

City, County, and State Resource Guide

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This guide provides selected resources for information on U.S. cities, counties, and states. Included are the Mildred F. Sawyer Library subscription reference and periodical databases, websites, and a brief list of print resources. For specific book and periodical titles, check the [Suffolk University Library Catalog](#).

The Sawyer Library subscription reference resources, periodical indexes, and full-text databases are available both on campus and [off campus](#).

Further information can be found in the Sawyer Library [Massachusetts and Boston Statistics Resource Guide](#) and the [Demography and Population Studies Resource Guide](#).

Electronic Reference Sources

[Gale Virtual Reference Library](#)

Gale Virtual Reference is a collection of reference books published by Gale, which has now been made available electronically. Titles relevant to information on cities and states include:

- National Survey of State Laws Vol. 1, 5th ed., 2005
- Cities of the United States 5th ed., 4v, 2006
- Cities of the World 6th ed., 4v, 2002

- Worldmark Encyclopedia of the States 6th ed., 2004
- Encyclopedia of Population 2v, 2003

[DemographicsNow](#)

DemographicsNow is a tool to analyze the demographic, and hence market potential, of any geography (state, county, census tract, zip code, etc.) in the United States.

[First Research \(Industries\)](#)

First Research is primarily geared to providing Industry Profiles, however, there is also a section on State & Province Profiles, which provide a snapshot of the business climate in individual states and Canadian provinces. Topics include industry, employment, and real estate trends. Profile updates are available at the end of each quarter.

[Places, Towns, and Townships](#)

February 2003

Based on the 2000 census, this volume "contains statistical information about U.S. places and the people who live in them. [...] from the largest city to the smallest village - and for all Census Designated Places."

[Historical Statistics of the United States](#)

The online version of a five-volume reference work: the standard source for the quantitative facts of the United States. Organized by broad topic areas - population, work and welfare, economic structure and performance, economic sectors, and governance and international relations.

[International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences](#)

This Encyclopedia represents a massive undertaking to "describe the state of the art in all the fields encompassed within the social and behavioral sciences. Available in both print (26 volumes) and online editions, it comprises 4,000 articles, commissioned by 52 Section Editors, and includes 90,000 bibliographic references as well as comprehensive name and subject indexes." The Encyclopedia includes an entire section devoted to Urban Studies.

[The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics](#)

"The online edition of The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics contains the full text of the 8 volume print edition." Urban, Rural, and Regional Economics is one of the major topical areas of the Dictionary.

Periodical Indexes and Full-text Databases:

[LexisNexis Academic](#)

LexisNexis provides full-text coverage of U.S. domestic and international (English language) newspapers. Massachusetts titles include the Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Berkshire Eagle, Lowell Sun, and Patriot Ledger.

[Massachusetts Newsstand](#)

Full text articles from many of Massachusetts' largest newspapers from across the state, with coverage going back to the early 1990's.

[Sage Journals Online](#)

Sage Journals Online provides electronic access to the academic journals published by the scholarly publisher, Sage, back to 1999. This consists of 450 peer-reviewed journals in fields such as management, the humanities, and the sciences. Sample journal titles include the *Journal of Urban History* (November 1974 - present), *Public Works Management & Policy* (April 1997 - present), and *Urban Affairs Review* (September 1965 - present.)

[NBER Working Papers](#)

"Founded in 1920, the National Bureau of Economic Research is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization dedicated to promoting a greater understanding of how the economy works. The NBER is the nation's leading nonprofit economic research organization. Sixteen of the 31 American Nobel Prize winners in Economics and six of the past Chairmen of the President's Council of Economic Advisers have been researchers at the NBER." Users may browse papers by JEL (Journal of Economic Literature) Classification, which includes a section for Urban, Rural, and Regional Economics.

[JSTOR](#)

JSTOR has digitized the complete full-text of the backfiles of over 400 scholarly journals, many of which date as far back as the 1800s. Generally, coverage extends up to, but not including, the most recent three to five years of any given journal. JSTOR contains 10 journals devoted to Population Studies, and 9 journals on Public Policy & Administration.

[Academic Search Complete](#)

EBSCO's Academic Search Complete provides "more than 5,500 full-text periodicals, including more than 4,600 peer-reviewed journals." PDF content in some instances goes back as far as the late 1800's.

