

# BEHAVIORAL/SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH GUIDE



## **Electronic Resources**

The sources listed below have been compiled for students as a starting point for conducting research on the World Wide Web, through subscription databases, and via our online catalog. Students are encouraged to continue their research using the print resources noted below.

### **Academic Search Premier**

This multi-disciplinary database (covering many subjects) offers abstracts and full-text articles from thousands of magazines as well as scholarly publications many are peer-reviewed or scholarly journals. Crime, law, and psychology are just a few of the subjects that they cover.

### **CQ Researcher**

CQ Researcher is noted for its in-depth, unbiased coverage of health, social trends, criminal justice, international affairs, education, the environment, technology, and the economy. Reports are published online 44 times a year by CQ Press, a division of Congressional Quarterly Inc.

### **Criminal Justice Periodical Index**

Updated weekly, provides cover-to-cover access for 59 criminal justice journals frequently consulted by professionals, plus complete abstracts for over 100 additional titles. Publications in CJPI focus primarily on practical issues in crime prevention and deterrence, juvenile delinquency, police issues, and courtroom procedures, but also includes a number of highly respected theoretical journals as well.

### **Encyclopaedia Britannica**

Encyclopedia Britannica Online Academic Edition brings together the world-renowned content of the encyclopedia, with the speed and convenience of the Internet.

### **Mental Measurements Yearbook Online**

Mental Measurements Yearbook, produced by the Buros Institute at the University of Nebraska, provides users with a comprehensive guide with reviews to over 2,000 contemporary testing instruments.

### **Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center**

Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center (OVRC) is a dynamic online library of current event topics--the facts, as well as the arguments, of each topic's proponents and detractors. Includes the complete text of Opposing Viewpoints and other series, including Teen Decisions and At Issue. Use this database to find opinion essays and factual research information on current topics and social issues.

### **PsycINFO**

Contains summaries of the world's journal literature, of dissertations and technical reports, and of English-language chapters and books in psychology and related disciplines. Covers over 1300 journals in over 30 languages from approximately 50 countries. Full text links to PsycARTICLES.

### **SocINDEX with Full Text**

Sociology research resources including journals, books, and conference papers. Currently, the database contains about 1.6 million items.

### **Tests in Print**

Tests in Print indexes tests, test reviews, and the literature on specific tests. TIP serves as a companion to the test reviews in the Mental Measurements Yearbook. TIP includes information on commercially available tests including: publisher information, reviewers, number of reviews it has received, test print status, and number of references on the construction, use and validity of the test. TIP does not contain critical reviews of tests.

## **Internet Research**

**Note: When conducting research on the Internet, it will be helpful to consider a few points.**

- The Internet is full of information that is not scholarly, updated, and or unbiased.
- Use domain searching (.edu, .gov, .org.) to improve the quality of your searches. You can limit your searches by using the advanced features of search engines such as Google.
- Determine who wrote, gathered, or sponsored the page or information.
- Try to determine if the information is current by looking for a date listed when the site was created or last updated.
- You should be somewhat skeptical of sites that contain a lot of advertising for products or services.

### **Selected U.S. Government Web Sites:**

The United States federal government gathers tremendous amounts of information and statistics on a wide array of subjects. The Websites below are excellent places to start searching for legal and criminal justice information on the World Wide Web.

#### **FedStats.gov**

<http://www.fedstats.gov/>

**FedStats**, which has been available to the public since 1997, provides access to the full range of official statistical information produced by the Federal Government. With convenient searching and linking capabilities to more than 100 agencies that provide data and trend information on such topics as economic and population trends, crime, education, health care, aviation safety, energy use, farm production and more, FedStats is your one location for access to the full breadth of Federal statistical information.

#### **National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)**

<http://nces.ed.gov/>

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), located within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences, is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education.

### **National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)**

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>

This website compiles data to:

- document the health status of the population and of important subgroups
- identify disparities in health status and use of health care by race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, region, and other population characteristics
- describe our experiences with the health care system
- monitor trends in health status and health care delivery
- identify health problems
- support biomedical and health services research
- provide information for making changes in public policies and programs
- evaluate the impact of health policies and programs

### **Statistical Abstract of the United States**

<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>

The Statistical Abstract of the United States, published since 1878, is the authoritative and comprehensive summary of statistics on the social, political, and economic organization of the United States.

