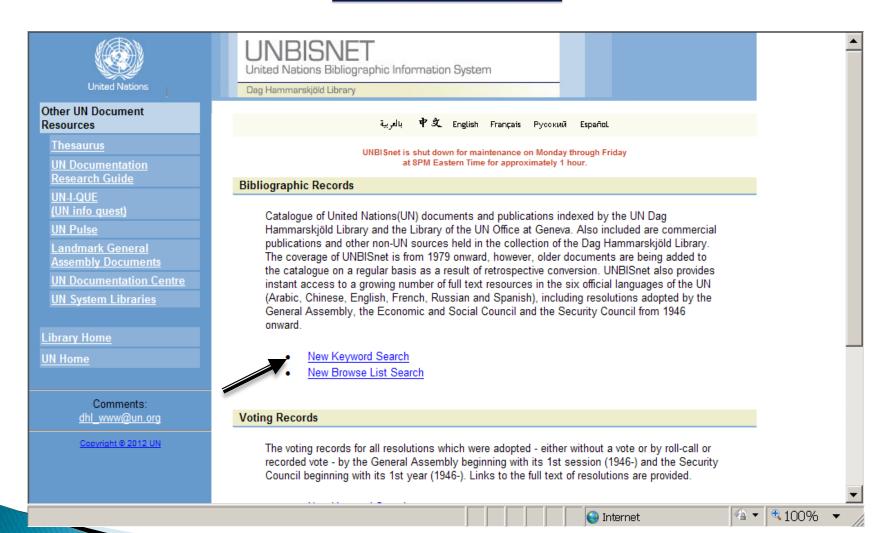
Yearbook of the United Nations Online



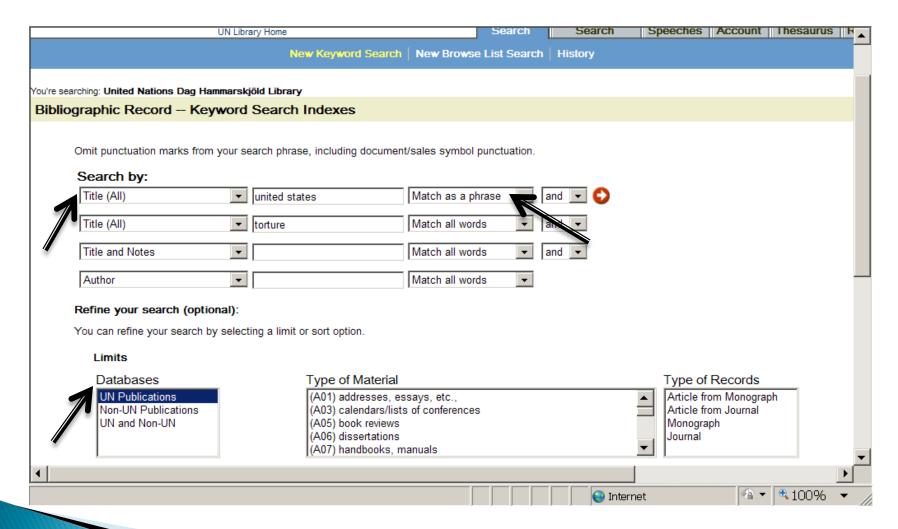
IGO Search Engine



UNBISnet



UNBISnet Search Tips



AccessUN

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AccessUN (1945-2011) The Re	adex United Nations Index	provides access to current and retro	spective United Nations document and publications	
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AND ▼ E/CN.4/Sub.2*	in Document Number 🔻	News & Current		
	in All Fields	Affairs		
AND T	III All Tields	UN Wire		
Limit Search by Document Type:		Global news summary		
✓ Masthead ✓ Official Record	☐ Periodical	covering the United		
	- Periodical	Nations, global affairs, and key international		
☐ Sales Publication ☐ Miscellaneous		issues.		
_	_	Global Security Newswire		
Limit Search to Full-Text Documents? C Yes	Limit Search to Full-Text Documents? ○ Yes ○ No			
		Daily news on nuclear, biological and chemical		
Limit Search by Date: From: month day 1962 Search		weapons, terrorism and		
		related issues.		
To: month 🔻 day 🔻 1965 🔻		UN News Centre The United Nations' own		
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Search results are returned if reverse chronologi	and and an	daily novo blicking.		
Search results are returned wheverse chronologic	cai order.	Other Resources		
		United Nations		
		Cyberschoolbus		
		Offers educational		
		materials to a global		
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UN-I-QUE and ODS

