

RESEARCH MATERIALS FOR SLAVISTS:
U.S. GOVERNMENT SOURCES

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SLAVIC BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER

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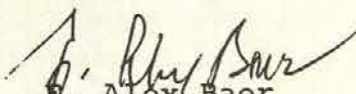
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PREFACE

If one were to state the main function and purpose of the Slavic Bibliographic and Documentation Center in one sentence, it might perhaps be something like this: to identify and help make available all research materials in the Slavic field to the library and scholarly community. This is a large order, but possible, at least in the case of published materials, which can be obtained through regular book trade channels. It is another matter entirely when one thinks of the vast amount of research which appears only in the form of conference papers, government-sponsored research reports, and the like. It is these "fugitive" materials which defy bibliographical control and which frequently do not even come to the attention of Slavic scholars.

At this point, it is difficult to say whether it will ever be possible to gain bibliographical control over even the most important part of this type of material. In any case, a necessary first step seems to be the identification of the sources of these "fugitive" materials. This report represents an attempt to do this, listing government agencies which are the major producers in this area.


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Slavic

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Introduction

Many publications of the United States government do not reach the standard book trade, nor are they included in the standard indexes and bibliographies; they are often produced only with government use in mind, and their general distribution is not a primary concern of the issuing agency--and they are sometimes produced only in mimeographed form. In recent years, however, the government has made significant efforts to bring these materials to the notice of interested persons outside government. This guide is an attempt to describe those offices which produce general lists of U.S. Government publications in the social sciences (with special reference to the Slavic area), and those producing special materials pertaining to the Slavic field, with some of the publications themselves. It will be seen that the publications cover a broad field of subjects, and vary considerably in type and depth of treatment.

The following surveys, the first in particular, are useful for discovering which government agencies are doing research in foreign areas in the social sciences, some of the publications they are producing, other cultural and educational activities they are engaged in, and the library resources they offer. It should be noted that all these guides are somewhat in need of updating.

U.S. Department of State. Office of External Research. Foreign Affairs Research: A Directory of Governmental Resources. Washington: G.P.O., 1969. Describes the foreign affairs research activity of the different agencies and departments (indicating which ones support outside research), and lists offices with libraries and archives and those which produce research bibliographies and other publications. Principal publications, including periodical and reference publications, are listed.

U.S. Library of Congress. National Referral Center for Science and Technology. A Directory of Information Resources in the United States: Federal Government. Washington: G.P.O., 1967. (Due to be updated in 1971.) Information is organized under: areas of interest; holdings; publications; information services.

Schmeckebier, Laurence Frederick and Eastin, Roy B. Government Publications and Their Use. Rev. ed. Washington: Brookings, 1969. Especially useful for identifying older materials, including bibliographies, and for a survey of the range and purpose of government publications.

U.S. National Archives and Records Service. United States Government Organization Manual. Annual. Includes a list of representative publications of particular offices, and is especially useful for keeping up with changes in the structure and names of agencies.

Mason, John Brown. "U.S. Government Publications," in Research Resources: Annotated Guide to the Social Sciences. Vol. I. International Relations and Recent History: Indexes, Abstracts and Periodicals, pp. 193-200. Santa Barbara: American Bibliographic Center, 1968. A description of guides to government publications, general government publications, catalogs of government publications, and publications of governmental units.

U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Office of Education. Institute of International Studies. Inventory of Federal Programs Involving Educational Activities concerned with Improving International Understanding and Cooperation. Washington: G.P.O., 1969. A thick volume with little information specifically on publications, but some useful information on the organization and activities of the various offices.

Benton, Mildred. A Study of Resources and Major Subject Holdings Available in U.S. Federal Libraries Maintaining Extensive or Unique Collections of Research Materials. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Office of Education, 1970. A series of computer-prepared lists describing the nature and accessibility of the collections of 188 federal libraries.

U.S. Library of Congress. Library and Reference Facilities in the Area of the District of Columbia. 7th ed. Washington: The Library, 1966. Includes non-government as well as government libraries. A revised edition is due February 1971.

One special bibliography by a private publisher has been announced for Fall 1970 publication:

American Bibliographic Center, Santa Barbara. Research Resources: Annotated Guide to the Social Sciences. Vol. 2. Official Publications: U.S. Government, United Nations, International Organizations and Statistical Sources.

The list of sources presented below is by no means exhaustive; scholars should consult the particular department or office which may be working in a field of interest to them, for possible additional information on research and publications. For example, many departments and agencies use libraries across the nation as depository libraries where unlisted and unpublicized material can be found.

The Government also produces some reference aids and research analyses which are not identified as to source, and these can sometimes be useful to scholars. Such papers are generally listed in Papers Available (see Department of State, Office of External Research, in Part I), and can be borrowed for specific uses.

Finally, a number of projects within the government are aimed at the more effective use and bibliographic control of government publications, in particular, projects of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Library and Information Science (HEW, Office of Education) and the Office of External Research (State). When reports on these projects are available, they will be announced in the Newsletter.

A. OFFICES PRODUCING GENERAL LISTS

Government Printing Office

The U.S. Government Printing Office (G.P.O.) produces, it has been estimated, about half the publications put out by government agencies. In its Monthly Catalog, it lists, by agency, all G.P.O. publications and many non-G.P.O. government publications. Included in the latter are the JPRS translations (ad hoc and series titles) and most of the materials received and reported by the Library of Congress Federal Documents Section (excluded are, for example, office manuals and materials for which special permission for use is needed). Following the agency listing is a detailed subject index (with annual cumulation) which, however, is often difficult to use.

The G.P.O. also publishes a quarterly list of current Government Periodicals and Subscription Services, of titles published by other agencies as well as the G.P.O.; although useful, it is not comprehensive.

Finally, about every 12-16 months the G.P.O. issues selective price lists for its own publications, arranged by subject category (e.g., no. 65, Foreign Relations of the United States: Publications Relating to Foreign Countries).