



Government Information Service
McGill University Libraries

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.
3. European Commission website (http://europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm) – Homepage of the European Commission.
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.
6. A to Z index of European Commission (http://europa.eu.int/comm/atoz_en.htm) – Index of the European Commission with links to Directorates-General and other important websites.

Policies, past or historical

1. General report on the activities of the European Union (<http://europa.eu.int/abc/doc/off/rg/en/rgset.htm>) – Online since 1997. Overview of policy developments in all sectors of EU activity. It outlines the previous year's work. A useful guide to the status of legislation introduced or still in progress during the year covered by the report.
 - 1967-Present:
 - GovInfo: ZZ EMA G26 (print)
 - Nahum Gelber Law Library: DOCS E2 (print)
2. 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. Each piece of passed legislation is summarized.

- 1959-1967: GovInfo Journal (Bulletin of the European Economic Community)
 - 1965-1967: GovInfo Journal (Bulletin of the European Coal and Steel Community)
 - 1968-1993: GovInfo Journal (Bulletin of the European Communities)
 - 1994-Present: GovInfo Journal (Bulletin of the European Union)
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)

1. Directory of Community Legislation in Force (<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/en/repert/index.htm>) – Only the online version is full text. The print edition contains the full title, CELEX number and a reference to the Official Journal (see below on how to find an Official Journal reference).
 - Nahum Gelber Law Library KJE 920.5 D57 (print)
 - GovInfo ZZ EM O36 (print)

Legislation, past or present

Without any citation, but with topic

1. Directory of Community Legislation in force (<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/en/repert/index.htm>) – The Directory is organized according to the Treaty of the European Union. Only the online version is full text. The print edition contains the full title, CELEX number and reference to the Official Journal (see below on how to find an Official Journal reference). The index of the print edition is relatively easy to use.
 - 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
 - 1978-1981: Nahum Gelber Law Library DOCS Es 1978
 3. RAPID (<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/setLanguage.do?language=en>) – Press releases of the European Union since 1986. A press release will be published when legislation is adopted.
 4. EUR-Lex Search Engine (http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/RECH_menu.do?ihmlang=en) – Full text documents available since 1998. The search engine tends to return too many results.
 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)

1. EUR-Lex (<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/JOIndex.do?ihmlang=en>) – Online since 1998.
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
 - 1977-1999: GovInfo ZZ EM O28 (microfiche) – English and French
 - 1979-1981: Nahum Gelber Law Library DOCS Es 1978

Legislation, unpassed or not yet in force

1. The Legislative Observatory (OEIL) (<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/oeil/index.jsp?language=en>) – Progress of proposed legislation either unpassed or concluded since July 1994. Summary with links to relevant documents. Provides info on all inter-institutional legislative, budgetary, assent and non-legislative consultation procedures.
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.
3. RAPID (<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/setLanguage.do?language=en>) – EU press releases, useful for gathering more information about a specific piece of legislation.

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.
 - 1959-1967: GovInfo Journal (Bulletin of the European Economic Community)
 - 1965-1967: GovInfo Journal (Bulletin of the European Coal and Steel Community)
 - 1968-1993: GovInfo Journal (Bulletin of the European Communities)
 - 1994-Present: GovInfo Journal (Bulletin of the European Union)

Legislation implemented at the National level

1. Consult the Nahum Gelber Law Library Reference Desk

Treaties, founding or accession

1. EUR-Lex (<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/en/treaties/index.htm>) – Portal of the European Communities law

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

- EUR-Lex (<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/JOIndex.do?ihmlang=en>) – Online since 1998.
- 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)
- 3. Council of Europe Treaty Series, or CETS
(<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/v3MenuTraites.asp>)
- 4. United Nations Treaty Series, or UNTS
(<http://www.library.mcgill.ca/govdocs/cdinfo/untreaty.html>)
- 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.

3. Microfiche (1983-2002): GovInfo ZZ EMA C51
4. In print (1969-1982): Pre-1973 documents are only available in French.
 - 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.
 - EUR-Lex (<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/JOIndex.do?ihmlang=en>) – Online since 1998.
 - 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
 (<http://www.library.mcgill.ca/edrs/launch/ifs.htm>) – Historically spotty (1945-Present) but comprehensive and comparable financial statistics for over 200 countries.
 Complement with the print version (1948-Present): GovInfo Journal
 - 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
6. 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.
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