

Some useful sources

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On the policy process and social policy in the United Kingdom Janet Newman's article in this section provides a useful guide to and overview of much of the key contemporary literature. It is however perhaps worth reinforcing the value of works such as:

Hill, M. (1997), *The Policy Process in the Modern State*, London: Prentice Hall

Parsons, W. (1995), *Public Policy*, Aldershot: Edward Elgar

which consider a range of models and perspectives on the policy process, with the former being more applied whilst the latter is more abstract in nature but with a much wider coverage. One alternative approach is to use case studies to examine policy making, implementation and evaluation, a tactic adopted usefully in works such as those listed below:

Dolowitz, D. P. (2000), *Policy Transfer and British Social Policy: Learning from the USA?*, Buckingham: Open University Press

Levin, P. (1997), *Making Social Policy: The Mechanisms of Government and Politics, and how to Investigate Them*, Buckingham: Open University Press

Marinetto, M. (1999), *Studies of the Policy Process*, London: Prentice Hall

In addition, Newman's (2001) own *Modernising Governance* (London: Sage) combines both theory and an understanding of contemporary policies and policy making to critique many aspects of New Labour's approach to the policy process. As such, it also provides a further guide to a great deal of relevant literature.

There are also a growing number of websites containing useful information, particularly in the UK, with an increasing use of these by government to make a wide range of documentation available. The gateway, www.ukonline.gov.uk, provides one means of entry to this, with access to a vast range of sources dealing with different tiers and forms of government, including to the Cabinet Office's web pages (www.cabinet-office.gov.uk) which themselves have an increasing amount of information relevant to the policy process, and in particular to the making and implementation of policy, and to the devolved administrations (www.northernireland.gov.uk, www.scotland.gov.uk and www.wales.gov.uk) which can generally be praised for seeking to use the internet to make many relevant documents more widely available than was generally the case in the past.

A rather different site which seeks to make available a wide range of documentation is www.policylibrary.com. It has additional value as it does this primarily through redirecting users to the sites of origin of materials, through its more international approach, and as it seeks to sort materials, including into the category of 'social policy'.

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Although primarily politics-led, Richard Kimber's Political Science Resources is another useful starting point (www.psr.keele.ac.uk) with a good range of links. And, finally, www.governmentontheweb.org seeks to make available resources on the area of e-government which seems likely to be of growing importance in social and public policy and administration over the next few years.