I didn’t know I could do that!

Using government and government-related websites for research on just about anything

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History, Political Science, Government Information
University of Houston
June 7, 2013
I need to know:

* How to renew my passport
* What this ache or pain might be
* When a hurricane may strike
* How many people take public transportation in my city
* What day my recycling gets picked up
* How many tribes there are in Afghanistan
* What the occupational outlook is for librarians
* How to contact my state senators
* How to research my ancestors

...and answers to so many more questions!

Images: Wikicommons, Google Images, and government sites
Sure, you could just use a search engine...
...but why not go directly to these government sites...
... or these related sites?
Are you intrigued?

Let’s go!!
USA.gov general topic searching
Search by specific topic
Results

Click for result by agency

Renew Passport

Renew by Mail if All of the Following are True: Your Most Recent U.S. Passport is undamaged and can be submitted with your application. Was issued when you were age ...

Passports - Welcome to Travel StateGov

www.travel.state.gov/passport

Password Forms - Welcome to Travel StateGov

www.travel.state.gov/forms_847.html

Renew Passport; Processing Times; Fees; Forms: Passport Application: DS-11; Passport by Mail: DS-82; Add Pages: DS-4085; Change or Correct: DS-5504; Report Lost or ...

Passport by Mail: DS 82

www.travel.state.gov/.../ds82_843.html

Renew Passport: Processing Times; Fees; Forms: Passport Application: DS-11; Passport by Mail: DS-82; Add Pages: DS-4085; Change or Correct: DS-5504; Report Lost or ...

Password Fees

www.travel.state.gov/.../fees_837.html

Renew Passport; Processing Times; Fees; Forms: Passport Application: DS-11; Passport by Mail: DS-82; Add Pages: DS-4085; Change or Correct: DS-5504; Report Lost or ...

Y
More sites linked via USA.gov
Clima severo: esté listo e informado

Los desastres naturales y emergencias pueden ocurrir en cualquier momento y causar desde daños leves hasta efectos devastadores. Estar preparado puede reducir el impacto en su bienestar y el de su familia.

Infórmese en detalle:
- Discriminación en el trabajo
- Plantar un jardín en familia
- Alergias de niños en primavera
- Robo de reembolso de impuestos
- Cómo hacer un plan de negocios
- Pasos para crear un presupuesto

Nueva app: Tornado
Reciba alertas sobre tornados, tormentas severas e inundaciones.
Más sobre esta app >

Donación de órganos
Donar órganos es una forma de dar una segunda oportunidad de vida.
Vea este video >
Shots may hurt a little, but the diseases they can prevent are a lot worse. Some are even life-threatening. Immunization shots, or vaccinations, are essential. They protect against things like measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough). Immunizations are important for adults as well as children.

Your immune system helps your body fight germs by producing substances to combat them. Once it does, the immune system "remembers" the germ and can fight it again. Vaccines contain germs that have been killed or weakened. When given to a healthy person, the vaccine triggers the immune system to respond and thus build immunity.

Before vaccines, people became immune only by actually getting a disease and surviving it. Immunizations are an easier and less risky way to become immune.

NIH: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Related Topics
- Childhood Immunization
- Immune System
- Infections

Languages
- Chinese - Simplified (简体中文)
- Chinese - Traditional (繁體中文)
- Korean (한국어)
- Spanish (español)
- Vietnamese (Tiếng Việt)
CIA World Factbook

The World Factbook provides information on the history, people, government, economy, geography, communications, transportation, military, and transnational issues for 267 world entities. Our Reference tab includes maps of the major world regions, as well as Flags of the World, a Physical Map of the World, a Political Map of the World, a World Oceans map, and a Standard Time Zones of the World map.

WHAT'S NEW

May 09, 2013 - Appendix D provides a cross-listing of data codes used to identify countries. This list now includes the new Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes (GENC) Standard, which is the US Government's implementation of ISO 3166 and is designated as the replacement standard for FIPS PUB 10-4. The GENC Standard provides a list of the basic geopolitical entities in the world, together with the principal divisions that comprise each entity. The names of the political entities are derived from official meeting records of the Foreign Names Committee of the US Board on Geographic Names (US BGN).

