USING INTERNET RESOURCES OF INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES FOR RESEARCH IN COLLEGE, PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES

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*I*nformation published by international intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) on the Internet is rich, varied, authoritative, and sure to please your library users. These are excellent sources of information on countries and regions of the world. IGOs publish on a broad range of subject areas covered in this article: agriculture and food, business and finance, copyright and intellectual property, culture, economics and economic development, education, energy, environment, foreign affairs, health, labor, law, regional affairs, trade, transportation and much more. The activities of the IGOs are reported in current news and cover hot topics that library users want to know about. The type of information published at no fee on the Internet by IGOs includes current news, online full-text magazines and journals, information on individual countries, statistical data, governmental policy and treaties, research and development, and much more. This article will introduce and describe major Internet subject resources produced by international intergovernmental organizations that supply quality information for librarians.

The electronic government information included in this article is selected based on the criteria of being introductory material, user-friendly for the high school or college age student, no-fee access, and reliability and authority of the publishing organization. A special focus is online no-fee publications, searchable databases, and web sites. All of the resources described are suitable for library web sites and student and research guides. They would also be excellent included in a library's virtual reference shelf on international topics and country information. If not indicated, the resources are no-fee; subscription is noted where applicable. A few selected resources published by the United States Government are included because of their global coverage. Because this is an introduction, there are many organizations not included. The ones selected are respected sources of information about these topics and about specific regions of the world.

The topics are arranged alphabetically by subject and identify significant IGO publishers, resources and URLs. At the end of the article, to supplement these subjects, a list of comprehensive web sites are described. These will help librarians and users find general resources, indexes, gateways, research assistance, and portals on the web.

IGOs have been carefully improving the delivery of their information via the Internet to improve ease of access, and to make the information delivery user-friendly to the public, students, and the press, as well as to government officials. Some resources are specifically geared to younger students K-12, and others to college students and researchers. Certainly, high school students will find information published by IGOs valuable for working on papers, speeches, country reports, or even on a model United Nations program. This article provides some guidance about the appropriate level of the information described. For junior high level, look for age 10 and older. If not indicated, resources would be most appropriate for college students and older; high school librarians and students may want to try them and judge for themselves.

An international intergovernmental organization (IGO) is defined as an organization that includes many governments as members, and which works on an international level to solve problems of concern to many of the members. This article will focus on those organizations with a worldwide scope, a large number of member governments, and respected providers of information. Only one or two organizations among many were selected to highlight each subject area. Users are encouraged to explore information provided by each Internet site under further links, the search engines, the site indexes, and hot topics.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations web site

<http://www.fao.org>

This is the main international intergovernmental organization devoted to issues of global food and agriculture. Its publications analyze worldwide conditions of food and agriculture, fisheries, forest and food

security. The following reports provide excellent information global and country information and analysis on each topic. All current issues and executive summaries are available in full-text online at <http://www.fao.org/sof/index_en.htm>.

- *The State of Food and Agriculture* is an annual title focused on a special theme each year in chapters on specific issues. It includes graphics and statistical tables and information by country.

- *The State of the World's Fisheries* is published every two years with a global view of the condition of capture fisheries and farm fisheries (aquaculture), including statistics.

- *The State of the World's Forest* is published every two years on the conditions of the world's forest.

- *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* is an annual report that covers the efforts set by the World Food Summit to reduce malnourishment in the world and food insecurity (defined as people living in hunger and fearing starvation).

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

International Monetary Fund (IMF)
web site <http://www.imf.org>

The IMF is an international organization that was formed to promote international economic and financial stability. It addresses monetary problems, economic policy and many other issues of this type. Under the Publications categories, users can link to online full-text country reports from 1997 on. The IMF home page links to student sections for 5th graders on up through high school. Also, its online glossary of financial terms is valuable for students and researchers. The web site is searchable and has a site index.

In addition to no-fee information, there are several excellent references sources from the IMF that are subscription only. Its *International Financial Statistics* would be of great interest to researchers at the college level and beyond and provides historical economic and financials statistics for individual member countries of the IMF. This title is available as CD, print monthly periodical, and online database.

