

Internet Debate Research

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Terms

Internet Provider: The commercial service used to establish a connection to the Internet. Examples of a service provider are America Online, Sprint, ATT, MSN, Road Runner etc.

Internet Browser: The software used to manipulate information on the Internet. The four major browsers in use are Netscape, Mozilla Firefox, Safari (the Apple product) and Internet Explorer (the Microsoft product). Each type of browser will give you access to the same group of search engines, which is the main thing you will care about.

Netscape and Firefox have one feature that Safari and Internet Explorer lack: they can report to you the last revision date of a Web page (select “Page Info” from the top “View” or “Tools” menu to access this function). I teach debaters that a Web page may be dated from the last revision date if no other date is shown on the page; Internet Explorer and Safari offer no way to know this date.

Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Safari have one very useful feature that Netscape lacks: the user can “copy” an image from the Internet (to move over to a PowerPoint presentation, for example) by simple right-clicking the desired image and coming down to the choice for “copy.” It is easier to build a PowerPoint presentation using this feature. You can simply have PowerPoint running at the same time as Internet Explorer (or Firefox or Safari); copy an image using the method described above, click the bottom Start Menu bar to make PowerPoint the active window, then simply issue the “paste” command (either by Control-V or by selecting “paste” from the top menu choice for “Edit”). You can accomplish the same thing from Netscape, but it is more cumbersome. You have to right click the image and select the choice for “save this image” (there is no choice for “copy” in Netscape). Save the image to a place on your hard drive or on a floppy; then from the top “Insert” menu select “Insert Picture” (the choice for “insert picture from file”). The only problem is that this requires a couple of extra steps and you have to make sure you know where on your hard drive you saved the image.

URL: This stands for Universal Resource Locator. It is the <http://www.baylor.edu> etc.

Internet Search Engine: The software used to search for information on the Internet. You will use the same group of search engines, regardless of which browser (Explorer, Firefox, Netscape, or Safari) you may be using. Examples of search engines are Google, AllTheWeb, HotBot, Teoma, InfoSeek, Yahoo, Excite, LookSmart, and AltaVista. I have described the strengths and weaknesses of the various search engines in later paragraphs. My personal favorites are Google and Alta Vista for policy debate research and the Yahoo Directory Search for Lincoln Douglas research.

Metasearch Engines: These are Internet search engines which will submit your search to other search engines. The best of the metasearch engines are SearchOnLine, Dogpile, Mama, and Webcrawler. The metasearch engines advertise that they are superior to any one search engine since they will report results from four or five major Internet search engines. While this is useful for some purposes, it is not the best means to conduct debate research. The metasearch engine sends a simple search request to other search engines, meaning that you are foregoing the opportunity to use the “advanced search” function that almost all major search engines make available to you. This means that you often are losing the capability to do exact phrase searching, limitation by date, limitation by domain, or limitation by file type. It is also often true that you will receive fewer hits from each of the major search engines than if you were to issue the search directly within that search engine.

Domain: Each web page on the Internet will have a closing three letter code such as “.com,” “.edu,” “.gov,” “.net,” etc. The domain tells you something about the origin of the web page. In most instances, the “edu” domain means the web page is housed in or provided by a college or university. The “gov” domain means the web page is maintained by a federal, state, or local government. The “com” and “net” domains usually mean a commercial enterprise. Most of the major search engines (in the advanced search options) allow the debater to limit a search to particular domains.

PDF: This stands for “portable document file” and indicates that a document is being made available in a format which will look just like an original document in print (complete with page numbers). PDF files are designed to be viewed and/or printed in Adobe Acrobat Reader (available free for download from the Internet). The advantage for the debater is that information gathered from a PDF file can be cited at a particular page number (the same page number it would have as if you had access to the original printed document). Almost all congressional hearings (starting with the 105th and 106th Congresses) are available in PDF format. This not only means that you can download a hearing which will be identical to the printed one, but it also means that you have almost immediate access to a hearing once it has been held. PDF files also carry the advantage that they generally are made available from well-established sources on the Internet. Again, however, the software necessary to “read” PDF documents is available free on the Internet. You will know that a document for download is available in PDF format if the

Internet URL ends in “.pdf”. Most of the major search engines allow you to search for only those Web pages which make available a PDF download.

HTML: This stands for “hypertext markup language” and is the code used for creating web pages. You don’t really need to be an HTML programmer to be able to write a web page since numerous programs such as Netscape Composer and Microsoft FrontPage can create the code for you from simple-to-operate menu choices. If you want to view the HTML code used to construct a web page you can do so by selection the top menu choice for “View” (In either Netscape or Internet Explorer) and coming down to the choice for “Page Source.” You will see displayed the native HTML code which creates the Web page.

Maximizing the Use of the Search Engine

Why use a search engine? This is the only way to find material on the Internet unless you already know the URL you are looking for. The problem is that you must know the URL precisely; close will not be good enough. In the early days of the Internet folks used to use printed resources such as *Internet Yellow Pages*. But now there are simply too many pages for these types of publications to be very useful. Google and AllTheWeb, for example, index more than two billion Internet pages.

What should I look for in a good search engine?

Comprehensiveness: For the debater, the most important consideration is to find an Internet search engine which indexes as much of the Internet as possible. Powerful search engines do this through two means. First, they invite Web page creators to send a request to have their pages indexed. This is in the interest of Web designers since they almost always want their pages to be easily found. Second, they employ automatic searching programs which continually find new (and unindexed) pages on the Web and index them. The best search engines also do full text indexing. This means that you could literally pick a phrase out of the middle of a web page, enter the phrase in Google or AltaVista in quotation marks, and the search engine will find the page for you within about a second. This capability is especially important for the debater. You may have written down a portion of a quotation used against you that you would dearly like to find (either because you want to check its context or you want to locate the quotation to use in your own briefs). If the quotation is from an Internet source you can find it very quickly using a comprehensive search engine. There are some limitations to the ability to find text within a web page. Google, for example, indexes only the first 101 kilobytes of a web page (under normal circumstances, this is the first 8 to 10 pages of text).