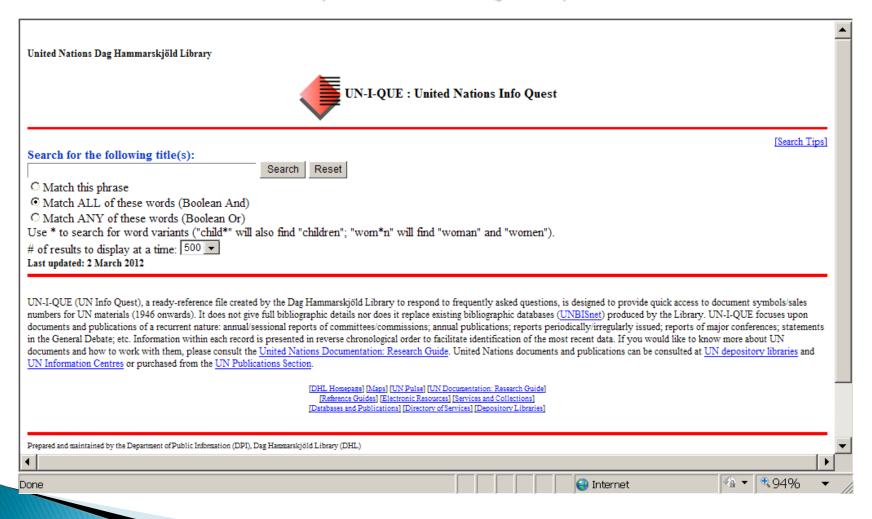
UN-I-QUE focuses upon documents of a <u>recurrent nature</u>, e.g. resolutions and decisions, periodic reports, statements by heads of state in the General Debate, annual reports of commissions and committees etc. Document citations are presented in reverse chronological order.

Try this at home: type in "general debate Russia" and review the list of results.

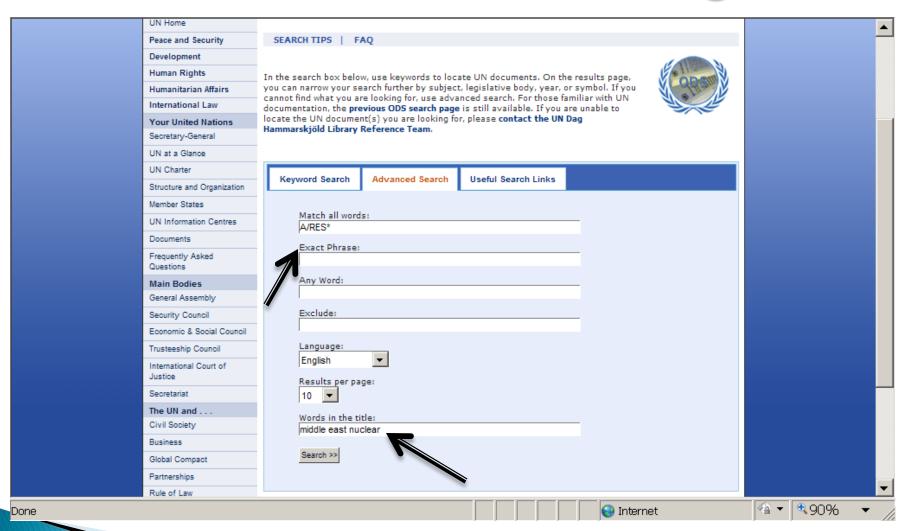
"ODS Enhanced" (Global Search) is new and promising. Allows for searching with faceted browsing and limiting by language, UN agency, and year, up to 2000. At present this is the closest thing to United Nations Search Engine.

The older version of ODS may still be used and offers additional options for searching by field.

