Finding Literature Reviews in Annual Reviews

Scholarly research articles generally include a section where the author(s) describe their review of previous research that has bearing on or is in some way related to their own research. In addition, some researchers publish lengthy literature reviews as stand-alone articles. A major journal for such full-length literature reviews is Annual Reviews, which covers 40+ disciplines, including sociology. [access via databases tab]

Cited Reference Searching via Web of Science Citation Indexes

The Social Sciences Citation Index, part of the Web of Science database, is a multidisciplinary index to journal literature in the social sciences. It fully indexes more than 3,000 journals spanning 55 disciplines, plus selected items from 3,500 leading scientific and technical journals. Because the information stored about each article includes its reference list (i.e., bibliography), you can search for articles that cite a known author or work. [access via databases tab]

Major search options

Basic Search: Searches by topic, title, author, journal (“publication name”), author’s address, etc.
   (Topic searches titles, abstracts, and keywords.)

Author: Searches by author’s name, with ability to refine by discipline (research domain) and organization

_unlocked Cited Reference Search: Searches for articles that have cited (i.e., included in their reference list or bibliography) a published work. This type of search can locate relevant articles that can’t be retrieved through traditional searches. A cited reference search can identify more recent articles on a topic, and indicate how earlier research has been confirmed, applied, improved, extended, contradicted, or corrected in more recent research.

Advanced Search: For the “power searcher” willing to learn the advanced search mode’s intricacies and conventions. (You probably don’t want to go there!)

Search operators

and       find records containing all terms
or        find records containing any of the terms
not       exclude records containing certain terms
near/n    find records containing all terms within a certain number of words (n) of each other
example: income near/3 inequality
same      find records where the terms occur in the same sub-field (article title, sentence in the abstract, or a single address)
phrase    use quotation marks to search for an exact phrase (e.g., “homeless women”)

Truncation/wildcard characters (may be used inside a term and at the end, but not at the beginning)
* = zero to many characters (it’s the one you’ll use the most)
   (ex. hof*man* = hofman, hoffman, hoffmann, hofman’s, hoffmann’s, etc.)
$ = zero or one character  (ex. colo$r = color, colour)
? = a single character   (ex. color? = color, colors, but not colorful, coloring, etc.)
Exercise for doing a topic search in Social Sciences Citation Index

1. Go to the Social Sciences Citation Index [access via databases tab]
2. In Box 1, type: social media users
3. Add Another Field; in Box 2, type: portray* or stereotyp*
4. Limit to 2002-2016; click “Search”

Additional search options

Refine Results: Allows searching within results and filtering results using various facets including broad subject area, author, source (journal), publication year, language, etc.

Analyze Results: Analyzes results by the field you select, such as institution name, journal (“source title”), author, etc.

Related Records Search: Searches for articles whose cited reference lists include at least one of the sources cited by the original (parent) article. Articles that share the largest number of sources with the original article are listed first. The assumption behind related record searching is that articles whose reference lists include some of the same sources have a similar subject relationship, regardless of whether their titles, abstracts, or keywords contain the same terms. The more sources two articles have in common, the closer this subject relationship is presumed to be.

Other databases with citation information:

SocINDEX, PsycINFO:
both include many cited references and a somewhat hard-to-find Cited References search option; compared to SSCI, coverage is for a somewhat smaller, more focused set of journals
both include a Find Similar Results option; Ebsco’s search engine uses “SmartText” searching, which is based on words in the article title and abstract, not shared references as with SSCI

Google Scholar: includes many cited references; has no separate cited reference search option; may produce better results than SSCI for articles cited in books, or books that are cited in articles; may include citations from non-peer-reviewed sources, such as handouts and PowerPoint slides

Search engines:

Summon
- a single box searches a variety of library materials and source types
- Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) must be entered in ALL CAPS; AND is the default for all terms when no Boolean operator is entered; minus sign = NOT, use quotation marks for phrases ex: (health -“mental health”)
- direct links to online content
- filters make it easy to refine results by content type, availability online, discipline, etc.
- ~ 445 million records: books, scholarly articles, newspaper articles, data, audio, video, images, government documents, etc. from OBIS, article databases, and elsewhere
- find even more records when you “Add results beyond Oberlin College” (digital repositories from colleges, universities, research centers, and other open-access archives)

Keep in mind...
- Summon searches many, but not all, library resources
- Comprehensive or complex searches may yield better results in subject specific databases
- OBIS, our catalog, is often more efficient for finding whether we own a specific book
Google Scholar

- a single box searches the free web, as well as some content that’s not free
- focuses on articles, patents, and case law (judicial opinions)
- preferences allow useful customizations, including library access and RefWorks export links
- may lead to content and imply that Oberlin does not have access, even when we do
  - use Journal Finder to see if Oberlin has access to specific journals
  - use Summon to see if Oberlin has access to specific articles

Finding Full Text Journal Articles

☞ Use 360 Link to Full Text or “Find It!” where available in research databases; often leads directly to article.
☞ Next, try Journal Finder (select Journal Finder tab on library home page; also on Quick Links menu on library web pages).

JSTOR: The Scholarly Journal Archive

- 2,000+ academic journals, highly relevant to the Oberlin curriculum, from 800+ publishers
- Deep back file, but recent issues are often excluded (frequently there is a 3-5 year “moving wall”)
- Every word of every article is searchable

EJC: The OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center

- 10,200+ journals, some only tangentially related to our curriculum, from 50+ publishers
- Emphasis on recent issues, limited back file (generally mid-1990’s or later)
- Only words in citations and abstracts are searchable

Interlibrary Loan (ILL or ILLiad):

- how it works: libraries provide materials to each other, including delivery of scanned or photocopied articles from journals
- use for: articles in journals not accessible at Oberlin, books not available via OhioLINK
- 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 in your ILLiad account

Bibliographic/citation management tools

Use a citation manager such as RefWorks or RefME to:

- create a personal database of references and sources consulted
- export or copy/paste citations from many databases directly into your account
- organize and edit citations, add notes, and attach documents
- automatically format bibliographies and lists of works cited in hundreds of different styles

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

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