Speed: Not a major criterion any more. In the early days of search engines you could sometimes issue a search and wait a long time (ten or twenty seconds) for the search to be completed. Those days are gone. All of the major search

engines are really almost instantaneous now. If you are experiencing problems with speed it is probably due to your own modem's speed or to the limitations of your own computer processor's ability to handle the Web page graphics.

Proximity searches: This is a big concern for the debater. If you enter terms like <public health assistance> into your search engine, you will receive dramatically varying results depending upon the search engine you are using. Google does the best job of doing automatic proximity searching; meaning that it will order your search results by examining how close your search terms are in proximity to one another. Older or less capable search engines merely report the pages which contain some or all of these words.

Revision date reporting: Most of the major search engines allow the user to limit the search by entering a range for the last revision date (assuming you utilize the "advanced search" function). I teach debaters to use the last revision date as the citation date if the date is otherwise unavailable on the Web page. It should be remembered, however, that the Netscape or Firefox browser makes it possible for you to determine this last revision date for any Web page you are viewing (unfortunately Internet Explorer lacks this useful feature).

Exact phrase searching: This is an essential feature, for the debater, of a good search engine. By placing your phrase in quotation marks you can instruct the search engine to return only those pages containing the whole phrase as a phrase. When searching for "public health assistance" you want to find the whole phrase of the resolution, not just pages which contain the individual words "public" and "health" and "assistance." Almost all major search engines allow for exact phrase searching but there are some unfortunate exceptions. Be aware, though, that unless you place your phrase in quotation marks you are not getting an exact phrase search.

Image search: Not important for debate research but great for teachers looking for visual images to build PowerPoint presentations.

Procedures for effective searching:

What about capitalization? For the major Internet search engines capitalization no longer matters. Searching for "PUBLIC HEALTH ASSISTANCE" will produce the same results as "Public Health Assistance" or "public health assistance."

What about quotation marks? Use quotation marks whenever you want the search engine to look for words together as a phrase (assuming you are using a search engine that enables exact phrase searching). If you search for Public Health Assistance (without the quotation marks), the search engine will look for web pages containing the word "Public" and "Health" and "Assistance" but it will not require that the words be next to each other. By putting quotation marks around "Public Health Assistance" you are requesting only those pages

containing the whole phrase. There is no need to put quotation marks around a single word.

How can one limit a search to a particular domain? The best Internet search engines have an “advanced search” or “power search” capability. One of the options in the advanced search engine is the capability to limit by domain. Limited your search to the .gov domain will, for example, provide an efficient means of finding government publications on the desired search.

How can one search for a particular URL (you know part but not all of the URL)? Many of the advanced search engines provide the capability to enter a search term and then to indicate whether you wish to make this search apply to “title only,” “full-text,” or URL. You would, of course, select the URL option.

How does the search engine rank the web pages it reports? This is a somewhat controversial issue. Some search engines receive payment from Internet advertisers for the privilege of having their pages reported early in the search list. Most search engines, though, report the web pages in order of the greater number of occurrences of the term. Google’s patented PageRank system is a factors in not only the proximity of the terms but the number of times other users have accessed the web pages.

Evaluating Search Engines

AllTheWeb: AllTheWeb is now a subsidiary of Yahoo. This search engine is useful, but not as useful for the debater as Google or Yahoo’s main search site at www.yahoo.com. www.alltheweb.com

AltaVista: AltaVista used to be my “hands down” favorite for conducting debate research, both for policy and LD. The problem is that AltaVista has stayed the same (or in some cases has actually removed some useful services such as the reporting of the last revision date and the use of the “NEAR” term) while other search engines have become more powerful. www.altavista.com

Dogpile: This is a metasearch engine which searches Overture, Fast, LookSmart, FindWhat, and About. The main problem is that it doesn’t search the best search engines and it does not return the same number of items for each search engine as if you were searching that engine individually. www.dogpile.com

Google: *Best search engine overall for policy debate research.* Other folks have discovered it as well: According to “Nielsen Netratings” of June 2007, Google is responsible for 56.3% of all search engine referrals worldwide. The next closest search engine is Yahoo at 21.5%, followed by MSN Search (www.live.com) at 8.4%. What makes Google (“Go” “Ogle”) so useful for debate research? Two factors: (1) It provides the most comprehensive search and (2) It does automatic proximity searching among the terms listed in the search box. Suppose, for example, you enter in the search box the following words: malaria sub-Saharan Africa. Google will only return those web pages containing the listed search terms and (most importantly) it will list first those web pages which contain the search terms in the closest proximity to one another. Google also makes available a very capable image search database; this is very useful for classroom teachers interested in constructing PowerPoint presentations. www.google.com

HotBot: Before 2005 HotBot provided a useful search engine which would report the last revision date of a web site in its search report. In 2005, however, HotBot became simply a portal site for searching Google or Ask Jeeves. www.hotbot.com

LookSmart: More a directory than a search engine. Not well oriented to conducting debate research. www.looksmart.com

Lycos: Best map search engine on the Internet. Unfortunately, debate research doesn’t require many maps. Not great for debate related searches. Indexing is not very comprehensive. www.lycos.com

