

Requests for VOA Material — Frequently Asked Questions

What sort of VOA programming is available for use in the United States?

VOA content includes television, radio, documentary film, web, Learning English lessons and social media. It's intended for non-U.S. audiences, particularly in countries or regions where independent news media are restricted.

Federal law, specifically the Smith-Mundt Act, bars the Voice of America from U.S. distribution of any content produced before July 2, 2013.

However, most of the VOA content released on or after that date is available on voanews.com or by request, unless it's restricted by licensing agreements with third-party copyright holders.

VOA may, upon request, make its programs and materials available for one-time use to private individuals and organizations located in the United States, as well as media entities targeting audiences in the United States.

Additionally, VOA content produced before July 2, 2013, may be available through the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA, found at archives.gov). Please contact NARA with any queries about such content or other VOA material archived there.

Is all VOA content available on VOANews.com?

Many programs and news stories are available only on the individual websites of VOA's foreign language services.

To access those websites, go to voanews.com. Click on the three horizontal bars at upper left – the “hamburger” – for a drop-down menu that also shows English-language coverage. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and, in the left rail, click on “Languages.” It will open to a landing page of all the sites by region.

Can I get access to VOA programming for personal, noncommercial use?

VOA makes program materials available within the U.S. through the same news and information websites that VOA uses to communicate with its global audiences. To access currently available content, please visit voanews.com.

Can other media outlets or other organizations access VOA content for professional use?

Yes. To request original VOA content produced before July 2, 2013, go to “Request Use of VOA Material” found on the insidevoa.com home page at the bottom left under “Info Pages”.

Non-U.S. media outlets or other organizations seeking subscriptions to VOA programming on an ongoing basis, can find an application form on USAGMdirect.com. This is the distribution site operated by the U.S. Agency for Global Media, VOA's parent.

VOA and the USAGM Office of Business Development evaluate subscription requests based on criteria outlined in the [International Broadcasting Act](#). For more details, see USAGM's [policy linked here from the Broadcasting Administrative Manual](#).

VOA is prohibited from using funds to influence public opinion or propagandizing in the United States. To minimize the possibility of inadvertently violating this prohibition, we do not grant U.S. domestic media permission for the blanket, standing or recurring use of original VOA content. Instead, a domestic outlet must submit a Usage Request for each piece of original VOA content it wants to use.

Will I be charged for accessing VOA content through USAGM Direct?

USAGM may collect a fee to cover the reasonable cost of fulfilling a subscription request. Any fees will be outlined in an agreement between the media entity, or other organization, and USAGM.

Are there special terms of use for accessing VOA content on its websites?

Yes. By accessing Agency websites, Requestors agree to the respective Terms of Use available at: voanews.com/terms-use-and-privacy-notice, or direct.voanews.com.

I can't find an older program on VOA websites. What happened to it?

VOA sometimes removes a program, report or other content from its website – for instance, when required by licensing agreements with third-party copyright holders. Once content has been removed from a VOA website, it no longer is available from VOA.

However, VOA content designated as permanent under the USAGM's records schedule will be transferred to NARA. Content designated as temporary under USAGM's records schedule will be permanently deleted after removal from VOA websites and will no longer be available. USAGM's records schedule is published in the Federal Register and is available at [NARA's website here](#). See [Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart F](#), for information on requesting USAGM program materials that have been transferred to NARA.

Where can I find details about VOA programs, times, and satellites?

VOA News content is available in more than 40 languages.

The TV Satellite Schedule can be found [here](#).

Can I read VOA news on my mobile phone?

To find VOA news content in a format optimized for mobile phones and other devices, use an Internet browser to navigate to voanews.com. Then select your desired language.

In addition, a VOA [mobile app](#) is available for Android devices and iPhones/iPads.