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Researching your Committees and Topics for MUN
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Beginning your research:
It is essential to learn about your member state (country), their priorities, their stances, beliefs, allies, and much more.

- Read your background guide! The background guides provide an overview of the most important resolutions and documents on your topic from your committee. It is a great introduction and as created specifically for that purpose.

- Research your country:
  o Visit the **CIA World Factbook**: Provides information on the history, people government, economy, energy, military, and much more.
    https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/
  o Visit the **member state homepage** for additional information/news/priorities/achievements:
    http://www.un.org/en/member-states/
  o **UN Data** for additional statistics
    http://data.un.org/Default.aspx

- Locate **newspapers from that country** to learn more about the local perspective on important issues.
  o A simple Google search will provide information on the top circulating newspapers for that country. When visiting the website, use Google Chrome to view the webpage because it has a translation feature built into the browser.

- **Member States on the Record** provides access to official documents of every member state, including speeches and statements from the GA, Security Council, and ECOSOC.
  o Statements and speeches can provide insight into your member state's perspective and stance on issues, while potentially providing information about the actions and handling of that issue.
    ▪ Information in those speeches can be a stepping-stone to finding potential solutions to a problem by locating the main ideas and learning more about your country's actions, allies, and current stance. There may also be additional organizations, committees, and conferences listed.
  o Sponsored Draft Resolutions and Periodic Reports on Human Rights Conventions are also available.
- To locate Member States on the Record:
  o Visit: http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/unms/
  o On the right side of the page, select the First letter of your member state
  o Select your country from the list.

Searching for Relevant Resolutions, Publications, and Documents

1) Visit the homepage of your committee. For instance, if representing UNESCO, visit the UNESCO homepage (http://www.unesco.org). On every committee homepage, there is a link for RESOURCES. These are publications created by that body. Look for the search feature and add keywords and phrases to find specific information.

2) Google
- There are many different committees and organizations that are part of the United Nations and that work with the United Nations, so one of the most effective ways to research your topic is through Google.
- Many of the individual committees work together; however, the websites do not index the work of those additional organizations.

- Google is one of the best search engines in the world and it has incredible indexing; use the advanced search features to your benefit. Below are some suggestions on how to research your topic and committee.
    o When searching, use keywords and phrases. Do not type in questions or sentences. Search engines and databases search for every word individually, so using keywords and phrases will return better results. Use the word AND to separate your words (see example below in bold).
    o When beginning to research, search broadly to encompass a wide range of resources. A common error is to get too specific too soon. You may find a few relevant resources, but the majority of the resources discussing your topic will not be included in your results.
    o Use the words provided by your committee. Example: For the topic: "expanding protection for victims of gender-based violence," the search

   Protection AND gender-based violence AND "united nations"

   would return a high number of useful resources from a multiple committees and organizations affiliated with United Nations.
    o Before clicking on any links, look at the title of the webpage and the different URLS of each page. Write down any committees and organizations discussing the topic. In the example above, UNDP.org, unhcr.org, and unfpa.org, are all working on solutions for this issue. Include the actual URL in your notes.
        ▪ First, learn which committees/orgs are working to solve the problem, and then narrow the search. It may take a few more minutes, but your research will be better and more thorough.
    o Once you have a list of the relevant committees working on the issue, click on the SETTINGS button under the Google Search Bar, and select ADVANCED SEARCH. The Advanced Search provides different ways to limit your search.
        ▪ One limiter: **Site or Domain** – enter in one of the organizations (example: undp.org), and hit the Advanced Search button. Your search will look like the following in the search box:
            Protection AND gender-based violence AND "united nations" site:undp.org
        ▪ All of your results will be from *undp.org*.
            • Try this for your committee: UNESCO.org, or IOM.int, or un.org/en/sc
        ▪ Another limiter in the advanced search screen in FILE TYPE. Most publications are in PDF format; select that option to limit your results to only PDFs from a specific website.

- Look at the citations found in a publication. A basic research strategy is to track down resources found in the citations. It is a simple and effective way to find additional, useful research. One source can lead to ten.

- Additional Useful Resources:
    o Official UN Document Search: https://documents.un.org/prod/ods.nsf/home.xsp
        ▪ Full-text documents and publications published from 1993 – present.
        ▪ Useful if trying to locate a UN document if you have the citation document number, or to search for information on a topic.
    o Voting Records of Member States by Keyword or Resolution Number
        ▪ http://unbisnet.un.org:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?session=1TR0994587F22.36921&profile=voting&menu=search&submenu=power&ts=1460995013584