Overture: Formerly GoTo. This is a good search engine but not especially useful for debate research. www.overture.com

SearchOnline: Of the metasearch engines, this one is my favorite for debate research. Metasearch engines simply submit your search to a variety of other search engines; what makes this the best of the metasearch engines is that it submits your search to the best search engines on the Web: Google, Yahoo, AltaVista, MSN, and AllTheWeb. My main problem with metasearch engines for debate research is, however, that I lose the ability to use advanced search engine tools by using the rather blunt instrument of a metasearch. If I am using Google myself, I would prefer to use their advanced search engine which allows me to specify whether I want to search for an exact phrase, whether I want to limit the search to PDF (portable document files), whether I want to date limit the search, etc. When I use a metasearch engine, I lose all of this fine-tuning capability. Still, this is a fine metasearch engine. <http://www.websearch.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://searchonline.info/>

Webcrawler: Webcrawler used to be a premier search engine for debate research because it enabled the “NEAR” term in searches (a powerful way to conduct proximity searches). Unfortunately, it no longer has this capability. Now Webcrawler is a “metasearch engine,” meaning that it merely submits your search to a variety of other search engines (in this case AllTheWeb, AskJeeves, LookSmart, and FindWhat). I’m not a fan of metasearch engines for debate research because usually the debater wants to use the advanced search engine within whatever search engine is being used. When a metasearch engine is used, the search is submitted in rather simple form to numerous other search engines, failing to use the full potential of those other search engines. www.webcrawler.com

Yahoo: Yahoo is a good search engine for policy debate research, but it is not as good as Google, AltaVista, or AllTheWeb. *For LD research, it is my search engine of choice.* The reason is because of the Yahoo Directory system and the capability to search within directories. One of these directories is “philosophers.” To call the philosophers database, simply insert “philosophers>” in front of your search term. An example of such a search follows: philosophers>John Locke. The advantage of using this directory search is that the quality of materials returned in the search will be much better overall and much more specifically related to the philosopher John Locke (as opposed to the hundreds of other individuals who later shared his name). www.yahoo.com

Capabilities of Major Search Engines

(Ranked in Order of Preference for Policy Debate Research)

| | URL | Exact Phrase Search | News Search Available | Proximity Search Capability | Advanced Search Capability | Limit to PDF files capability? | Image Search for Ayn Rand | “Public Health Assistance” hits |
|------------|--|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Google | www.google.com | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | 24,700 | 25,400 |
| Yahoo | www.yahoo.com | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | 14,999 | 3,560 |
| AltaVista | www.altavista.com | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | 9,163 | 3,280 |
| HotBot | www.hotbot.com | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes | Unavailable | 1,680 |
| AllTheWeb | www.alltheweb.com | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | 9,492 | 3,040 |
| Ask | www.ask.com | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | 2,420 | 1,680 |
| About | www.about.com | Yes | No | No | No | No | Unavailable | 0 |
| Dogpile | www.dogpile.com | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | 40 | 90 |
| Webcrawler | www.webcrawler.com | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | 40 | 98 |
| Excite | www.excite.com | No | Yes | No | No | No | 40 | 53 |
| Overture | www.overture.com | Yes | No | No | No | No | Unavailable | 3,560 |
| Mama | www.mama.com | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | 2518 | 35 |
| Lycos | www.lycos.com | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | 314 | 1,680 |
| LookSmart | www.looksmart.com | No | Yes | No | No | No | Unavailable | 5 |
| Live | www.live.com | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | 4,326 | 2,213 |

Quality of Evidence on the Internet

Setting rigid standards will be essential: The Internet makes available web pages from fourth grade students right alongside those from world-class experts. Just as in the print medium, one must make a distinction between the *New York Times* and the *National Enquirer*. Since most debate research is squad-based, meaning it is shared by many students, it is essential that there be agreement on minimum standards for the types of web pages which may be used for debate research. Following are some recommended standards:

NO use of web pages which come from discussion groups or chat rooms.

NO use of web pages where the author's qualifications are unknown.

NO use of web pages where the author is a student in grade school, high school, or college.

NO use of web pages from hate groups or from unidentified organizations.

NO use of web pages which are undated or for which a "last revision date" is unavailable.

Prefer web pages sponsored by one of the following groups:

A government institution

A major educational institution

A recognized "think tank" (RAND, Brookings Institution, Heritage Foundation, CATO Institute, Hudson Institute, etc.)

A reputable journalistic organization (CNN, New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, etc.)

Using the URL to sort out author qualifications: Consider the following example. You enter "John Rawls" and "social safety net" in a Google search. You have a web page returned to you entitled "Notes on 'A Theory of Justice.'" The web page contains some information which you find useful, but you have no information about the author other than just the name Chilton. You notice from the URL that the web page comes from an "edu" domain associated with something called d.umn, but you don't know what school this is, and you don't know whether the author is a professor or an undergraduate student. The URL is <http://www.d.umn.edu/~schilton/3652/Readings/3652.Rawls.ATheoryOfJustice.html>. Take apart the URL to discover more about the author. Click with your mouse up in the URL line and eliminate all of the end of the URL back to schilton, then return. See if you can find more information about the author. If the URL comes from an educational institution with which you are unfamiliar, eliminate all of the end of the URL back to the part which ends in "edu" then hit return. By clicking the button on his web page for "Vita" you can discover information about his background. You find that the author of the web page is Stephen Chilton, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, who earned his Ph.D. from the MIT — a good source. But some additional work was needed to determine the qualification. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU

FIND THE PERSON OR GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR AUTHORIZING THE WEB PAGE. It is NEVER a sufficient qualification that you found it on the Internet.

