

## Pratt

Debbie Rabina, Ph.D.

Pratt Institute School of Information & Library Science 144 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, room 604B,  
New York, NY 10011-7301

E-mail: [drabina@pratt.edu](mailto:drabina@pratt.edu) Tel: 212-647-7379 Fax: 212-367-2492

---

LIS 619: International Information Sources  
Spring 2009. Elective 3 credit course

Additional class materials, readings, slides, and more,  
are available on Moodle (Pratt's Learning Management System) [my.pratt.edu](http://my.pratt.edu)

Class hours: Wed. 6:30-8:50 p.m. *PMC 613*  
Office hours, room 604B: Wed. 5 – 6 pm or by appointment

**Catalog Description:** This course will teach students how to access electronic and print publications of information produced by international non-governmental organizations and foreign governments. It will cover the United National system, the European Union, the World Bank, World Trade Organization, British parliamentary documents and more. The course will emphasize the place and importance of international documents to the global economy and to international collaborative research and will instruct students on access to and bibliographic control of these materials.

**Pre/Co-requisite:** 652 – Information Services and Sources

### Course Objectives

To help the student understand:

- the nature and use of information resources of the international non-governmental organizations
- the range of materials available from IGOs by type and intended user
- non-conventional NGO information opportunities: bibliographic and statistical sources, on-line data bases, technical reports centers, public information facilities, and sources of technical assistance
- the structure and functions of various citation and indexing schemes employed with NGO documents

To enable the student to:

- use a wide variety of reference tools issued by NGOs
- identify, evaluate acquire, and organize NGO documents
- identify professional media useful for current awareness of NGO information and development
- participate in the management of NGO information service: planning, marketing, evaluation, and ethical consideration

### Note:

Students taking this class may be asked to participate in faculty sponsored research

### How to Contact me

E-mail is the best way. Please use [drabina@pratt.edu](mailto:drabina@pratt.edu)

***In the subject line please write "619 firstname lastname"***

## **Moodle**

Pratt uses Moodle, a learning management system, to enhance classroom learning. All students enrolled in the course have access to course materials on Moodle. Please make sure you know how to access and use Moodle.

Also, please note that Moodle facilitates communication using Pratt e-mail only. If you do not use your Pratt account, please have the Pratt e-mail forwarded to the account that you do use (you can do this through web-mail)

## **Textbooks**

Readings will include chapters and articles from various sources. There is no one required textbook for the course, but the following books are available on reserve at Pratt Manhattan library (PMC).

Hajnal, Peter I, ed. (1997). *International information: Documents, publication, and electronic information of international government organizations*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2 vols. Englewood CO: Libraries Unlimited.  
016.3412 I611

Morrison, Andrea M., Mann, Barbara J. (2004). *International government information and country information: A subject guide*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.  
025.04 M878

Will, Steve. W. (2006). *Changing roles of NGOs in the creation, storage and dissemination of information in developing countries*. (IFLA Publications 123). Munich, K.G. Saur.  
020.621.C 456

## **Assignments**

### General

1. All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade.
2. Late papers will receive a grade but no comments
3. Late papers will receive a reduced grade
4. All assignments should be completed at the beginning of class on the date due.
5. All assignments can be done in pairs but not in larger groups. When working in pairs, both students will be awarded the same grade.
6. No e-submission unless by prior arrangement
7. Proofread your paper. Grammar, punctuation, spelling and citation count
8. Read assigned readings prior to class

Assign. 01	Attendance and participation	5%
Assign. 02	Globalization and information	20%
Assign. 03	Annotated bibliography	20%
Assign. 04	Tracking NGO sources	20%
Assign. 05	E-Government	20%
Assign. 06	Presentations	15%

**Assignment 01:** Attendance and participation

Participation: Success in the course will depend on reading, Web work, thinking about the material, participating in discussions, planning for the major projects and completing them in a professional manner. Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory.

**Students with 3 absences** (for any reason, including documented medical reasons) can not expect to receive an A in the course and, in accordance with Pratt Institute policy, may be asked to drop the course

**Please notify your professor if you know you will be absent.**

**Assignment 02:** Globalization and Information

Please write a short paper on the relevance of information to global environments. The paper presents your interpretation of theoretical readings and can be supplemented by current examples from the press, professional LIS literature and your work experience.

