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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

BUILDING AN AMERICANIZATION MOVEMENT FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: A REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE TASK FORCE ON NEW AMERICANS. Task Force on New Americans, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. December 18, 2008.

After more than two years of collaboration and initiatives among 20 federal agencies and a variety of stakeholders, the Task Force on New Americans delivers a report, calling for the strengthening of immigrant integration efforts across the United States. The report reaffirms two fundamental ideals about the nature and success of integration in the United States. First, Americans are united by an identity that respects diversity, but one that is defined by the principles of American democracy, our shared history, and the English language. Second, successful citizenship promotion encompasses not only naturalization, but also assimilation.

Full Text:

<http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/M-708.pdf> [PDF format, 80 pages].

Item#2

CLOSING SANTA'S SWEATSHOP: HOW TO DELIVER ON OBAMA'S AND CONGRESS' TOY-SAFETY AND FAIR-TRADE PROMISES. Public Citizen. December 2008.

As U.S. toy imports hit record levels, U.S. trade policy and outdated consumer safety protections expose America's children to a flood of unsafe toys, according to the study. It also documents campaign pledges on import safety made by President-elect Obama and new members of Congress. The United States is expected to import \$23 billion in toys in 2008, 90 percent of that from China. Imports this year represent 90 percent of U.S. toys, which is the highest toy import level and share on record. Many nations producing our children's toys have extremely lax safety standards and enforcement.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.citizen.org/documents/SantasSweatshop08.pdf> [PDF format, 27 pages].

Item#3

FINANCIAL REGULATION: A FRAMEWORK FOR CRAFTING AND ASSESSING PROPOSALS TO MODERNIZE THE OUTDATED U.S. FINANCIAL REGULATORY SYSTEM. U.S. Government Accountability Office. January 2009.

The United States and other countries are in the midst of the worst financial crisis in more than 75 years. While much of the attention of policymakers understandably has been focused on taking short-term steps to address the immediate nature of the crisis, these events have served to demonstrate that the current U.S. financial regulatory system is in need of significant reform.

Full Text:

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09216.pdf> [PDF format, 107 pages].

Item#4

FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1969-1976, VOLUME E-14, PART 1, DOCUMENTS ON THE UNITED NATIONS, 1973-1976. Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State. January 5, 2009.

The Department of State has released the latest publication in the sub series of the Foreign Relations series that documents the most important decisions and actions of the foreign policy of the administrations of Presidents Richard M. Nixon and Gerald R. Ford. The volume documents United States Government decision making concerning food policy, population control, and women's issues. It also covers matters pertaining to representation in the United Nations and related international bodies, as well as other United Nations-related issues during the Nixon and Ford administrations.

Full Text:

<http://www.history.state.gov/historicaldocuments.xq?volume=frus1969-76ve14> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

GLOBAL RISKS 2009: A GLOBAL RISK NETWORK REPORT. World Economic Forum. January 2009.

The report identifies deteriorating fiscal positions, a hard landing in China, a collapse in asset prices, gaps in global governance and issues relating to natural resources and climate as the pivotal risks facing the world this year. It bases on a qualitative assessment of global risks, workshops and input from business leaders and experts. The report predicts that massive government spending to support financial institutions is threatening the already precarious fiscal positions in countries such as the U.S., United Kingdom, France, Italy, Spain and Australia.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.weforum.org/pdf/globalrisk/2009.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages].

Item#6

HHS IN THE 21ST CENTURY: CHARTING A NEW COURSE FOR A HEALTHIER AMERICA.

Institute of Medicine. Leonard D. Schaeffer et al. Web posted December 28, 2008.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), with the largest budget of any federal department, spending approximately 2 billion dollars a day, profoundly affects the lives of all Americans. Its agencies and programs protect against domestic and global health threats, assure the safety of food and drugs, advance the science of preventing and conquering disease, provide safeguards for America's vulnerable populations, and improve health for everyone. However, the department faces serious and complex obstacles, chief among them rising health care costs and a broadening range of health challenges.

Full Text:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12513#toc [HTML format, with link to full text PDF file].

Item#7

MEASURING POVERTY AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION: THE CURRENT POVERTY MEASURE, THE NAS ALTERNATIVE, AND THE CASE FOR A TRULY NEW APPROACH. Center for Economic and Policy Research. Shawn Fremstad. December 2008.

In an effort to address the shortcomings of the current federal poverty measure and inform efforts to expand the middle class, the report evaluates current poverty metrics and suggests a new measure for a broader standard of basic income adequacy.

It finds that both the current approach and the poverty measure designed by the National Academies of Science (NAS) do not provide adequate minimum standards for determining the income working families need to make ends meet in their local communities.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/2008-12-Measuring-Poverty-and-Economic-Inclusion.pdf> [PDF format, 47 pages].

Item#8

MEMBERSHIP OF THE 111TH CONGRESS: A PROFILE. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Mildred Amer and Jennifer E. Manning. December 31, 2008.

The report presents a profile of the membership of the 111th Congress. Statistical information is included on selected characteristics of Members, including data on party affiliation, average age and length of service, occupation, religious affiliation, gender ethnicity, foreign births, and military service.

Full Text:

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40086_20081231.pdf [PDF format, 10 pages].

Item#9

100 Things Americas May Not Know About the Bush Administration Record. The White House. January 14, 2009.

The White House shows Bush Administrations accomplishments.

Full Text:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/bushrecord/documents/appendix_acc_for_web.pdf [PDF format, 41 pages].

Item#10

PARTY LEADERS IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, 1789-2009. Congressional Research Service, RL30567, Library of Congress. Valerie Heitshusen. Web posted January 3, 2009.

The report briefly describes current responsibilities and selection mechanisms for 15 House and Senate party leadership posts and provides tables with historical data, including service dates, party affiliation, and other information for each. Although party divisions appeared almost from the First Congress, the formally structured party leadership organizations now taken for granted are a relatively modern development.

The report shows the evolution of the current form.

Full Text:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL30567.pdf> [PDF format, 41 pages].

Item#11

READING ON THE RISE: A NEW CHAPTER IN AMERICAN LITERACY. National Endowment for the Arts. Web posted January 12, 2009.

For the first time in more than 25 years, American adults are reading more literature, according to the study. It documents a definitive increase in rates and numbers of American adults who read literature, with the biggest increases among young adults, ages 18-24. The new growth reverses two decades of downward trends cited previously

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.arts.gov/research/ReadingonRise.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].