There are many good resources available on the web. Good starting points are the 1) CCSF Library's reference page, 2) the Librarians' Index, 3) Infomine, and 4) WWW Virtual Library. All four offer links to a variety of resources and offer a better alternative than starting with a search engine. Also, consider the Country Studies created by the Library of Congress’ Federal Research Division. Some of these studies need updating, but still provide good background information on a country—geography, climate, environment, history, culture, etc. Also, don’t forget our book collection and our periodical/reference databases that can be accessed from home.

**Subject Directories: Starting Points**

**City College of San Francisco Reference Page** [http://www.ccsf.org/Library/reference.html](http://www.ccsf.org/Library/reference.html)
Look for the Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Middle East categories.

**Infomine** by the University of California [http://infomine.ucr.edu](http://infomine.ucr.edu)
Asian and A subject guide with an academic, scholarly emphasis that provides many links to resources for Middle Eastern, Central Islamic resources.

**Librarian’s Index to the Internet** [http://www.lii.org](http://www.lii.org)
A good basic directory to quality information resources. Includes many sites devoted to the Middle East, Central Asia, and Islam.

**WWW Virtual Library** [http://www.vlib.org](http://www.vlib.org)
"The VL is the oldest catalog of the web, started by Tim Berners-Lee, the creator of html and the web itself. … it is run by a loose confederation of volunteers, who compile pages of key links for particular areas in which they are expert; …the VL pages are widely recognized as being amongst the highest-quality guides to particular sections of the web.” Includes many relevant resources.

**SPECIFIC RESOURCES**

**Congressional Quarterly** [http://www.ccsf.org/Library/period.html](http://www.ccsf.org/Library/period.html)
“The CQ Researcher's hallmark is scrupulous objectivity and balance. Every 12,000-word report is written by an experienced journalist and features comments from experts, lawmakers and citizens on all sides of every issue. Numerous charts, graphs and sidebar articles -- plus a pro-con feature, a chronology, lengthy bibliographies and a list of contacts -- round out each report.” Includes many relevant reports.

"This website contains the on-line versions of books previously published in hard copy by the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress under the Country Studies/Area Handbook Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Army. Because the original intent of the Series’ sponsor was to focus primarily on lesser known areas of the world or regions in which U.S. forces might be deployed…"

With over 1000 annotated links, ICARP also serves as the official World Wide Web Virtual Library (WWWVL) for Central Asia, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and is also a member of the Asian Studies WWW Virtual Library.

**MENIC: Middle East Information Network** by the University of Texas, Austin [http://menic.utexas.edu/menic](http://menic.utexas.edu/menic)
Comprehensive listing of web resources related to the Middle East. Includes ancient history, energy, education, business, religion, maps & travel, government & politics and much more.
**Middle East Studies: Internet Resources** by Columbia University

Columbia University’s collection of **Middle East Studies Internet Resources** is an on-going compilation of electronic bibliographic resources and research materials on the Middle East and North Africa (in the broadest sense) available on the global Internet, created under the purview of the Middle East Studies Department of Columbia University Libraries.

**Middle Eastern, Armenia, Central Asian Studies Collection** by University of California, Los Angeles
[http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/url/colls/mideast/](http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/url/colls/mideast/)

Selected resources include fiction, art,

**South Asia Resources by UC Berkeley**
[http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/SSEAL/SouthAsia/](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/SSEAL/SouthAsia/)

Includes extensive listings of resources for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. One section focuses on “Nuclear Issues in India and Pakistan: Selected Internet Resources”

**WWW Virtual Library, Asian Studies**
[http://vlib.org/AsianStudies.html](http://vlib.org/AsianStudies.html)

Includes Central Asia, Middle East, Caucasus, East Asia, South Asia, Pacific Ocean, and much more. Each category is handled by an “expert”. 