Sections: Please refer to "Guidelines to writing a research paper" (on Moodle).

While not all sections must be included, you should at the very least have a descriptive title, a clear hypothesis and a literature review that supports your hypothesis.

Format: Style of the paper is formal: Third person (this is not a memoir) and attention to grammar, punctuation and citations.

Platform: Paper

Length: 5-6 pages

Due: Feb. 25, 2009

**Assignment 03:** Fact checking: Tracking NGO Sources

For the duration of the semester, you are expected to read news sources and identify international information sources that are used as sources for news article. Then, track down the document that was mentioned in the news article. Provide citations and links to the citing and cited sources.

Platform: Paper or web

Number of items: 8-12

Due: March 11, 2009

**Assignment 04:** List of Information Sources

Working with a partner, you are asked to create a guide for the unaffiliated for using international sources to locate information of a topic of your choice

Topic: Requires prior approval from Prof.

Format: Research guide with detailed in-depth annotations

Platform: Paper or Web

Number of items: 10-15

Due: April 1, 2009

Sample paper: <http://intldocs.pbwiki.com/>

[possible alternative: Design a game. Details, TBA]

**Assignment 05:** E-Government

Each student is asked to select a country of their choice and analyze the level of e-government services available from that country.

Students who read a language other than English, are encouraged to take advantage of their language skills for this assignment.

Due: April 22, 2009

Length: 7-10 pages

Format: Bibliographic essay or research paper

Platform: Paper or web

**Assignment 06: Presentations**

You are asked to plan a bibliographic instruction session based on a scenario of your choice:

For a specific course

For a specific library

For a job interview

Further instructions will follow in class

Due: May 6, 2009

Format: lecture, workshop, tutorial

**Citing Documents**

Citations are never fun, and documents make an ever stronger case for this argument. You are, however, not alone out there. Listed below are some citation guides specific to government documents. Please remember that the most important rule for citing is consistency: it doesn't really matter (for purposes of this class) which guide or citation method you use as long as you use the same one throughout your paper or assignment.

You are welcome to use one of the following citation manuals

The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, 18<sup>th</sup> ed. Harvard University Press  
(available at PMC)

Cheney, Debora. *The complete guide to citing government information resources: a manual for social science & business research*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Bethesda, MD: Lexisnexis; Congressional Information Service, 2002.

Publication manual of the American Psychological Association. Washington, DC :  
American Psychological Association, . c2001. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition

**NOTE:** please refer to the APA supplement for citing electronic sources. This supplement, published in 2007, is available on reserve in the Pratt-Manhattan library, and can be purchased directly from APA <http://books.apa.org/books.cfm?id=4210509> for \$11.95. (available at PMC)

## Course Calendar

Date	Topic	Due
1. Jan 21	Introduction to the course Globalization and information	
2. Jan 28	International organization: types and functions Using international documents: research methods	
3. Feb. 4	United Nations documents and publications: I	
4. Feb 11	United Nations documents and publications: II	
5. Feb 18	Statistical Sources	
6. Feb 25	The European Union	Assign 02
7. March 4	The European Union: EU legal sources	
8. March 11	Guest speaker: Alex Quinn, Executive Director, Games4Change	Assign 03
March 18	Spring break	
9. March 25	E-Governments	
10. April 1	British parliamentary papers	Assign 04
11. FRIDAY April 3	Field trip: Princeton University Guest speaker: Susan White	
11. April 8	TBA	
12. April 15	World economy: G7/G8	
13. April 22	The League of Nations	Assign 05
14. April 29	Managing a depository NGO collection Guest speaker: Susan Hamson, Columbia University Prologue: Globalization and information	
15. May 6	Student presentations	Assign 06

