Hello, how does one get the 1990 version of the FEC standards? I can't find this on the website.

From:	
Sent By:	
To:	
Subject:	2008 Election Results
Date:	06/10/2009 05:15 PM

Hi, I'm a student from _____ University. I'm trying to find some way to download / use your API to find the winners and losers in the 2008 primary and general elections for Congress. As far as I can tell, that data is not on the fec.gov site. Am I missing something?

Thanks,

From:

To: webmanager@fec.gov

Subject: accessing your databases

Date: 03/12/2009 09:27 PM

i am having great difficulty downloading your information on individual donations to presidential candidates. why is it so difficult to access this info? thank you.

Was searching for campaign donors from 1992-2000 and found that you only concentrate on the last 3 years of donations. Are you aware of a database search of donors archived that performs the same function?

Or is there a place to locate that information?

Thanks,

I am researching the 2008 Presidential Campaign Finances and I was wondering if this is the email address I should send any questions as to the location of any data related to the financial information of the three major candidates. I have been able to locate the majority of the info on my own but there are a few things I still haven't found. If there is another email address I need to use to submit such inquiries please let me know.

Thank you

I was wondering if you could help me. I am currently writing a thesis on the presidential nominatin process and have been using data from the FEC website. Specifically, I am using the campagin finance map to find contributions to each candidate by state through 12/31/07. Up until a few days ago the map was through 12/31/07 but now it is current as of 1/31/08. Is there any way I can find the old map on the website or get that info? I looked at the year-end reports at http://query.nictusa.com/pres/2007/YE/ but the numbers were different than the ones that I already have. Please let me know if I can get the old data for all of the states. Thank you very much for your help.

Best,

From:	
To:	Webmanager@fec.gov
Subject:	can you supply email and or fax info
Date:	07/24/2008 01:03 AM

I would like to contact the Federal Election Cmsn, could you supply an email and, or fax address?

Thank you.

From:

To: Webmanager@fec.gov

Subject: Candidate disbursements

Date: 03/23/2008 12:32 PM

How do we find previous months disbursements for presidential candidates.
I am only able to access current month (Feb 2008).
Thank you,

I am working on project revolving around the history of presidential primaries. http://www.fec.gov/pubrec/fe1996/presprim.htm proves to be a terrific source, but I need some clarification.

After each candidate's name, an abbreviation is given to tell the candidate's party affiliation. R is Republican, D is Democratic, LBT is Libertarian. In some instances the abbreviation is W(D), W(R), W(PFP), etc. At first I thought that the W meant write-in-vote, but in the California Democratic Party Primary, Stanley Allen is listed as W(D) and has 0 votes.

If W means write-in, how can Allen have 0 votes? If not, then what does the W mean?

Thanks!

Where do regular American citizens file complaint with the Commission?
Are the meetings open to citizens?

Please respond.

Thank you,

I am very favorably impressed by the detailed layout of the website. One sugestion I would make would be to have a quick way to submit a complaint online. If such a service exists, I would appreciate its location on the sitemap.

Thanks

From:

To: Webmanager@fec.gov

Subject: CONTACTING THE FEC ON GENERAL ELECTION QUESTION

Date: 11/12/2008 09:43 AM

Greetings, is there an email address for subject (not IT related)? Thanks much.

Hello:

My name is   and I am a graduate student at   .
Your website has "Campaign Summary Data" dating back to the 1999-2000 election cycle. I am looking for Congressional campaign summary data for the 1997-1998 election cycle. Do you have this data available? If so, could I work with someone to obtain this data?

Thank you in advance for your help,

From:	
To:	Webmanager@fec.gov
Subject:	Download Detailed Files by electon Cycle
Date:	02/22/2008 10:43 AM

Howdy,

More than a few of these "details" don't make sense to me and, I imagine at least one other American.

http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/ftpdet.shtml

1. Why don't you (the government) convert these files to ASCII? I believe that a government regulation was passed in the late '80's that states that all data transfers must be in ASCII and; I sincerely doubt that your Cobol routines are on the same engine as this web page.

