

Making Sense of Public Affairs Research: What the Pros Can Teach Us

Law and Political Science Section 2005 Program
American Library Association Annual Conference – Chicago, Illinois
June 25, 2005

Annotated Bibliography of Resources

Compiled by the Library Instruction Committee, Law & Political Science Section*

Open Source Intelligence

“Stratfor: Strategic Forecasting Inc.” Stratfor Corp. 2005. 25 May 2005. <<http://www.stratfor.com/>>.

Stratfor provides an unbiased, accurate, insightful, actionable analysis of global activities that they can use to plan strategy, manage risk, and be more confidently informed. Their specialties include: geopolitical intelligence providing insights into international political, economic and security issues from the U.S. to Uganda; business intelligence, zeroing in on everything from risk management to global alliances; and issues covering the international regulatory environment and forces that are shaping it. This web site gives the products and fees that Stratfor provide.

Economist Intelligence Unit. The Economist Group. 2005. 7 June 2005 <<http://www.eiu.com>>.

The EIU prides itself on being “the world leader in global business intelligence” with over 40 offices worldwide. As stated on their website, the EIU’s mission “is to provide executives with authoritative analysis and forecasting to make informed global decisions.”

The EIU provides a myriad of services, including: the EIU Viewswire <<http://www.viewswire.com>>, and Country Profiles which highlights economic, political and market developments around the world and provides analysis of these trends and developments.

Hall, Michael. “The Spying Game: How an Austin Company is Winning the Information War over Kosovo.” *Texas Monthly Reporter* June 1999: 21-24.

Though the article’s coverage is a little dated, this article provides an excellent understanding of the Stratfor company, its founder George Friedman, and the open-source intelligence research methodology used by the analysts.

Information Outlook 4.2 (Feb. 2000): 17-46.

This issue contains six feature articles on Information and Competitive Intelligence. Dottie Moon explains “Effective use of Information and Competitive Intelligence”; Bonnie Huhhof and Lera Chitwood discuss the information professional today in “At a Crossroads: Information Professional to Intelligence Agent”; Karen Trimberger discusses principles of competitive intelligence taught in the classroom in “Preparing for the CI Role: A Student’s Perspective”; Denise Chochrek talks about marketing your CI abilities in “Market the Value of your Competitive Intelligence: an Added Role for the Information Center”; Helen Kassler provides tips on how to make your search successful in

“Competitive Intelligence on the Internet-Going for the Gold”; and finally Sylvia James discusses how to conduct research on a company’s competitor with global interest in “Focus on Global Competitive Intelligence.”

Medina, Carmen A. “What to Do When Traditional Models Fail.” *Studies in Intelligence* 46.3 (2002). 1 June 2005. <<http://www.cia.gov/csi/studies/vol46no3/article03.html>>.

Medina discusses the need for evolution in intelligence gathering and evaluation. She suggests that policymakers, who previously relied on the intelligence community to keep them informed of developments, are generally well informed and able to analyze routine developments. The author asserts several solutions that move the Directorate of Intelligence’s work away from “finished intelligence” to “intuitive” analysis that is focused on “customer” interests. A response article is available from Steven R. Ward online <<http://www.cia.gov/csi/studies/vol46no3/article04.html>>.

“Open-source intelligence training in Las Cruces.” Narr. Linda Wertheimer. *All Things Considered*.

National Public Radio. 15 July 2004. Transcript. *LexisNexis Academic*. 31 May 2005.

Wertheimer reports from New Mexico State University where a professor, under funding from the Department of Defense, teaches his students to conduct open-source intelligence research. This story provides an easy-to-understand description of open-source intelligence, and it shows the need for critical thinking and information literacy skills of intelligence analysts at all levels. Also available as an audio file online <<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=3443014>>.

Investigative Reporting

Times Union (Albany, NY). “Special Reports.” 2005. 25 May 2005.

<<http://www.timesunion.com/specialreports/>>.

This web site is mainly the *Times Union* of Albany N.Y. newspaper. This specific link contains links to in-depth local, national and international reports on topics of interest or controversy.

American Press Institute. 2005. 7 June 2005 <<http://americanpressinstitute.org>>.

