

## POS 2050 H Library Research Methods

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### To find a book (circulating or reference):

- Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on **#4 Library Catalog** >>> it helps sometimes to narrow your search for items located on the **Gibbs campus** or to a certain **format, date, and/or language** >>> conduct a **subject, title, author** or **keyword** search?

A search for **parliamentary system** within the **subject field** displays 0 results. Conducting the same search within the **keyword field** displays 8 results. If you have several results, then adding more specific keywords and/or an appropriate subject heading to your search can help to narrow down your topic.

### To find appropriate subject headings:

- You can click on the **Browse Lists** button inside the Library Catalog and search for other subject terms. Discovering other subject terms can help you narrow or even broaden your topic. (e.g., **subject begins with ... political systems**). See: **Comparative government**.
- Or you can use the four volume print set found in the Reference section and search within the **Library of Congress Subject Headings**.
- Or you can do a basic or advanced search and notice other hyperlinked subject headings inside the bibliographic record.

You can add Boolean operators (i.e. AND, OR, NOT) easily in the **Advanced Search** mode. Searching for **comparative government** as a **Subject** AND **power\*** as a **keyword** (\* = truncation) will locate 9 records.

**Search by:** Keyword   
and  Subject   
and  Author   
**At:** St. Petersburg College  All campuses   
**Exact phrase:**  No  Yes (Applies to all search fields)

**Note:** It is possible to request books from other libraries and have them sent to your main campus library!

St. Petersburg/Tarpon Springs Circulation HF5381 .T2212 2006	Available	<b>Request</b>
Valencia/East Circulation HF5381.T2212 2006	Available	Request

**Borrower ID** = Student Number  
**PIN** = Last 4-digits of Social Security Number

**Selected Titles:**

- Parliamentary versus presidential government-* JF11 .P36 1992
- World encyclopedia of parliaments and legislatures* - REF JF511 .W67 1998
- Guide to the presidency* - REF JK516 .C57 2002 (Part III Powers of the Presidency)
- Spotlight on world political system: an introduction to comparative government* - REF JK51 .D44 1991
- Checks and balances: the three branches of the American government* - REF JK271 .B6496 2005

You are able to search for all of our electronic books (over 60,000 titles) within our main library catalog; however, using **netLibrary** will allow you to search within the Full Text of these electronic books!

**Find Electronic Books via NetLibrary:** Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on **#1 Articles & Databases** >>> Name is **spc** and the password is \_\_\_\_\_.

Try an advanced search for Subject: **Executive power United States** AND Full Text: **"iraq war"**).

**Important:** it is easy to copy/paste content from electronic materials, so remember to **cite your sources!**

**To find articles in journals, magazines, newspapers and more:**

- Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on >>> Name is **spc** and the password is \_\_\_\_\_ >>>> Here you will find several databases. (**CQ Researcher**, **Academic Search Premier**, and **LexisNexis** are good first choices.)

- Or, if the power goes out, you can search a printed index (locate older articles) like the **Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature**, **Social Sciences & Humanities Index**, **New York Times Index** etc.

**CQ Researcher:** "original, comprehensive reporting and analysis on issues" from 1923 to present. CQ Researcher is an excellent browsing resource to help generate ideas for a research topic.

## Browse Reports by Topic

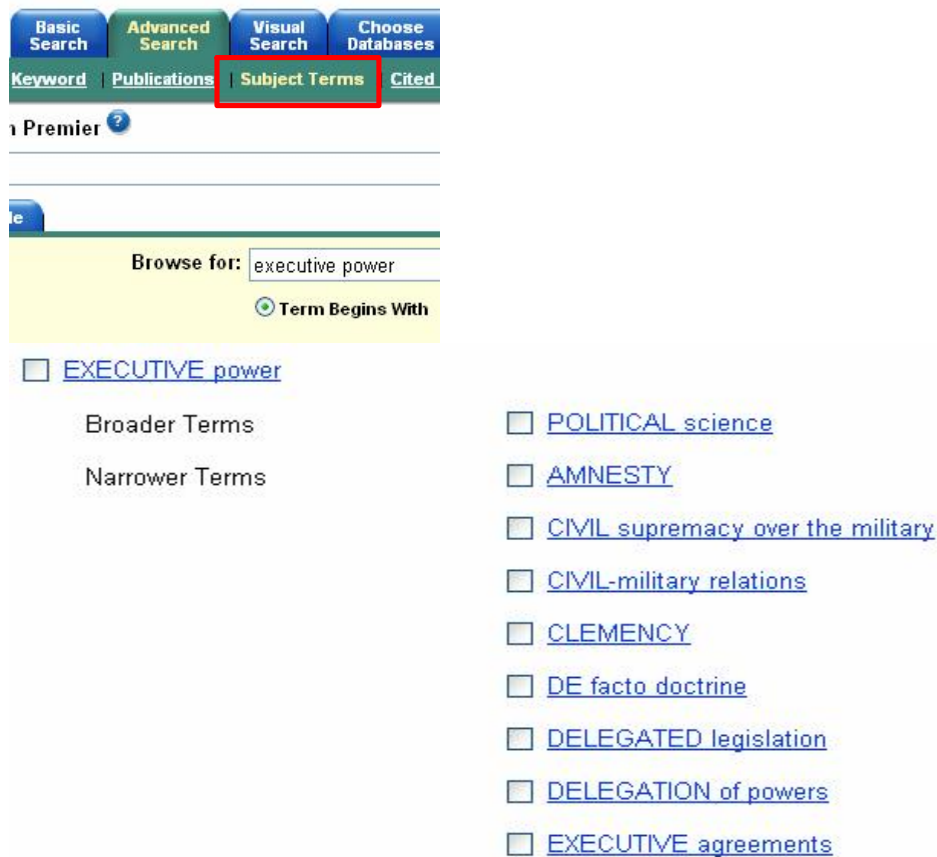
- ▶ U.S. Presidency
  - ▶ Powers and History of the Presidency