… and …

The amount field is in COBOL format and may contain a special character (see table below) if the amount is negative. To convert these to standard negative integers you will need to replace the right most character with its associated integer and then multiple the number by negative 1. For example, if the amount it 20] replace the] with 0 and to get 200. Then multiple by negative 1. The correct amount is −200.

COBOL Character	Replace with this negative integer
]	-0
j	-1
k	-2
l	-3
m	-4

n	-5
o	-6
p	-7
q	-8
r	-9

2. The Cobol character for "]" is -0 which implies to me that the translation of "20]" would be "20-0" => -200, then multiplying by -1 would = 200? or does this just refer to the translation?

Thank you,

Hi,

My name is   , and I am the   writer for

              . One of the articles running in our upcoming issue is about presidential ad campaigns. I am hoping that you can help me with data for an accompanying graph that I'm trying to pull together. Do you have numbers for campaign spending for the top-running candidates in the past few elections (or even further back)? I'm having a tough time finding the information.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Best,

Dear Sirs:

You site is just great. Could you please tell me the process for linking to your pages or licensing your content.

We have a weekly newsletter and such and would like to include some of your content.

Thank you so much,

From:	
To:	Webmanager@fec.gov
Subject:	FEC guidelines on spending limits for fundraising parties?
Date:	04/27/2009 09:59 AM

Hi,

I tried searching your website but couldn't find an answer to this question:

Q: I'm hosting a fundraising party for a candidate for U.S. Senator, so I'm going to provide food and drink for my guests.
I could hire a caterer, or I could go to the grocery store and prepare the food myself.
I could also buy beer/soft drinks/wine at a store, or serve wine that I purchased years ago that I have stored in my wine cellar.
So my question is: are there any limits on spending for a "house party" like this?
And if I serve wine from my wine cellar, how do I place a value on that wine?
And are these expenditures counted against my campaign contribution limit to the candidate's campaign?

Thank you!

From:	
To:	webmanager@fec.gov
cc:	
Subject:	FEC Individual Data
Date:	02/19/2008 03:14 PM

Hello,

I am a PhD student at   and I have been working with FEC data, which I downloaded from the detailed file page at http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/ftpdet.shtml. I have noticed that the individual addresses have been removed from this file and I want to see if there is anyway to obtain the address information.

I am using this information for strictly academic purposes related to my dissertation, and I am not contacting any donors or providing the information to others. However, I am aggregating donor information which means I am trying to match all the donations that were made by the same donor in multiple election cycles. Having the address information would make this matching process much more reliable.

Is there anyway I can access this data in the same type of flat file format that is provided at http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/ftpdet.shtml? I will sign any necessary forms stating that I will not redistribute the information.

Thank you.

From:
To: Webmanager@fec.gov
Subject: FEC site -- problem with PDF forms
Date: 10/06/2008 08:21 AM

Dear Sir or Madam:

Over the weekend, I tried to download the PDF version
of the FEC reporting forms (FEC 1 and FEC 2).

Everything seemed fine until I printed the forms.

On the screen, everything looked normal. But, when I
printed them, only the lines and squares appeared on
the paper. There was no text.

This has never happened to me before. I've downloaded
and printed documents from several different sources
(both PDF and otherwise). So, I doubt that the
problem is on my end.

Please take a look at this situation.

And   me, please fax the blank forms to me
at

Thank you.

From:

To: Webmanager@fec.gov

Subject: FECfile

Date: 06/06/2009 02:08 PM

FECFile doesn't work on a mac? Is the FEC kidding?
Seriously though is there a timeframe for mac release?

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From:	
To:	Webmanager@fec.gov
Subject:	Filing dates calendar - downloadable in excel?
Date:	01/21/2008 02:40 PM

In 2006 I was able to download (or at least copy a chart that appeared on your website) into Excel.
I was able to print out just 3 pages that included all the pre-primary and Runoff filing deadlines - which was VERY handy for staying on top of things as the volunteer compliance officer for a low-volume Federal PAC.