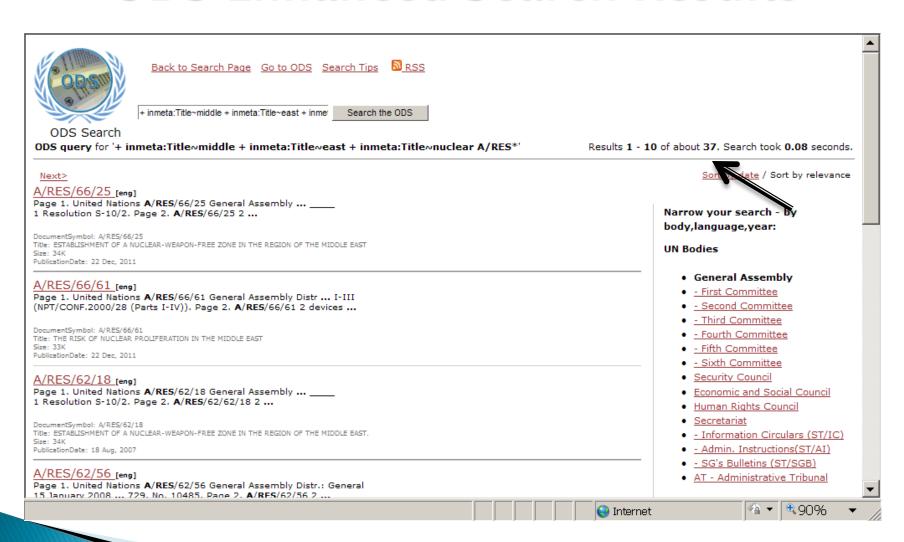
<u>United Nations Info-Quest</u> (UN-I-QUE)



ODS Enhanced Searching



ODS Enhanced Search Results



United Nations Voting

Most General Assembly resolutions are adopted without a vote. If a vote is taken, it can be documented as recorded (results by country) or as a summary (total number of yeas, nays, and abstentions).

<u>UNBISnet</u> has a section on voting for both the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions since 1946. Search by UN Document symbol.

The General Assembly & Security Council publish voting tables in the <u>Index to Proceedings to the General Assembly & Index to Proceedings of the Security Council</u>.

Preliminary voting is conducted in GA Committees and are included in the Official Records. Since 1999 General Assembly voting information is included in the Annual Resolutions and Decisions of the General Assembly. Security Council voting information is available in the same Annual Cumulation since 1946.

For more information see the United Nations Research Guides on voting for the General Assembly and Security Council.

UN Voting Data



United Nations Speeches

Speeches made during United Nations meetings are denoted either as verbatim records (identified by "PV" in the document symbol) or summary Records (identified by "SR" in the document symbol).

UNBISNet has a separate section for speeches in the General Assembly and Security Council since 1983 with links to the full text.

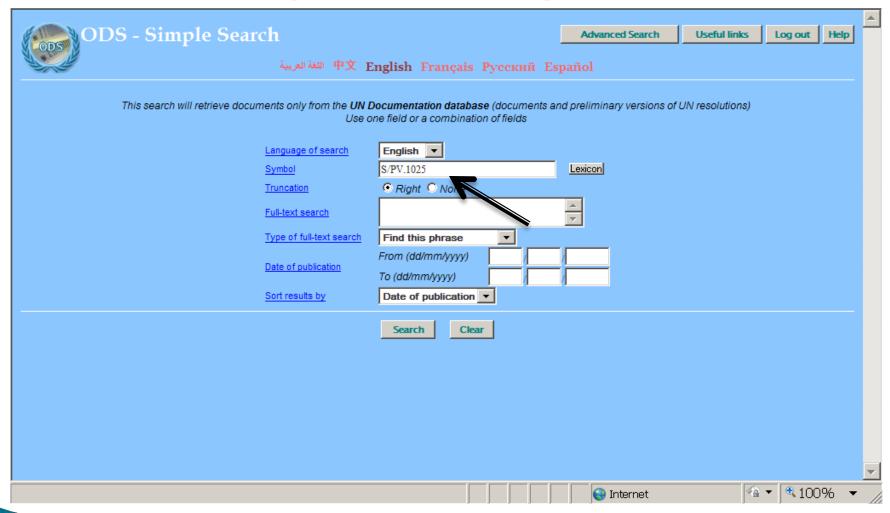
Speeches are also indexed in the print <u>Index to Proceedings of the General Assembly</u> and <u>Index to Proceedings of the Security Council</u> (since 1964). Citations to historic speeches may be found in the AccessUN database (select "Official Record" in the document type).

Full-text of earlier speeches may sometimes be found on the ODS system. It is easier if you have the document symbol.