May 02, 2013 - Population Pyramids have been updated with 2013 estimated data in the People and Society section, "Age structure" field for all countries.
Introduction :: AFGHANISTAN

Geography :: AFGHANISTAN

People and Society :: AFGHANISTAN

Nationality:

noun: Afghan(s)
adjective: Afghan

Ethnic groups:

Pashtun 42%, Tajik 27%, Hazara 9%, Uzbek 9%, Aimaq 4%, Turkmen 3%, Baloch 2%, other 4%

Languages:

Afghan Persian or Dari (official) 50%, Pashto (official) 35%, Turkic languages (primarily Uzbek and Turkmen) 11%, 30 minor languages (primarily Balochi and Pashai) 4%, much bilingualism, but Dari functions as the lingua franca

note: the Turkic languages Uzbek and Turkmen, as well as Balochi, Pashai, Nuristani, and Pamiri are the third official languages in areas where the majority speak them

Religions:

Sunni Muslim 80%, Shia Muslim 19%, other 1%

Population:

31,108,077 (July 2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 40

Age structure:

0-14 years: 42.8% (male 6,732,097/female 6,520,116)
15-24 years: 21.9% (male 3,479,696/female 3,346,154)
25-64 years: 29.1% (male 4,623,203/female 4,440,035)
65 years and over: 3.8% (male 565,629/female 605,015)

65 years and over: 2.5% (male 360,395/female 414,134) (2013 est.)

country comparison to the world: 40

population pyramid: 

Median age:

total: 17.9 years
male: 17.9 years
female: 18 years (2013 est.)

Population growth rate:

2.25% (2013 est.)
country comparison to the world: 41

Birth rate:

39.05 births/1,000 population (2013 est.)
Find out how to:

* Obtain licenses and other legal documents
* Find the location of parks, libraries, and other public entities
* Pay fines
* Get garbage pickup schedules
* Locate property deeds and related real estate information
* Find out what’s going on with city, county, and state government (i.e., city councils, county boards, state legislative sessions)

and a whole lot more!
Visited by over 19 million unique visitors in April 2013, featured in 121 books, on CNN, WABC in New York, Bay News 9 in Tampa Bay, and USA Today's Hot Sites.

We've collected and analyzed data from numerous sources to create as complete and interesting profiles of all U.S. cities as we could. We have over 74,000 city photos not found anywhere else, graphs of latest real estate prices and sales trends, recent home sales, home value estimator, hundreds of thousands of maps, satellite photos, stats about residents (race, income, ancestries, education, employment...), geographical data, state profiles, crime data, registered sex offenders, cost of living, housing, religions, businesses, local news links based on our exclusive technology, birthplaces of famous people, political contributions, city government finances and employment, weather, tornados, earthquakes, hospitals, schools, libraries, houses, airports, radio and TV stations, zip codes, area codes, air pollution, latest unemployment data, time zones, water systems and their health and monitoring violations, comparisons to averages, local poverty details, professionally written city guides, car accidents, fires, bridge conditions, cell phone and other towers, mortgage data, business storefront photos, a forum and a social network with 1.4 million registered members and 26,000,000 posts, blogs, 5,000 user-submitted facts, individual property info for millions of homes, 30,000 exclusive local business profiles with photos, restaurant inspection results, and more demographics. If you ever need to research any city, zip code, or neighborhood for any reason, from considering a move there to just checking where somebody you know is staying, this is the site for you.

Top 101 City Lists - Rankings in hundreds of categories, such as income, crime, most gay couples, most cars, shortest commute, biggest houses, best educated residents, and many more. Also, see our original Top 100 City Lists and Random city pictures submitted to our site.

For example, see Houston, Texas detailed profile.
For population 25 years and over in Palatine:
- High school or higher: 89.1%
- Bachelor's degree or higher: 41.4%
- Graduate or professional degree: 14.0%
- Unemployed: 3.2%
- Mean travel time to work (commute): 27.1 minutes

For population 15 years and over in Palatine village:
- Never married: 27.4%
- Now married: 58.3%
- Separated: 0.9%
- Widowed: 5.0%
- Divorced: 8.5%

14,249 residents are foreign born (9.4% Latin America, 6.6% Asia, 5.2% Europe).
This village: 21.8%
Illinois: 12.3%

According to our research of Illinois and other state lists there **were 25 registered sex offenders** living in Palatine, Illinois as of May 20, 2013.
The ratio of number of residents in Palatine to the number of sex offenders is 2,668 to 1.
The number of registered sex offenders compared to the number of residents in this city is a lot smaller than the state average.