Country Information web site, by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) <http://www.imf.org/external/country/index.htm>

This web site links to individual country pages with text and data reports on economic conditions, financial information, exchange rates, and much more at no fee. It is available on the IMF home page as a Country Info link and an Information by Country A-Z list. Click on World Economic Outlook" and "Financial Position in the Fund for summary online economic and financial information.

World Economic Outlook, by the International Monetary Fund. <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/weorepts.htm>

This semi-annual reference title provides a summary overview of global economic trends and individual country economies. It discusses major global issues and economic developments with text and data. It is online in PDF format at no charge from 1997, and is also available in print an online subscription database and in print.

ECONOMICS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
web site <http://www.oecd.org/>

The OECD is an international global organization of industrialized governments active in economic cooperation and development. It is highly respected for the quality of its publications, its analysis of government policy, and statistical data. Many of its online resources are only available through subscription, however some summary information can also be found at no charge. Users can depend on OECD for reviewing individual country economies and policies, as one of the OECD's key objectives is to help governments by identifying government policies that work in the most current environments. The material is best suited for college-level students who are older, and perhaps some high school students.

- *The Country Information* category from the homepage links users to a directory of hotlinks of OECD information, publications, and statistics on individual countries.

- *The OECD Economic Outlook* is a report issued semiannually since 1967 that covers and analyzes economic trends globally and for countries. Mainly available in print, CD or electronic subscription packages, some summary information and statistical tables from the publication are available online at no charge.

- One of its main series is the OECD Economic Surveys, since 1968 providing regular surveys on individual OECD member countries, and some non-member countries. OECD analyses economic conditions, best practices and policies and makes recommendations for each country. TheCountry Surveillance page will link users to selected sum mary information online at no charge. A short version of the survey on each country economic survey page, a Policy Brief gives the executive summary and OECD recommendations, but without the detailed analysis. <http://www.oecd.org/infobycountry/0,2646,en_2649_34111_1_1_1_1_1,00.html> (Link to: OECD home> Economics Dept. > Country Surveillance.)

United Nations Regional Economic Commissions

The Regional Economic Commissions in the United Nations system of organizations each cover a region of the world: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Asia. The Commissions collect and disseminate information to promote economic growth in their region by publishing online databases or publications such as economics surveys, economic statistical bulletins, or yearbooks with a variety of current and historical statistical data. They are excellent resources for their region at the college level and beyond. The web sites provide many online full-text publications at no charge. Each provides online publications, databases, speeches, meeting, news, archives and web links. Here are the complete names of these commissions, the city of their main office, and their web site addresses.

- *United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)* web site. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia <http://www.uneca.org/>

- *United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)* Bangkok, Thailand. <http://www.unescap.org/>

- *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)* web site. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.unece.org>

- *United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)* (English) web site. Santiago, Chile. <http://www.eclac.cl/default.asp?idioma=IN>

- *United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)* web site. Beirut. Lebanon. <http://www.escwa.org.lb/>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

World Bank Group
web site <http://www.worldbank.org/>

The World Bank is a major global development organization and a significant publisher of development information and data. It provides development assistance to countries with finances, expertise, information and services. Most of their publications are available through subscription, but its web site World Bank also provides much information at no fee. A special resource section for kids and schools is appropriate for students 10 years and older and includes games, a glossary, current events such as Tsunami relief, and teachers' guides. Under hot topics from the home page users may find definitions and descriptions of subjects of current interest relating to poverty, reconstruction (Iraq) debt relief for countries, specific countries such as Afghanistan and much more.

The Data and Statistics category on the home page lead users directly to information such as key statistics by country. Also from the home page, the category Reports and Documents provides searching by country and sector (agriculture, education, energy, environment, etc.)

