Access to government documents
“More than 1 million pages of historical government documents—a stack taller
than the U.S. Capitol—have been removed from public view since the September
2001 terrorism attacks, according to records obtained by the Associated Press.
Some of the papers are more than a century old.” A processing backlog exists
of more than 400 million pages of withdrawn documents.
Frank Bass and Randy Herschaft, “Officials shield more than 1 million pages of documents from public view,” the Associated

Degrees and earning power
Adults with advanced degrees earn four times more than those with less than
a high school diploma, according to tabulations released by the U.S. Census
Bureau. The series of tables reveals adults 18 and older with a master's, profes­sional,
or doctoral degree earned an average of $79,946, while those with less
than a high school diploma earned about $19,915. Adults with a bachelor's
degree earned an average of $54,689 in 2005, while those with a high school
diploma earned $29,448. In 2006, 86 percent of all adults 25 and older reported
they had completed at least high school. More than one-quarter (28 percent) of
adults 25 and older had attained at least a bachelor's degree.

Literacy in everyday life
Women had higher average prose and document literacy than men in 2003,
which was a change from 1992. In 1992, men had higher average document literacy
than women. Document literacy is defined as the knowledge and skills
needed to search, comprehend, and use information from texts such as job
applications, payroll forms, transportation schedules, maps, tables, and drug
and food labels.
M. Kutner, E. Greenberg, Y. Jin, B. Boyle, Y. Hsu, and E. Dunleavy (2007). Literacy in Everyday Life: Results From the 2002

Foreign languages
“A pervasive lack of knowledge about foreign cultures and foreign languages
threatens the security of the United States as well as its ability to compete in the
global marketplace and produce an informed citizenry.” So says a new review
by the National Research Council. According to the report, programs under Title
VI of the Higher Education Act and the Fulbright-Hays Act offered instruction
in more than 250 less commonly taught languages between 2001 and 2003.
The Defense Language Institute and the Foreign Service Institute, by contrast,
offered instruction in only 74 of those languages.
National Research Council (2007). International Education and Foreign Languages: Keys to Securing America's Future,
Committee to Review the Title VI and Fulbright-Hays International Education Programs, Mary Ellen O’Connell and Janet