

User Guide to Searching iPOLL

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INTRODUCTION TO IPOLL

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iPOLL is the world's most comprehensive and up-to-date source for United States public opinion data. The iPOLL database is at the core of a full-text, question-level retrieval system, designed so that users can locate and examine responses to questions asked on national surveys on a wide range of topics.

Through the use of subject, word, organization and date indexes, iPOLL allows the user to sift easily and efficiently through hundreds of thousands of poll questions. For each item retrieved, iPOLL displays the complete question text and the percentage of the public giving each response. iPOLL also provides complete study level information, including the name of the organization(s) that conducted the poll, the name of the sponsoring organization(s) (when applicable), the dates when the poll was conducted, the polling method used, and a full description of the sample.

Most of the major survey research organizations that have done work in the areas of social and political research in the United States are represented in iPOLL. Among them are The Gallup Organization, The Roper Organization, Louis Harris and Associates, the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, ABC News, CBS News, NBC News, the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, USA Today, The Washington Post and the Associated Press, to name just a few. The Roper Center is indebted to all the organizations that have supported and continue to support its mission. Their generous contributions of the data collected by their surveys have made possible the establishment and growth of iPOLL.

In this brief User's Guide to iPOLL, you will find information on effectively using the iPOLL web-enabled system. As you become familiar with iPOLL, we trust you will find it to be a unique and valuable information source. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

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INFORMATION STORED IN IPOLL

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The data in iPOLL come from surveys conducted in the United States since 1935 and are among the archival holdings of the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research. While most of the information in iPOLL is taken from press releases or other reports issued by polling firms, the Center also has computer-readable data-individual responses stored on diskette or other magnetic media for many of the studies. All are national polls.

The vast majority of samples for these surveys consists of randomly selected US adults aged 18 years or over. Some variations on national adult samples include surveys of national registered voters and national likely voters. The collection is updated on a daily basis, with data being added from current polls as they arrive at the Roper Center or from older polls as they are acquired by the Roper Center.

In addition to national adult data, a number of "special sample" surveys are contained in iPOLL. This number is growing as our data librarians enter surveys from the Roper Center archives that were not previously included in iPOLL, as well as new surveys as they come in. Special samples include national samples of women, men, parents, African Americans, gays and lesbians, opinion leaders, clergy, and many others.

iPOLL stores a great deal of information for each individual survey item in the database. Not everyone employing iPOLL will need to use all this information, but the aim is to be sure that all the information you might need to understand a question, or cite it accurately, is immediately available.

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ACCESSING IPOLL

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iPOLL can be accessed through the Roper Center website or by going directly to the login page at http://www.ropercenter.uconn.edu/iPOLL/iPOLL_login.html. You can login by simply typing your username and password into the appropriate box and clicking "Login." Further, you may choose to type in a unique session identifier to track usage of different departments, units or individuals. Depending on your subscription terms and conditions, you may be required to specify this session identifier.

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iPOLL MENU

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The screenshot shows the iPOLL website interface with several callout boxes providing details for menu items:

- Search Within**: Search within the current search results.
- Store Search**: Store the criteria of the current search for future use.
- FAQ's**: Responses to the most frequently asked questions about using iPOLL.
- New Search**: Begin a search.
- Search History**: Rerun a search that has been done before.
- User Guide**: Information on effectively using the iPOLL databank.
- Support**: System availability, terms & conditions of use, and contact information are provided.

The main content area shows search results for 'education' with 1423 questions found. It includes buttons for 'Select All', 'Un-select All', 'VIEW SELECTIONS', and 'Log Out'. Three sample questions are listed, each with a checkbox and a 'question details' link.

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IPOLL OPTIONS

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The screenshot shows the iPOLL Options page. At the top, the iPOLL DATABANK logo and The Roper Center For Public Opinion Research are visible. A navigation bar contains links for New Search, Search Within, Search History, Store Search, User Guide, FAQ's, and Support. The main content area is titled "SEARCH" and includes a search form with fields for "Search for:", "Topic:", "Organization:", "Date:", and "Sort by:". A "Log Out" button is present. A callout box points to the top right of the page, stating "Username is displayed when the account is in use." Another callout points to a dropdown menu labeled "- iPOLL Options -", stating "The drop-down box contains menu options available." A third callout points to the text "Questions Viewed: 12", stating "Keeps track of the number of questions viewed during this session for accounting purposes." A final callout points to the "Log Out" button, stating "Please log out at the end of your session." The footer contains copyright information for 2002 and contact details for The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research at the University of Connecticut.

