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ProCon.org – Pros and Cons of Controversial Issues



Looking for articles and background information about controversial issues? Then try [ProCon.org](#), a non-profit unbiased website that provides information on 37 of the biggest controversial issues of the day, from the Gay Marriage to the World Trade Center Muslim Center. Each entry contains simple to follow pro and con arguments along with pictures, charts, and video related to the issue. These straightforward written entries can give you the background information you need to understand the issue and start researching more in-depth. If the issue you are researching is not covered here be sure to try the [Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center](#), just one of USM Libraries databases available to students, faculty and staff.

URL: <http://www.procon.org/>

Posted by [jwarren](#) on October 7th, 2010

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War-Era Food Posters



The National Agricultural Library has an interesting exhibit of posters that date from World War I and II titled [Beans are Bullets](#). "The poster collection reflects the interdependent relationship between government, privates businesses and citizen-consumers" (from the Introduction).

The posters are on exhibit through November 10th at the USDA South Bldg Cafeteria in Washington DC, if you have a chance to visit; otherwise, enjoy these images! Thanks to the American Libraries Direct for highlighting this exhibit.

Posted by [Evelyn Greenlaw](#) on October 2nd, 2010

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Banned Books Week





From September 25 to October 2 is Banned Books Week, this weeks post will cover several resources to find out more information about banned books. First up, [Banned Books Online](#), from Online Books from the University of Pennsylvania, has put together a nice page on the history of banned books and includes links to read most of the banned books online.

Also be sure to checkout the [American Library Association's list of Frequently Challenged Books](#). The ALA site as a lot of good information about banned books and allows for searching for banned books either by title or by year of complaint. See this [2009's list](#) and be sure to read a banned book this week or anytime.

URL: <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/banned-books.html>

URL: <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged/index.cfm>

Posted by [jwarren](#) on September 27th, 2010

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New Library Ledger – Vol 4, Iss 2

Please check out our New issue of the [Library Ledger](#), the Newsletter for the University of Southern Maine Libraries & ITMS.



Posted by [William Sargent](#) on September 23rd, 2010

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Social media impact on political campaigns



We're in the midst of a race for a new governor. Can you tell?! The use of social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and others) is growing. How has social media impacted politics?

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The February 2010 issue of [Social Science Computer Review](#) is devoted to just this topic. You can access this journal through our [Sage Journals Online](#) database, or use [Find Journals by Title](#) from our homepage.

The [Pew Internet and American Life Project](#) regularly covers politics, and there you'll find the report ["Internet's Role in Campaign 2008"](#). There's even a link to ["Are Smartphones Headed to the Voting Booth?"](#).



Check out the [Center for Social Media's](#) report ["Impact Outside of the Box: Assessing how digital video can engage and influence publics."](#)



In URSUS, you will find the 2010 book [Communicator-in-chief: how Barack Obama used new media technology to win the White House](#). It's an Orono book, but use your USM barcode to order it!

Posted by [Evelyn Greenlaw](#) on September 22nd, 2010 [Comments Off](#) [Read More](#)

Blue Book Archive



Have you seen a unidentified flying object (UFO)? Want to know about the other 'official' sightings? Explore the [Blue Book Archive](#). The archive contains over 56,000 government documents related to UFO phenomenon. It is called the Blue Book Archive after Project Blue Book the code name of the U.S. Air Force's UFO investigations from 1952-1970. This archive goes beyond those dates to include earlier years of UFO investigations. All documents are in PDF format and can be viewed online or downloaded and printed for later research. So if you are interested in serious unidentified flying object research be sure to explore the Blue Book Archive.

URL: <http://www.bluebookarchive.org/>

Posted by [jwarren](#) on September 20th, 2010 [Comments Off](#) [Read More](#)

EBSCOhost Mobile



Take EBSCOhost for a walk.