AccessUN Historic Speech Search

AccessUN (1945-2011) The Readex United Nations Index p	provides access to current and retrospective United Nations documents and publications Help Home Logout
UN Documents	Related Links
Search for: cuba* in Subjects AND ▼ security council in Title AND ▼ in Document Number ▼	News & Current Affairs UN Wire
Limit Search by Document Type: ☐ Masthead	Global news summary covering the United Nations, global affairs, and key international issues.
Limit Search to Full-Text Documents? ○ Yes	Global Security Newswire Daily news on nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, terrorism and
From: SEP v day v 1962 v Search To: NOV v day v 1962 v	related issues. UN News Centre The United Nations' own daily news briefing.
Search results are returned in reverse chronological order.	Other Resources United Nations
e	Cyberschoolbus Offers educational Internet Office Nations Cyberschoolbus Offers educational

Followed by an ODS Symbol Search



United Nations & Human Rights

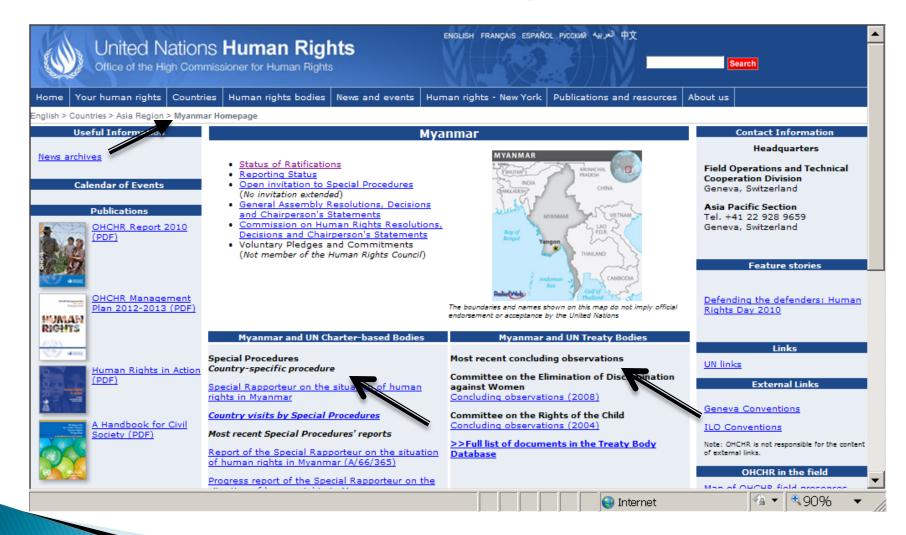
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Main office for information on UN human rights activities. Includes a "country" section with status on human rights treaties, visits by Special Procedures (Special Rapporteurs) and concluding observations by UN treaty bodies.

<u>United Nations Treaty Body Database</u>. Database of all documents from UN treaty based monitoring committees. Includes state "periodic" reports and UN committee concluding observations, as well as NGO documents.

<u>Universal Human Rights Index of United Nations Documents</u>. Designed to facilitate access to documents from human rights treaty bodies. Search by country and human rights body.

<u>Universal Periodic Review Database</u>. "Universal periodic review" mechanism intended to review the human rights record of every UN country (regardless of whether they are signatory to a treaty or not) once every four years.

UNHCR Country Section



United Nations and Disarmament

"The General Assembly may consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and regulation of armaments ..."

- Article 11, UN Charter

The *Disarmament and International Security Committee* (First Committee) is concerned with disarmament and related international security questions. The General Assembly has passed resolutions on Biological and Chemical Weapons, Counter Terrorism, Military Spending, Small Arms and Light Weapons, and other areas.

The <u>UN Office for Disarmament Affairs</u> is the department within the Secretariat responsible for promoting disarmament and reducing WMD and conventional weapons.

The United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) is a deliberative body of the UN General Assembly mandated to consider and make recommendations on disarmament.

The UN Office in Geneva holds an Annual Conference on Disarmament. UNIDIR, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research is an autonomous research institute.

International Atomic Energy Agency

The IAEA seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to inhibit the use of atomic power for nuclear weapons. Although the IAEA was established as an autonomous agency it reports to the General Assembly and Security Council.

The IAEA is an enormous <u>publisher</u> in the areas of nuclear legal matters, life sciences, the environment, food safety, plasma physics, nuclear fusion, nuclear power, food and agriculture and many other areas. Current books, studies and information circulars are free online.

The IAEA indexes world-wide literature on the peaceful uses of nuclear Energy via the <u>International Nuclear Information System (INIS) Database</u>.

United Nations & International Law

- <u>General Assembly Sixth Committee (Legal)</u>. Forum for legal questions in the General Assembly. International treaties may originate from this committee. May refer complex questions to the ILC (see below).
- International Law Commission. UN body of experts working to codify international law. Members drawn from academia, government ministries, and IGOs. Major achievements have been codification of the laws of treaties, law of the sea, and draft statute of the International Criminal Court.
- <u>United Nations Office of Legal Affairs</u>. Office of the Secretariat, administered by Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs. Provides legal advice to the Secretariat and other organs of the UN on administration of international law.
- Division for Oceans and Law of the Sea. Overseas rights and responsibilities of nations in their use of the world's oceans, the environment, and management of marine natural resources.
- International Court of Justice. The World Court (see upcoming slide).
- The <u>Electronic Information System for International Law (EISIL</u>) is an excellent web portal.