Median real estate property taxes paid for housing units with mortgages in 2009: $5,167 (1.7%)
Median real estate property taxes paid for housing units with no mortgage in 2009: $4,660 (1.6%)

Nearest city with pop. 200,000+: **Chicago, IL** (26.6 miles ←), pop. 2,896,016.

Nearest cities: **Rolling Meadows, IL** (1.7 miles ←), **Inverness, IL** (1.7 miles ←), **Arlington Heights, IL** (1.8 miles ←), **Deer Park, IL** (2.0 miles ←), **Kildeer, IL** (2.1 miles ↑), **Buffalo Grove, IL** (2.3 miles ←), **Barrington, IL** (2.3 miles ←), **Hoffman Estates, IL** (2.3 miles ←).

**Single-family new house construction building permits:**
- 1997: 134 buildings, average cost: $142,000
- 1999: 163 buildings, average cost: $169,500
- 2000: 209 buildings, average cost: $152,600
- 2001: 172 buildings, average cost: $175,700
- 2002: 133 buildings, average cost: $213,900
Natural disasters:
The number of natural disasters in King County (26) is a lot greater than the US average (12).
Emergencies Declared: 25
Causes of natural disasters: Floods: 10, Storms: 15, Mudslides: 8, Landslides: 6, Winter Storms: 5, Heavy Rains: 2, Winds: 2, Earthquakes: 2, Floods: 2, Snow: 1, Hurricane: 1, Volcanic Eruption: 1 (Note: Some incidents may be assigned to more than one category).

Hospitals/medical centers near Normandy Park:
- SEATTLE VA MEDICAL CENTER (VA PUGIT SOUND HEALTHCA (Acute Care - Veterans Administration, Government Federal, about 8 miles away; SEATTLE, WA)
- HARBORVIEW MEDICAL CENTER (Acute Care Hospitals, Government - Local, provides emergency services, about 12 miles away; SEATTLE, WA)
- SWEDISH MEDICAL CENTER (Acute Care Hospitals, Voluntary non-profit - Private, provides emergency services, about 13 miles away, SEATTLE, WA)

Political contributions by individuals in Normandy Park, WA

Amtrak stations near Normandy Park:
- 12 miles: SEATTLE (303 S. JACKSON ST.) 🌊. Services: ticket office, fully wheelchair accessible, enclosed waiting area, public restrooms, public payphones, vending machines, paid short-term parking, paid long-term parking, call for car rental service, taxi stand, intercity bus service, public transit connection.
- 14 miles: TACOMA (1001 PUYALLUP AVE.) 🌊. Services: ticket office, partially wheelchair accessible, enclosed waiting area, public restrooms, public payphones, full-service food facilities, free short-term parking, free long-term parking, call for taxi service, intercity bus service, public transit connection

Local government website: www.ci.normandy-park.wa.us

Colleges/universities with over 2000 students nearest to Normandy Park:
- Highline Community College (about 4 miles; Des Moines, WA; Full-time enrollment: 3,722)
- Seattle Community College-South Campus (about 8 miles; Seattle, WA; FT enrollment: 2,192)
- Green River Community College (about 12 miles; Auburn, WA, FT enrollment: 5,056)
- Seattle University (about 13 miles; Seattle, WA; FT enrollment: 5,632)
- Seattle Community College-Central Campus (about 13 miles; Seattle, WA; FT enrollment: 4,243)
- University of Puget Sound (about 14 miles; Tacoma, WA; FT enrollment: 2,795)
- Bates Technical College (about 14 miles; Tacoma, WA; FT enrollment: 2,284)
Community Facts - Find popular facts (population, income, etc.) and frequently requested data about your community.