- Class 01**                    **Jan 21**
- Topic: Introduction to the course: Globalization and information
- Listen: **Fareed Zakaria** on The Commonwealth Club  
<http://www.commonwealthclub.org/archive/08/08-05zakaria-audio.html>  
 (Real Player) is required.
- Read: **Friedman**, Thomas L. (2005, April 3). It's a flat world, after all. *New York Times Magazine*, 33-37 (available from: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/03/magazine/03DOMINANCE.html>)  
**Rudasil**, Lynne (2006). *The warning voice – NGOs and information*. (in Changing roles of NGOs in the creation, storage and dissemination of information in developing countries. PMC 020.621.C456) and online: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/papers/079e-Rudasil.pdf>
- Optional Reading: **Parayil**, Govindan (2005). The digital divide and increasing returns: Contradictions of informational capitalism. *The Information Society*, 21(1), 41-51. (available from EbscoHost)
- 
- Class 02**                    **Jan 28**
- Topic: Globalization and information (cont.)  
 International organizations: Types and functions  
 Using international documents: research methods
- Read: **Hajnal**, Peter I. "The Institutional Setting." In *International Information: Documents, Publications and Electronic Information of International Governmental Organizations*, 2nd ed., 3-15. Edited by Peter I. Hajnal. Englewood, Co.: Libraries Unlimited, 1997  
**White**, Susan Bennett (2006). *The permanence of smoke: A challenge to research libraries to showcase and preserve the work of NGOs serving developing countries*. (in Changing roles of NGOs in the creation, storage and dissemination of information in developing countries. PMC 020.621.C456)
- Review: **White**, Susan Bennett. A guide to globalization sources at Princeton  
 Please review: <http://www.princeton.edu/%7Essrc/globwebb.html>
- Optional viewing: Commending Heights, episode three: The new rules of the game  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/commandingheights/hi/story/index.html>  
 Optional: Darwin's Nightmare (available from Netflix )
- Optional Reading: **Barnett**, Michael N. and Martha Finnemore. "The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations." *International Organization*, 53 No. 4 (Fall 1999):699-732.  
**Falk**, Richard, Strauss, Andrew (2001). Toward global parliament. *Foreign Affairs* 80, 212-220. (available from Moodle reserves)  
**Palomino**, Norma (2006). *Information for action: The approach used by the NGOs to foster and strengthen civic life: A case study from Argentina*. (in Changing roles of NGOs in the creation, storage and dissemination of information in developing countries.) PMC 020.621.C456

- Class 03/04 Feb. 04 & Feb. 11**  
 Topic: United Nations documents and publications  
 Read: **Hajnal**, Peter I. The United Nations" In *International Information*, 2nd ed., Vol.1,Chap. 2 pp. 16-43: especially pp. 16-25  
**Dorn**, A. Walter. United Nations information-gathering for peace and security. In *International Information*, 2nd ed.,Vol.2,Chap.10 pp. 275-297:  
**Fetzer**, Mary. Trends in reference service for United Nations system materials. In *International Information*, 2nd ed.,Vol.2,Chap.11 pp. 298-314.  
**United Nations** documentation research guide. and training guides  
<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/>  
 Watch: Instructional CD from the UN training dept (in class activity)  
 Review: UN documents (from Susan Bennet White)  
<http://www.princeton.edu/~sbwhite/EWorldUN.html>  
 Optional Reading: **Hellyer**, Paul. (2007). UN documents in US case law. *Law Library Journal* 99, pp. 73-86. ([http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub\\_journal.asp](http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_journal.asp))
- Class 05 Feb 18**  
 Topic: Statistical Sources  
 Read: **Morrison & Mann** (2004). *International government information and country information: A subject guide*. Statistics, 237-246.  
 Review: UNESCO Institute for statistics  
[http://www.uis.unesco.org/ev\\_en.php?ID=2867\\_201&ID2=DO\\_TOPIC](http://www.uis.unesco.org/ev_en.php?ID=2867_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC)  
 World Bank data and research  
<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/0,,menuPK:476823~pagePK:64165236~piPK:64165141~theSitePK:469372,00.html>  
 International databases from the US Census Bureau  
<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/>  
 World Health Organization statistics <http://www3.who.int/whosis/menu.cfm>  
 EUROStat  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?\\_pageid=1090,30070682,1090\\_33076576&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1090,30070682,1090_33076576&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)  
 UN Data <http://data.un.org/>
- Class 06 Feb. 25**  
 Topic: The European Union  
 Read: **Morrison & Mann** (2004). *International government information and country information: A subject guide*. General information 9-13.  
**Sloan**, Barbara. The European Union. In *International Information*, 2nd ed.,Vol.1,Chap.11 pp. 51-116.  
**Marcella**, Rita, Baxter Graeme and Davies Sylvie (2007). The information needs and information-seeking behaviour of the users of the European Parliamentary Documentation Centre: A customer knowledge study. *Journal of Documentation* 63, pp. 920-934.  
**Scott**, Mark C., Wilkin Phil (2008). International documents roundup: European Union studies at the University of Pittsburgh. *Documents to the People* 36 (3):12-14. (available from Moodle reserve)  
 Review: A to Z Index of EU Websites <http://www.eurunion.org/infores/euindex.htm>  
 and EUROPA [http://europa.eu/documents/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/documents/index_en.htm)  
[http://europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/index_en.htm)  
 NYU research guide  
<http://www.law.nyu.edu/library/research/researchguides/europeanunionresearch/index.htm>

