

Linking and Privacy Policy

Evaluation Criteria for Links

The Department of Commerce Departmental Library staff evaluates all suggested links using the following criteria:

- Is the recommended website an official government-owned or supported website?
- Does the recommended website provide official government information or services?
- Does the recommended website complement existing information, products and services on library.doc.gov?
- Is the recommended website's content relevant, useful and authoritative for Commerce employees?
- Does the recommended website's information appear to be accurate and current?
- Is the recommended website's approach to the privacy of personal information consistent with the government's privacy and security policies?

Links to Non-Government Websites

Library.doc.gov links to websites that are not government-owned or government-sponsored if these websites provide government information and/or services in a way that is not available on an official government website. Library.doc.gov provides these non-government websites as a service for Commerce employees. The U.S. government neither endorses nor guarantees in any way the external organizations, services, advice, or products included in these website links. Furthermore, the U.S. government neither controls nor guarantees the accuracy, relevance, timeliness or completeness of the information contained in non-government website links.

Reciprocal Links

We link to government information according to our linking policy, whether or not the other website links to us or not. We don't engage in reciprocal linking. We invite any website to link to library.doc.gov at no cost and without special permission.

Featured Links

Library.doc.gov highlights links of special interest to Commerce employees by temporarily posting them in a position of prominence on the website. Featured links may include: databases, newsletters, Commerce information, and new available services and links.

Prohibitions

Library.doc.gov will **not** link to any website that exhibits hate, bias, or discrimination. Furthermore, library.doc.gov reserves the right to deny or remove any link that contains misleading information or unsubstantiated claims, or is determined to be in conflict with the Commerce Departmental Library's mission or policies.

Disclaimer of Endorsement

The information posted on the library.doc.gov website includes hypertext links or pointers to information created and maintained by other public and/or private organizations. Library.doc.gov provides these links and pointers solely for our users' information and convenience. When users select a link to an outside website, they are leaving the library.doc.gov site and are subject to the privacy and security policies of the owners/sponsors of the outside website.

- The Department of Commerce and libraries.doc.gov **do not** control or guarantee the accuracy, relevance, timeliness or completeness of information contained on a linked website.
- The Department of Commerce and libraries.doc.gov **do not** endorse the organizations sponsoring linked websites, and we **do not** endorse the views they express or the products/services they offer.
- The Department of Commerce and libraries.doc.gov **cannot** authorize the use of copyrighted materials contained in linked websites. Users must request such authorization from the sponsor of the linked website.
- The Department of Commerce and libraries.doc.gov **are not** responsible for transmissions users receive from linked websites.
- The Department of Commerce and libraries.doc.gov **do not** guarantee that outside websites comply with Section 508 (Accessibility Requirements) of the Rehabilitation Act.

Privacy and Security

Information Collected and Stored Automatically:

If you do nothing during your visit but browse through the Web site, read pages or download information, we will gather and store certain information about your visit automatically. This information does not identify you personally. We automatically collect and store information like the following concerning your visit.

- The Internet domain (for example, "xcompany.com" if you use a private Internet access account, or "yourschool.edu" if you connect from a university's domain);
- Your IP address (an IP address is a number that is automatically assigned to your computer whenever you are surfing the Web) from which you access our Web site. Most of our databases are IP authenticated, and this is how you will be granted access, if you are eligible.

Information That You Voluntarily Provide

We do not collect personally-identifiable information unless you choose to provide it to us. If you provide us with personally identifiable information, for example by sending an e-mail or by filling out a form and submitting it through our Web site, we use that information only to respond to your message and to help us provide you with the information and services that you request.

Submitting voluntary information constitutes your consent to the use of the information for the stated purpose. When a user clicks the "Submit" button on any of the Web forms found on our site they are indicating voluntary consent to use of the information they submit for the stated purpose. We do not collect or use information for commercial marketing.

Retention of Information

We destroy the information we collect when the purpose for which it was provided has been fulfilled unless we are required to keep it longer by statute or official policy. Electronically submitted information is maintained and destroyed according to the principles of the Federal Records Act and the regulations and records schedules approved by the National Archives and Records Administration, and in some cases information submitted to us may become an agency record and therefore might be subject to a Freedom of Information Act request.

Check the DOC.gov [Privacy Notice](#) for more information about DOC.gov Privacy policies.