World Development Report, by the World Bank. (print, CD, electronic subscription title *WDI Online*). Available full-text online at no-fee from 2002 at <http://econ.worldbank.org/wdr/>

This is an excellent reference title covering economic development of countries of the world. It includes elements that are used to measure development such as demographics, poverty, economic conditions, health, and more. It has been published annually since 1978 and each edition focuses on a specific theme and includes graphics, statistical tables, and a detailed bibliography. Approximately 148 economies and 14 regional groups are covered.

EDUCATION

IBE Databanks: Country Dossiers and World Data on Education, by the International Bureau of Education, UNESCO. <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/International/Databanks/dba.htm>

The International Bureau of Education (IBE) is an agency devoted to the promotion of global education since 1929 and organized under UNESCO (The United Nations Educational and Scientific Cooperative Organization). The IBE also sponsors the regularly held International Conference on Education, and the national reports submitted by the countries attending the conference are available under the category "International Activities" on the home page, and at <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/International/ICE/icehome.htm>. Since 1934, this conference has been a forum for the Ministers of Education from countries of the world.

- Country Dossiers is a significant online educational databank that contains country profiles and official documents on education.

- World Data on Education is a significant educational databank containing national educational reports and web links for individual countries.

New Courier, by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). <http://www.unesco.org/courier>

Each issue of this quarterly magazine reports on a major topic in global education, scientific research, communication, and cultural heritage. It also reports on Unesco activities in the world, news and publications. It is searchable online and has been archived since 1998. It was a monthly magazine from 1989-2001

under the title *Unesco Courier*. It has attractive colored photographs and illustrations and is appropriate for high school students and older.

ENERGY

International Energy Agency
web site <http://www.iea.org/>

The comprehensive searchable web site of the International Energy Agency provides access to global energy information, publications, and statistics. News and highlights of current information is featured on the homepage. The organization is active in collecting and disseminating information on energy in many forms such as oil, gas, coal and electricity. Of special note is the IEA's annual publication *World Energy Outlook*, also described here, and "Country Studies" category available from the home page. Country Studies links to summary information free online for individual countries, including a table of contents, executive summary and sample statistical tables (full-text studies are sales publications only. Although many of the IEA's publications are for sale, users will also find much information online at no charge.

The International Energy Agency is an independent agency linked with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and based in Paris, serving as the energy forum for 26 member countries. The IEA is the energy forum for 26 Member countries. Their activities include information and making policies on the worldwide supply of oil and other energy, coping with energy emergencies, and improving the efficiency of energy use and its environmental impacts.

The International Energy Agency home page provides access to energy policies of individual countries of the world under the category Country Studies. Publications are organized alphabetically and by subject. Energy Efficiency Update provides summaries of countries' energy use. Statistics are also available. A searchable database provides information by type of energy (oil, gas, etc.) and by country. It is appropriate for students 10 years and older.

World Energy Outlook, by the Economic Analysis Division, International Energy Agency <http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/weo/pubs/index.asp> (Print and electronic subscription title, earlier issues free of charge online) 1977-

This title summarizes energy worldwide with projections for approximately 25 years on the supply and demand of oil, gas, coal, renewable energy sources, nuclear power and electricity in text with accompanying statistical tables. World statistics and statistics on 18 major regions are included. Some earlier issues are available online at no charge in PDF format. Historical

data and analysis is appropriate for college students and older.

ENVIRONMENT

Global Environment Outlook, by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (Free online resource and print reports) <http://www.unep.org/GEO/>

This is a comprehensive report on the state of the environment in regions and countries of the world available in full online at no charge (click on the book covers to access the reports). It also provides quick environmental fact sheets and summaries from the home page. Under the category "GEO Education" are teacher guides for education of primary age students and older, and publications for children on the environment.