### **The Uniform Crime Report**

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>

The FBI compiles a variety of annual statistics, reports, and publications on crimes in the United States including topics such as Hate Crimes.

### **The US Governments Official Web Portal**

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

Referred to as “The official [online] gateway to all government information.” This site offers a search box, A-Z agency directory, reference center, press releases, and links to state and local agencies.

## **Selected Websites:**

### **Ad\*Access**

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/adaccess/>

The Ad\*Access Project presents images and database information for over 7,000 advertisements printed in U.S. and Canadian newspapers and magazines between 1911 and 1955. Ad\*Access concentrates on five main subject areas: Radio, Television, Transportation, Beauty and Hygiene, and World War II.

### **Athabasca University Psychology Resources**

<http://psych.athabascau.ca/html/aupr/psycres.shtml>

DARE Database – UNESCO Database to the Social Sciences

<http://www.unesco.org/most/dare.htm>

### **Delaware Statistics and Local Resources**

<http://www2.lib.udel.edu/subj/stdc/internet/#stat>

**The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)**, at the University of Michigan, maintains and provides access to a vast archive of social science data for research and instruction, and offers training in quantitative methods to facilitate effective data use.

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/>

**Sociological Tour through Cyberspace**

<http://www.trinity.edu/~mkearl/index.html>

Provides sociological commentary, data analyses, essays, and theories.

**United Nations International Statistics**

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/inter-natlinks/sd\\_intstat.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/inter-natlinks/sd_intstat.htm)

Provides links to statistics from various country and intergovernmental agencies.

**Women's Studies Librarian's Office @ University of Wisconsin**

<http://womenst.library.wisc.edu/>

Need to find books on a behavioral science paper topic? Consider searching the [Wilmington College Online Catalog](#). If you don't find any books in the Wilmington College Library, try searching the database [WORLD CAT](#) to identify resources available in other libraries around the world. As a MSU faculty or staff member, you can request these materials through [interlibrary loan](#).

If you do not know the **author**, **title**, or **LC subject headings**, try a **keyword or keywords** approach. While reviewing the results, note that most records provide LC subject headings which can also be used to identify more books on the same or similar topics.

Below are some suggested LC subject headings which may prove helpful for those doing general behavioral/social science research.

Social Conflict -- United States  
Political Sociology  
United States -- Race Relations  
Religion and Sociology  
White collar crimes -- United States  
Adjustment (psychology)  
Applied sociology  
Assimilation (sociology)  
Attitude (psychology)  
Communication  
Community  
Ethnology  
Information Society  
Mass society  
Social psychology  
Social sciences and psychology

Like to browse? Go to the Library stacks and review the following call number ranges:

HA: Statistics  
HB: Economics  
HC: Economic History by Region  
HD: Economic History and Conditions  
HE: Transportation and Communications  
HF: Business  
HG: Finance  
HM: Sociology  
HQ: Women's Studies, Social Groups  
HT: Class, Race  
HV: Social and Public Welfare, Criminology

JC: Political Theory  
JF: Constitutional History and Administration  
JS: Local Government  
JX: International Relations

### **Print Resources**

#### **APA Dictionary of Psychology**

Ref BF31 .A63 2007

#### **[AccessScience](#)**

Online version of McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science & Technology. Covers all science.

#### **The Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology and Behavioral Science 3rd ed.**

Ref BF 31 .E52 2001

#### **Encyclopedia of Psychology v. 1-3**

Ref BF 31 .E52 2000

#### **The Oxford Companion to the Mind**

Ref BF31 .O94 1987

Covers a broad range of topics in psychology in one volume including aspects of language and communication, biological and medical measurements of psychophysics and psychopathology, and the philosophical antecedents of psychological theories and thought.

**Psychology: A Guide to Reference and Information Resources**

**Z7201 .B39 1993 EB**

A comprehensive guide covering all the major psychological disciplines. The largest section, covering specialized topics in psychology, follows the classification used in *Psychological abstracts*.

**Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms**

Ref BF 32 .T54 2005

A thesaurus of the terms used in PsycInfo with related terms and a rotated alphabetical term list. Available electronically in PsycInfo.

**[MESH Medical Subject Headings](#)**

The thesaurus used in Medline. Use the MESH browser to search for related terms for your concepts.