Founded in 1946, the American Press Institute (API), “is the oldest and largest center devoted solely to training and professional development for the news industry and journalism educators.” Of particular interest here is the free database that covers a wide variety of journalism topics, including, but not limited to, ethics/credibility, reporting, technology, and leadership. A direct link to the ethics component is <<http://www.americanpressinstitute.org/content/3857.cfm>>.

Armstrong, Rob. *Covering Politics: A Handbook for Journalists*. Ames, IA: Blackwell, 2004. [ISBN 0-8138-0918-5]

Written by a CBS radio and television correspondent of 25 years, this handbook examines the role of reporters in the world of politics. It covers the history and structure of the American political process, especially campaigning, funding and polling; reporting skills and resources; journalistic ethics; and a discussion of the future. It includes eight interviews with famous current and former reporters.

Bennett, W. Lance. *News: The Politics of Illusion*. 6th ed. New York: Longman, 2005. [ISBN 0-321-22466-3]

Latest version of the classic textbook, first published in 1963 and written by Lance Bennett, that examined how mass media affected the political process in the United States. It examines the American political information system, potential information biases, corporatization of mass media, journalistic ethics, the interaction of how politicians make the news and journalists report it and how the public processes news and its effect on their political opinions.

Columbia Journalism Review. 2005. 7 June 2005 <<http://www.cjr.org>>.

Of particular interest to scholars and journalists alike is the “Journalism” tools page, which is comprised of several different sections, including “Who Owns What” (CJR's Web guide to what the major media companies own), “CJR Study Guides” (Questions and exercises for journalism students), “Power Reporting” (Thousands of free research tools for journalists—note that this is probably the most informative section, with its well arranged links), and “Smarter Surfing Links” (Links for journalists on deadline from CJR columnist Sree Sreenivasan).

Investigative Journalism for the Public Interest. Center for Public Integrity. 2005. 7 June 2005 <<http://www.publicintegrity.org/icij/>>.

According to its website, the “CIJ was launched in 1997 as a project of the Center for Public Integrity to extend globally the Center's style of watchdog journalism.” The CIJ holds a series of investigative reports on issues of national and international focus and interest. The site possesses many other useful features, including a database of monetary contributions to different political groups and individuals.

The Investigative Reporter's Handbook: A Guide to Documents, Databases, and Techniques. Ed. Brant Houston, Len Bruzzese, and Steve Weinberg. 4th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2002. [ISBN 0-312-24823-7]

Produced in conjunction with the Investigative Reporters and Editors organization, this handbook explains the basics of investigation, including the use of primary and secondary resources, electronic resources and interviews; investigation of governmental and private sector individuals, institutions and issues; and the writing of investigative pieces.

Lafleur, Jennifer. “Databases Offer More than Statistics.” *Quill* (Jan./Feb. 2002): 42.

Lafleur advocates for the use of publicly available data by journalist, who can mine it for story ideas or to add context to an existing story. She encourages reporters to “do some ‘nerd bonding’” in order to learn what private stashes of data exist in a community and could be used for computer-assisted reporting.

Lipinski, Ann Marie. “Investigators’ Checklist.” *Nieman Reports* 53.4/54.1(Win. 1999/Sp. 2000): 55-57.

This article focuses on the investigation of political candidates, but it also provides considerable discussion of the sources used by investigative reporters.

Mayo, Justin and Glenn Leshner. “Assessing the Credibility of Computer-Assisted Reporting.” *Newspaper Research Journal* 21.4 (Fall 2000): 68-82.

Mayo and Leshner studied undergraduates to determine if computer-assisted reporting merited audience believability. Computer-assisted reporting (CAR), as discussed in this article, is a method by which journalists find and analyze data to use in the writing of articles. The authors discussed a variety of journalist methods including CAR and relying on authoritative or anecdotal sources.

Mermin, Jonathan. “The Media’s Independence Problem.” *World Policy Journal* 21.3 (2004): 67-72. *Alt-PressWatch*, 25 May 2005. <<http://proquest.umi.com/>>.

This attorney questions the freedom of the press when journalist cannot publish information on the Iraq war until an “official governmental announcement is made”. There are examples of journalist investigations that were not allow publication until the government decided what the press should report. The article does discuss ethical and political issues that provide information that may affect governmental initiatives.