This year I see the Calendar in a format that looks like a calendar, but nothing else - and most of the deadlines have labels so long that the whole thing isn't visible.   So you can't even see the month at a glance, let alone a whole quarter like I was able to do in 2006.

Am I missing something that's already available?
Could you add the option to see / download the calendar in a spreadsheet?

Thanks for any insights....

From:	
To:	Webmanager@fec.gov
Subject:	Greetings from GobiernoUSA.gov - need your help
Date:	02/14/2008 01:06 PM

Hello:

My name is _____ and I am the bilingual web content manager of GobiernoUSA.gov, the official portal of the U.S. government in Spanish and counterpart of USA.gov. I am also the chair of the language and translations sub-committe of the Federal Multilingual Website Committee and as such help many web managers with language questions/corrections/revisions, etc. The goal is to improve the Spanish language level throughout Federal government websites.

I was just on your site, congratulations on having information in Spanish for voters, I am very pleased to have this site to link to. I thought it might be useful to provide a few comments to improve an already great site. Thank you for your consideration and please know that this is only a suggestion made in the strictest spirit of collaboration.

1. Broken link
El Formulario Nacional de Inscripción de Votante por Correo - el documento único que le permite inscribirse para votar en cualquier lugar de Estados Unidos.

2. The word exntranjeras in this link and link description is mispelled, it should be "extranjeras" with a "j" and not a "g. The funny thing is that the same word in the article the link provides is spelled correctly. Also, there should be a space between EE. and UU. in the acronym "EE. UU." and no periods between the two identical letters.
Personas Extrangeras (2003) - explica las normas que gobiernan la actividad política de personas extrangeras en relación a las elecciones que se llevan a cabo dentro de los E.E.U.U. "

3. The word resúmen does not have an accent, the correct spelling is "resumen."
La FEC y la Ley de Financiamiento de Campañas Federales (2007) - ofrece un resúmen de la ley y el rol de la Comisión en la administración y el acatamiento a la ley.

4. This paragrah is missing a preposition Para ayudar a las bases populares de habla hispana comprender más a fondo las leyes relacionadas al financiamiento de las campañas de elecciones federales en los Estados Unidos, la Comisión de Elecciones Federales (FEC) ha traducido varias de sus publicaciones al español.

See paragraph corrected: Para ayudar a las bases populares de habla hispana **"a"** comprender más a fondo las leyes relacionadas al financiamiento de las campañas de elecciones federales en los Estados Unidos, la Comisión de Elecciones Federales (FEC) ha traducido varias de sus publicaciones al español.

If you have any question or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for considering fixing these minor misspellings,

Hi, I'm a student at   University doing research on Congressional voting patterns in the passing of the Brady Bill. I am trying to   ist of PAC donation recipients from the National Rifle Association and Handgun Control Group in the 1992 elections, but have been unable to do so using your website. Is there any way you could point me toward where I might find this information? Thank you for your time.

Dear Webmanager,
There is an increasing interest in using URL's as permanent unique id's
for documents or "things" such as elections. Generally the URL's are
technology neutral, either ending as a folder/directory or as
.htm(l)/.xml. Several federal agencies are using the Handle system or
just using simple directory structures. I was wondering if there a
system currently or being planned to create this (e.g.
(http://www.fec.gov/elections/2008/11/04/house/ca14)?

Using such a system would be very helpful to those of us creating
metadata systems or web databases as the FEC is authoritative for
federal elections. As a former co-chair of a standards committee for
OASIS/LegalXML I would be interested in discussing this with you if it
is not currently being worked on.

Thanks very much,

Greetings!

Is there any way that I could speak to someone about Linux-based FEC filing software?

If you are not the person to whom the following should be addressed, please feel free to forward this to a more appropriate party, if there is one.

The reasoning behind this request is that the cost of Windows is prohibitive to third parties and offering an alternative solution prevents locking in to one company's software. Additionally, Linux's security tends to be better understood, and thus more secure as a result. Additionally, most web servers on the internet utilize Linux of one variety or another.