Enter a state, county, city, town, or zip code: Houston city, Texas

Houston city, Texas

Census 2010 Total Population
2,099,451
Source: 2010 Demographic Profile

Popular tables for this geography:

2010 Census
- Population, Age, Sex, Race, Households and Housing ...

American Community Survey
- Education, Marital Status, Relationships, Fertility, Grandparents ...
- Income, Employment, Occupation, Commuting to Work ...
- Occupancy and Structure, Housing Value and Costs, Utilities ...
- Sex and Age, Race, Hispanic Origin, Housing Units ...

Population Estimates Program
- Annual Population Estimates ...

Economic Census
- Number of Establishments, Annual Payroll, Number of Employees ...

Click on any option

Want more? Use Guided Search or Advanced Search, or visit Census.gov's Quick Facts.
Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Status</th>
<th>Houston city, Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 16 years and over</td>
<td>1,065,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In labor force</td>
<td>1,092,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian labor force</td>
<td>1,092,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>1,000,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>91,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed Forces</td>
<td>758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in labor force</td>
<td>512,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian labor force</td>
<td>1,092,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Unemployed</td>
<td>(X)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females 16 years and over</td>
<td>907,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In labor force</td>
<td>480,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian labor force</td>
<td>479,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>438,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own children under 6 years</td>
<td>191,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All parents in family labor force</td>
<td>50,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own children 6 to 17 years</td>
<td>318,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All parents in family labor force</td>
<td>266,935</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commuting to Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Margin of Error</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Percent Margin of Error</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worked 16 years and over</td>
<td>900,464</td>
<td>+/-5.205</td>
<td>907,042</td>
<td>(X)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car, truck, or van – drove alone</td>
<td>735,302</td>
<td>+/-5.194</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car, truck, or van – carpooled</td>
<td>127,505</td>
<td>+/-3.423</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transportation (excluding taxi)</td>
<td>44,654</td>
<td>+/-2.041</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walked</td>
<td>21,063</td>
<td>+/-1.312</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other means</td>
<td>21,024</td>
<td>+/-1.320</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked at home</td>
<td>30,754</td>
<td>+/-1.421</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>+/-0.2</td>
<td>(X)</td>
<td>(X)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Occupation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Margin of Error</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Percent Margin of Error</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian employed population 16 years and over</td>
<td>1,000,464</td>
<td>+/-5.239</td>
<td>1,000,468</td>
<td>(X)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Legal Research

* Law Library of Congress
* ABA LawInfo
* FindLaw
* Public Library of Law
* Free and Low Cost Legal Research – from the Georgetown Law Library
* Legal Information Institute – from Cornell University Law School
More helpful links

* Scambusters – the name says it all
* Eldercare – links to local and national information
* American Memory – collections from the Library of Congress
* Sunlight Foundation – statistics and reports tracking a wide variety of issues
* The Hill – the congressional newspaper covering Congress when it’s in session
* LibGuides Community – lots of government-related guides, including mine
Some **American Memory** collections

- **Search All Titles**
  - Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention
  - Journals of the Continental Congress
  - Letters of Delegates to Congress
  - Elliot's Debates
  - Farrand's Records

- **Statutes and Documents**
  - Bills and Resolutions
  - Statutes at Large
  - American State Papers
  - U.S. Serial Set

- **Journals of Congress**
  - House Journal
  - Senate Journal
  - Senate Executive Journal
  - Maclay's Journal

- **Debates of Congress**
  - Annals of Congress
  - Register of Debates
  - Congressional Globe
  - Congressional Record

- **Baseball Cards**
  - 1887-1914

- **An American Ballroom Companion**
  - Dance Instruction Manuals
  - Ca. 1490-1920

- **Lost Money!! Lost on Monday Last**

- **An American Time Capsule**
  - Three Centuries of Broadsides and other Printed Ephemera

- **Votes for Women**
Search and explore 347,678 guides by 57,430 librarians at 4045 libraries worldwide!

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- Special Libraries
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Search for: government documents

LibGuides Best Of
The LibGuides Best Of site is a great place to find inspiration and reusable content to help you get started with LibGuides.

