ENCYCLOPEDIAS — CHOOSING A TOPIC; FINDING OVERVIEWS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

☞ most of these are e-books; to access, search OBIS (Catalog) by title, then follow the link in the record.


☞ SocioSite. Edited by Albert Benschop, faculty of Social Sciences, University of Amsterdam.
   http://www.sociosite.net — Academically-oriented web sites in sociology; choose “Subject Areas.”

   Main Reference HN90.56 C564 2007 (located in reference section on Main Level of Mudd)


☞ Exercise for searching an online sociology encyclopedia to find overview articles
   2. Select the Catalog tab to search OBIS
   3. Change the drop-down search option to Title; search: ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RACE AND RACISM
   4. Choose the 2013 edition and connect to the encyclopedia
   5. In the Tools box on the right, search for DISCRIMINATION in the box that says “within publication”
   6. Scroll down and select the article on AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

☞ Exercise for using SocioSite to explore topics of interest
   2. Choose Subject Areas (1st box); explore POVERTY (or another area of personal interest to you)

FINDING BOOKS AND OTHER LIBRARY MATERIALS

OBIS is the Oberlin College Library’s online catalog; it lists most library materials. Online borrowing is available through the OhioLINK Library Catalog, which combines the holdings of 120 libraries at Ohio colleges and universities, and through SearchOhio, which does the same for 28 Ohio public library systems. All three catalogs are searchable by Author or Title for a specific author or work, or by Subject Heading or Keyword for works about a topic, person, place, etc.
Exercise for searching OBIS for books relevant to your topic
2. In the Catalog tab, change the drop-down search option to Subject; search: SCHOOL VIOLENCE
3. Click on Limit/Sort Search; for YEAR of publication, in the From box type 2010, and click Search

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.
An index to publications in sociology and related disciplines; indexes articles in 2,600+ journals.

Academic Search Complete.
Indexes articles from 13,000+ general and academic periodicals in all disciplines; over 65% of the journals indexed include full text, and most are peer-reviewed.

Exercise for searching SocINDEX for scholarly journal articles relevant to your topic
1. From the library home page, choose the Databases tab
2. Change the “by subject” drop-down search option to Sociology and select SocINDEX
3. In box 1 enter search terms for the first concept, each connected by “or”
4. In box 2 enter search terms for the second concept, each connected by “or,” and click Search
5. Refine results by choosing “Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals”
6. Refine results again by choosing “Publication Date” 2006-2016

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

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.

Black Studies Center (African diaspora) LGBT Life with Full Text (gay/lesbian/bi/trans)
Communication and Mass Media Complete PAIS International (public policy, politics)
Criminal Justice Abstracts PsycINFO (psychology, social psychology)
Education Research Complete SPORTDiscus (sports, athletics, fitness)
Gender Studies Database Urban Studies Abstracts

Database Search Tips
Examples are from SocINDEX using EBSCO’s Ebscohost search engine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phrase search (quotes required)</td>
<td>search for an exact phrase</td>
<td>“death penalty”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“standardized test”</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 <em>all</em> of the words (narrow the search)</td>
<td>race and poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>search for records that include <em>any</em> of the words (broadens the search)</td>
<td>homosexual or gay or lesbian or queer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOT</td>
<td>exclude records that include the word (narrow the search)</td>
<td>advertising not (television or radio)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truncation</td>
<td>search for root word with any ending</td>
<td>immigra* (finds immigrant, immigrants, immigration, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUMMON – default tab on library home page search box

- searches across the spectrum of library content: books, scholarly articles, newspaper articles, magazine articles, data, audio, video, images, government documents, and more
- draws from OBIS, full text databases, and digital repositories from colleges, universities, research centers, and other open-access archives
- direct links to online content (in most cases)

Keep in mind...
- Summon searches many, but not all, library resources
- comprehensive or complex searches are often more effective if done in subject-specific databases
- OBIS and OhioLINK are usually better for finding books

Exercise for searching with Summon for additional publications relevant to your topic
1. From the library home page, make sure the Summon tab is selected
2. In the Search box, type: GAY PARENTING
3. Under Refine Your Search, select “Scholarly and Peer-Review”
4. Add another concept by including the word “attitudes”
5. June 26, 2015: Supreme Court ruling made same-sex marriage a legal right nationwide

CITING YOUR SOURCES

Main Reference BF76.7 .P83 2010

Purdue Online Writing Lab (aka the OWL). Maintained by Perdue University.
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/
See the Research and Citation section for examples of how to cite resources using APA citation style.

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

HOW TO GET MATERIALS NOT AVAILABLE AT OBERLIN

OhioLINK/SearchOhio
- how it works: 115 Ohio library systems lend materials (primarily books) to each other
- does not include delivery of journal articles – see section below on ILL
- to request: do-it-yourself online searching and requesting
- Barcode is the number on the back of your OCID
- how long it takes: allow 3-4 business days
• loan period: 3 weeks + up to 6 three-week renewals if item has not been requested by someone else

**Interlibrary Loan (ILL or ILLiad)**

• use for: articles in journals not available at Oberlin, books not available from OhioLINK
• how it works: libraries lend materials to each other; for journal articles they may send scanned pdfs
• 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 articles arrive much more quickly
• loan period: journal articles are yours to keep; loan period for books varies

**HOW TO GET RESEARCH HELP AT THE LIBRARY**

*Drop-in help at the Research Help Desk.* Just stop by and tell us what you need  
  - Monday–Thursday: 10am–noon, 1–5pm, & 7pm–midnight  
  - Friday: 10am–noon & 1–5pm  
  - Weekend: Sat.: 2–4 pm, Sunday: 1–5pm & 7 pm–midnight

*IM.* Chat online with a member of Oberlin’s reference staff (ObieRef) – hours same as above

*Phone.* 440-775-5031 – hours same as above

*Email.* reference@oberlin.edu – any time

*Research appointment.* Sign up online from the library home page