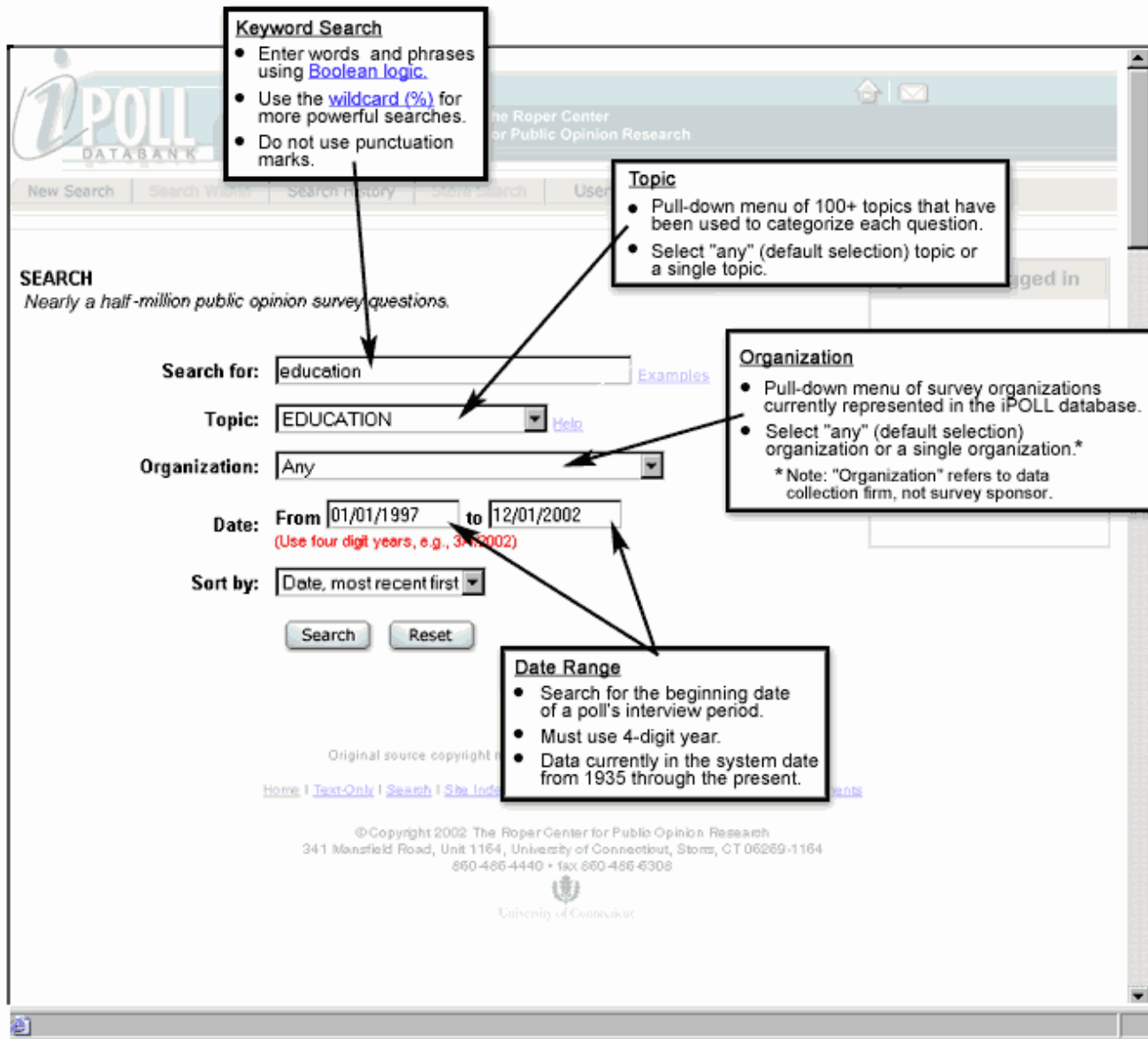
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SEARCHING IPOLL -- BASIC SEARCH

Once successfully logged in, you will be presented with the main search form. Survey questions are indexed by question text, subject category, survey organization and interview dates. Use these indexes to define your search criteria.



