Declassified U.S. Government Documents

The National Security Archive was founded in 1985 by journalists and scholars to check rising government secrecy and is the leading non-profit user of the U.S. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The Digital National Security Archive (DNSA) is the most comprehensive set of declassified government documents available; it includes more than 40 collections of over 100,000 meticulously indexed documents. Also includes glossaries, chronologies, bibliographies, overviews, and photographs.

Some of the DNSA collections available at Oberlin:

A comprehensive record of the bloodiest and costliest superpower proxy war of the 1980s. Documents include State Department cables from Kabul, Washington, D.C., and Islamabad.

Coverage of the fall of Shah and the rise of the Ayatollah Khomeini; includes documents the government would not have made available until the middle of the twenty-first century had the NSA not forced their release through FOIA.

Focuses on the period from Fall 1983, when Congress first put limits on official U.S. assistance to the Contras, to the criminal indictments of Oliver North, Richard Secord, and Albert Hakim in Spring 1988.

**Iraqgate: Saddam Hussein, U.S. Policy and the Prelude to the Persian Gulf War, 1980–1994**
Traces U.S. policy toward Iraq prior to the Persian Gulf War, as well as U.S. government reactions to revelations about the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) scandal and the secret arming of Saddam Hussein’s regime.

Documents Kissinger’s conversations with top officials in the Nixon and Ford administrations; Topics range widely.
Foreign Relations of the United States
The official documentary record of major U.S. foreign policy decisions and significant diplomatic activity. Produced by the State Department’s Office of the Historian since 1861, the 450+ volumes contain declassified records from all the foreign affairs agencies.

Online Access
U.S. Department of State - Office of the Historian
http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments

University of Wisconsin Digital Collections
http://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/FRUS

Print Volumes in the Main Library:
JX 233.A3 (vols. published 1950-)
327.73Un3 (vols. published 1932-1949)

U.S. Congressional Publications

- ProQuest Congressional Publications, includes:
  o Hearings (1824 - )
  o House & Senate documents (1817- ) and reports (1819 - )
  o Congressional Record (1789 - 1997)
  o Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports (1916 - 2003)

Documentation of Presidential Actions & Statements

- Compilation of Presidential Documents (online 1993 - yesterday)
  http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/

  Official site for distribution of all presidential documents: proclamations, executive orders, speeches, press conferences, communications to congress and federal agencies, statements regarding bill signings and vetoes, appointments, nominations, reorganization plans, resignations, retirements, acts approved by the president, nominations submitted to the senate, white house announcements, press releases)

- Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents - in print
  Main Library Periodicals: 1965-2000

- Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States - in print
  Main Library 353.03 Un3P Hoover - Ford

- American Presidency Project (online 1789 - yesterday)
  http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/

  A searchable database of documentation for all presidents; also includes media clips, elections data, and some additional analysis.
News Databases

Current News
- Factiva
- LexisNexis Academic
- World News Connection (1996-2013)
  - foreign news reports translated by the U.S. government

Old News
- Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) Daily Reports (1941-1996)
  - foreign news reports translated by the U.S. government
- New York Times (1851-2009)
- The Times Digital Archive (Times of London from 1785-2008)

Video Clips
- American History in Video
- Vanderbilt Television News Archive

Radio and TV Broadcast News Transcripts
- Factiva
- LexisNexis Academic

Databases for Secondary Sources / Scholarly Articles, Essays, etc.
- America: History & Life
- Black Studies Center
- Communication & Mass Media Complete
- Historical Abstracts
- Index Islamicus
- International Political Science Abstracts
- PAIS International (Public Affairs Information Service)
- Worldwide Political Science Abstracts
Background Information & Context - Online Sources

- Europa World Online - good for detailed country profiles
  - historical volumes available in print

- Guide to U.S. Foreign Policy: A Diplomatic History

- Oxford Reference - good for general history, biographical info

- Oxford Islamic Studies Online - good for all aspects of Islamic history, culture, etc.

Background Information & Context - Print Sources

U.S. Foreign Policy

Encyclopedia of American foreign policy
Main Reference E183.7 .E52 2002 vols. 1 - 3

Chronological history of United States foreign relations

The Middle East & North Africa

The Middle East: a guide to politics, economics, society, and culture
Main Reference DS44 .M497 2012 vols. 1 - 2

The government and politics of the Middle East and North Africa
Main Reference DS62.8 .G68 2011

Map & Atlases

The new atlas of the Arab world
Main Reference G1785 .N48 2010

The State of the Middle East: An Atlas of Conflict and Resolution
Main Reference G2205 .S65 2008