Using Social Science Databases for Criminal Justice Research

Tips for Searching Social Science Literature

Use Boolean operators AND, OR NOT
ethnography AND studies
ethnography OR fieldwork

Search for theoretical literature on your topic
♦ social interaction AND theory

Examine references cited in the literature

Search for names of prominent individuals
Consider using the term “history”
Consider using “definition” as a keyword
Consider using “literature review” or “review”

Consider using an exact phrase match
♦ “social stratification”

Use truncation or wildcards *, !
♦ socio! (retrieves sociology, sociologist,

Need More Help?

The following s can be reached for specialized assistance:

Information Commons
Phone: 805.493.3255
E-mail: CLUlibrary@clunet.edu

Access Services/Circulation Department
Phone: 805.493.3937

Interlibrary Loan
Phone: 805.493.3120
E-mail: ill@clunet.edu

Computer Help Line
Phone: 805.493.3698

Writing Center
Phone: 805.493.3257
URL: http://www.clunet.edu/writingcenter

Your Information Specialists Team

Lala Badal
Phone: 805.493.3942
E-mail: lbadal@clunet.edu

Cynthia Campbell
Phone: 805.493.3940
E-mail: ccampbel@clunet.edu

Henri Mondschein
Phone: 805.493.3012
E-mail: mondsche@clunet.edu

Judith Samuel
Phone: 805.493.3092
E-mail: jsamuel@clunet.edu

The Pearson Library: Your Gateway to Criminal Justice Research

The Pearson Library offers many valuable information resources ranging from books and journals to electronic databases to help you research material for your paper or thesis. This handout will provide you with an overview of key databases and information resources available through CLUnet and provide you with general tips for selecting the right database for your research needs.

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Information Specialist
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Searching the CLU Social Science Databases

Step 1: Sign on the Portal and Navigate to the Pearson Library homepage:

EBSCOhost Sociological Collection - Covering information on all areas of sociology, including social behavior, human tendencies, interaction, relationships, community development, culture and social structure; provides complete full text for more than 500 important journals.

JSTOR - Core scholarly journals in many social sciences including, anthropology, ecology, history, political science, population studies, sociology, and statistics have been digitized starting with the very first issues, many of which date from the 1800's.

Project MUSE - Provides full-text to over 114 scholarly journals online from Johns Hopkins University Press.

PsycArticles - Features full-text articles from 41 peer-reviewed APA journals.

PsycINFO - (1887-present; updated monthly) Includes journal articles, chapters, books, dissertations, and reports on psychology and related fields. 1,400 titles

Rand California - Contains customizable data from RAND, the nation's leading think tank.

Social Sciences Full Text - Full text of articles from over 1,750 publications and article abstracts and indexing from over 3,500 publications.

SocINDEX with Full Text - Contains full text for 253 "core" coverage journals dating back to 1895, and 72 "priority" coverage journals. Full text for 547 books and monographs, and full text for 6,711 conference papers.

SCOPUS - SCOPUS is an abstract and indexing database which includes 27 million records and 230 million references from over 14,000 journals. Provides cited reference searching.

Peerson Library

Social Science Databases

Step 2: Click on :Finding Articles” and choose “By Subject.”

Step 3: Open the ”Social Science” link to display databases for business research and select the database of your choice:

Choosing the Right Database

Follow these guidelines to select the best database for your research. If you need more help, check with the Information Commons Desk.

Peer-Reviewed Literature

♦ EBSCOhost Sociological Collection
♦ JSTOR
♦ Project MUSE
♦ PsycArticles
♦ PsycINFO
♦ Social Sciences Full Text
♦ SocINDEX with Full Text

Cited Reference Searching

♦ SCOPUS

Demographic Information

♦ California Rand
♦ Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics
♦ Statistical Universe