FINDING OVERVIEWS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Provides 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.

Articles provide succinct summaries of topics in psychology and behavioral sciences.

More e-book encyclopedias (chosen based on research questions/topics), connect via OBIS:

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.
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

SociINDEX
The major index for journals in sociology and related disciplines; also indexes working papers, dissertations, and conference proceedings.

PsycINFO
The major index for journals in psychology and related disciplines; 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

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)
- Criminal Justice Abstracts
- EconLit
- Education Research Complete
- Gender Studies Database
- LGBT Life
- Peace Research Abstracts
- Urban Studies Abstracts

SUMMON — first (default) 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, many full text and article indexing databases, and (if you select the box) digital repositories at other colleges, universities, research centers, and open-access archives
- if links don’t lead to full text, be persistent or ask for help; we probably do have access
- when not to use Summon:
  - OBIS and OhioLINK are generally better for finding books
  - subject specific databases are generally better for complex or comprehensive searches

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.

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.nctctl.edu/crow/
Over 5,000 links to resources and ideas for teaching social psychology; the “Topic Resources” and “Articles, Books, and Book Chapters” sections under each topic are especially useful for students.

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.
HELP WITH RESEARCH AND WRITING

Main Reference BF76.7 .P83 2010

*How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography.* Maintained by the Cornell University Library. 
http://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliography

Main Library HM585.G78 2013

Main Library HM585 .S638 2017

Main Library BF76.7 .R67 2012

HOW TO GET MATERIALS NOT AVAILABLE AT OBERLIN

**OhioLINK:**
- how it works: ~90 OhioLINK college and university 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 2-4pm, Sunday 1-5pm & 7pm-midnight

Click on *Ask a Librarian* on the library’s home page for more ways to get help

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY FOR INDEPENDENT SEARCHING DURING “HANDS-ON” PORTION OF CLASS

1. Find and read an overview article from one of the encyclopedias on today’s handout  
2. Search for publications about your topic in either SocINDEX or PsycINFO
3. Choose a second database (from the section of “Other recommended research databases” on this handout, or from the library’s list of databases by subject) and search for publications about your topic

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