Our Planet: the Magazine of the United Nations Environment Programme, by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) <http://www.ourplanet.com/> (print and online resource)

This bimonthly illustrated magazine reports on environmental issues and trends that concern the people of the world. It is appropriate for high school age and older and includes interviews of interesting people on environmental topics. First published in 1989, it particularly focuses on environmentally sustainable development. Each issue is on a special theme, a conference, an event, or issues and it reports, debates, and analyzes many aspects of the topic. Full-text issues are free online since May 1996. Articles are available in HTML, but for full illustrations select the PDF version.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) web site <http://www.unep.org>

The major international intergovernmental organization working on global environment concerns, UNEP is in the United Nations system of organizations and has the mission to encourage partnership and caring worldwide for the environment. This organization publishes an annual title, *The State of the Environment*, available only by subscription. However, much information in the form of online publications news, databases, and statistics are available at no charge on its searchable Internet site. Environmental topics covered include biodiversity, atmospheric conditions, marine, freshwater, land, urban issues, environmental treaties, and much more

The category Resources links to special information by user: Children and Youth, Scientists, Government, Civil Society, etc. Under Children are games, stories, environmental activities, publications, and even competitions for primary school-age children. Under Youth are special youth projects sponsored by UNEP, facts

and figures on the state of the environment, photos, and live chat.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Chiefs of State and Cabinet Ministers of Foreign Governments, by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Washington, D.C.
<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/chiefs/index.html>

This resource, previously published in paper, is now regularly updated online by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, and is an alphabetical directory by country for the chief heads of governments. It includes the U.S ambassador to the country. The home page provides a guide to abbreviations and a search engine.

Countries and Regions web site, by the U.S. Department of State
<http://www.state.gov/countries/>

This site provides background material for searchers, especially in two titles, *Background Notes* and *World Factbook*. *Background Notes* is a quick snapshot of an individual country's current condition, economically, socially and politically, in a short article, while the *World Factbook* provides several pages of information, history, statistics, and current political status for each country. Both are excellent reference resources for high school students.

HEALTH

World Health Organization (WHO)
web site <http://www.who.org>

The objective of WHO as an organization is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, as stated in the organization's mission statement. WHO provides much information on disease and the condition of health globally and in specific countries, and works with international health regulation. It reports on health risk related to travel, immunizations required, and issues travel warnings. Under the home page category Traveller's Health users will find the annual reference report *International Travel and Health*.

WHO also collects and publishes health statistical data. An online searchable statistical database named *WHOSIS (WHO Statistical Information System)* <http://www.who.int/whosis/index.html> provides access to statistics by health topic, specific disease, and by country and region. Topics covered include HIV/AIDS, drug information, immunization, health personnel, population, micronutrients, alcohol, and immunization. Users will also find an online searchable database, *Core Health Indicators,* and can construct statistical tables for indicators, country and year (from 1997) for WHO

member countries. This database is appropriate for students 10 years and older.

Also of note for bibliographic information, is the library database for general health information, the *WHOLIS Library and Information Networks for Knowledge* database <http://www.who.int/hlt/virtuallibrary/English/virtuallib.htm>, linking under the WHO home page category Research Tools. The category Publications, from the home page of WHO, links to major online reports and journals, and a bookshop. WHO has published its scholarly journal, the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization: the International Journal of Public Health*, <http://www.who.int/bulletin>, since 1948 when WHO was formed as an organization. The *Bulletin* is online at no fee, searchable, and covers health from a scientific and scholarly perspective.

World Health Report, by the World Health Organization. <http://www.who.int/homereports.html>

This illustrated annual report has been published since 1948 and is available full-text on the Internet from 1995, covering specific health topics by chapter. Each issue has a distinctive title, a specific theme important to global health, an overview, and a statistical appendix with country statistics. The purpose of this report is to help policy-makers to make wise choices in the arena of health. Some themes of past issues were global health emergencies, major threats to health such as AIDS and SARS, promoting a healthy lifestyle and mental health. Illustrations include charts, graphs and photographs. This report is appropriate for the high-school level and older.

LABOR

International Labour Organization (ILO)
web site <http://www.ilo.org/>

The ILO's home page provides news, publications, statistics, and highlights on current global labor issues and workers concerns, including labor rights, occupational safeties, treaties, regulations, and information. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a specialized agency within the United Nations system working to promote social justice and internationally recognized human and labor rights and it began prior to the United Nations in 1919. Its searchable web site contains thematic links and information from the yearly ILO conference, as well as publications. Also available are a searchable photo gallery, and videoclips on ILO activities, and reports that are appropriate for students 10 years and older.

