

Sociology 105: Doing Sociology

Key Library Resources
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tips to get you started

- **start by thinking about your topic broadly:**
 - what major fields are involved besides sociology? Women's studies? African studies? Politics? Economics? Look for material in these different fields as well
- **brainstorm about the concepts in your topic** – develop synonyms and related terms to enrich your searching
- **read a general essay or article** in an encyclopedia to get an overview
 - it may quickly help you narrow your topic and find a few key resources
- **look for books** on your topic or for chapters in more general books
 - ** investigate the readings on reserve for this course – they can be very helpful
- **look for articles in indexes and databases** - articles are more narrowly focused than books - make your search more specific
- **use NExpress, Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and/or the BLC card** to get material from other libraries -- request early!
- **build your bibliography**
 - find more sources in the footnotes & bibliographies of each source you read

Get an Overview

- [Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Social Theory](#)
- [International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences](#)
- **Routledge International Encyclopedia of Women : Global Women's Issues and Knowledge** Clapp Ref HQ1115 .R69 2000

Find Books

→ Search the [Wellesley Library Catalog](#) – *a few tips:*

- do a **subject search** on an author or person of interest for books **about** them
- use **synonyms** to find all the ways your topic is expressed: (female or gender or woman or women)
- use **truncation** to save time: raci* for racial, racist, racism, etc
- combine multiple concepts using AND for best results
- enclose your search terms in parentheses!

sample topic: differences between teenagers in Japan and the US


sample search: (teen* or adolescent*)

AND (japan*) AND (united states or US or America*)

- examine your results and click on the title of a book that looks good

- look at the subject terms in the **full record view** - follow each link to find more on that topic:
 - Adolescent psychology
 - Teenagers -- Cross-cultural studies
 - Adolescence -- Cross-cultural studies

→ Click on the NExpress button in our catalog to request a book quickly if our copy is out

→ Search [WorldCat](#) to find material we don't own, click on  and request through ILL (interlibrary loan)

→ In a hurry? Get a [BLC card](#) and borrow the book directly from a nearby library

Find Articles

tip: use the same search techniques as for finding books (see above)

- [SocIndex with Full Text](#) – all aspects of sociology, worldwide - **NEW**
- [PAIS \(Public Affairs Information Service\)](#) – political science worldwide
- [PsycINFO](#) – all aspects of psychology and psychosocial development
- [PolicyFile](#) – policy papers from non-profits and thinktanks
- [Women's Studies International](#)
- [Academic Search Complete](#) –scholarly & popular journal articles in all fields
- [JSTOR](#) – key scholarly journals but only up to the last 3-5 years

Find Statistics

- [American Factfinder](#) – US Census data for 1990 and 2000
- [Demographic Profiles](#) – very handy compilations of data from the 2000 US Census
- [UNData](#) – social, economic, development data on other countries

Find News

[LexisNexis Academic News](#) & [Ethnic NewsWatch](#) offer international & domestic news

More Help

- Send your question to AskUs in FirstClass
- Stop by the Reference Desk in Clapp Library and ask a librarian in person
- And I'm always here if you need further advice!

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