

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) Daily Report

An Online Database Brought to you by JISC Collections



A Tutorial and Review by the History Subject Centre

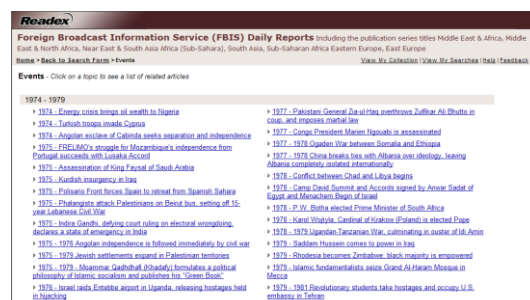
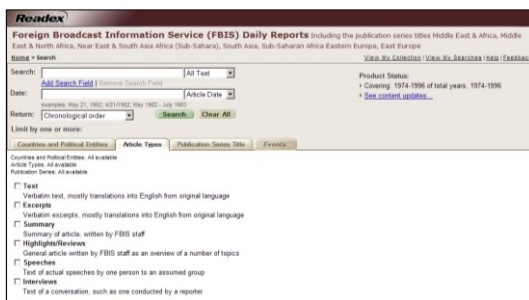
JISC Collections has recently purchased a new collection of primary source material on behalf of the UK academic community. This searchable, online archive contains hundreds of thousands of pages of foreign press materials, news transmissions and radio broadcasts from the years 1974 to 1996.

According to the JISC description, this material, "taken from *The Daily Report*, issued by the U.S. Foreign Broadcast Information Service, has been the fundamental record of political and historical open source intelligence for the United States government for nearly 70 years."

The digital edition includes transcripts of broadcasts and news from around the world, translated into English. These reports are organized by geographic location and JISC Collections has acquired the following regions: the Middle East and North Africa; South Asia; Sub-Saharan Africa; and Eastern Europe (EEU).

In terms of usability, this service provide a simple search engine interface similar to those used in online journal repositories and is easily navigable to those with basic to intermediate ICT literacy. It also offers more advanced search criteria, such as BOOLEAN and proximity indicators to eliminate irrelevant hits.

When you first enter the site, you are presented with a standard search box, which you can filter by date, country or region, type of document, publication title, or a specific event. This last option is particularly useful when keyword searching would be imprecise.



To demonstrate how to use this site, let us start with an event: The Assassination of King Faysal of Saudi Arabia in March 1975.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) Daily Reports Including the publication series titles Middle East & Africa, Middle East & North Africa, Near East & South Asia Africa (Sub-Sahara), South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa Eastern Europe, East Europe

Home > [Back to Search Form](#) > [Events](#) [View My Collection](#) | [View My Searches](#) | [Help](#) | [Feedback](#)

Events - Click on a topic to see a list of related articles

1974 - 1979

- > [1974 - Energy crisis brings oil wealth to Nigeria](#)
- > [1974 - Turkish troops invade Cyprus](#)
- > [1974 - Angolan exclave of Cabinda seeks separation and independence](#)
- > [1975 - FRELIMO's struggle for Mozambique's independence from Portugal succeeds with Lusaka Accord](#)
- > **1975 - Assassination of King Faysal of Saudi Arabia**
- > [1975 - Kurdish insurgency in Iraq](#)
- > [1975 - Polisario Front forces Spain to retreat from Spanish Sahara](#)
- > [1975 - Phalangists attack Palestinians on Beirut bus setting off 15-year Lebanese Civil War](#)
- > [1975 - Indira Gandhi, defying court ruling on electoral wrongdoing, declares a state of emergency in India](#)
- > [1975 - 1976 Angolan independence is followed immediately by civil war](#)
- > [1975 - 1979 Jewish settlements expand in Palestinian territories](#)
- > [1975 - 1979 - Moammar Qadhafi \(Khadafi\) formulates a political philosophy of Islamic socialism and publishes his "Green Book"](#)
- > [1976 - Israel raids Entebbe airport in Uganda, releasing hostages held in hijacking](#)
- > [1976 - 1979 Separatist Tamil Tigers incursion in Sri Lanka](#)
- > [1977 - Pakistani General Zia-ul-Haq overthrows Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in coup and imposes martial law](#)
- > [1977 - Congo President Marien Ngouabi is assassinated](#)
- > [1977 - 1978 Ogaden War between Somalia and Ethiopia](#)
- > [1977 - 1978 China breaks ties with Albania over ideology, leaving Albania completely isolated internationally](#)
- > [1978 - Conflict between Chad and Libya begins](#)
- > [1978 - Camp David Summit and Accords signed by Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Menachem Begin of Israel](#)
- > [1978 - P.W. Botha elected Prime Minister of South Africa](#)
- > [1978 - Karol Wojtyla, Cardinal of Krakow \(Poland\) is elected Pope](#)
- > [1978 - 1979 Ugandan-Tanzanian War, culminating in ouster of Idi Amin](#)
- > [1979 - Saddam Hussein comes to power in Iraq](#)
- > [1979 - Rhodesia becomes Zimbabwe, black majority is empowered](#)
- > [1979 - Islamic fundamentalists seize Grand Al-Haram Mosque in Mecca](#)
- > [1979 - 1981 Revolutionary students take hostages and occupy U.S. embassy in Tehran](#)