[Business Source Complete: Regional Business News](#)

The Regional Business News section of Business Source Complete "provides comprehensive full text coverage for regional business publications. Regional Business News incorporates coverage of 75 business journals, newspapers and newswires from all metropolitan and rural areas within the United States."

[Academic OneFile \(InfoTrac\)](#)

Academic OneFile from Infotrac is a broad based periodical database, covering social sciences, arts, humanities, and science. Approximately 3,000 magazines and journals are indexed (some as far back as the 1980's), and full-text is provided for over 1,900 titles, generally beginning in the late 1990's. Titles include: *American City & County*, in full-text from 1989 to the present.

[Oxford Journals Online](#)

Oxford Journals Online is a small database of Oxford University Press journals. Titles include the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 01/01/2003 - present.

[The New York Times \(1851-2003\)](#)

Bearing the motto "All the News That's Fit to Print," the New York Times is the nation's unofficial newspaper of record. The paper provides comprehensive coverage of national, foreign, business and local news of New York City and the surrounding metropolitan area. With this database, users may search the full-text of the New York Times from 1851-2003. Results are displayed as a PDF image of the article, and includes an image of the article's placement on the page.

[Stat-USA: State of the Nation](#)

STAT-USA is produced by the U.S. Department of Commerce, to provide access to business, trade, and economic information from various federal agencies. The State of the Nation section is devoted to the United States' domestic economy, and provides some local and regional economic and employment statistics.

[LexisNexis Statistical](#)

LexisNexis Statistical provides access to statistics produced by U.S. federal government agencies, U.S. state government agencies, major international intergovernmental organizations, and private sector sources. Searches may be limited to statistics covering a single state, county, city, or metropolitan area.

[TableBase](#) (part of the RDS Business Suite.)

TableBase gathers business information found in tables and charts in business and trade periodicals. Market share, market size, capacity, production, imports, exports, sales, and product rankings are examples of the types of statistics found in TableBase. Although business information is the core of TableBase, some of it can be relevant to statistics on local and regional areas. For example, a search on 'Massachusetts and Employees' generates results such as: "United States women-led companies in Massachusetts by revenue category in number of employees and percentage of employees who are female for 2004." To search TableBase by itself, uncheck the other two components of the RDS Business Suite.

U.S. Cities, Counties and States: Selected Websites

[FedStats: MapStats](#)

<http://www.fedstats.gov/qf/>

From the FedStats system comes this handy presentation of local data and information. To view a profile of your State, county, city, congressional district, or Federal judicial district, select the name of the State from the menu or click on the appropriate area of the map of the United States on the opening page. There are also additional "Thematic Maps" of population changes and racial demographics from the 2000 census.

[State Data Center Program \(U.S. Census Bureau\)](#)

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/>

The State Data Center Program is "a cooperative program between the states and the Census Bureau that was created in 1978 to make data available locally to the public through a network of state agencies, universities, libraries, and regional and local governments. The Business and Industry Data Center Program (BIDC) was added in 1988 to meet the needs of local business communities for economic data." [MassBenchmarks](#), the Massachusetts State Data Center website, offers [data](#), [industry studies](#), and the [online publication *MassBenchmarks*](#).

[States IN Profile](#)

<http://www.stats.indiana.edu/sip/>

States IN Profile, produced by [STATS Indiana](#), a web service of the Indiana Business Research Center at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business), provides current federal statistics on a variety of demographic and economic indicators.

[USA Counties IN Profile](#)

http://www.stats.indiana.edu/uspr/a/us_profile_frame.html

Like the site above, Counties IN Profile is also produced by [STATS Indiana](#). USA Counties IN Profile provides current federal statistics for a selection of demographic and economic indicators. Counties are the smallest geographic area for which federal statistics are available.

[State and County QuickFacts](#)

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/>

This website from the U.S. Census Bureau aims to provide "quick, easy access to facts about people, business, and geography." Click on a state on the opening page's map and you will see current census figures (along with national numbers for comparison). Open up another window on the top of the state page to explore county information. Also keep an eye out for the link for

"Thematic Maps" and to "Browse more data sets."

[BEA Regional Economic Accounts](#)

<http://www.bea.gov/regional/about.cfm>

The Bureau of Economic Analysis is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce that "produces economic accounts statistics that enable government and business decision-makers, researchers, and the American public to follow and understand the performance of the Nation's economy." This page presents their data on state and local personal income (which includes employment statistics), as well as Gross State Product figures. You can display, print and download specific state tables here.