United Nations Treaties

The <u>United Nations Treaty Collection</u> is the comprehensive database of all United Nations Treaties and international agreements. Its major sections include:

Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General

Information on the status of multilateral instruments deposited with the United Nations Secretary General, in the areas of Human Rights, Disarmament, Commodities, Refugees, the Environment, etc.

United Nations Treaty Series

Treaties and international agreements registered/filed and published by the Secretariat since 1946.

League of Nations Treaty Series

Full-text database of selected League of Nations Treaties. The entire LNTS contains 205 volumes with a total of 4834 treaties.

International Court of Justice



Primary judicial organ of the United Nations, based in the Peace Palace in The Hague.

Mandated to settle legal disputes between states and to provide opinions on legal questions submitted to it by international organizations and the UN General Assembly.

Composed of fifteen judges elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council from a list nominated by the Permanent Court of Arbitration. In most cases the ICJ only has jurisdiction only via consent by state parties submitting cases. The Security Council can also enforce (or veto) decisions.

Key documents include <u>Judgments</u>, <u>Advisory Opinions and Orders</u>, as well as <u>Advisory Proceedings</u>.

International Criminal Court

- The International Criminal Court is the only permanent court designed to prosecute individuals for war crimes, crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity. The ICC Statute is commonly referred to as the "Rome Statute." 120 states are parties to the Court (the United States, China and India are not).
- The court is independent from the United Nations although the Security Council may refer cases to it where it does not have jurisdiction. The Security Council may also request the court to defer from investigating a case. To date the court has investigated cases for seven countries in Africa.
- The court allow victims to present testimony. It also grants powers for individuals to make claims for reparations.

Tennyson and Truman

For a good account of the founding and history of the United Nation see Paul Kennedy's The *Parliament of Man*, which opens with this.

For I dip't into the future, far as human eye could see, Saw the Vision of the world, and all the wonder that would be; Saw the heavens fill with commerce, argosies of magic sails, Pilots of the purple twilight dropping down with costly bales; Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and there rain'd a ghastly dew From the nations' airy navies grappling in the central blue; Far along the world-wide whisper of the south-wind rushing warm, With the standards of the peoples plunging thro' the thunder-storm; Till the war-drum throbb'd no longer, and the battle-flags were furl'd In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world. There the common sense of most shall hold a fretful realm in awe, And the kindly earth shall slumber, lapt in universal law.

-- Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Locksley Hall, 1835

United Nations Statistics

International Statistics could be an entire course unto itself. In brief the <u>UN Statistics Division</u> (UNSD) produces several databases in addition to their "classic" serial publications:

- <u>UNdata</u> Easy to use portal for United Nations and other IGO statistics, with selected indicators from the FAO, WHO, UNIDO, UNDP, ITU and even the OECD.
- Commodity Trade Statistics Database (COMTRADE) Annual commodity trade by country (for those "banana pulp" questions). The new database <u>UN</u> <u>Service Trade</u> does international trade in services.
- Monthly Bulletin of Statistics Online. Monthly statistics from countries around the world, 2000 to present (e.g. Albanian cement production).
- <u>National Accounts Main Aggregates Database</u>. The UN has the most detailed freely available national accounts (GDP components) data worldwide I know of.
- <u>Demographic Yearbook Historical Supplement</u>. Historical demographic data from 1947.

UN System of Organizations

In addition to the UN Main bodies, there are other categories of UN agencies whose relationships to the UN proper are generally set forth in the UN Charter or established via General Assembly or ECOSOC resolution. These include:

- Programs and Funds
- Research and Training Institutes
- Specialized Agencies
- "Related" Organizations

UN Programmes and Funds

UN Programs and Funds are considered subsidiary organs of the General Assembly. They are typically created via a General Assembly and sometimes an ECOSOC resolution.

UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ITC International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO)

UNDCP United Nations Drug Control Programme

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

WFP World Food Programme

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme

UN Research and Training Institutes

Agencies in the UN system devoted to research and/or training. Most operate with a great degree of autonomy. Publications may be free online or priced.

- <u>United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research</u>. (UNIDIR). Conducts research on disarmament and security challenges. Many publications are free online, others for sale via UN Publications.
- <u>United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute</u>
 (<u>UNICRI</u>). Mandated to conduct research on policies for crime prevention and criminal justice. Some publications freely available online.
- United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). Conduct research on the social dimensions of contemporary development. They often partner with commercial and university presses. Some papers are online.

