

thousands of reports dealing with almost every topic imaginable. CRS reports are especially useful in providing a simple summary of current legislation (usually 6-10 pages) for any of the topics that come before Congress. Surprisingly, CRS reports also deal with numerous value questions such as separation of church and state, animal rights, and freedom of the press. Debaters should be aware of a search engine designed specifically to search CRS reports: 2act.org/p/576.html.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO), formerly the General Accounting Office, serves Congress as part of the Office of the Comptroller General. The GAO conducts hundreds of investigations each year on topics ranging from the risk of a bird flu outbreak to the success of current efforts to limit illegal immigration. Direct access to GAO reports is available from the following website: www.gao.gov/index.html.

LAW REVIEWS

Gaining access to law reviews is a challenge for the debater. For cases dealing with technical subject matters, the evidence available in law reviews is of critical importance. Schools fortunate enough to have a Lexis/Nexis subscription have an advantage, but creative students should be able to gain access through other means. Check with your school library to find out whether you have access to a commercial database that might include some law reviews (examples of such databases include ProQuest, Academic Search Premier, Ingenta, WilsonSelectPlus, and ArticleFirst).

If you do not have access to an appropriate commercial database, try going directly to the website for the particular law review. Almost all law schools maintain an Internet site for their law review, and they often provide free access to some articles. If you still are unable to find the desired law review, try entering the title of the law review article (in quotation marks) in a Google search. Sometimes you will find a full text copy of the article posted on the author's website or at the website of an advocacy group. You also might be able to find the full text of a law review article available through the website of the University Law Review Project: www.lawreview.org. You might also try the Yahoo! Law Directory. This site provides links to hundreds of law reviews, many of which make their archives available online at dir.yahoo.com/Government/Law/Journals/.

RESEARCH THINK TANKS

The website associated with a typical think tank generally provides free access to thousands of pages of research on topics of interest to debaters. Although it is true that