[State of the Cities Data System](#)

<http://socds.huduser.org/>

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development presents this page. The State of the Cities Data Systems (SOCDS) provides data sets for individual Metropolitan Areas, Central Cities, and Suburbs. It links to data for everything from "detailed demographic and economic characteristics of the population" to "data on violent and property crime rates collected by the FBI" to "information on city and suburban government finances."

[County and City Data Book](#)

<http://www.census.gov/statab/www/ccdb.html>

County and City Data Book is a long-standing publication of the U.S. Census Bureau that provides data for all U.S. counties, cities with 25,000 or more inhabitants, and places of 2,500 or more inhabitants. On this page you can link to a PDF online version or look at selected features like "Rankings of Large Cities."

[State and Metropolitan Area Data Book](#)

<http://www.census.gov/statab/www/smadb.html>

The counterpart to *County and City Data Book* providing instead a "collection of statistics on social and economic conditions in the United States at the State and metropolitan area levels." Link to a PDF version of the entire volume or look at specific "Selected Features" including State Rankings and Metropolitan Area Rankings.

[CensusScope](#)

<http://www.censuscope.org/>

Identifying itself as "Your Portal to Census 2000 Data...CensusScope is an easy-to-use tool for investigating U.S. demographic trends, brought to you by the Social Science Data Analysis Network (SSDAN) at the University of Michigan. With eye-catching graphics and exportable trend data, CensusScope is designed for generalists and specialists." It provides charts and maps on topics, including population growth, population by race, age structure, family structure, and income. It also presents Multirace Profiles and demographic maps showing specifics like where

the elderly predominate, where the nuclear family is (and isn't) the norm, and how "diversity" breaks down regionally.

[Scholars' Lab](#)

<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/scholarslab/resources/index.html>

The University of Virginia's Scholars' Lab offers links to geospatial, statistical, text, and image resources (some of which are only available to the UVA community).

[Infoplease: U.S. States](#)

<http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>

From a familiar publisher of almanacs comes this page that presents a profile and map for each state and also provides regional info and unusual factoids like lists of "Extreme Points of the U. S." and "Lowest Temperatures by State."

[City-Data.com](#)

<http://www.city-data.com>

This commercial site claims that they have "collected and analyzed data from numerous sources to create as complete and interesting profiles of thousands of U.S. cities as we could. We have thousands of pictures, maps, satellite photos, stats about residents (race, income, ancestries, education, employment...), geographical data, crime data, weather, hospitals, schools, libraries, airports, radio and TV stations, zip codes, area codes, user-submitted facts, similar cities list, comparisons to averages." Base pages include one for [Massachusetts Bigger Cities \(over 6000 residents\)](#) and links from that page to others on smaller cities.

[Find Your Spot](#)

<http://www.findyourspot.com/>

If you are looking to relocate, this intriguing commercial site gives you a quiz to ascertain your preferences and then provides a list of locales. Free reports are provided of suggested "spots." Registration is required, but is free.

[50states.com](#)

<http://www.50states.com/>

This commercial site is less than elegant, but it does do a pretty good job of providing basic facts on the various states, as well as provide links to other resources (often from the State itself) containing further information. Although some of the links are designed to deliver you to other commercial sites related to tourism.

Selected Print Resources

[Cities of the United States](#)

REF HT123 .C49677 v.4 2000

[2006 Edition available at Gale Virtual Reference Library](#)

A four volume set, divided by U.S. region. For each city, there is a discussion of its history and development, and a summary of education, recreation, and transportation resources. Sawyer Library holds the print version of volume 4, the Northeast. The full 2006 fifth edition of the set is available online in its entirety through the Gale Virtual Reference Library.

[Cities Ranked & Rated](#)

REF HT123 .S64 2007

(2nd edition)

"More than 400 metropolitan areas evaluated in the U.S. and Canada." Cities are ranked according to criteria such as climate, cost of living, crime, education, and transportation.

[A Comparative Atlas of America's Great Cities : Twenty Metropolitan Regions](#)

REF HT123 .C62

Although no longer current, this descriptive atlas provides historic perspective on the ethnicity, housing, education levels, and voting patterns of major metropolitan areas.

[Encyclopedia of Urban Cultures: Cities and Cultures Around the World](#)

4 vols.

