Library Research for Sociology and related Literature

To be able to search thoroughly and evaluate information for research
If your question has been studied before you might get important information from a literature search.

This is your preliminary step to any research. You should find out what has been written about the question you are asking or your topic of research.

Search, locate and collect information about your topic.

Assess what you find...go beyond the information you read and try to draw your own conclusions.

Quote, Paraphrase, and CITE!

Knowledge is of two kinds: we know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it.

-- Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)

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Searching multiple resources

-- Covering ground

- Library Catalog (& other catalogs)
  For information about books, videos, audio tapes, microfilm...
- Indexes and Databases
  (including looking up Print Indexes)
  Journals, Magazines, Newspapers, Newsletters, Reviews, ....
- World Wide Web Resources
- Statistics
  For Data
- Government Documents

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IRIS – Rutgers Library Catalog

Quick Search vs. Keyword

Advanced Search vs. Browsing shelves

Boolean; Limiting;
Indexes and Databases

- Sociofile
- Academic Search Premier

Related Databases:
- America History and Life
- Alcohol Studies Database
- Contemporary Women’s Issues
- Chicano Database
- ERIC
- Ethnic Newswatch
- Sexual Diversity Studies: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Abstracts
- Left Index
- North American Women’s Letters and Diaries Database
- PAIS International
- PBS Video Database of America’s History and Culture
- PopLine
- PsycINFO
- Social Work Abstracts
- Women Writers Online

Keep Current: Use Alerts services

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### Is it a Scholarly Journal or a Popular one?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Scholarly/Research</th>
<th>Popular/Magazine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To communicate</td>
<td>To inform and entertain the reader</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>research ideas</td>
<td>General Public</td>
<td>Cross-disciplinary, Broad variety of topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audience</td>
<td>Other Scholars, researchers, students</td>
<td>General Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage</td>
<td>Narrow/specific subjects</td>
<td>Cross-disciplinary, Broad variety of topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>Professional, academic associations, colleges, universities and commercial</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>publishers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writers</td>
<td>Scholars, Researchers, Experts</td>
<td>Journalists, publishing employees, reporters and researchers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics</td>
<td>Assumes general background information or knowledge; discipline specific jargon;</td>
<td>Little technical language or jargon;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>peer review/refereed; bibliographies and references present; detailed procedures</td>
<td>Few or no references cited; no bibliographies;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and processes</td>
<td>detailed summaries of background information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples</td>
<td>American Journal of Sociology; British Journal of Sociology....</td>
<td>Time; Newsweek,.....</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ulrich’s International Periodicals Directory & Academic Search Premier list Peer Reviewed/Refereed Journals in**

*Publication details*

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I don't understand it, but I'm impressed.

(Katzer 1982)
To have better control on your results
-- use Advanced Searching
The process of modifying or changing our position/opinion/belief as we gain more information helps us understand the issue/topic better.

- Review your results
- Evaluate what you find
Which one would you consider yourself to be?

“Absolutist”
You consider issues as “black-and-white”—unconstrained of any perceptions and valuations

“Multiplist”
You consider issues as having multiple potential with almost equal validities

“Evaluativist”
You consider issues as having “some better and some worse answers and ....can identify them by weighing the evidence”.

(Brem 2000)
Hope you chose..... “Evaluativist”
“Consider the structure and reliability of a source”

Structure
- Is the information contained/restricted/developed within the database? If so, is the information better? Does it have better standards?

Reliability
- Remember you are including “this reference” in your paper…is it reliable?

(Brem 2000)
### The CARS Checklist for Research Source Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Credibility/Authority/Trust</strong></td>
<td>trustworthy source, author’s credentials, evidence of quality control, known or respected authority, organizational support. Goal: an authoritative source, a source that supplies some good evidence that allows you to trust it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accuracy</strong></td>
<td>up to date, factual, detailed, exact, comprehensive, audience and purpose reflect intentions of completeness and accuracy. Goal: a source that is correct today (not yesterday), a source that gives the whole truth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reasonableness Neutral/Advocacy</strong></td>
<td>fair, balanced, objective, reasoned, no conflict of interest, absence of fallacies or slanted tone. Goal: a source that engages the subject thoughtfully and reasonably, concerned with the truth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support/Currency/Coverage</strong></td>
<td>listed sources, contact information, available corroboration, claims supported, documentation supplied. Goal: a source that provides convincing evidence for the claims made, a source you can triangulate (find at least two other sources that support it).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examples

Attention Deficit Disorder
http://www.all-natural.com/add.html

NIMH Attention Deficit Disorder
http://www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/adhd.cfm

The True but Little Known Facts about Women and AIDS
http://147.129.226.1/library/research/AIDSFACTS.htm

AIDS Surveillance in Women
http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/hiv_aids/graphics/women.htm

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Statistical Resources from *Indexes & Databases* @ the Library

- **UN Statistics Division Common Database (UNStats)**
  [http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/indexes/search_guides/unstats.shtml](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/indexes/search_guides/unstats.shtml)

- **SourceOECD**
  [http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/indexes/search_guides/sourceoecd.shtml](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/indexes/search_guides/sourceoecd.shtml)

- **LexisNexis Statistical**

- **Social Science Electronic Data Library**
  [http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/indexes/search_guides/edl.shtml](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/indexes/search_guides/edl.shtml)

- **AccessUN**
  [http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/indexes/search_guides/accessUN.shtml](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/indexes/search_guides/accessUN.shtml)
Highlights
- ICPSR Social Science Archive
- Numeric Data Research Guide - Web
- CD-ROMS at Alexander Library

Stay tuned:
Kilmer Library will be hosting a PC that is a replica of the SCC Data center Computers. This will enable you to access all the CD-ROM as well as other data from SCC from this location.
You don’t want this kind of publicity NOW or when you become the prime minister!
Citing Statistical Data/Data Files

Elements in a citation for Statistical Data

Source: http://www.mun.ca/library/media/dlicit3.html

- **Author**
  or Principal investigator(s), Corporation, Issuing agency

- **Title**
  subtitles, descriptive phrases, dates, geographic information

- **Type of Resource - Some common distinctions**
  
  **Computer Data**: data or statistics that can be used directly in any software program for manipulation

  **Computer File**: data or stats that can be used along with software it came with or otherwise

  **Computer Program**: software program

  **Computer Data and Program**: a database of statistics which has the retrieval software included
Elements in a citation for Statistical Data

- **Version**
  edition, level, release or issue

- **Publisher**
  producer, institution,…

- **Distributor**
  person, institution if different from publisher

- **Date of Publication**
  Date the file was produced, year of copies, copyright date

- **Series Information**
  Title of the series, parts of the series….

- **File Size**
  No. of physical files, KB, MB, Gigs, etc.

- **Hardware requirements**
  If relevant to evaluate this reference use it.

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Try these for more information on how to cite data files:

Introduction to Data Handling (University of Chicago)
http://www.spc.uchicago.edu/DATALIB/DLguides/Gdathand.html

Citing Electronic Resources
http://www.princeton.edu/~econlib/cite.html
References used in this presentation


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Thank You!

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Please feel free to contact me

Questions?