Online Journalism Review. University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication. 2005. 7 June 2005 <<http://www.ojr.org/ojr/>>.

Covers most journalistic issues in the media but with a particular focus on the web/internet. There are interesting tutorials on ethics, reporting and writing. Numerous articles on journalistic issues are also archived here.

Phillips, Peter & Project Censored. *Censored 2005: The Top 25 Censored Stories Media Stories of 2003-2004*. New York: Seven Stories, 2004. [ISBN 1-58322-655-9; ISSN 1074-5998]

See also: "Censored 2005: The Top 25 Censored Stories Media Stories of 2003-2004." *Project Censored*. <<http://www.projectcensored.org>> and <<http://www.projectcensored.org/publications/2005/index.html>>.

Produced by Sonoma State University's *Project Censored*, this annual publication highlights the important stories that have not been covered by the mainstream media. In addition to a description of the issue, references to print and electronic resources are also provided. The print version has been published annual since 1994. The electronic version provides updates and has archived copies available since the 2000 edition.

Poynter Institute. 2005. 7 June 2005 <<http://www.poynter.org>>.

Founded in 1975, "the Poynter Institute is a school for journalists, future journalists and teachers of journalists." The Institute provides resources, columns, advice, etc. on numerous journalistic topics, including diversity, ethics, editing, etc. Has a very useful section on ethics guidelines and FAQs.

Reiss, Dawn. "Online Resources for Reporting." *Quill* 92.5 (June 2004): 69. *Communication & Mass Media Complete*. 26 May 2005. <<http://search.epnet.com/>>.

This article contains web links created by journalist to provide the most accurate information for researching on the web.

Shaking the Foundations: 200 Years of Investigative Journalism in America. Ed. Bruce Shapiro. New York: Thunder's Mouth Press/Nation Books, 2003. [ISBN 1-56025-433-5]

Historical examination of investigative journalism from the late 18th century to the end of the millennium that provides profiles of nearly 40 stories. It includes the texts of writings by famous investigative journalists, such as Jacob Riis, Upton Sinclair, Seymour Hersh, Robert Woodward and Carl Bernstein.

"Top 10 Websites on Information Access." *IPI Global Journalist* 10.3 (Third Quarter 2004): 6. *Communication & Mass Media Complete*. 26 May 2005. <<http://search.epnet.com/>>.

The article is only 1/3 page and hard to locate, but this abstract taken from *Communication & Mass Media Complete* provides four of the sites. The article presents top ten Web sites related to journalism. The site of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, www.rcfp.org, has updated news on press freedom issues. The First Amendment Center's site, www.freedomforum.org, has research coverage of First Amendment topics. The National Freedom of Information Coalition's site, www.nfoic.org, is a complete guide to obtaining public information. The Investigative Reporters and Editors' site, www.ire.org/foi, has interesting resources such as a survey that tests and ranks state FOI laws.

Interest Groups and Think Tanks

"Office of Government Relations." American Library Association. 2005. 25 May 2005. <<http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/ogr/ogrofficegovernment.htm>>.

The mission is outlined on this web site but this office “is charged with following and influencing legislation, policy and regulatory issues of importance to the library field and its publics.” The web site provides ‘hot topics’ in legislation, or ideas on how to tell your story to your congressional representatives, or American Library Association Council documents that relate to this areas.

Consultants & Consulting Organizations Directory: A Reference Guide to More Than 25,000 Concerns and Individuals Engaged in Consultation for Business, Industry, and Government. Ed. Julie Gough. 27th ed. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2004. [ISSN 0192-091X]

Provides contact information and descriptions of the activities of 25,000-plus consultants and consulting firms in the United States and Canada. The listings are separated into content areas, such as social services and human welfare, and then fourteen subject areas, such as politics and social issues. Items can be accessed through geographic, consulting activities and personal and firm names.

“Contacting Political Activist Groups (594).” *National Political Index*. 1999. 7 June 2005

<<http://www.politicalindex.com/sect10.htm>>.

The index covers 21 policy areas and extensive links to associated advocacy groups.