Under the home page category Information Resources, users have full access to the ILO's free online scholarly journal, the *International Labour Review; the World of Work: the Magazine of the ILO*, the *World*

Employment Report, and the statistical database *LABORSTA*, <http://laborsta.ilo.org/>, which provides statistics by country. Information Resources also links to many other publications and ILO databases.

LAW

EUR-Lex: The Portal to European Union Law web site. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/>

This is a single gateway entry to all European Union (EU) legal texts. EUR-Lex explains the EU legal process, and provides a glossary. It links to many years of EU's daily *Official Journal*, which contains legislative information and notices, online documents of public interest, treaties of the EU, proposal law, and searchable case law information.

International Court of Justice web site. The Hague, Netherlands. <http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/icj002.htm>

The International Court of Justice is the main judicial body of the United Nations and its searchable web sites links to comprehensive information on justice, law and legal materials relating to the United Nations. Information includes news, decisions, dockets, general information, official documents of the Court, and publications. Well-known cases in the news deliberated by the Court concern genocide and human rights violations in Bosnia and Rwanda.

United Nation: International Law Portal web site, by the United Nations. New York. <http://www.un.org/law/>

This site is a user-friendly law portal to all law-related websites of the United Nations. A comprehensive portal of relevant law-related websites of the United Nations, this site includes links to the General Assembly's, Office of Legal Affairs, Treaties, Laws of the Sea, International Trade Law, Codification of International Law, International Law Commission, Other Legal Areas, International Court of Justice, International Criminal Court, International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Documents Research Guide, and Technical Assistance to States.

SCIENCE

CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research) web site <http://public.web.cern.ch/>

Famous for its connection to the invention of the World Wide Web, this research center for physics features a student education portal, under *Education* on the home page, at <http://public.web.cern.ch/

Public/Content/Chapters/Education/Education-en.html>. Online science resources are available for students and teachers, including an interactive web site, downloadable physics games, posters, experiments, lectures, and links to other science web sites. This information is appropriate for students 10 years and older.

CORDIS, Community Research & Development Information Service web site. <http://www.cordis.lu/en/home.html>

This searchable web site provides a comprehensive gateway to the research information of the European Union (EU) and contains thematic and A-Z indexes. It provides searching across the many databases, web sites and publications of the agencies of the European Union.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) web site, a United Nations Specialized Agency. <http://www.wmo.ch/index-en.html>

This is the main international intergovernmental organization on weather and climate. It coordinates scientific activities on weather for public use. Through its online service World Weather Watch (WWW), it provides continually updated worldwide weather information through member-operated observation systems and telecommunication links with four polar-orbiting and five geostationary satellites,

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Report on the World Social Situation, prepared by the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/rwss/index.html> 1952- (paper and online)

This series of annual reports each on a special, social theme provide an in-depth discussion of specific worldwide social problems and summarize global developments seen from a social perspective. Introductions, summaries and conclusions are drawn and information is available for individual countries. The Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, also provides a research web portal on government social policy and development in its *Gateway to Social Policy and Development* web site, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/index.html>. This is an Internet gateway leading to comprehensive electronic information in the United Nations system published in on social concerns.

World Economic and Social Survey: Trends and Policies in the World Economy, by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 1949- (various titles) <http://www.un.org/esa/analysis/

wess/> (Selected sections online, including Chapter 1 "The State of the World Economy")

This annual reference title is an analysis of current developments in the world economy and in emerging social and development policy issues. This title also covers major developments in international trade and financial resources of developing countries. It contains a forecast of short-term global and regional economic trends. Statistical tables give standardized data on macroeconomic, international trade and finance. Although the current title is subscription only, some sections are available online at no charge since 1994. The first chapter is a summary of the state of the global economy and is particularly useful as an overview for high school students and older.