UN Specialized Agencies

UN Specialized agencies are incorporated into the United Nations System by the Economic and Social Council under Articles 57 & 63 of the Charter. They are largely autonomous and created through their own legal instruments and mandated to address a specific function. Some predate the UN, others were created later.

ILO International Labour Organisation FAO Food and Agriculture Organisation UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation WHO World Health Organisation **World Bank Group ICSID International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes IMF International Monetary Fund** ICAO International Civil Aviation Organisation **IMO International Maritime Organisation** ITU International Telecommunication Union **UPU Universal Postal Union** WMO World Meteorological Organisation **WIPO World Intellectual Property Organisation** IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development **UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organisation UNWTO World Tourism Organisation**

Related and Other Agencies

"Other" United Nations Bodies:

International Narcotics Control Board Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) United Nations University (UNU) UN Women

"Related" Organizations:

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Preparatory Commission for the Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
World Trade Organization (WTO)
International Criminal Court

Origins of UN Specialized Agencies

Several UN specialized agencies have roots predating the United Nations and were incorporated into the UN family after World War II.

International Labour Organization. Established as an agency of the League of Nations following the Treaty of Versailles.

Food & Agriculture Organization of the UN. International conference in Rome, Italy, lead to the creation of an International Agricultural Institute.

World Health Organization. League of Nations Health Organization established following the First World War.

UNESCO. Several international agencies based in Paris, including the International Bureau of Education (IBE).

Universal Postal Union (UPU) - Created in 1874 as a result of the Treaty of Bern.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

The ILO is responsible for drawing up and overseeing international labor standards. They are a major publisher on working conditions and labor issues and an excellent source for labor statistics.

<u>LABORDOC</u>. Full text access to all aspects on the world of work, sustainable livelihoods, work-related aspects of economic and social development, human rights and technological change.

<u>LABORSTA</u>. ILO statistical database. Includes wages and hours of work, employment/unemployment, consumer price indices, public sector data, etc.

Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM). Collection of 20 key indicators of the labor market.

NORMLEX. Database of international and national labor standards.

Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO)

FAO is the premier international food and agriculture organization. It's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations, and contribute to the growth of the world economy.

Flagship publication is <u>The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)</u> as well as several other "State of the World's..."

<u>FAO Corporate Document Depository</u>. Full text of most FAO publications. The FAO print vs. free digital publication policy is not clear.

FAOSTAT is the FAO statistical database and contains data on food and agricultural production, trade, forestry, fisheries, food supplies (metric tonnes of cheese in Angola) and more. The Countrystat database contains data at the national and sub-national levels and looks promising.

The FAO overdoses on information production. At present they host <u>22 pages of information systems</u>.

UNESCO

UNESCO is the international government organization devoted to education, the sciences, culture, communication, and information. It's areas of focus include cultural diversity, gender equality, protection of cultural property, education for all, endangered languages, and other social developmental challenges.

UNESCO Publishing produces some of the finest academic publications in the UN system of organizations.

<u>UNESDOC</u> is UNESCO's full-text documents and publications database. Like the ILO, UNESCO's rationale for deciding which publications to make freely available in digital format is unclear.

UNESCO Statistics portal is the UNESCO Institute for Statistics Data Center.

The UNESCO web presence, like many other large IGOs, is very complex.

UNESCO Institutes & Centres

UNESCO has many offices, centers & programs, including:

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
International Bureau of Education (IBE)
European Centre for Higher Education (CEPES)
UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Leaning (UIL)
UNESCO World Heritage Center
Man and the Biosphere Programme
"Information for All" Programme
Numerous Country and Field Offices

World Health Organization

WHO is the leading health organization within the United Nations system and is responsible for leadership on global health matters.

Flagship publication is the <u>World Health Report</u>. Primary journal is the <u>Bulletin of the World Health Organization</u>.

World Health Statistics is the WHO Statistical Annual. The Global Health Observatory Data Repository is the WHO Statistics Portal and contains 50 data sets on global health.

WHO has regional offices in Africa, Latin America (PAHO) South-East Asia, Europe, Eastern Mediterranean and Western Pacifica.

As with the FAO and ILO the majority of WHO Publications are online but the policy on free digital content availability is unclear.