- Class 07**  
MEET  
Topic: **March 4**  
**NYU LAW SCHOOL LIBRARY**  
Guest speaker, Jeanne Rehberg  
The European Union: EU legal sources
- Class 08**  
Topic: **March 11**  
TBA
- Class 09**  
Topic: **March 25**  
E-Governments  
Read: **Guijarro**, Luis (2007). Interoperability frameworks and enterprise architectures in e-government initiatives in Europe and the United States. *Government Information Quarterly* 24(1), 89-101.  
**Lee**, Jungwoo; Kim, Jinhwa (2007). Grounded theory analysis of e-government initiatives: Exploring perceptions of government authorities. *Government Information Quarterly* 24(1), 135-147.  
**West**, Darrell M. (2008). Improving technology utilization in electronic government around the world, 2008.  
[http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2008/0817\\_egovernment\\_west.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2008/0817_egovernment_west.aspx)
- Class 10**  
Topic: **April 1**  
British parliamentary papers  
Read **Church**, James (2006). The New and Old Worlds of the British Parliamentary Papers. *DttP* 34(3) 9, 11-13 (available from Moodle reserve)  
Review: NYPL on-site only House of Commons Parliamentary Papers  
NYPL on-site only: Economist Intelligence Unit Country Reports  
LLRX guide to UK legal system, by Sarah Carter (2002)  
<http://www.llrx.com/features/uk2.htm>
- Class 11**  
Topic: **April 8**  
TBA
- Class 12**  
Topic: **April 15**  
World economy: G7/G8  
Read: **Morrison & Mann** (2004). *International government information and country information: A subject guide*. Economics and Business, 70-99.  
**Hajnal**, Peter. Documentation of the summits. In Peter Hajnal The G8 system and the G20: Evolution, role and documentation. Aldershot, Ashgate, 2007. Chapter 13. pp. 179-197.  
Review: G8 Information Center, University of Toronto <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/>  
NYPL on site access only: USATrade or request a free demo:  
<http://www.usatradeonline.gov/>

**Class 13****April 22**

Topics:

The League of Nations  
International Law & treaties

Read:

**Bolton**, John R., Yoo, John (2009, Jan. 5). Restore the Senate's treaty power. *The New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/05/opinion/05bolton.html>

**McCaffrey-Noviss**, Micheal. "The League of Nations" In *International Information*, 2nd ed., Vol.1, Chap.5 pp. 139-162.

**Morrison & Mann** (2004). *International government information and country information: A subject guide*. Laws and treaties, 189-204.

**Rausch**, Marilyn J. (2006, Sept. 17). European Union Law: An integrated Guide to electronic and print research. <http://www.llrx.com/features/eulaw2.htm>

LLRX articles on International Legal Research <http://www.llrx.com/category/857>

Review:

United Nations Treaty Series <http://treaties.un.org/Pages/Home.aspx?lang=en>**Class 14****April 29**

Topic:

Managing a depository NGO collection  
Guest speaker, Susan Hamson

Read:

Director, Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research, Columbia Univ.

**Eckman**, Cuck (2001). "International information update: Acquiring international documents: challenges, strategies, sources." *Journal of Government Information* 28, 179-183.

**Hajnal**, Peter. Collection development. In *International Information*, 2nd ed., Vol.1, Chap.5 pp. 401-422.

Review:

Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/humanrights/index.html>

Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org/>

**Class 15****May 6**

Topic:

Student Presentations