

# Government Publications

The Library holds a range of government publications, it does not hold a complete set. The publications held in the Library are integrated with the rest of the book stock according to subject. This guide will help you trace primarily UK Government publications.

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### Finding Government Publications

- **Library Catalogue** : use the Library Catalogue to find out what the library holds. The catalogue can be accessed from the Library, pooled computer rooms or from outside the University at : <http://catalogue.brookes.ac.uk>
- **Government web site**: available at <http://www.direct.gov.uk/> provides access to a range of government information and publications.
- **The Stationery Office (TSO)** : publish many UK government publications. The Office also acts as an agent for some European and International organisations. Their lists provide bibliographic details of everything they publish or distribute. You can search the online Stationery Office Catalogue at <http://www.tsonline.co.uk/>

Non TSO publications: not all UK government publications are published by TSO, for those that are not use : *Catalogue of British official publications not published by The Stationery Office* QR 015.41 CAT includes publications of government departments, research institutes, quangos and other official bodies, up to 2002. It can be found in the Stack, please ask a member of staff.

## Finding individual types of publication

- **Acts of Parliament (Statutes)**

- *Halsbury's Statutes* : in the Library at 348.02 HAL a full text, multi-volume set, arranged by subject, includes index volume
- *Current Law Statutes* : in the Library at 348.02 a full text, multi-volume set, arranged by date. No separate subject index
- *Office of Public Sector Information* : <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts.htm> provides full text of Acts from 1988, and all Local Acts (from 1991 onwards) as they were originally enacted. There are also some limited numbers from 1837 onwards. (NB it does not provide subsequent amendments)

- **Bills**

The Library holds a few Bills and some publications about individual Bills.

- to find the full text of Bills currently before Parliament use the web site : <http://www.services.parliament.uk/bills>
- to find bibliographic details about Bills from 1988 onwards use the Weekly Information Bulletin. It provides complete lists of public bills and progress through Parliament. The Bulletin is available electronically at : <http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm/cmweb.htm>
- to find details on debates about Bills see Hansards-section pg 3. of this guide.

- **Command Papers** – These also include Green and White papers.

- The Library holds a number of Command Papers. A keyword search on command paper on the Library Catalogue will give a list of all command papers. Search by keyword for particular topics, e.g. 'command family'
- Command Papers 2005 to present - available online at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/menu/browseDocuments.htm>
- Command Papers 1994-2005- available online at : <http://www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/>

- **Consultation Documents and Papers**

- The Library holds a number of consultation documents or papers. A keyword search on the Library Catalogue for consultation document and your chosen topic, e.g. 'planning consultation documents' will find all relevant items. To ensure you find all items, do an additional search for 'planning consultation paper'.
- Many of these kind of papers are available as PDF documents on the web if you search for them.

- **Green Papers** – see under Command Papers.

- **Hansards** – Hansards are the daily debates from Parliament.
  - a government site provides full text of many debates, both from the House of Commons and the House of Lords, from 1988: <http://www.parliament.uk/publications/index.cfm>

- **Law Commission Reports**

The Library holds a number of reports and papers.

- use the Library Catalogue to find details of our holdings : an author search on 'law commission' will find all publications by them; use keyword for reports on a particular subject
- The Law Commission web site contains summaries and full text of recent reports and consultation papers. Access their Web site at: <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/> and select consultations or reports. In 'Law under review' you can find details of current law reform projects.

- **Press Releases**

- The News Distribution Service at <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/> provides access to government news releases and information.

- **Select Committees**

The Library holds some Select Committee publications.

- use the Library Catalogue to find details of our holdings, e.g. keyword search, 'select committee transport', to find all relevant committee publications
- recent House of Commons and House of Lords Select Committee publications can be viewed at : <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/select.htm>

- **Statutory Instruments**

Statutory Instruments (SIs) are government orders or regulations made by a Minister under the authority of a specific Act.

- *Halsburys Statutory Instruments* in the Library at 348.02 HAL provides summaries and some full text of SIs. There is an alphabetical and chronological listing as well as subject index
- The Office of Public Sector Information: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/stat.htm> provides access to full text Statutory Instruments (SIs) from 1987.

- **White Papers** – see under Command Papers.

## **Government Departmental Publications**

The Library holds many publications by different government departments.

- Use the Library Catalogue to find details of our holdings e.g. an author search, 'Department of Health', will give details of all publications published by them. An author and keyword search will find publications on a topic published by a particular Department, e.g. author: 'Department of Health' and keyword: 'special needs'.
- The Directgov web site: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/> provides links to Government departments which can provide a range of useful information, e.g. publications (details or full text), statistical information, links to other useful sites.
- *Whitaker's Almanac* at QR 052 WHI (in Quick Reference) details all government departments with addresses and contacts.

## Statistical Publications

The Library houses a separate collection of statistics at Headington and Wheatley. At Headington the collection is on the Top Floor of the Library, in the Newspaper area.

- Use the Library Catalogue to find a particular publication or information about a topic. Use the keyword search, e.g. 'education statistics'.
- Two guides produced by the Library : 'British Statistical Data' and 'International Statistical Data' will help you trace statistical information in the Library's collection, including internet sources.
- The UK Statistics Authority site at : <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/> provides details of the range of publications produced by government and gives access to a range of statistics.

## Grey Literature

Grey Literature refers to material with little or no general distribution, such as technical reports, working papers, business documents etc. Material that is generally not published formally and therefore is not available through normal book selling channels. The Library Catalogue provides details of all our holdings.

## News Stories

Newspapers can provide relevant, up-to-date information on government issues, policies, reports and legislation. The Library's guide available in print format from the Library and online at <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/news.html> helps you trace information from newspapers. It also provides access to Factiva, and to Lexis Library which contain the full text of the main UK newspapers. Factiva also has many international newspapers.

## Useful Web sites

- *Directgov – the official government website for citizens* - <http://www.direct.gov.uk> provides access to a wide range of government information and publications.
- *United Kingdom Parliament* - <http://www.parliament.uk/> provides access to a wide range of parliamentary information and publications.

- *UK Official Publications* - <http://www.ukop.co.uk/> provides details of official publications by date, title or category, with some full text.
- *The Stationery Office* - <http://www.tsonline.co.uk/> includes access to a catalogue of their publications.
- *UK Statistics Authority* - <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/> includes access to range of statistics and an email contact.
- *Home Office* - <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/> provides access to a range of information and publications.
- *Scottish Parliament* - <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/> news, MSPs, publications.
- *Northern Ireland Office online* - <http://www.nio.gov.uk/> news, press releases, topics, links.
- *National Assembly for Wales* - <http://new.wales.gov.uk/splash> includes news, press releases, who's who, legislation.
- *United Nations* - <http://www.un.org/> includes news, topics, documents, publications.

The sites listed below are **gateways** to a wide range of political and government information, with details about and links to each site.

- *Intute: Social Sciences* – <http://www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences/> links to UK and World resources, including Government and Public Administration.
- *Political Sciences Resources* - <http://www.psr.keele.ac.uk/> a gateway to the most relevant resources in Political Science, UK and International, including government information.
- *Europa – official web site of the European Union* - <http://europa.eu/> includes news, official documents, statistics.