How to find the date. Some web pages will have the date prominently displayed at the top of the web page. Whenever you have this type of date listed, it should be used rather than the last revision date of the web page. Often, however, there is no date on the web page. In such cases, you can find the last revision date by using the "View" or "Tools" menu choice to select the "Page Info" option (available only in Netscape and Firefox). (Resist the temptation to select "Source Info" because that will just show you the HTML code for the web page). Page Info will usually show you the name of the organization sponsoring the web page and the last revision date.

How to prepare debate citations from the Internet. Example:

Stephen Chilton (Professor, Political Science, U. Minnesota, Duluth), Mar. 8, 2004, "The Enlightenment." Online. Internet. June 22, 2004.
<http://www.d.umn.edu/~schilton/3652/Readings/3652.Rawls.ATheoryOfJustice.html>.

This is the citation standard required by the National Forensic League, which follows the Style Manual of the Modern Language Association (MLA). Authors must be listed if present. Qualifications must be given. The date of the web page must be given. The name of the web page should be presented. At the end of the citation, indicate that it was gathered online and that the online source was the Internet (as opposed to Lexis/Nexis, Dialogue, etc.). The final date is the date that you accessed the Internet material.

Carding Evidence

ADVANTAGES OF ON-DISK EVIDENCE AND BRIEF PREPARATION

Minimize Printing: In the age of the information explosion, it is simply not feasible for debaters to print out a hard copy of everything they think they might need to read. The two major impediments are expense and time. It is expensive (in laser printer cartridges) for a debate squad to print out all of the materials that active researchers need. It is also time consuming to print big chunks of material; computer labs typically have many computers but a single printer. The printer becomes the bottle neck. The overuse of printing is also environmentally irresponsible. Debaters chunk huge volumes of paper, often printing out a two-hundred page law review article in order to extract two or three cards. This means that hundreds of pages per day of printed or photocopied materials are simply discarded.

More Usable Briefs: Word processed briefs are easier to read (no illegible handwritten tags, no red or blue ink which refuses to photocopy), and they contain much more evidence per page. This ends up saving a squad large amounts of money in photocopy cost. In fact, members of a large squad can simply distribute new positions via disk and have each squad member print out their briefs on their own printer. This dramatically reduces squad photocopy costs. If briefs are to be word processed, it simply makes sense to collect the evidence on-disk. Otherwise, the debater has to re-type the evidence which exists in hard copy.

Sorting is Easy: The old way for debaters to construct arguments (a federalism disadvantage, for example) is to create piles on a table-top of evidence which is sorted into different parts of the argument. Inevitably, as the argument is being constructed, there are numerous times when the debater thinks, "I know I have that piece of evidence that says . . . but WHERE IS IT?" When evidence is collected, sorted, and filed on-disk, that doesn't happen. If the evidence isn't found in the right category, the debater simply uses the word processor's "find" function to search for the word or phrase. The card is located in seconds. When evidence is prepared on-disk, the debater can simply use the sorting function of the word processor to put the evidence in order.

HOW DOES ONE CARD EVIDENCE ONLINE?

Have Your Word Processor and Internet Browser Both Open at the Same Time: There was a time when computers simply didn't have enough RAM (current memory) to have two large programs open at once. Almost all current generation computers have plenty of memory to make this possible. Simply open the first program, then minimize the window (minimize button is in the top right corner) and start up the other program. If you are on a PC, switch

back and forth between the two programs by clicking the desired program on the start-bar. On the Macintosh, you can switch between programs by using the icon in the top right hand corner of your screen. An alternative method for switching is to overlap the window just a bit so that a corner of both can be seen. When you desire to switch, just click with the mouse on the other window to make that program active.

Steps for On-Disk Carding of Evidence:

Text-Saving Method:

This method is useful when debaters have only short periods of access to the Internet.

1. Locate the Internet site from which the evidence will come.
2. Construct the evidence citation on the word processor in accordance with NFL rules.
3. Identify the source in such a way that it will match the text you will save (i.e. Ravitch1). Once the Internet session is completed, save all of these citations to disk as "Sources."
4. Save a text copy of the Internet web site, giving it a name which will match the citation (i.e. Crane1)
5. The student would then follow the steps below on the Online Method, but because they now have a disk copy of the stuff from the Internet, they can finish the work on their home computer.

Online Method:

1. Locate the Internet site from which the evidence will come.
2. Construct the evidence citation on the word processor in accordance with NFL rules.
3. Highlight the portion of the text from the web page which will makeup the text of the card. Copy the text into memory (on the PC, this is Cntrl-C; on the Macintosh it is Apple-C).
4. Switch to the word processor and paste in the text just below the evidence citation. (On the PC, this is Cntrl-V; on the Macintosh it is Apple-V)
5. Eliminate unwanted carrier returns in one of two ways: (a) click at the beginning of each line and backspace, or (b) use the word processor's search and replace function to eliminate all paragraph breaks.
6. Continue pasting cards into the word processor until you have taken all of the desired cards from the web page. Then copy and paste as many evidence citation tops as needed to match each of the cards.

SORTING EVIDENCE ON THE COMPUTER

Design a filing scheme which will allow addition of categories.

Once filed and sorted, your on-disk evidence file functions just like the “piles of cards” on the table. You use the index to see where the cards are which will support the part of the argument you are putting together, then use the search function on the word processor to find the cards, by searching for R301, for example. Read the cards which are filed there, and select the card or cards you want to insert in the brief. Then cut and paste them.

Suggestions for Online Policy Debate Research

Finding Definitions of Terms:

OneLook.com: Access to more than one thousand dictionaries is available through www.onelook.com.