REF HT108.5 .E53 2002

For each city in this four volume set there is an essay describing the cities' unique features, infrastructure, history, culture and social life. There is also a brief statistical section, which includes tables such as the 50 largest cities by population (number 1 is Tokyo).

[The Municipal Year Book](#)

REF JS342.A2 I52

The yearbooks are divided into four sections: Management Trends and Issues, Intergovernmental Issues, Staffing and Compensation, and Directory information (containing listings of U.S. municipal and county officials, and municipal associations). Sawyer Library holdings are for 1939, 1950, 1968, 1971, and 1973 - present.

[Profiles of Massachusetts 2006](#)

REF Desk HA431 .P76 2006

[Electronic version available at Gale Virtual Reference](#)

"This 1,000 page volume provides detailed demographic and statistical data on the 14 Counties and 576 Places in the state of Massachusetts." Includes school district data, Hispanic, Asian & ancestry group statistics, weather statistics, and ranking charts.

[Massachusetts Municipal Profiles](#)

REF Desk HA431 .M37 2008

Each town in Massachusetts receives a one page description, which includes year established, land area, demographics, housing units, voter statistics, local officials, taxation, finance, and school expenditures. Sawyer Library holdings are for 1988 - present.

[Massachusetts Municipal Directory](#)

REF JS451.M47 M33 2009-10

This volume includes directory listings for city, town, state, and federal offices, and provides a list of Massachusetts towns with an indication of the form of municipal government (representative town meeting or city form of government).

[Demographic Guide to Massachusetts : Towns, Cities and Places, 2000 Census Edition](#)

REF HA431 .M36 2003

Contents include rankings and thematic maps illustrating the county-level distribution of various criteria, and area profiles providing condensed statistics on the nation as a whole, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and each individual Massachusetts town.

[Massachusetts Political Almanac](#)

REF. Desk JK3130 .A6 2008

"A Comprehensive Directory of the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches of Massachusetts Government." Sawyer Library holdings extend from 1999 to the present.

[Places, Towns, and Townships](#)

REF HA203 .P58 2003

Based on the 2000 census, this volume "contains statistical information about U.S. places and the people who live in them. [...] from the largest city to the smallest village - and for all Census Designated Places." The 2003 third edition is also available electronically [ebrary](#).

[State Competitiveness Report](#)

REF HA203.S73

A publication by Suffolk University's Beacon Hill Institute. Reports are available electronically from 2001-2008.

[The Book of the States](#)

REF JK2403 .B62

These volumes contain both articles and statistics, and cover topics such as administration and finance, demographics, state policies and programs, and the states' legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Sample topics include capital punishment statistics, and how state lottery money is spent. Sawyer Library holdings are for 1982/83 - present.

[Cultures of the States: A Handbook on the Effectiveness of State Governments](#)

REF JK2408 .F79 2003

This volume grew out of a study on the effectiveness of State governments. Topics include: Culture, Power, Tax factors, Crime and punishment factors, Mortality factors, Health factors, Education factors, Economic factors, and Race and gender.

[State Rankings](#)

REF HA203 .U17

"A statistical view of the 50 United States." Users will find state rankings on topics ranging from agriculture to law enforcement. Sample statistics include the states ranked by the percentage of households with one person, and by the percentage of electricity generated through renewable sources. Sawyer Library holdings are for 1990 - present.

[State Profiles: the Population and Economy of Each U.S. State](#)

REF HA203 .S74 2006

Profile information includes household income, personal income by source, employment status, leading industries, and the states' exports of goods by product and destination.

[State Legislative Sourcebook](#)

REF JK2495 .S689 2009

"A resource guide to legislative information in the fifty states." Topics include the legislative process, legislator information, session information, bill status and reporting summary information, and lobbying information.

[CSG \(Council of State Governments\) State Directory](#)

REF JK2403 .B623

Three volumes: Elected Officials, 2008; Legislative Leadership, Committees, & Staff, 2007; Administrative Officials, 2007.

[Moving & Relocation Directory](#)

REF HT334.U5 M58 2007-08

"A reference guide for moving and relocation, with profiles for 121 U.S. cities, featuring mailing addresses, local and toll-free telephone numbers, fax numbers, and web site addresses for chambers of commerce, government offices, libraries, and other local information resources ... and also including statistical, demographic, and other data on location, climate and weather, history, economy, education, population, and quality and cost of living."

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