Addiction Studies: Finding drug policy or legislation with Google

Google searches will help you locate credible “grey/gray literature” produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry.

Be flexible and try a variety of search terms. Note that phrases (e.g.: powdered alcohol) may need to be enclosed in quotations so that terms appear together. Try searches with and without quotations to see which approach works best.

Building your search:

START with a specific drug or use broader terms depending on what you need:

- marijuana legislation
- "powdered alcohol" regulation
- national drug policy
- drug control policy

ADD a country/region of interest. SPECIFY a date range 2014..2017 (2 periods no spaces)

- national drug policy sweden 2015..2017
- drug legislation pakistan 2013..2017

RESTRICT searches to government sites.

U.S. government sites are searched using site:.gov (no spaces)
Search for marijuana statutes OR legislation in the United States

- marijuana (statutes OR legislation) site:.gov

To locate government documents from countries other than the US, use the Web Country Code following site:.gov
These are searches for recent legislation in Afghanistan and Pakistan:

- drug laws site:.gov.af 2013..2017
- drug laws stakeholders site:.gov.af 2013..2017
- heroin legislation pakistan site:.gov.pk 2013..2017
- anti narcotics legislation pakistan site:.gov.pk 2013..2017

You can also RESTRICT searches to site:.org (no spaces) for non-governmental, not-for-profit organization websites. This search returns information on Brazil (country code br)

- national drug policy site:.org.br 2015..2017

Before using information from .org sites, keep in mind that not all organizations are credible.
In many cases you will want to add terms like:

- stakeholders | agencies | coalitions | community based organizations
- (opponents OR proponents) | (support OR opposition)

powdered alcohol (opponents OR proponents)
powdered alcohol stakeholders site:.gov 2013..2017

Google Custom Search Engines

Search across hundreds of sites simultaneously using the Google custom search engines below.

NOTE: when searching do NOT use country codes | site:.gov | site:.org

You can use date limiters:

- drug laws stakeholders afghanistan 2013..2017
- heroin legislation pakistan 2013..2017

Intergovernmental Organization Search Engine

IGOs from every world region play a significant role in regional politics, global governance, and international drug control efforts. Search across hundreds of IGO websites simultaneously for drug abuse prevention, treatment, and policy documents.

Non-governmental Organizations Search

This can be a good tool for identifying stakeholders. NGO's, also referred to as "civil society" organizations, bring public concerns to governments, monitor policy and programme implementation, and play an important role in policy decisions, including those related to drugs.

Keep in mind that grey/gray literature should be evaluated like all other information sources. Use the AACODS Checklist for evaluating grey literature

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