EBSCOhost Mobile has the following features available:

Basic Searching	Image Collection
HTML and PDF Full Text	Emailing Articles
Search Modes	Preferences
Limiters	Multi-database Searching
Image Quick View	

Designed to work with most mobile devices that can access the internet such as the following:
 BlackBerry Dell Axiom iPhone Palm 750

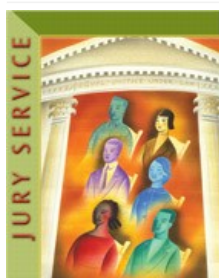
EBSCOhost Mobile is now available for your use. This new service provides access to all of the EBSCO resources we currently subscribe to now through a mobile-friendly interface. *Please note:* It is necessary to use the EBSCOhost Mobile link for access to this mobile interface; there are currently no direct mobile links for individual databases.

WiFi users on the campus network will have direct access; users of phone and other ISPs can log in with your "Last Name" and your "Bar Code". The bar code is located on your student id (the husky card that you obtained from the **USM Card Office**), is 14 digits long and begins 25022.... Your device must have javascript enabled in order to use EBSCOhost Mobile. Although EBSCOhost Mobile has not been tested on all mobile devices available in the market, it was quality certified on the most popular smartphones including: BlackBerry, iPhone, Dell Axiom, and Palm 750.

Access it through this URL: <http://libraries.maine.edu/auth/auth.asp?db=EBSCOHost+Mobile>

Posted by **William Sargent** on September 16th, 2010 Comments Off Read More

Constitution Day Resources



Looking for classroom/courtroom resources for this Constitution Day? Try the **Constitution Day site from the United States Courts**. This site provides good general background on this years theme for 2010, Jury Service. Along with general information, this site also contains useful teaching aids and activities that as the site states are "ready for immediate use without preparation or research." These include "Functions of and Qualifications for Jury Service", "Balancing Free Speech and Fair Trial" and more. Whether you need an activity for middle or high school students or just looking for information about this years Constitution Day try this site. Also do not forget about **USM's Constitution Day lecture September 17th at noon**.

URL:
<http://www.uscourts.gov/EducationalResources/ConstitutionResources/ConstitutionDay.aspx>

Posted by **jwarren** on September 13th, 2010 Comments Off Read More

Hot Topics just a click away!

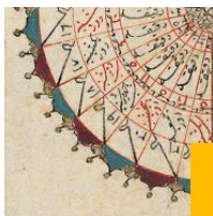


Once a year I like to remind folks that we subscribe to [CQ Researcher](#) and [CQ Global Researcher](#). Interested in a "hot topic"? Want current information on a controversial topic you saw recently in the news? Each issue is fully devoted to a single topic, and the library has them all – online! Fulltext! You can browse by topic, examine issues by date, or even just look at the Pro/Con debates within each issue. Check them out!!

"Homegrown Jihadists", "Legalizing Marijuana", and "Gun Rights Debates" are the most current *CQ Researcher* topics. "Crime in Latin America", "Social Welfare in Europe", and "Plastic Pollution" are in *CQ Global Researcher*.

Posted by [Evelyn Greenlaw](#) on September 8th, 2010 [Comments Off](#) [Read More](#)

Islamic Heritage Project



ISLAMIC HERITAGE PROJECT

Interested to learn about Islam or Islamic Calligraphy? Then explore Harvard's [Islamic Heritage Project](#). This online collection has reproduced digital copies of over 270 manuscripts and printed texts as well as 50 maps covering the Islamic world from the 10th to the 20th centuries CE. The texts cover topics ranging from biography, grammar, and the Koran to poetry, science, and theology. Each item is fully digital and can be read online or saved and printed out for later use. The collection is searchable by topic, era, in the case of maps, location, as well as keyword, both in English and Arabic. Explore this collection and learn more about Islam's heritage or simply enjoy the wonderful calligraphy used in these texts.

URL: <http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/ihp/>

Posted by [jwarren](#) on September 6th, 2010 [Comments Off](#) [Read More](#)

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