Jump to LibGuides Best Of

Most Active Sites
These sites are leading the pack when it comes to the number of guides they have published:

- Walden University
  2906 published guides
- Springshare
  1498 published guides
- Credo Reference - Literati
  1367 published guides
- Cornell University
  1072 published guides
- American Public University System
  956 published guides
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
  945 published guides
- Michigan State University Libraries
  789 published guides
- Duke University
  765 published guides
- University of Massachusetts Boston
  784 published guides

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Federal Government Documents in WVU Libraries
Federal Government Documents
Pages containing your search term:
- Find Federal Government Documents
  by Christine Chang at West Virginia University | Last Updated Jan 16, 2013 | Tags: documents, federal, government

Government Documents - A Guide to the Collections
Government Documents Collection home page, with links to guides about our holdings of U.S. and intergovernmental publications and related electronic resources.
Pages containing your search term:
- Citing government documents
  by Gwendolyn M. (Mae) Gonzalez at University of Hawaii at Manoa | Last Updated May 20, 2013 | Tags: documents, federal, government, intergovernmental, nations, organizations, united

Government Documents & Information
Government Documents & Information serves the university community and the general public. It is a depository library for Federal, State & Local government information.
Pages containing your search term:
- Government Documents Locator - a tool useful for locating government documents
  by Elaine Herrman at Stony Brook University | Last Updated May 20, 2013 | Tags: agencies, brookhaven, census, constitution, depository, digital collection, files, federal, gds, government documents, government information, government publications, international, law, legal, new york state, publications, statistics, suffolk county

Government Documents
The purpose of this guide is to provide information about Government Documents in Cole Library.
Pages containing your search term:
- Find Government Documents
  by Cecile Nye at University of North Alabama | Last Updated May 16, 2013 | Tags: government documents, government information

FN 540 Government Documents on Food Regulation
FN 540 Government Documents on Food Regulation
Pages containing your search term:
- FN 540 Government Documents on Food Regulation & Safety - 609
  by Bert Chapman at Purdue University Libraries | Last Updated May 1, 2013 | Tags: food law, food regulations, government law
General Resources

Statistics

- American Fact Finder
  Find the American Community Survey (ACS) and other helpful tools at this Census.gov site.

- Rich Blocks, Poor Blocks
  Zoom in to easily see median incomes by census tract from all 50 states. A great use of Census and ACS information.

- Social Explorer
  Census information from 1790 to 2000, with ACS (American Community Survey) data through 2011.

- Census.gov
  Census information and research tools.

- Census of Population & Housing 1790-2010
  Historical and current census data in PDF format.

- Appliance (U Missouri)
  State and county census information, including ACS profiles, regional economic profiles, quick facts, and much more.

- ATF Statistics
  Firearms manufacturing and export data.

- Bureau of Labor Statistics
  Employment statistics and other information from all 50 states.

- Digest of Education Statistics
  Provides a compilation of statistical information covering the broad field of American education from prekindergarten through graduate school.

- Historical Statistics of the United States

- International Statistical Agencies
  From the U.S. Census Bureau.

- IPUMS USA
  The Integrated Public Use Microdata Series from the University of Minnesota’s Population Center lets you use US Census data to build in-depth reports.

- Proquest Statistical Insight

Web Sites

- CIA World Fact Book
  Information on the history, people, government, economy, geography, communications, transportation, military, and transnational issues for 266 world entities.

- Congressional Bills Project
  The Congressional Bills Project is a relational database of over 400,000 public and private bills introduced in the U.S. House and Senate since 1947. The dataset is primarily intended for use by scholars and students of legislative politics.

- Contacting the Congress
  Up-to-date database of congressional contact information for the current Congress.

- Federal Register: What it is and how to use it
  Online tutorial and information about the FR.

- FRASER: St. Louis Fed
  The official website for the Economic Library & Archives of the St. Louis Federal Reserve.

- Google Patents
  Find millions of patents.

- GovSpeak
  Lists acronyms and abbreviations commonly used by the U.S. federal government. Each acronym is defined and links to the home page (or best alternative) of the identified department, agency, office, program or publication.

- GovTrack.us
  Research and follow pending legislation. This site is very comprehensive and easy to use.

- Healthcare.gov
Thank You!

If you have any comments or questions, or know of any sites I may have overlooked, please contact me:

Alex Simons, acsimons@uh.edu