

CIA World Factbook Alternative Resources

A Library Resource Guide

The CIA discontinued The World Factbook on February 4, 2026, ending over 60 years of providing public, comprehensive, and up-to-date information on world nations. This closure has disrupted academic and research communities that previously relied on the Factbook.

In place of the Factbook, please use the trusted resources below to find accurate, reliable information.

Online Resources:

Archival links to The World Factbook can be found on multiple websites, including **Internet Archive**: <https://web.archive.org/> - As of 2/2026, all links still reflect all information that was live on the CIA Factbook website at the time of archive.

UN Data: <https://data.un.org/> - Access to demographic, economic, cultural and other information from UN Member Databases. In the orange table, there is a list of country profiles that one can individually select.

World Bank Open Data: <https://data.worldbank.org/> - Free and open access to global development data.

Our World in Data: <https://ourworldindata.org/> - Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems.

Britannica's World Data: <https://www.britannica.com/> - Britannica's World Data editors help provide a statistical portrait of some 220 countries and dependencies of the world. Users can view a limited amount of articles, biographies and more for free on this site*

The Library of Congress – Country Studies Collection:

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/country-studies> - Contains electronic versions of 80 books published as part of the Country Studies Series by the Federal Research Division: these books present descriptions and analyses of the historical setting and the social, economic, political, and national security systems and institutions of select countries throughout the world.

US Census Bureau - International Database (IDB): <https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/idb> - Population estimates, projections, and other data sets for 227 countries and equivalent areas, plus over 13,500 subnational areas.

Print Resources:

[Countries of the World: Facts at Your Fingertips \(2024 edition\)](#). DK Publishing, 2024. This guide is divided into continental chapters and spans more than 200 countries, featuring each nation's geography, climate, and economics, supplemented by stats and data.

[The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2026](#). Edited by Sarah Janssen, World Almanac Books, 2025. A comprehensive annual reference that compiles key events, statistics, maps, and factual information to support research, learning, and general inquiry. **031.02 WORLD A 2026**

Library Databases:

- Gale In Context: Elementary (>Geography > Countries and Territories) - https://go-gale-com.pcls.idm.oclc.org/ps/browseSubCategory?category=Geography&subCategory=Countries+and+Territories&inPS=true&userGroupName=pcl_main&prodId=ITKE
- Gale Business Insights: Global - [Gale Business Insights: Global - Login](#)