Keyword Search

- Enter words and phrases using [Boolean logic](#).
- Use the [wildcard \(%\)](#) for more powerful searches.
- Do not use punctuation marks.

Topic

- Pull-down menu of 100+ topics that have been used to categorize each question.
- Select "any" (default selection) topic or a single topic.

Organization

- Pull-down menu of survey organizations currently represented in the iPOLL database.
- Select "any" (default selection) organization or a single organization.*
- * Note: "Organization" refers to data collection firm, not survey sponsor.

Date Range

- Search for the beginning date of a poll's interview period.
- Must use 4-digit year.
- Data currently in the system date from 1935 through the present.

SEARCH
Nearly a half-million public opinion survey questions.

Search for: [Examples](#)

Topic: [help](#)

Organization:

Date: From to
(Use four digit years, e.g., 3/15/2002)

Sort by:

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BOOLEAN LOGIC

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Boolean logic uses the terms "and," "or," and "not" as connectors between keywords or phrases to narrow the results of keyword searches. Searches can be further refined through the use of parentheses. Some examples of Boolean searches in iPOLL:

Examples using "or" / "and" --

Keyword(s) in "Search for" field

Search results

Prescription

All questions containing the word "prescription" in the question wording.

Prescription or Social Security

All questions containing *either* "prescription" *or* "Social Security" in the question wording.

Prescription and Social Security

All questions containing *both* "prescription" *and* "Social Security" in the question wording.

Prescription and Social Security and Medicare

All questions containing "prescription" *and* "Social Security" *and* "Medicare" in the question wording.

Examples using parentheses --

Keyword(s) in "Search for" field

Search results

(Prescription and Social Security) or (prescription and Medicare)

All questions containing *either* "prescription" and "Social Security" *or* "prescription" and "Medicare" in the question wording.

Prescription and (Social Security or Medicare)

Same.

(Social Security or Medicare) and prescription

Same.

(Prescription and Social Security) or Medicare

All questions containing *both* "prescription" *and* "Social Security" in the question wording, *or* the word "Medicare"

Examples using "not" --

Keyword(s) in "Search for" field

Search results

Prescription not Social Security

All questions containing "prescription" but *not* "Social Security" in the question wording.

Prescription not Medicare

All questions containing "prescription" but *not* "Medicare" in the question wording.

(Prescription not Social Security) and (prescription not Medicare)	All questions containing "prescription" but <i>neither</i> "Social Security" <i>nor</i> "Medicare" in the question wording.
Prescription not (Social Security or Medicare)	Same.
((Prescription and Social Security) or Medicare) not income	All questions containing <i>both</i> "prescription" <i>and</i> "Social Security" in the question wording, <i>or</i> containing Medicare in the question wording, but <i>not</i> containing "income" in the question wording.

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USE OF WILDCARDS

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iPOLL uses the percent sign (%) as a wildcard symbol. You can use the wildcard when you wish to search on different forms of the same word without having to specify each form in the "Search for" field. For example, enter "ethic%" when you wish to find questions containing "ethic," "ethics," "ethical," or "ethically."

Some keywords present problems in wildcard searching. If you are doing a search on international trade agreements, you might be inclined to search on "import%" to find questions containing "import," "imports," "imported," or "importing," but such a search will also retrieve thousands of questions containing "important" or "importance." In a case like this, it is better to enter all the different forms of your keyword separately, or use the "not" option to rule out the words you do not want included in the search.

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SEARCH RESULTS

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Summary of search criteria and number of questions resulting from the search are reported at the top of the page.

The search results page displays question text, survey title, and beginning interview date.

Click on "question details" to see the full question text, response percentages and source information, or activate the checkbox next to the question number and click "VIEW SELECTIONS."

