Resources for SOCI 267: War and Peace?
Cynthia H. Comer, Reference & Instruction Dept., Oberlin College Library

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON COUNTRIES

Fact sheets from the U.S. Department of State focusing on U.S. relations with each country.

Europa World: the Europa World Year Book Online. (e-book, connect from OBIS)
Political and economic information on countries, territories, and international organizations.

Political Handbook of the World. 2015 ed. (e-book, connect from OBIS)
Timely and accurate political information, including coverage of current political controversies.

FINDING BOOKS AND OTHER LIBRARY MATERIALS

OBIS is the Oberlin College Library’s online catalog; it lists most library materials. Online requesting/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.

Below is a selective list of subject headings that may be useful for research in this class:

- Conflict management
- Corruption
- Democracy
- Democratization
- Economic assistance
- Economic assistance, American
- Failed states
- Human rights
- Humanitarian assistance
- Humanitarian assistance, American
- Internal security
- Nation-building
- Peace-building
- Postwar reconstruction

Additional strategy for searching for information about specific countries:
- choose the Advanced Search option
- in the first box, enter the name of your country
- in the second box, enter terms for the concept you want to study
- if there are too many results, change dropdown for country from keyword to subject
- or... limit results by publication date to recent years

FINDING 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 library’s main index for sociology and related disciplines; indexes articles in 2,600+ journals.

JSTOR.
A scholarly journal archive with 2,000+ journals in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences; offers a deep back file, but few recent issues (most titles have a 3-5 year “moving wall”).

Other recommended databases:

- Academic Search Complete (multidisciplinary)
- Peace Research Abstracts (peace/conflict)
- EconLit (economics)
- International Political Science Abstracts
- CIAO (Columbia International Affairs Online)
- Worldwide Political Science Abstracts
- PAIS International (international affairs, policy)

☞ 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
SUMMON – first (default) tab on library home page search box

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

CITING YOUR SOURCES  for info, choose “For Students” (under “Services” on library home page), then “Citation Help

  ebook, print copy Main Reference Z253 .U69 2010 (and other locations, ck. OBIS)

*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 using APA, Chicago, and MLA citation styles.

HOW TO GET MATERIALS NOT AVAILABLE AT OBERLIN

OhioLINK/SearchOhio

- how it works: over 300 Ohio libraries 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 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; 24-hr advance notice appreciated