

The United States Information Resource Center

The U.S. Information Resource Center (IRC) is an integral part of the U.S. diplomatic mission to Australia. As part of the Office of Public Affairs, IRC Australia is one of 27 centers in the East Asia Pacific region staffed by locally hired employees.

There are two service points for IRC Australia: one in Canberra attached to the U.S. Embassy and one in Sydney at the U.S. Consulate General. The librarians provide reference, research or referral services to answer the thousands of queries they receive each year from the Australian public, private sector individuals, Australian government officials, librarians and educators. Some queries are referred to other areas 'in country' such as American citizen services, consular services, the Office of the Defense Attache', and the U.S. Commercial Service. Many of our other answers involve directing the inquirer

to an appropriate agency/organization in the U.S or locating items such as statistical or legislative information.

IRC Australia is foremostly an electronic library service although there is a small print collection of books and U.S.-based journals in Canberra. The IRC, through the State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP), has access to the LexisNexis and Factiva databases as well as to the Federal News Service. The State Department's Ralph J. Bunche Library provides access to many other resources including full text databases, the Leadership directories, and Congressional Research Service reports. IRC Australia also has a limited subscription to the Congressional Quarterly database.

If we don't know or can't find the answer to your question then we are able to call on reference specialists in Washington, DC, who help us to provide comprehensive, accurate, unbiased and timely responses to more involved information requests.

The IRC produces two monthly publications: Article Alert, a collection of abstracts of journal articles chosen from our print subscriptions and Web Alert which is a collection of links to relevant freely-available information on the internet.

We have also developed 20 e-resources pages for the Mission website at <http://canberra.usembassy.gov/irc/eresourcesmain.html> containing U.S. government websites and official policy documents. Our major project is collecting and making available, information about the bilateral relationship, to eventually transferring into a public access catalog while currently we are organising material on our website at <http://canberra.usembassy.gov/irc/us-oz/>

Visit the Mission website at <http://canberra.usembassy.gov/>

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