Human Development Report, by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/> (Under the category "Global")

This annual report provides an independent, critical analysis of global human development with the purpose of assisting the growth of human development. It includes detailed country data on human social conditions and economics conditions. Each report has a specific theme concerning the topic of development and is illustrated with boxes, figures, along with a separate section of statistical tables.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), <http://www.undp.org>, is the United Nations global development network, an international intergovernmental organization which advocates for change through knowledge, information and resources to help people lead a better life. The UNDP works in approximately 166 countries with activities mainly in these areas: democratic governance; poverty reduction; crisis prevention and recovery; energy and environment; and information and communications. Its web site provides much more additional information on development.

TRADE

UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics, by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) <http://www.unctad.org> (print, CD- and no-fee Internet)

This annual report provides statistical data for analysis on international trade, investment and development for individual country and trade groups. It is appropriate for college age students and older. For younger students, or for access to quick statistics, the online database *GLOBSTAT* <http://globstat.unctad.org/> provides free access to key statistics presented in easy-to-read tables and charts with accompanying, concise explanations.

UNCTAD also publishes other reference titles annually on its web site which discuss world trade issues and provide comparative trade statistics. For example, its *Trade and Development Report* specifically discusses trade strategies and policies issues for developing countries.

World Trade Organization (WTO) web site. <http://www.wto.org>

WTO is the foremost worldwide international intergovernmental organization active in trade, and its web site is an excellent beginning resource for trade information. It provides information for a wide range of users, from students, to general users, to researchers. Its home page features an A-Z section of subjects organized alphabetically and it is searchable, with a site map and links to news, resources, documents, data, and trade topics. The A-Z lists publication titles, trade subjects, and general topics, such as speeches and FAQs. One of its main statistical titles is the annual *International Trade Statistics*, by the World Trade Organization's Statistics Division. <http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/statis_e.htm> Current issues are online in PDF format and as a searchable database and include world comparative trade statistics by country, along with imports and exports.

OTHER COMPREHENSIVE LINKS:

Europa: European Union Online web site. Publications Office. Brussels, Belgium. <http://www.europa.eu.int/>

From 1995 the web site of the European Union online, named *Europa* serves as a gateway to online information gathered and disseminated by the many bodies within the European Union system. The themes covered by the activities of this organization are very broad, including information about the European member countries of the organizations and also about countries worldwide. The site covers news, activities, and basic facts about the EU; official documents; and information sources. The category Information Sources links to an alphabetical list of information, publications, and databases by name and type, along with a general guide to finding information on Europa. EU at a Glance is a good starting place for a beginning user because it gives background on EU activities and organization. The Activities category links to information on specific subjects in the European Union.

INDIGO (Indiana Networking for Documents and Information of Government Organizations) <http://www.lib.purdue.edu/govdocs/indigo.html>

This organization links to libraries around the state which provide further assistance with international and foreign government information or will connect users with government information specialists who can make

referrals. In particular, the **Indiana University Bloomington, GIMSS: Government Information, Microforms and Statistical Services Department** <http://www.libraries.iub.edu/index.php?pageId =285> is a European Union depository library and a United Nations depository library and provides reference assistance for international government information. Other libraries also provides links to Internet resources and government specialists, among them Ball State, IUPUI, Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne, Notre Dame, and Purdue University.

International Documents Task Force web site, by GODORT (Government Documents Round Table of the American Library Association) <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/doc/idtf/home.htm>

This organization links to selected, high quality sites indexing and providing access to international intergovernmental organizations. It links to online indexes for the organizations themselves, and also for library sites organizing this type of information. It also features a Cataloging Toolbox for international documents, which annotates resources available on the web for library catalogers.

United Nations web site. New York. <http://www.un.org>

The home page of the United Nations (UN) links to information about the United Nations and its main bodies, general documentation, maps, publications, databases, and issues on the UN agenda. A search engine and a site index are available. Of particular note for K-12 users are the United Nations *Cyberschoolbus* resources <http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/ index.html>. It contains online searchable databases such as *InfoNation* and *Country at a Glance* which permit users to quickly find information and statistics on United Nations member nations, as well as an introduction to the United Nations and much more.

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