After clicking on an event, you are presented with a list of texts and reports, listed in chronological order. You can either choose to view the particular article (View Article) or see it in the context of its original page (View Full Page). The first article is a report from the Middle East News Agency in Cairo. If we click on (View Article) we can see the MENA's report, translated from Arabic.

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Events - 1975 - Assassination of King Faysal of Saudi Arabia

Results: 1 - 10 of 134 [Hide Preview](#)

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1. Cairo MENA - 25 March 1975
Reaction to Faysal Death
 As published in:
 DAILY REPORT, MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA.
 FBIS-MEA-75-058 on 25 March 1975
 Under the heading(s): REPORTAGE ON ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS
[View Article](#) [View Full Page](#) Add to My Collection

2. Cairo MENA - 25 March 1975
Added Details
 As published in:
 DAILY REPORT, MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA.
 FBIS-MEA-75-058 on 25 March 1975
 Under the heading(s): REPORTAGE ON ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS
[View Article](#) [View Full Page](#) Add to My Collection

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) Daily Reports

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DAILY REPORT, MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA
 March 25, 1975
 Download Report
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 Reaction to Faysal Death
 Added Details

Cairo MENA - 25 March 1975
Reaction to Faysal Death
 Article Type: Text
 All published in:
 DAILY REPORT, MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA, FBIS-MEA-75-058 on 25 March 1975
 Under the heading(s): REPORTAGE ON ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS
 Page A13
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 Article Bookmarks Export Citation Email

HIGHLIGHTS: MINISTERS' return; RESU find

Reaction to Faysal Death
 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 25 Mar 75 JW

[Text] Cairo, 25 March--The Arab League Council adjourned its session this morning on hearing the news of the death of King Faysal of Saudi Arabia. The Council will soon issue a statement on this regrettable news.

You can also search for specific material types, for example, speeches made between 1988 and 1990.

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Home > [Search](#) [View My Collection](#) | [View My Searches](#) | [Help](#) | [Feedback](#)

Search: All Text

Date: **1988-1990** Article Date
 examples: May 21, 1982; 4/21/1982; May 1982 - July 1983

Return: Chronological order

Limit by one or more:

Countries and Political Entities: All available
 Article Types: Speeches
 Publication Series: All available

Text
 Verbatim text, mostly translations into English from original language

Excerpts
 Verbatim excerpts, mostly translations into English from original language

Summary
 Summary of article, written by FBIS staff

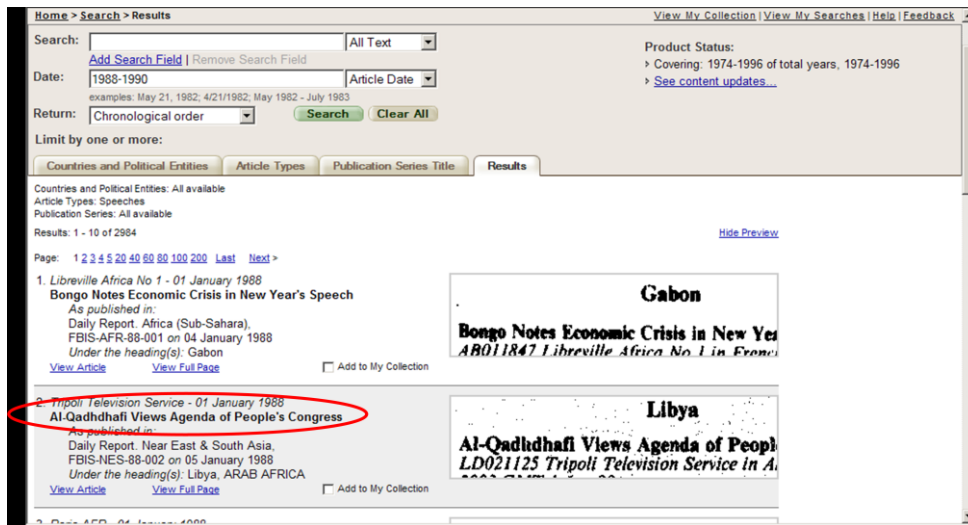
Highlights/Reviews
 General article written by FBIS staff as an overview of a number of topics