SEARCH RESULTS
Searched iPOLL for 'education' and topic education and date from 01/01/1997 to 12/01/2002 and found 1423 questions.

You can select several questions at a time by checking the box next to the question numbers and then clicking "VIEW SELECTIONS". Make sure to view selections BEFORE moving to a new results page.

Select All | Un-select All | VIEW SELECTIONS | Next ▶

Questions

1 (Regardless of the effect that Republican control of the White House and both houses of Congress have on the country as a whole, do you think that in the next two years the Republicans will make things--a lot better, a little better, a little worse, or a lot worse--in each of the following areas?)
about...education?
Source: Gallup/CNN/USA Today Poll Nov, 2002
[\[question details \]](#)

2 (Now I am going to read several factors that might have affected your vote in the (2002) election for U.S. (United States) House of Representatives. Would you please tell me, for each one, if it was the single most important factor, a major factor but not the single most important, a minor factor, or no real factor at all in your voting decision.)...The position of the candidates on education issues
Source: Post-Election Survey Regarding Health Care Issues Nov, 2002
[\[question details \]](#)

3 (Now, looking ahead to next year and the years ahead, I want to read you statements about the budget and about issues the country may be addressing. After I read each one, please tell me whether the statement makes you feel positive, no more positive, or less positive about the individual)...A Democrat says, Washington needs less partisanship and an ability to work together on issues. Our first priority should be restoring our budget surpluses, which enabled us to achieve strong economic growth, low unemployment, and high business investment. We should delay the proposed tax cuts, but

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SEARCHING IPOLL -- SELECTED QUESTIONS

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Summary of search criteria and number of questions selected for viewing are reported at the top of each page.

SELECTED QUESTION
Searched iPOLL for 'education' and topic education and date from 01/01/1997 to 12/01/2002 and selected 1 question.

Survey title
Gallup/CNN/USA Today Poll [November, 2002]

(Regardless of the effect that Republican control of the White House and both houses of Congress will have on the country as a whole, do you think that in the next two years the Republicans will make things--a lot better, a little better, a little worse, or a lot worse--in each of the following areas?) How about...education?

16%	A lot better
46	A little better
9	Same (vol.)
19	A little worse
8	A lot worse
2	No opinion

Complete information about the question includes question text, national response percentages, question notes and source information (survey firm, sponsor [if applicable], sample description and size, interview method and dates). [Click here for definitions.](#)

Survey by Cable News Network, USA Today. Methodology: Conducted by Gallup Organization, November 22-November 24, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,017. [USGALLUP.02NOV22.R08E]

Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

[[survey details](#)] [[catalog abstract](#)]

Click on "survey details" to view a list of questions from this survey that come from the same [release](#).
To see ALL the questions from the survey initiate a new search using survey organization and beginning interview date.

Click on "catalog abstract" to view a detailed description of the downloadable dataset for this survey.
AVAILABLE ONLY TO iPOLL SUBSCRIBERS.

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HEADING DEFINITIONS

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Title:	The title of the survey and the month and year when interviewing for the survey began.
Question text:	The actual wording of the question as it appeared on the survey questionnaire.
Subpopulation/Note:	In a case in which responses are not based on the entire sample, a description of the portion of the sample whose responses are being reported appears here. This field might also include information on questions in which multiple responses were allowed, questions for which only partial responses are shown, questions asked in more than one form in the same survey, and other question-level notes.
Responses:	The response categories and percentages of the sample answering each way. Generally, the percentages shown are weighted if the study contains a set of weighting factors.
Source information includes the following:	
Survey organization:	The name of the survey firm that conducted the research.
Research sponsor:	When applicable, the name of the organization that commissioned the survey.
Population:	The theoretical population from which the sample was drawn. While typically this is United States national adult, some studies are based on special samples (such as national samples of women or blacks).
Sample size:	The total count of all completed interviews in the survey.
Interview method:	An indication of the mode of interviewing--mail, telephone, or in person.
Interview dates:	The beginning and ending dates of the period in which interviewing was conducted.
Study note:	Includes any other pertinent information about the survey in which the question appeared.
Questions ID:	The unique identifier assigned to every question in the database.