Google: Google (www.google.com) also provides two little-known definition tools. The first approach is to enter the term “define” in the main search box, followed by a colon, then the term or phrase you wish to have defined. Try, for example, the following Google search – define: establish. You will find dozens of web-based definitions of the term. Notice the difference made by the colon after the word “define.” If the colon is absent, Google looks for any Web pages containing the word “define” and the word “establish.” With the colon present, Google detects that you wish to examine only those Web sites which intend to define the specific word, “establish.” A second definitional tool built into Google involves the capability to click any underlined term in a search phrase. Try, for example, entering the phrase “public health assistance.” You will notice that when Google returns the pages for this search, it now also underlines each of the words contained in your search. By clicking on one of the underlined words, you will see a definition of the term.

Newspaper & Journal Articles:

Google News: Google news gives you access to otherwise hard to find news articles on the civil liberties topic. In fact, I have found this resources more useful on the civil liberties topic than the Lexis/Nexis news database (and it is sure a lot cheaper). <http://news.google.com/>

FindArticles: The Web’s First Free Article Search. Their advertisement says that “FindArticles.com is a vast archive of published articles that you can search for free. Constantly updated, it contains articles dating back to 1998 from more than 300 magazines and journals.” Among this 300 are numerous publications debaters should find useful: <http://articles.findarticles.com/p/home?tb=art>

Library of Congress Online Reading Room. From this Web site, the debater can find links to hundreds of online newspapers and journals.

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/lists.html>

The Write News. This site provides links to all major newspapers maintaining online services. <http://writenews.com/newslinks/>

Research Think Tanks:

American Enterprise Institute: “The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research is dedicated to preserving and strengthening the foundations of freedom—limited government, private enterprise, vital cultural and political institutions, and a strong foreign policy and national defense—through scholarly research, open debate, and publications. Founded in 1943 and located in Washington, D.C., AEI is one of America's largest and most respected think tanks.” <http://www.aei.org/library.htm>

Brookings Institution: “In its research, The Brookings Institution functions as an independent analyst and critic, committed to publishing its findings for the information of the public. In its conferences and activities, it serves as a bridge between scholarship and public policy, bringing new knowledge to the attention of decisionmakers and affording scholars a better insight into public policy issues. The Institution traces its beginnings to 1916 with the founding of the Institute for Government Research, the first private organization devoted to public policy issues at the national level. In 1922 and 1924, the Institute was joined by two supporting sister organizations, the Institute of Economics and the Robert Brookings Graduate School. In 1927, these three groups were consolidated into one institution, named in honor of Robert Somers Brookings (1850-1932), a St. Louis businessman whose leadership shaped the earlier organizations.”

CATO Institute: “The Cato Institute was founded in 1977 by Edward H. Crane. It is a non-profit public policy research foundation headquartered in Washington, D.C. The Institute is named for Cato's Letters, a series of libertarian pamphlets that helped lay the philosophical foundation for the American Revolution. The Cato Institute seeks to broaden the parameters of public policy debate to allow consideration of the traditional American principles of limited government, individual liberty, free markets and peace. Toward that goal, the Institute strives to achieve greater involvement of the intelligent, concerned lay public in questions of policy and the proper role of government.” www.cato.org

Heritage Foundation. “Founded in 1973, The Heritage Foundation is a research and educational institute — a think tank — whose mission is to formulate and promote conservative public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense.” <http://www.heritage.org/>

Hudson Institute: “In Hudson Institute’s policy recommendations, articles, books, conferences, and contributions to the electronic media, we share optimism about

the future and a willingness to question conventional wisdom. We demonstrate commitment to free markets and individual responsibility, confidence in the power of technology to assist progress, respect for the importance of culture and religion in human affairs, and determination to preserve America's national security." <http://www.hudson.org/>

RAND Corporation: "RAND (a contraction of the term research and development) is the first organization to be called a "think tank." We earned this distinction soon after we were created in 1946 by our original client, the U.S. Air Force (then the Army Air Forces). Some of our early work involved aircraft, rockets, and satellites. In the 1960s we even helped develop the technology you're using to view this web site. Today, RAND's work is exceptionally diverse. We now assist all branches of the U.S. military community, and we apply our expertise to social and international issues as well." <http://www.rand.org/>

Law Reviews:

University Law Review Project. <http://www.lawreview.org/>

Yahoo Law Directory. This site provides links to hundreds of law reviews many of which make their archives available online.
<http://dir.yahoo.com/Government/Law/Journals/>

Top Sub-Saharan Africa Web Sites for Debaters

www.africare.org

Africare is a leading non-government organization (NGO) dealing with public health issues in sub-Saharan Africa: "Over the course of its history, Africare has become a leader among private, charitable U.S. organizations assisting Africa. It is the oldest and largest African-American organization in the field. And Africa is Africare's specialty. Africare's programs address needs in the principal areas of food security and agriculture as well as health and HIV/AIDS. Africare also supports water resource development, environmental management, basic education, microenterprise development, governance initiatives and emergency humanitarian aid. Africare now reaches families and communities in 26 countries in every major region of Sub-Saharan Africa, from Mali to South Africa and from Senegal to Mozambique. Since its founding in 1970, Africare has delivered more than \$540 million in assistance – over 2,000 projects – to 36 countries Africa-wide." The "News and Education" link provides updates on health issues throughout Africa.

