CHOOSING A TOPIC, FINDING BACKGROUND INFORMATION

These two encyclopedias provide introductory articles on key topics in social psychology.

A continuously updated online encyclopedia with extensive coverage in all areas of sociology.

Topics covered include social change, deviance, family, health, urban issues, poverty, race and ethnic relations, class and economics, gender and sexual orientation, and much more.

Articles address the application of psychology to real-life situations (in education, sports, business, healthcare, inter-group relations, etc.)

Articles on the thoughts, feelings, and physiological functions behind human action and reaction.

Main Reference BF31 .E52 2010 (4 vols.)
Articles provide succinct summaries of topics in psychology and behavioral sciences.

More e-book encyclopedias:

BROWSING FOR TOPICS AT WEB SITES

Social Psychology Network. Maintained by Scott Plous, Department of Psychology, Wesleyan University, with support from the National Science Foundation.
http://www.socialpsychology.org/
Over 20,000 links related to social psychology for students, faculty, and researchers. Especially recommended is the “Social Psychology Topics” section.
**SocioSite.** Maintained by Albert Benschop, faculty of Social Sciences, University of Amsterdam.  
http://www.sociosite.net/  
Provides a starting point for identifying academically oriented web sites in various areas of sociological inquiry. The “Subject Areas” link is a great place to start.

**Resources for the Teaching of Social Psychology.** Maintained by Jon Mueller, Professor of Psychology, North Central College; sponsored by the Associated Colleges of Illinois.  
http://jfmueller.faculty.nocotr.edu/crow/  
Over 5,000 links to resources and ideas for teaching social psychology; although the primary audience is faculty, the “Topic Resources” and “Articles, Books, and Book Chapters” sections under each topic are also useful for students.

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**FINDING BOOKS AND OTHER LIBRARY MATERIALS**

**OBIS** is the Oberlin College Library’s online catalog; it lists most library materials. The **OhioLINK Library Catalog** combines the holdings of 90 college and university libraries across Ohio. Both catalogs can be searched by **Author** or **Title** for a specific author or work, or by **Subject Heading** or **Keyword** for works about a topic, person, place, etc.

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**USING DATABASES TO FIND ARTICLES IN SCHOLARLY JOURNALS**

*Connect from Databases tab on the Library home page search box, or use the Quick Links drop-down menu*

**SocINDEX**  
The major index for sociology and related disciplines; indexes articles in 1,750+ journals.

**PsycINFO**  
The major index for psychology and related disciplines; indexes articles in 2,500+ journals. Also indexes books, book chapters, and dissertations.

*To determine if the library has a particular journal, use “360 Link to Full Text” or “Find It!” where available in research databases, or search Journal Finder from Library home page or the Quick Links pull-down menu*

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**OTHER RECOMMENDED RESEARCH DATABASES**

Depending on your topic, the databases listed below may also prove useful. If you need assistance using these or other library resources, ask for help at the Research Desk.

Academic Search Complete (multidisciplinary)  
ATLA Religion Database  
Black Studies Center  
Communication & Mass Media Complete  
Computers & Applied Sciences Complete  
EconLit  
Education Research Complete  
Gender Studies Database  
Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts  
LGBT Life  
MEDLINE (Ebsco version recommended)  
Peace Research Abstracts  
SPORTDiscus

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**SUMMON – choose Summon tab on library home page search box**

- searches across the spectrum of library content: books, scholarly articles, newspapers, data, audio, video, images, government documents, and more; searches many, but not all, library resources  
- draws from OBIS, OhioLINK, many full text and article indexing databases, and digital repositories from colleges, universities, research centers, and other open-access archives  
- comprehensive or complex searches should be done in subject specific databases
• OBIS and OhioLINK are generally better for finding books
• if links don’t lead to full text, be persistent or ask for help; we probably do have access

HELP WITH RESEARCH AND WRITING

Main Library HM585.G78 2008 [7th ed. 2013 on order]

Main Library HM585 .S638 2010

Main Library BF76.7 .R67 2009 [9th ed. 2012 on order]

http://bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/
Covers four major citation and style systems (for humanities, social sciences, history, and sciences).

Main Reference HM569 .A54 2010
Quick Tips for ASA Style is an online, brief version: Google “quick tips asa style” and choose the one at asanet.org

_How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography_. Maintained by the Olin & Uris Libraries, Cornell University.
http://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliography

Consider using a citation management tool, such as _RefWorks_ to help you:
• track sources consulted
• organize citations, notes, and documents
• automatically format bibliographies and lists of works cited
• for info, choose “For Students” (under “Services” on library web site), then “Citation Help”

HOW TO GET MATERIALS NOT AVAILABLE AT OBERLIN

_OhioLINK:_
• how it works: ~110 OhioLINK member libraries lend materials (primarily books) to each other; _does not include delivery of journal articles_
• to request: do-it-yourself searching and online requesting (barcode is the number on back of OCID)
• how long it takes: allow 3-4 business days

_Interlibrary Loan (ILL or ILLiad)_
• use for: articles in journals not available at Oberlin, books not available via OhioLINK
• how it works: libraries provide materials to each other; includes delivery of scanned journal articles
• to request: select “ILLiad/Interlibrary Loan” from the Quick Links menu on the Library’s home page; set up an account; enter and track ILL requests online
• how long it takes: allow 1-2 weeks; many arrive much more quickly

GETTING RESEARCH HELP AT THE LIBRARY

Research Desk Hours: Monday – Thursday 10am-noon, 1-5pm, & 7pm-midnight
Friday 10am-noon & 1-5pm
Weekends: Saturday noon-5pm, Sunday noon-5pm & 7pm-midnight

_Click on Ask a Librarian_ on the library’s home page for more ways to get help

Oberlin College Library. CHC, 3/14
Selecting an Appropriate Research Database

✓ Consider which subject areas match your research topic: Who would be interested in researching or studying the topic? Which disciplines are concerned with the topic? Is the topic related to a specific geographical area?

✓ Decide what type or format of information you need: What kinds of publications or information sources would be most likely to include this information? Books? Scholarly journals? Professional or trade publications? Popular magazines? Newspapers? Web sites? Special interest publications?

✓ Select the time period you are interested in: Current? Historical?

✓ Look for a database that matches your criteria:
   - Browse the subject listing of databases at the Library's web site
   - Consult your professor for recommendations
   - Ask a librarian for suggestions

Database Searching Tips

Examples are from SocINDEX using EBSCO's database search software

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keyword searching</td>
<td>search for words automatically indexed by computer</td>
<td>[any word you want!]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phrase searching</td>
<td>search for an exact phrase (words that appear adjacent to each other in a specified order)</td>
<td>“conflict resolution” “bystander effect” “prosocial behavior”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boolean logic (for keyword searching)</td>
<td>use Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) for more precise searching</td>
<td>[see examples below]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td>search for records that include all of the words (narrows the search)</td>
<td>bullying and (internet or social media)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>search for records that include any of the words (broadens the search)</td>
<td>homosexual or gay or lesbian or queer or transgender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOT</td>
<td>exclude records that include the word (narrows the search)</td>
<td>advertising not (television or radio)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truncation</td>
<td>substitute a &quot;wild card&quot; character for one or more letters to retrieve all possible word endings</td>
<td>conform* [finds conform, conforms, conformity, conformist]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject searching</td>
<td>search for subject headings (also called &quot;terms&quot; or &quot;descriptors&quot;) chosen from a standardized list</td>
<td>self-consciousness (used instead of self awareness)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Boolean Logic

A AND B

A OR B

A NOT B