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RELEASE DEFINITION

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"Release" is a broadly defined term used by the Roper Center in three ways:

- To refer to the press release, published report, or other document in which data appearing in iPOLL were publicly released by the organization that conducted or sponsored a given survey. An organization often will not disseminate all the results from its survey at the same time, so the Center may obtain the data for that survey from two or more separate releases.
- To refer to the point in time at which the Center received data from a given study by other means, such as dataset acquisition.
- To refer to a portion of a very large survey that had to be divided up by the Roper Center for processing purposes.

When you use the "survey details" function of iPOLL, you will view a list of questions that came from the same release as your selected question. This list may or may not comprise the questions from the entire survey.

To view the results of an entire survey irrespective of the release they came from, click on "new search" and enter the survey organization and beginning interview date of your selected question into the search fields.

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SURVEY DETAILS

Gallup/CNN/USA Today Poll [November, 2002 -- 32 questions]
 Survey by Cable News Network, USA Today. Methodology: Conducted by Gallup Organization, November 22-November 24, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,017.

You can select several questions at a time by checking the box next to the question numbers and then clicking "VIEW SELECTIONS". Make sure to view selections BEFORE moving to a new results page.

Search Results

- 1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?
Source: Gallup/CNN/USA Today Poll Nov, 2002
[\[question details \]](#)
- 2 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today--as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?
Source: Gallup/CNN/USA Today Poll Nov, 2002
[\[question details \]](#)
- 3 Right now, do you think that economic conditions in the country as a whole are getting better or getting worse?
Source: Gallup/CNN/USA Today Poll Nov, 2002
[\[question details \]](#)
- 4 Do you think the economy is now in a recession, or not?

Done

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SEARCH WITHIN

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Sometimes a search is too broad and yields too many questions. The "Search Within" function allows you to narrow down the results.

SEARCH RESULTS
Searched iPOLL for 'education' and topic education and date from 01/01/1997 to 12/01/2002 and found 1423 questions.

You can select several questions at a time by checking the box next to the question numbers and then clicking "VIEW SELECTIONS". Make sure to view selections BEFORE moving to a new results page.

Select All Un-select All VIEW SELECTIONS Next

Questions

1 (Regardless of the effect that Republican control of the White House and both houses of Congress will have on the country as a whole, do you think that in the next two years the Republicans will make things—a lot better, a little better, a little worse, or a lot worse—in each of the following areas?) How about...education?
Source: Gallup/CNN/USA Today Poll Nov, 2002
[\[question details \]](#)

2 (Now I am going to read several factors that might have affected your vote in the (2002) election for U.S. (United States) House of Representatives. Would you please tell me, for each one, if it was the single most important factor, a major factor but not the single most important, a minor factor, or no real factor at all in your voting decision.)...The position of the candidates on education issues
Source: Post-Election Survey Regarding Health Care Issues Nov, 2002
[\[question details \]](#)

3 (Now, looking ahead to next year and the years ahead, I want to read you statements about the budget and about issues the country may be addressing. After I read each one, please tell me whether the statement makes you feel positive, no more positive, or less positive about the individual.)...A Democrat says, Washington needs less partisanship and an ability to work together on issues. Our first priority should be restoring our budget surpluses, which enabled us to achieve strong economic growth, low unemployment, and high business investment. We should delay the proposed tax cuts, but

Done

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SEARCH WITHIN - CONTINUED

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Enter a search word or phrase to narrow down the results of your original search.
Click "Search Within" again if you wish to narrow down further.

The screenshot shows the iPOLL search results page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: New Search, Search Within, Search History, Store Search, User Guide, FAQ's, and Support. Below this, the page title is "SEARCH WITHIN RESULTS". The current search criteria are displayed as: "Current Results: 'education' and topic education and date from 01/01/1997 to 12/01/2002 (#5848)". A message states: "If you do not want to search within these results please view your session [Search History](#) to select the appropriate search criteria." Below this message is a search box containing the text "voucher", with "Search" and "Reset" buttons to its right. A callout box with a black border and white background points to the search box, containing the text: "Enter a search word or phrase to narrow down the results of your original search. Click 'Search Within' again if you wish to narrow down further." On the right side of the page, there is a user information box showing "janedoe03 logged in", a dropdown menu for "iPOLL Options", "Questions Viewed: 12", and a "Log Out" button. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with copyright information: "© Copyright 2002 The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, 341 Mansfield Road, Unit 1164, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269-1164, 860-486-4440 • fax: 860-486-6308" and the University of Connecticut logo.