www.amref.org

AMREF is the African Medical and Research Foundation. The Web site provides the following mission statement: "AMREF's mission is to improve the health of disadvantaged people in Africa as a means for them to escape poverty and improve the quality of their lives. Our mission determines that we work in six areas of focus, or priority intervention areas (PIAs). HIV/AIDS, TB [tuberculosis] and sexually transmitted diseases; malaria, safe water and basic sanitation, family health, clinical services, disaster management and emergency response, training and health learning materials. The AMREF mission is to be achieved by: developing, testing and promoting the adoption of models for improving health and reducing poverty; training and capacity building at all levels; and contributing to the development of an environment that enables health and wealth improvement. AMREF is the continent's leading health development organisation. AMREF has offices in 5 Eastern and Southern African countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. We have field offices in Somalia and Sudan. Each year we train health professionals from countries all over the African Continent. Our headquarters are in Nairobi, Kenya." By selecting the "Info Centre" link, the debater will find other links for "Annual and Financial Reports" and "Technical Briefing Papers." Both links will provide access to very useful information on the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa.

www.doctorswithoutborders.org

Doctors Without Borders: This organization was formed in 1971 by a group of doctors in France, which explains why it is more commonly referred to as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). MSF now has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The Web site offers the following explanation of the organization's purpose: "Doctors Without

Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an independent international medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural or man-made disasters or exclusion from health care in more than 70 countries. Each year, MSF doctors, nurses, logisticians, water-and-sanitation experts, administrators and other medical and non-medical professionals depart on more than 3,800 field assignments. They work alongside more than 22,500 locally hired staff to provide medical care. In emergencies and their aftermath, MSF provides health care, rehabilitates and runs hospitals and clinics, performs surgery, battles epidemics, carries out vaccination campaigns, operates feeding centers for malnourished children and offers mental health care. When needed, MSF also constructs wells and dispenses clean drinking water and provides shelter materials like blankets and plastic sheeting.” The Web page allows the user to select any of 70 countries and any of 16 diseases to receive access to newsletters and reports.

www.hudson.org

The Hudson Institute explains its mission as follows: “Hudson Institute is a non-partisan policy research organization dedicated to innovative research and analysis that promotes global security, prosperity and freedom. We challenge conventional thinking and help manage strategic transitions to the future through interdisciplinary and collaborative studies in defense, international relations, economics, culture, science, technology and law. Through publications, conferences and policy recommendations, we seek to guide global leaders in government and business.” By clicking on the link (at the left side of the Hudson Institute home page) for “Publications and Op-Eds,” the debater will be able to use the search function to find numerous useful publications on the Africa topic. The Hudson Institute analysts generally take the position that UNAIDS, the World Health Organization and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria are failed institutions.

www.fightingmalaria.gov

This is a U.S. federal government Web site recently established to provide information about the President’s Malaria Initiative. The Web site explains the mission of this program as follows: “The President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI) is a historic \$1.2 billion, five-year initiative to control malaria in Africa. Announced by President Bush on June 30, 2005, it is a collaborative U.S. Government effort led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the Department of State, the White House and others.” The “Resources” tab provides access to dozens of recent reports on the prevention and treatment of malaria in Africa.

www.theglobalfund.org

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: The Global Fund’s purpose, according to its Web site is “to dramatically increase resources to fight three of the world’s most devastating diseases and to direct those resources to areas of greatest need. As a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and affected communities, the Global Fund represents an innovative approach to international health financing.” From the “Fact Sheets and Publications” link at the left side of the page, the debater will find numerous publications including the Fund’s 2005 Annual Report listing the following accomplishments: “4.2 million people receiving voluntary counseling and testing for HIV; 7.8 million people reached with community efforts to prevent HIV; 116,000 women reached with services for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission; 496,000 orphans provided with care and support; 5.6 million people reached with anti-malaria treatment (including artemisinin-based combination therapy for drug-resistant malaria); 950,000 health professionals and other people trained in the effective delivery of interventions to fight the three diseases” (p. 36).

www.unaids.org

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS: UNAIDS describes its mission as follows: “UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, brings together the efforts and resources of ten UN system organizations to the global AIDS response. Cosponsors include UNHCR (UN High Commissioner on Refugees), UNICEF (UN Children’s Fund), WFP (World Food Programme), UNDP (UN Development Programme), UNFPA (UN Population Fund), UNODC (UN Office on Drugs and Crime), ILO (International Labour Organization), UNESCO (UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), WHO (World Health Organization) and the World Bank. Based in Geneva, the UNAIDS secretariat works on the ground in more than 75 countries world wide.” Under the “Publications” tab, the debater will find dozens of reports in the 2005-2007 time frame available for free download in PDF (portable document file) format. An example is the December 2006 report, AIDS Epidemic Update, which includes a chapter on Sub-Saharan Africa: “Provision of antiretroviral therapy has expanded dramatically in sub-Saharan Africa: more than one million [930 000-1.15 million] people were receiving antiretroviral treatment by June 2006, a tenfold increase since December 2003” (p. 10).

www.usaid.gov

United States Agency for International Development: This federal government agency describes its mission as follows: “U.S. foreign assistance has always had the twofold purpose of furthering America’s foreign policy interests in expanding democracy and free markets while improving the lives of the citizens of the developing world. Spending less than one-half of 1 percent of the federal budget, USAID works around the world to achieve these goals. . . . We provide assistance in four regions of the world: Sub-Saharan Africa; Asia and the Near East; Latin America and the Caribbean and; Europe and Eurasia. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., USAID’s strength is its field offices around the world. We work in close partnership with private voluntary organizations, indigenous organizations, universities,

American businesses, international agencies, other governments and other U.S. government agencies. USAID has working relationships with more than 3,500 American companies and over 300 U.S.-based private voluntary organizations.”