I am administering the formation of a political party, and we're looking at being close to needing to file, but since the software is Windows-only, we are looking at paper requirements. Because paper is far more expensive than repeated use of the software. By creating an electronic standard which could apply to all platforms, software may be written to permit electronic filing by all parties, candidates, and other political bodies.

Thanks, and please feel free to contact me using any of the methods below, or forward your contact information to my inbox. Additionally, I would be willing to listen to reasonable discourse regarding this subject.

Thanks,

Thanks for posting this map and easy to use interface: http://www.fec.gov/DisclosureSearch/mapApp.do

My only concern is that it is not obvious how often the data is updated (following links for some of the individual candidates it appears that it is as of 9/30/07). It would be very helpful to know the currency of the information without having to hunt. Maybe a statement on how often the candidates are required to file reports on which the map is based. Is the next report as of Dec. 31st?

Thanks,

From:	
To:	Webmanager@fec.gov
Subject:	Need Data
Date:	07/30/2008 09:02 AM

Hello – I am writing an internal research report on the 2008 Election and need fundraising totals for the RNC and the DNC broken down month by month in 2008.

Can you help?

Thanks so much!

Kind regards,

How do I find something on www.fec.gov ????

Like the June total donations received for Obama and McCain??

Why do you have to make it sooooo **difficult**??

How about trying to collect the Unofficial Stats for Prez/VP and the Congress on your website ???

Highly tedious to look at the various State / DC websites.

I am aware that the FEC will be publishing the stats in circa July-Sep 2009 --- LONG after the election date.

From:	
To:	Webmanager@fec.gov
Subject:	please help find data on the fec web-site
Date:	10/04/2008 05:31 AM

Hello Web Manager,

I cannot find data on how much presidential candidates Mr. McCain and Mr. Obama have spent on their campaigns (only the amount of contributions to them is easy to find on your web-site). The search tool doesn.t help either.
Meanwhile the New York Times provides the data on .total spent., referring to your website. But I need the first hand info.
Can you please help me locate this data on your web-site?

Best regards,

P.S. I am a junior research worker in one of the Russian Academic institutions and the data I am looking for is needed for my work.

Hi,

I'm not sure exactly where to direct these questions, but I do FEC data import for
and I have a couple questions about the website. I'd
really appreciate your assistance if you have a moment to look over my questions

First, Do you plan to continue offering CSV versions of presidential committee filings
in addition to the new ASCII 28? If not, do you know when you'll discontinue the CSV
versions?

Second, in trying to write scripts to download filings as they are released on your site,
I'm noticing that you're transitioning from a url format where a page like this:

http://query.nictusa.com/cgi-bin/dcdev/forms/DL/320650/

That links to a CSV version under "/showcsv/" like this:

http://query.nictusa.com/showcsv/nicvawb414779/320650.fec

To one that links to a CSV version under "/comma/" like this:

http://query.nictusa.com/cgi-bin/dcdev/forms/DL/320315/
http://query.nictusa.com/comma/320315.fec

Will you be standardizing on one of these for the Feb. 20 monthly committee filings?

Thanks for your time,

From:	
To:	Webmanager@fec.gov
Subject:	Primary Election Dates
Date:	06/24/2009 09:52 AM

Hi,

I am writing to inquire if you guys have a list of all primary election dates by state?

From:	
To:	webmanager@fec.gov
Subject:	Queries: donors, in specific states, to specific campaigns
Date:	05/19/2009 11:23 AM

Hello,

I have spent most of the day exploring the data and data queries available at fec.gov, but without finding a good way of generating a (downloadable) list of donors to a specific campaign. (I have downloaded the file for all individual contributors, but it does not specify the recipient of their donations). The closest I've come is to search for specific candidates (in Candidate Summary Reports), and follow the link to Individual Contributors -- but it goes to an online table, something like this: http://query.nictusa.com/cgi-bin/can_ind/2007_P00003251/1/A/. Of course, to transfer this data into a spreadsheet for analysis would be quite onerous. It seems like there should be an easier way, e.g. a direct download of contributors by candidate. Am I missing something?