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Use the "Search History" option to find and rerun a search that has been done before.

The screenshot shows the iPOLL search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following tabs: "New Search", "Search Within", "Search History" (highlighted with a black box and an arrow pointing to it), "Store Search", "User Guide", "FAQ's", and "Support". Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled "SEARCH" and includes the text "Nearly a half-million public opinion survey questions." The search form contains the following fields and options:

- Search for:** A text input field containing "education" and a link to "Examples".
- Topic:** A dropdown menu set to "EDUCATION" with a "Help" link.
- Organization:** A dropdown menu set to "Any".
- Date:** Two date input fields: "From" (01/01/1997) and "to" (12/01/2002). Below these is the instruction: "(Use four digit years, e.g., 34/2002)".
- Sort by:** A dropdown menu set to "Date, most recent first".
- Buttons for "Search" and "Reset".

On the right side of the search form, there is a sidebar with the text "jandee03 logged in", a dropdown menu for "iPOLL Options", "Questions Viewed: 0", and a "Log Out" button.

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the following text:

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Results displayed in the search history option can be either from the current browser session or from searches stored by the user in a previous session. Click on the desired search link to rerun that search.

iPOLL SEARCH HISTORY
 Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2002
 User: Jane Doe

Current Session Activity:

- 1 ['education' and topic education and date from 01/01/1997 to 12/01/2002](#)
- 2 ['poll% not pollut%' and \(surveys\)](#)
- 3 ['tax%' and organization Gallup](#)
- 4 ['poll% not pollut%' and \(surveys\)](#)

Stored Searches:

- Delete 1 ['hillary rodham clinton' and organization Gallup](#)
- Delete 2 ['poll% not pollut%' and \(surveys\)](#)
- Delete 3 ['congressional elections' and topic congress](#)
- Delete 4 ['subsidies' and topic farm](#)
- Delete 5 ['education' and topic education and date from 01/01/1997 to 12/01/2002](#)

Annotations in the screenshot:
 - A box labeled "Searches from current browser session." points to the "Current Session Activity" list.
 - A box labeled "Searches stored by the user in a previous session." points to the "Stored Searches" list.

Right sidebar:
 janedoe03 logged in
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STORE SEARCH

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This feature stores only the criteria used to run the original search; it does not store the actual search results.

SEARCH RESULTS

Searched iPOLL for 'education' and topic education and date from 01/01/1997 to 12/01/2002 and found 1423 questions.

You can select several questions at a time by checking the box next to the question numbers and then clicking "VIEW SELECTIONS". Make sure to view selections BEFORE moving to a new results page.

Questions

1 (Regardless of the effect that the results of the 2002 election for the U.S. House of Representatives will have on the country as a whole, do you think that in the next two years the Republicans will make things--a lot better, a little better, a little worse, or a lot worse--in each of the following areas?) How about...education?
Source: Gallup/CNN/USA Today Poll Nov, 2002
[\[question details \]](#)

2 (Now I am going to read several factors that might have affected your vote in the (2002) election for U.S. (United States) House of Representatives. Would you please tell me, for each one, if it was the single most important factor, a major factor but not the single most important, a minor factor, or no real factor at all in your voting decision.)...The position of the candidates on education issues
Source: Post-Election Survey Regarding Health Care Issues Nov, 2002
[\[question details \]](#)

3 (Now, looking ahead to next year and the years ahead, I want to read you statements about the budget and about issues the country may be addressing. After I read each one, please tell me whether the statement makes you feel positive, no more positive, or less positive about the individual)...A Democrat says, Washington needs less partisanship and an ability to work together on issues. Our first priority should be restoring our budget surpluses, which enabled us to achieve strong economic growth, low unemployment, and high business investment. We should delay the proposed tax cuts, but

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