Title   	Date  	Type 
 <a href="#">Presidential Libraries</a>	Mar. 16, 2007	 CQ Researcher
 <a href="#">Presidential Power</a>	Feb. 24, 2006	 CQ Researcher
 <a href="#">Presidential Power</a>	Nov. 15, 2002	 CQ Researcher
 <a href="#">The Bush Presidency</a>	Feb. 2, 2001	 CQ Researcher
 <a href="#">Legacy of the Vietnam War</a>	Feb. 18, 2000	 CQ Researcher
 <a href="#">Line-Item Veto</a>	Jun. 20, 1997	 CQ Researcher

Or try a **Quick Search** for your selected topic (e.g., **parliamentary** , **“war power”** or **“presidential power”**)

**Academic Search Premier:** largest scholarly, multi-disciplinary full text database containing full text for nearly 4,650 serials, including more than 3,600 peer-reviewed publications.

Find **Subject Terms**:



The screenshot shows the Academic Search Premier interface. At the top, there are four tabs: "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", "Visual Search", and "Choose Databases". Below these are four sub-tabs: "Keyword", "Publications", "Subject Terms" (highlighted with a red box), and "Cited". The "Subject Terms" section is active, showing a search for "executive power". The "Browse for:" field contains "executive power" and the "Term Begins With" radio button is selected. Below this, there are two columns of subject terms, each with a checkbox:

- EXECUTIVE power
- POLITICAL science
- AMNESTY
- CIVIL supremacy over the military
- CIVIL-military relations
- CLEMENCY
- DE facto doctrine
- DELEGATED legislation
- DELEGATION of powers
- EXECUTIVE agreements

Below the first term, there are also links for "Broader Terms" and "Narrower Terms".

Related Terms	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">WAR &amp; emergency powers</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">HEADS of state</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">IMPLIED powers (Constitutional law)</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">MONARCHY</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">POWER (Social sciences)</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">PRESIDENTS</a>
Used for	EMERGENCY powers POWER, Executive PRESIDENTS -- Powers

Try a **SU Subject Terms** search for **war and emergency power** and narrow results down by subject or type of resource.

Try an advanced search for **SU Subject Terms war and emergency power AND TX All Text constitution\***

<b>Find:</b>	war and emergency power	in	SU Subject Terms	▼
and ▼	constitution*	in	TX All Text	▼
and ▼		in	Select a Field (optional)	▼

**Note:** Some databases will generate citations when a researcher saves an article. However, it is important to confirm that the citation is correct via the *Little Brown Handbook* or another text.

**LexisNexis:** quick access to full-text documents from over 5,900 news, business, legal, medical, and reference publications. Try an Easy Search for your selected topic (e.g., "**presidential powers**" war, "**parliamentary system**" "**presidential system**" etc.)

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis Easy Search interface. At the top, there are three tabs: "Easy Search™", "Power Search", and "General Search". The "Easy Search™" tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a search box labeled "Enter Search Terms" containing the text "presidential powers" war. Below the search box, there is a section labeled "Search Within" with a list of filters, each with a checked checkbox and a small icon. The filters are: Major U.S. and World Publications, Major World Publications (non-English), News Wire Services, TV and Radio Broadcast Transcripts, Blogs, Web Publications, Company, SEC Filings, and Legal. There are also links for "Select All" and "Clear All" above the filter list.



**Notice:** your search results are organized by resource type!

\*\*\* Although many articles are now available in full-text, you may still find some that are in a printed format (i.e., bound in book form). If the article is not in full-text you will need to determine if our library owns that particular volume. A librarian will help you locate articles not in full text. **JSTOR** is another database that can be helpful when searching for older articles.

### Some things to consider ...

1. Computers do a fine job storing and retrieving information; however, they are only as intelligent as their users. We must continue to use our brains and critically evaluate what we read and judge it accordingly. Computers allow researchers to find lots of information easily, but it is clearing the thickening “data smog” that can be difficult while at the same time rewarding.
2. Try to add content that you may think is missing from an article and ask vital questions along the way. This will force you to think more openly about a topic and to remain focused throughout the research process.
3. Don't forget to cite your sources! Take good notes and remember to document where and when you found the information. Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> and under Quick Links select Citing Sources for more information. Read SPC's Academic Honesty Policy at <http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/admit/honesty.htm>.
4. Have fun and enjoy the learning process!

Don't forget to  ... Librarians are available to help every person select and effectively use the library's resources within the library and even in cyberspace!