UN Technical & Standards Setting Agencies

The majority of publications from the following agencies are technical standards, codes and regulations most suitable for engineering and science libraries. Many are not free online. Some also sell statistical packages.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Codifies and adopts standards for international air navigation, air transport, flight inspection, prevention of unlawful interference, and border-crossing.

<u>World Meteorological Organization</u> (WMO). United Nations agency for meteorology, operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.

International Maritime Organization (IMO). Develops the international regulatory framework for shipping, maritime safety, technical cooperation, maritime security, environmental protection, etc.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Coordinates the global radio spectrum, promotes cooperation in satellite orbits, and helps advance developing country telecom infrastructure. Sells the useful statistical database World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators.

Other Specialized Agencies

<u>World Intellectual Property Organization</u> (WIPO). UN agency dedicated to intellectual property: patents, copyright, trademarks, etc. They are involved with international Intellectual property law and publish specialized & general interest publications (some free online). The <u>WIPO Gold</u> database Is their portal for patents, domain names, standards and statistics.

<u>United Nations Industrial Development Organization</u> (UNIDO). Mandated to promote industrial development in developing countries and transition economies and to improve living conditions in the world's poorest countries. Publications may be obtained from UN Sales. Their Industrial Statistics Databases are similar to global economic censuses (CD only).

<u>World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)</u>. New UN Specialized Agency dedicated to World Tourism in the areas of economic growth, development and environmental sustainability. They offer a "depository" library system which makes publications available at a discount as well as a priced elibrary.

United Nations & Humanitarian Affairs

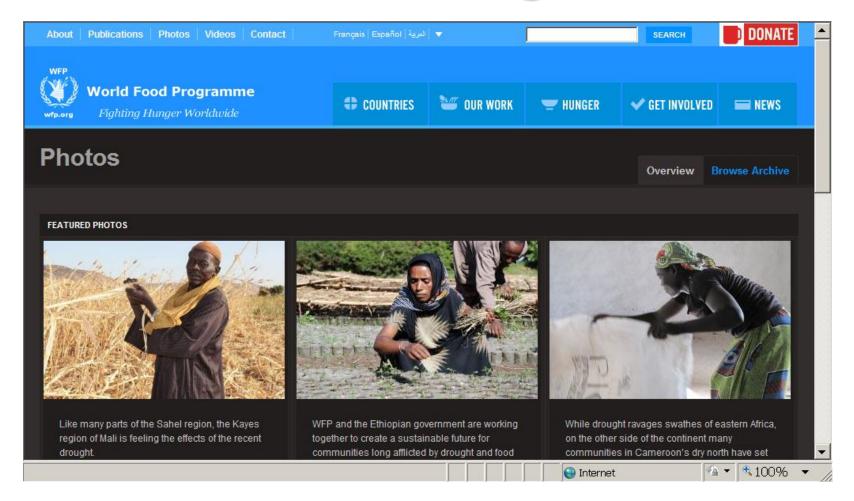
<u>United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)</u>. UN agency dedicated to advancing the right's of children. Focus areas are child survival, development, protection, gender equality, and children and HIV/AIDS. Flagship publication is the <u>State of the World's Children</u>.

<u>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</u>. The UN Refugee Agency. Flagship publications are the Global Report and the Global Appeal. <u>Refworld</u> is their information portal. They also publish a <u>Statistical Yearbook</u>.

<u>UN Women</u>. New organization formed in 2010 from several UN agencies (UNIFEM, INSTRAW and the Division for the Advancement of Women). Their flagship publication is the <u>Progress of the World's Women</u>.

<u>World Food Programme</u>. The UN food agency, and the world's largest humanitarian organization for food relief. O average they feed over 90 million people a year (mostly children). They have a <u>publications portal</u>.

World Food Programme



Celebrities and the UN...



International Economic Institutions (to be continued...)

IGOs and economic development and finance merits an entire webinar which hopefully will be offered later. In brief:

<u>World Bank Group</u>. IGO dedicated to combating world poverty. They produce documents and data galore. Working knowledge of their <u>World Development</u> Indicators data is an essential I-docs reference skill.

International Monetary Fund. World organization dedicated to monetary cooperation and financial stability. They produce some publications but the chief information asset is data: IFS, DOT, BOP and GFS ©. Think "finance."

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Mission is to promote policies to improve the economic and social conditions of people around the world. OECD iLibrary is the information portal. Good source for aid & health data.

<u>World Trade Organization</u>. International organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. They are primarily an international legal institution and do not disseminate much data.