To be more specific: what I want to generate are lists of donors residing in foreign countries, to each presidential campaign, in all election cycles for which such data is available. I could of course cull this information from full donor lists for candidates, if necesary. But is this possible using the search architecture of fec.gov?

Thanks for your help,

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Hi,

I'm working on a story for which I need to see what companies donated to Congressional campaigns in the last year. I've been going through each candidate's "other committees" listings and typing each company name I'm interested in, but is there a way I can search by company and check who they donated to?

Thanks!

From:
To: Webmanager@fec.gov; Webmanager@fec.gov
Subject: research for 1997/98
Date: 03/10/2009 05:43 PM

I am doing research from this page:

http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/srssea.shtml

and I need information for the years 1997-1998. Can you tell me how to access this information? Thank you.

To Whom it May Concern:

I was wondering if you know whether or not it is possible to search the database of reporting by a particular town. I am trying to narrow contributions down by the area in which I live rather than going through all the records but I have not been able to figure out how. Could you assist me and/or point me in the direction of someone who can? I would really appreciate it.

Good day -

I have located the adobe and excel FEC Format specs for all of the versions except for versions 1.xx and 2.xx.

I am looking for the specs for versions 1 and 2 and cannot find them on the website.

Can you please direct me to the location on the website that will provide these documents or send them to me directly?

I have attached examples from version 6.2 of the documents I am looking for.

Please advise.

Thanks much.

From:
To: Webmanager@fec.gov
Subject: Suggestion for FEC website
Date: 09/03/2008 02:32 PM

Dear Sir or Madam:

In previous years the FEC website has included a .pdf of the Code of Federal Regulations. This year the .pdf is still listed as "coming soon." (see http://www.fec.gov/law/cfr/cfr.shtml). Would it be possible to put the .pdf up on the website? Because the pdf is searchable, it is extremely helpful for those of us researching the regulations.

Thank you,

From:

To: Webmanager@fec.gov

Subject: Suggestions for Website

Date: 01/02/2009 10:24 PM

Friends:

    When on the page where one can view FEC filings and select a particular candidate name or committee name, the option for more detailed searches should allow you to also be able to select <u>a district number</u> in a particular state and <u>an election cycle</u> (i.e. 2007-2008) so that for example, I could have pulled up a list of candidates that have filed committees in the special election in the Illinois Fifth Congressional District.

    The options for these searches have not been added to or improved in years.

New year...new news. Be the first to know what is making headlines.

From:	
To:	Webmanager@fec.gov
Subject:	trying to download and view one of your files from your site
Date:	10/27/2008 01:41 PM

Good Afternoon

I am trying to download one of your files from your site
using the DATA CONVERSION TOOL
attempting both the CSV and the ASCII files
neither opens in Exel

the conversion gives me the hour glass for a long time
then eventually gives me an error

these are the files I am trying to view

http://query.nictusa.com/cgi-bin/dcdev/forms/DL/373619/

could you call and loan some assitance
your help is appreciated

From:

To: Webmanager@fec.gov

Subject: VALIDATION ERRORS

Date: 01/04/2008 11:08 AM

I just tried to validate my report and received a few errors. Therefore, I pulled up your website to find out what the Validation error was but the web page was not helpful. Actually, the information I was looking for was there before the page had been updated on 01/02/08. It seems as if the modifications that were created did not help because my issue concerning F3XN is no longer available. I will speak with Tech support.

From:	
Reply To:	
To:	Webmanager@fec.gov
Subject:	Web site suggestion
Date:	01/12/2008 06:03 AM

On the page resulting from a search of Federal House & Senate candidates, it would be *extremely* helpful if you listed the state where each candidate is running, in addition to their party and incumbency status.

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In your web site is no email address how to contact FEC about some questions.

Message to FEC, looks like Record Deptm.:

About one week ago I contacted the FEC and requested forms for to file for candidacy for US Senator, but I didn't get mail yet.