www.nyu.edu/fas/institute/dri/Easterly/Media.html

This Web site provides access to the key publications of William Easterly, professor of economics at New York University. Professor Easterly is also the co-director of NYU's Development Research Institute and a non-resident fellow of the Center for Global Development in Washington, D.C. Easterly supports the position that U.S. foreign aid does more harm than good in Africa because it creates dependency and feeds corruption. This Web site provides links to dozens of recent articles supporting this viewpoint.

www.who.int

Following is the mission statement of the WHO: “The World Health Organization is the United Nations specialized agency for health. It was established on 7 April 1948. WHO's objective, as set out in its Constitution, is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. Health is defined in WHO's Constitution as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. WHO is governed by 193 Member States through the World Health Assembly. The Health Assembly is composed of representatives from WHO's Member States. The main tasks of the World Health Assembly are to approve the WHO programme and the budget for the following biennium and to decide major policy questions.” Unfortunately the “Publications” tab only provides access to books for sale. The debater can, however, find numerous free materials by selecting the “Health Topics” tab and locating alphabetically issues such as “Malaria,” “Tobacco,” “HIV Infections,” “Pesticides” and “Vitamin A Deficiency.”

www.africaaction.org

Africa Action: The “About Us” link on the Web page provides the following explanation: “Africa Action is the oldest organization in the U.S. working on African affairs. We are a national organization based in Washington, DC. Our work dates back to 1953, the year our oldest predecessor organization was founded in New York. Today, in partnership with activists and civil society organizations throughout the United States and in Africa, Africa Action is working to change U.S. foreign policy and the policies of international institutions in order to support African struggles for peace and development. By changing the policies of our own government, we have proven that we can make a real difference.” The “Resources and Information” tab along the top of the Africa Action home page provides access to dozens of reports on HIV/AIDS, nutrition programs, debt relief and numerous other issues.

www.africa-union.org

African Union: The Organization for African Unity (OAU) was formed in 1963 and in 2002 it was reorganized as the African Union (AU). All 53 nations in Africa belong to the African Union. The “Members” link at the left side of the page provides an interactive map of Africa allowing the user to see an alphabetical list of countries where a single click locates the country on the map and provides basic demographic information. The *AUC Newsletter* link (at the right side of the home page) provides free access to monthly issues of the newsletter of the African Union Commission.

www.amicaall.org

Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders in HIV/AIDS in Africa (AMICAALL): AMICAALL says that “The Alliance was established to promote an expanded, multisectoral response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic at the local level.” AMICAALL has chapters in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The Alliance publishes a bi-annual newsletter and makes all of the back issues available for free download by clicking the “Documents” link at the top of the Web page.

www.avac.org

AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition: AVAC explains its mission as follows: “Founded in 1995, the non-profit AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC) seeks to create a favorable policy and social environment for accelerated ethical research and eventual global delivery of AIDS vaccines as part of a comprehensive response to the pandemic.” The “AVACS Publications” link provides free access to a 60-page 2006 report on the status of the search for an AIDS vaccine.

www.cartercenter.org

The Carter Center, founded by former President Jimmy Carter, explains its mission as follows: “The Carter Center, in partnership with Emory University, is guided by a fundamental commitment to human rights and the alleviation of human suffering; it seeks to prevent and resolve conflicts, enhance freedom and democracy and improve health.” The Carter Center has been very active in combating river blindness, guinea worm and numerous other health problems in sub-Saharan Africa. By clicking the “Health Programs” link, the debater can gain access to numerous reports and newsletters.

www.crs.org

Catholic Relief Services: The organization explains its mission as follows: “Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States. Our mission is to assist the poor and disadvantaged, leveraging the teachings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to alleviate human suffering, promote development of all people and to foster charity and justice throughout the world. Working through local offices and an extensive network of partners, CRS operates on five continents and in 99 countries. We aid the poor by first providing direct assistance where needed,

then encouraging people to help with their own development. Together, these approaches foster secure, productive, just communities that enable people to realize their potential.” Numerous publications available for free download are available by selecting the “About Us” option, then the “Newsroom” tab.

www.cdc.gov/nchstp/od/nchstp.html

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: One of the divisions of the CDC is The National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention (NCHSTP) which, according to its Web site, “is responsible for public health surveillance, prevention research and programs to prevent and control human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and tuberculosis (TB). Center staff work in collaboration with governmental and nongovernmental partners at community, State, national and international levels, applying well-integrated multidisciplinary programs of research, surveillance, technical assistance and evaluation.” One of the topics in the links available at the left side of the page is “Global AIDS” offering access to numerous publications on the status of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa.

www.cgdev.org

Center for Global Development: This organization describes its mission as follows: “CGD is an independent, not-for-profit think tank that works to reduce global poverty and inequality by encouraging policy change in the U.S. and other rich countries through rigorous research and active engagement with the policy community.” By clicking the link for “Aid Effectiveness,” the debater will uncover numerous useful links. The “Briefs” link offers argument briefs with titles such as “Millions Saved: Proven Successes in Global Health” and “Food Aid: Doing Well By Doing Good.”

www.uneca.org/CHGA/

Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa: The Commission explains its mission in the following way: “The Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance is a UN system-wide initiative, launched in February 2003 by (UN) Secretary-General Kofi Annan to complement the vital work on transmission and prevention being done by UN and other agencies with a rigorous agenda that charts the way forward on HIV/AIDS and governance in Africa in three crucially interrelated areas: (a) the implications of sustained human capacity losses for the maintenance of state structures and economic development; (b) the viability (technical, fiscal and structural) of utilizing anti-retroviral (ARV) medication as an instrument of mitigation; and (c) in partnership with UN and other agencies, synthesizing best practices in HIV/AIDS and governance in key development areas with a view to formulating policy recommendations.” The “Publications” tab at the left side of the CHG home page provides access to numerous reports concerning HIV/AIDS programs in Sub-Saharan Africa.

www.globalhealth.org.