United Nations and Development (also to be continued)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

<u>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</u>

<u>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</u>

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

<u>United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</u>

<u>United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)</u>

Europe & Other Regions

- Howard Carrier gave an excellent webinar in this series entitled "Government Resources of the European Union."
- The presentation covered government resources of the EU, the Council of Europe and the UK. These sources do require multiple sessions of their own. Hopefully Howard will host another session where he left off!
- A webinar on regional organizations in other parts of the world may be presented if there is enough interest. In brief, some of these include:

Regional Organizations

- May be based on political & economic cooperation, finance, development, trade promotion, or defense
- ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- African Union (AU)
- Organization of American States (OAS)
- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- Asian Development Bank
- League of Arab States

The Collection Development Conundrum

Collection development for IGO publications was challenging enough years ago when it was difficult or even impossible to find listings of publications or get a vendor to acquire those that could be found.

Now the issue is complicated by the fact that more and more publications are digital. Smaller vendors are being acquired by publishing behemoths who have little incentive to go after IGO Publications.

Publishing practices of IGOs are befuddling in the digital era.

Some offer expensive e-libraries (e.g. OECD, UNWTO, and IMF) Some host virtually everything freely online (most UN programs) For others it's difficult to know what they are doing (UN, FAO, ILO)

Collection Development Options

Do nothing and let patrons find IGO documents on Google. This is the option endorsed by many administrators.

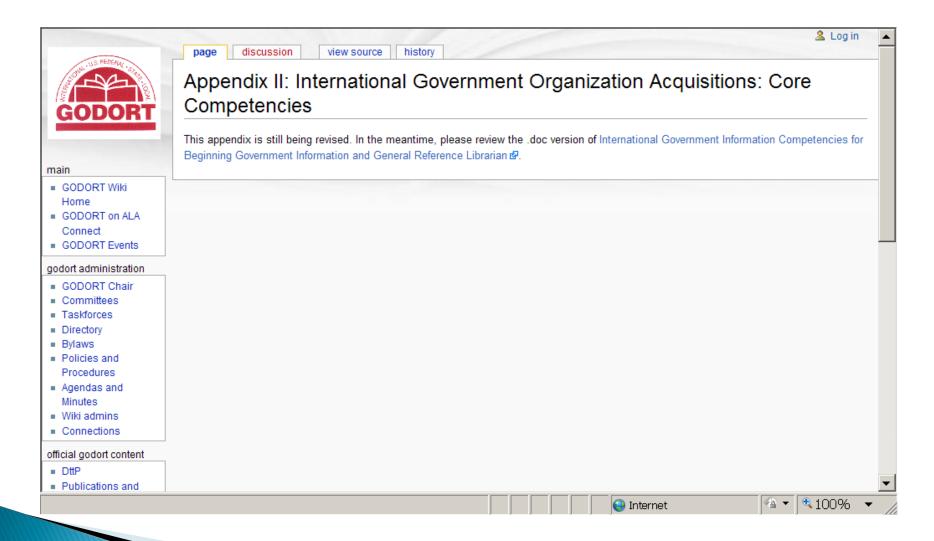
Take the time to selectively order non-digital IGO publications through careful bibliographic searching (high cost of labor).

Play it "safe" and assume governments cannot be trusted to preserve digital content ad infinitum. Acquire print publications (digital or not) based on local needs and estimations of value and future use.

For larger research institutions consider collecting print nationally (if you don't who will).

Explore digital preservation via Archive-It or the Web Archiving Service.

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The Progress of Nations

The day will come when nations will be judged not by their military or economic strength, nor by the splendour of their capital cities and public buildings, but by the well-being of their peoples: by their levels of health, nutrition and education; by their opportunities to earn a fair reward for their labours; by their ability to participate in the decisions that affect their lives; by the respect that is shown for their civil and political liberties; by the provision that is made for those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged; and by the protection that is afforded to the growing minds and bodies of their children. The **Progress of Nations**, published annually by the United Nations Children's Fund, is a contribution towards that day.

Acknowledgements

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UN General Assembly Hall

Barack Obama Chairs a United Nations Security Council Meeting

Nepalese soldiers outfitted in protective masks

UN Secretary General Visit 27 Oct 2010

Africa Hall: Home of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Application of the Interim Accord of 13 September 1995 (the former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia v. Greece)

Session Evaluation

http://tinyurl.com/grs-eval15

Please fill out our survey and let us know what you think!

Upcoming Accidental Librarian Webinars

- May 4: American Community Survey with Michele Hayslett
- Fugitive Documents
- ASERL's Center of Excellence
- Basics of legal research
- And much more!

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