Guidance for Governance: Comparing Alternative Sources of Public Policy Advice. Ed. Paul B. Stares and R. Kent Weaver. Tokyo, New York: Japan Center for International Exchange, 2001. [ISBN 4-88907-050-8]

Offers a comparative examination of the role of alternative policy advisory organizations (APAOs) in Brazil, Germany, India, Japan, Poland, South Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States. APAOs include governmental bodies, such independent audit agencies; quasi-governmental, such as political party think tanks; and civil society, such as academic and advocacy think tanks and research-oriented non-governmental organizations. The country case studies examine the historical, political and institutional development of APAOs in that country; current status and impact of alternative sources of policy advice; and prospects and recommendations for increased participation.

Hollings, Robert L. *Nonprofit Public Policy Research Organizations: A Sourcebook on Think Tanks in Government.* New York, Garland, 1993. [ISBN 0-8153-0766-7]

Acts as a guide to information sources on nonprofit public policy research organizations. The first third of the book is divided into eight topical chapters, such as historical development, activities, how think tanks influence public policy, etc. Each chapter has a brief introductory essay and annotated references to books, book chapters, journal and newspaper articles and dissertations. 232 citations are provided in all. The second two-thirds of the books contains four appendices, listing contact information and subject areas for national, regional, state, local and university-based think tanks and public policy organizations.

Interest Group Politics. Ed. Allan J. Cigler and Burdett A. Loomis. 6th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2002. [ISBN 1-56802-674-9]

Offers essays by leading interest group scholars. Covers methods and tactics of interest groups, case studies that examine their influence, and theoretical frameworks for understanding their role in politics.

Johnson, Suzanne, et. al. “The Role of Research in the Development of U.S. Federal Alcohol Control Policy.” *Contemporary Drug Problems* 31.4 (Winter 2004): 737-758.

Johnson and her coauthors studied the use of scientific research by policymakers, interest groups, and industry representatives to formulate public policy. The analysis showed that information could be used for multiple purposes, such as problem definition or program evaluation. Overall, this article demonstrates the ways in which different policy professionals use scientific research to suit their political purposes.

Open Secrets. 2005. Center for Responsive Politics. 7 June 2005 <<http://www.opensecrets.org>>. Open Secrets is hosted by the Center for Responsive Politics and allows one to follow the flow of money in US elections. The *Registered Federal Lobbyist Database* is located here as well <<http://www.opensecrets.org/lobbyists>>.

Political Advocacy Groups. 4 May 2004. California State University, Chico. Ed. Kathi Carlisle Fountain. 7 June 2005 <<http://www.csuchico.edu/~kcfount/>>. Directory of over 350 advocacy groups arranged by name and subject. Subject listing provides address, phone number, brief description, and web link if available.

“Political Science Resources Think Tanks.” University of Michigan Documents Center . Ed. Grace York. 16 Nov. 2004. 7 June 2005 <<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/psthink.html>>. Per usual, the U of M Documents Center has an excellent (and rather comprehensive) annotated set of think tanks and public policy institutes.

Ricci, David M. *The Transformation of American Politics: The New Washington and the Rise of Think Tanks*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1993. [ISBN 0-300-05340-1] Explores the historical development of think tanks in American politics. The effect of America's social, economic, ideological and political developments on the growth of think tanks are examined, especially the conservative response in the seventies to the predominance of liberal think tanks.

Smith, James Allen. *The Idea Brokers: Think Tanks and the Rise of the New Policy Elite*. New York: The Free Press, 1991. [ISBN 0-02929-551-3] Book examines the rise and role of think tanks and policy research institutes in the twentieth century. It examines the role of ideology in the formation and actions of think tanks. It also includes a brief bibliographic essay that highlights key writings on American policy research institutes.

Smith, Richard A. “Interest Group Influence in the U.S. Congress.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 20.1 (Feb. 1995): 89-139. Smith summarizes and critiques the array of research conducted on interest group influence. This thorough article acts as a guide to the most important research in this area, and, as such, may be used as a collection development guide or research primer.

**The 2005 LPSS ALA Annual program is partially underwritten by
LexisNexis Academic & Library Solutions.**

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