Speeches
 Text of actual speeches by one person to an assumed group

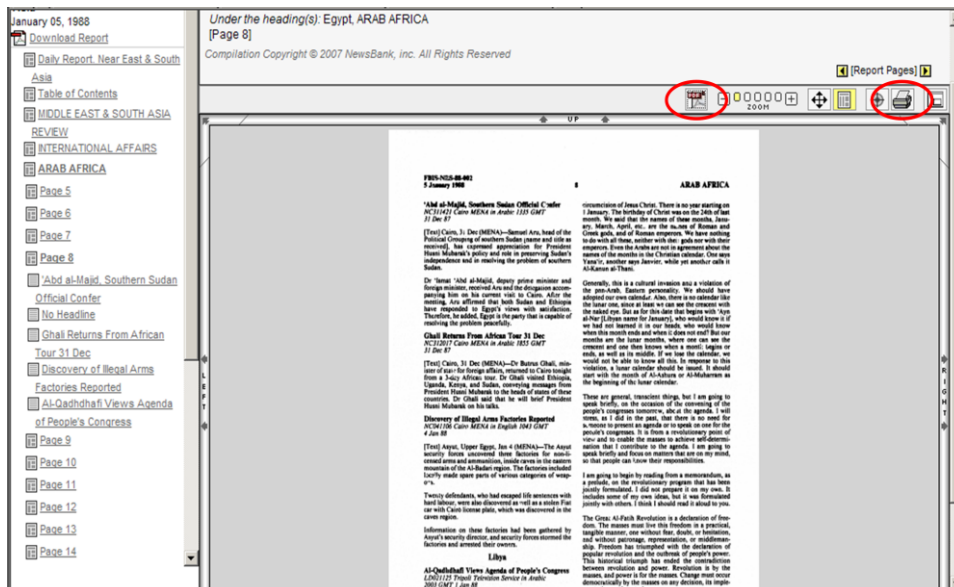
Interviews
 Text of a conversation, such as one conducted by a reporter

Product Status:
 > Covering: 1974-1996 of total years, 1974-1996
 > [See content updates...](#)

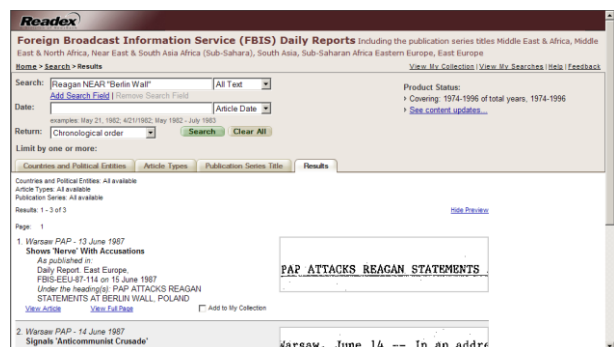
Because we did not limit the search by region or keyword, we get a wide variety of hits. Number two, *Al-Qadhafi Views Agenda of People's Congress*, for example, may be of particular use to lecturers or students in courses on Northern Africa.



When we *View Full Article*, we are given a complete transcription of Al-Qadhafi's speech. The page can now be printed or saved as a PDF



Finally, we can try a Boolean search. In the search box, you can enter keywords as well as the Boolean operators AND, OR, NOT and NEAR. Using NEAR will increase the likelihood of relevant hits by making sure your keywords are in close proximity to each other. For example, we can search for **Reagan NEAR "Berlin Wall"**.



Thus, we receive a list of news articles regarding Ronald Reagan's criticism of the Berlin Wall.

Despite its limited timeframe, the collection does provide an extensive collection of primary materials which can be used to study not only modern historical events, but also the perception and portrayal of those events around the world. While more advanced researchers of these regions will likely have the language skills to view this material in its original form, having certified translations of these broadcasts and periodicals can provide undergraduates a way to access the material with fewer secondary filters. Furthermore, the breadth of material leaves little doubt that this collection will be an invaluable resource to seminar tutors of world and regional history as well as undergraduate students working through honours dissertations.

A subscription to this collection is currently available to UK Higher Education Institutions **without charge** until 31 August 2014, though you will have to wait for your institution to submit a hardcopy application to JISC before you can access the site. Further information and subscription details are available at <http://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/catalogue/fbis>.

Reviewed November 2009 by Dr Melodee Beals, Academic Coordinator, History at the Higher Education Academy