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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

Item#1

ATMOSPHERIC BROWN CLOUDS: REGIONAL ASSESSMENT REPORT WITH FOCUS ON ASIA. United Nations Environment Programme. November 13, 2008.

According to the study, cities from Beijing to New Delhi are getting darker, glaciers in ranges like the Himalayas are melting faster and weather systems becoming more extreme, in part, due to the combined effects of man-made Atmospheric Brown Clouds (ABCs) and greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. These are among the conclusions of scientists studying a more than three km-thick layer of soot and other manmade particles that stretches from the Arabian Peninsula to China and the western Pacific Ocean.

Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.unep.org/pdf/ABCSummaryFinal.pdf> [PDF format, 44 pages].

Item#2

CHEMICAL SECURITY 101: WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE CAN'T LEAK, OR BE BLOWN UP BY TERRORIST. Center for American Progress. November 2008.

Most of the U.S.'s 101 most dangerous chemical facilities could become less attractive terrorist targets by converting to alternative chemicals or processes. The study claims that doing so would improve the safety and security of more than 80 million Americans living within range of a worst-case toxic gas release from one of these facilities. Millions more living near railroads and highways used for transporting hazardous chemicals would also be safer and more secure.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/11/pdf/chemical_security.pdf [PDF format, 57 pages].

Item#3

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SERVICE-LEARNING IN AMERICA'S SCHOOLS. Corporation for National & Community Service. Kimberley Spring and et al. November 2008.

The report shows that community service in America's schools has reached a new peak, with 68 percent of all K-12 schools offering or recognizing service opportunities for their students. It finds that the prevalence of community service has risen in K-12 schools, up from 64 percent from a similar study conducted in 1999. High schools are especially supportive of community service, with a whopping 86 percent of high schools recognizing student service, up from 83 percent in 1999. While school-based community-service has remained robust, the percentage of schools with service-learning declined from 32 percent in 1999 to 24 percent in 2008.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/08_1112_lsa_prevalence.pdf [PDF format, 44 pages].

Item#4

DECLARATION OF THE SUMMIT ON FINANCIAL MARKETS AND THE WORLD ECONOMY. White House. November 15, 2008.

Since the outbreak of the financial crisis, the world's leading nations have coordinated actions more closely than ever before. In large part to these decisive measures, once frozen global credit markets are beginning to thaw and businesses, around the world, are gaining access to essential short-term financing. No single nation will be able to fix this crisis, but with continued cooperation and determination, it will be solved with commitment to reform financial sectors and maintain free and open markets.

Full Text:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/11/20081115-1.html> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

ECONOMIC PROJECTIONS FOR THE US, JAPAN & EURO AREA. Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development. Jorgen Elmeskov. Web posted November 23, 2008.

Economic activity is expected to fall by 0.9 percent in the U.S. next year, by 0.5 percent in the Euro area and by 0.1 percent in Japan as OECD countries enter a protracted slowdown, according to latest projections. As a high degree of uncertainty surrounds the outlook, much depends on the depth and duration of the financial crisis, the main driver of the current recession. Elmeskov says that inflation should continue to ease as economic slack puts downward pressure on prices and if, as assumed, commodity prices maintain their recent lower levels.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/55/17/41666279.pdf> [PDF format, November 2008].

Item#6

GOVERNMENT IN 3D: HOW PUBLIC LEADERS CAN DRAW ON VIRTUAL WORLDS. IBM Center for the Business of Government. David C. Wyld. November 15, 2008.

The report shows an example of how Web 2.0's "teen toys" have become a serious work tool. It explores how cutting-edge government organizations are using 3-dimensional virtual worlds on the Internet to conduct training, recruit new employees, and educate the public. It also provides a guide to how virtual worlds have become a fast-growing social phenomenon that believe that, by the end of 2011, fully 80 percent of all active internet users will be participating in 3-D virtual worlds.

Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.businessofgovernment.org/pdfs/Wyld3dReport.pdf> [PDF format, 87 pages].

Item#7

LEAD WITH CONFIDENCE. Brookings Institution. Darrell West. November 7, 2008.

The author gives suggestions on how the new president elect should lead the government. He wants to make sure the ruling party's control of the federal government does not encourage complacency within the administration. He cites examples of how in 1993-94, Democrats controlled both the presidency and Congress, yet Bill Clinton was unable to win a single vote on health care reform, the centerpiece of his domestic agenda. Republicans proved to be strong and committed adversaries and Democrats never united behind his major policy goals.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/1107_lead_memo/1107_lead_memo.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages].

Item#8

LIBERTY AND SECURITY: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS. 2009 Transition, Constitution Project. November 18, 2008.

The study reflects the ongoing, collaborative efforts of a coalition of more than twenty leading organizations and over seventy five people in the human rights and liberty and security communities. The recommendations, at the intersection of national security and civil liberties, address a wide variety of issues including privacy, secrecy and surveillance; detention, interrogation, and trials of so-called "enemy combatants," and discrimination in immigration and charities policy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://2009transition.org/liberty-security/> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

NEW MEMBER PICTORIAL DIRECTORY. 111th Congress New Member Orientation. Web posted November 20, 2008.

Images and basic bio info for new members of the U.S. Congress.

Full Text:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/pictorial/111th/pdf/fulldoc.pdf> [PDF format, 30 pages].

Item#10

POLL: CONCERNS ABOUT RACIAL TENSIONS DECLINE SHARPLY IN AMERICA. Anti-Defamation League. November 16, 2008.

There has been a steep decline in concerns about racial tensions in America over the past 15 years, according to a poll from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). The poll also found a significant majority, 66%, views the growth of America's minority populations as advantageous to the economy and society. The poll also found that 66% of Americans view the country's population growth due to immigration as "an advantage for America."

Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.adl.org/poll_2008/11-12-08_immigration.pdf [PDF format, 9 pages].

Item#11

RECORD HIGH NUMBER OF AMERICAN STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD, INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT U.S. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. U.S. Department of State. November 17, 2008.

International student enrollment in U.S. colleges and universities increased by 7 percent to a record high. A total of 623,805 international students were enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities, 6 percent higher than the previous record high from 2002-2003 and the largest one year jump ever (40,821) in the number of foreign students enrolled. Moreover, U.S. student participation in study abroad was up 8 percent in 2006-2007 from the previous year, to a new record total of 241,791. The number of Americans studying abroad has increased more than 150% during the past decade.

Full Text:

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2008/nov/111891.htm> [HTML format, various paging, with links to Open Doors Survey].

Item#12

TIME TO BAIL OUT: ALTERNATIVES TO THE BUSH-PAULSON PLAN. Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Dimitri B. Papadimitriou and L. Randall Wray. Web posted November 20, 2008.

Dimitri B. Papadimitriou and Research Scholar L. Randall Wray take a look back at Wall Street's path to Armageddon, and propose some alternatives to the Bush-Paulson plan to "bail out" both the Street and the American homeowner. Resolving the liquidity crisis is the best strategy, the authors say, and keeping small-to-medium-size banks open is the best way to ensure access to credit once the economy recovers. A temporary suspension of the collection of payroll taxes would put more income into the hands of households while lowering the employment costs for firms, fueling spending and employment. The government should assume a more active role in helping homeowners saddled with mortgage debt they cannot afford, providing low-cost 30-year loans directly to all comers; in the meantime, a moratorium on foreclosures is necessary. And federal grants to support local spending on needed projects would go a long way toward rectifying our \$1.6 trillion public infrastructure deficit.

Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.levy.org/pubs/pn_08_06.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].