The Global Health Council provides this overview of its history and mission: “The Global Health Council, formerly the National Council of International Health, is a U.S.-based, nonprofit membership organization that was created in 1972 to identify priority world health problems and to report on them to the U.S. public, legislators, international and domestic government agencies, academic institutions and the global health community.” This organization publishes *AIDSLink* and *Global HealthLink* but both are available only with subscription. Some free resources are, however, available including the *Global Health Council Annual Report*.

www.aids.harvard.edu.

HAI: Harvard AIDS Initiative: This program of the Harvard School of Public Health, explains its mission as follows: “For almost two decades, HAI has been dedicated to promoting research, education and leadership to end the AIDS epidemic. As the number of AIDS cases continues to escalate disproportionately in Africa and other resource scarce settings, HAI has directed its research efforts toward developing prevention and treatment strategies to stem the epidemic in these regions. HAI partners with organizations in Africa and other regions of the world to develop sustained education and training programs.” This Web site, through the “Publications” link, provides free access to the online AIDS-related periodical, *Spotlight*.

www.heritage.org

The Heritage Foundation, founded in 1973, describes its mission as “a research and educational institute – a think tank – whose mission is to formulate and promote conservative public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values and a strong national defense.” Heritage Foundation analysts typically argue that increased trade and promotion of economic freedom will benefit Africa more than will increased development assistance. www.internationalrelations.house.gov/archives/afhear.htm

House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations: This subcommittee of the House Committee on International Relations has conducted most of the hearings of interest on public health issues in sub-Saharan Africa. An example is the 26 April 2005 hearing entitled *Malaria and TB: Implementing Proven Treatment and Eradication Methods*.

www.hrw.org

Human Rights Watch: This Web site provides the following mission statement: “Human Rights Watch is dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world. We stand with victims and activists to prevent discrimination, to uphold political freedom, to protect people from inhumane conduct in wartime and to bring offenders to justice. We investigate and expose human rights violations and hold abusers accountable. We challenge governments and those who hold power to end abusive practices and respect international human rights law. We enlist the public and

the international community to support the cause of human rights for all.” Under the “Global Issues” link at the left side of the home page, the debater will find a link for “HIV/AIDS,” providing access to numerous reports on the global fight against AIDS.

www.iavi.org

IAVI: International AIDS Vaccine Initiative: This Web site explains the mission of IAVI in the following way: “IAVI is a global not-for-profit organization working to speed the search for a vaccine to prevent HIV infection and AIDS. Founded in 1996 and operational in 23 countries, IAVI and its network of partners research and develop vaccine candidates. IAVI also advocates for a vaccine to be a global priority and works to assure that a future vaccine will be accessible to all who need it.” The “Publications & Resources” link provides free access to numerous reports describing the progress medical researchers are making toward the development of an AIDS vaccine.

www.oxfamamerica.org

Oxfam America: Oxfam was formed in England in 1942 by a group of Quaker intellectuals at Oxford University. Its original function was to advocate for aiding the poor throughout Europe, but over time its focus changed to addressing poverty in developing countries. Oxfam America was formed in 1972; its current headquarters location is in Boston. The “News and Publications” link provides access to numerous reports and press releases, many of which concern public health issues in sub-Saharan Africa.

<http://collections.plos.org/plosmedicine/hiv-aids-2006.php>

PLoS: The Public Library of Science is a peer-reviewed, open-access medical journal offering outstanding articles on health topics by leading medical experts. Recent articles dealing with HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa have discussed preventing mother-to-child transmission, making antiretroviral therapy cost-effective, use of circumcision to combat AIDS, ethical issues in HIV/AIDS research, lamenting the way that the priority on HIV/AIDS funding drives out programs for other health problems and making progress toward an HIV/AIDS vaccine.

www.saf aids.org.zw

SAfAIDS: Southern Africa HIV/AIDS Information Dissemination Service. This organization explains its history and mission as follows: “Established in 1994, SAfAIDS is a regional HIV/AIDS organisation based in Harare, Zimbabwe. Its goal is to disseminate HIV/AIDS information to promote, inform and support appropriate responses to the epidemic.” Numerous publications are available for free download, including an annual report and issues of *The Correspondent*, which is the organization’s newsletter.

www.sadc.int

Southern African Development Community: The “About SADC” link provides the following explanation: “The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has been in existence since 1980, when it was formed as a loose alliance of nine majority-ruled States in Southern Africa known as the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), with the main aim of coordinating development projects in order to lessen economic dependence on the then apartheid South Africa. . . . The Member States are Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.” The “Key Documents” link (at the left side of the Web page) provides access to dozens of useful documents such as the 2007 report by Isabel Chimangeni, “Pregnancy Is a Dangerous Pursuit in Zambia.”

www.worldbank.org

The World Bank describes its mission in the following way: “The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. We are not a bank in the common sense. We are made up of two unique development institutions owned by 184 member countries—the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA). Each institution plays a different but supportive role in our mission of global poverty reduction and the improvement of living standards. The IBRD focuses on middle income and creditworthy poor countries, while IDA focuses on the poorest countries in the world. Together we provide low-interest loans, interest-free credit and grants to developing countries for education, health, infrastructure, communications and many other purposes.” By clicking the “Publications” tab, the debater can gain free access to thousands of World Bank reports, many of which deal with public health issues in Africa.