Session objectives:
1. Basic knowledge of the ReSEARCH Station
2. How to design a search that works
3. Choosing the best database for your search
4. What to do when you hit (what looks like) a dead end

CSU, Chico - Meriam Library

ReSEARCH Station

This is the Library home page and the gateway to all information resources. Access the Meriam Library ReSEARCH Station at www.csuchico.edu/library

Sociology LibGuide

The Sociology subject guide link is under Research and Subject Guides in the Research Help section of the ReSEARCH Station.

Search Everything Box

Allows you to search multiple databases all at once, including many in the Social Sciences.

Databases

Choose either “Databases by subject” or “Sociology Subject Guide” or “Sociology LibGuide.”

- **Academic Search** provides full text for over 4,650 periodicals covering the social sciences, humanities, general science, multi-cultural studies, education, etc.
- **SocINDEX** with full text offers coverage from all sub-disciplines of sociology, including criminology, criminal justice, demography, ethnic & racial studies, gender studies, marriage & family, religion, social psychology, sociological theory, violence, welfare. SocINDEX contains full text for over 300 journal titles.
- **Sociological Abstracts** abstracts and indexes the international literature in sociology and related disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences. The database provides abstracts of journal articles and citations to book reviews drawn from over 1,700 serials publications, and also provides abstracts of books, book chapters, dissertations, and conference papers.
• **JSTOR** includes most major scholarly journals, and provides full text access to articles from the date of first publication but does not contain full text for the most recent 3-5 years of the journal.

**Database Searching Tips**

• Do not use “natural language” phrases in your search. For example, “effect of videogames on violence in boys” will not retrieve many articles. Instead, use keywords combined with Boolean operators. (videogames AND violence AND boys)

• Boolean operators you will use most often are **AND** and **OR (always capitalize)**
  - **AND** focuses or narrows a search: smoking and adolescents and advertising will return results that have all three words.
  - **OR** broadens or expands a search to find one term or the other or both. Use **OR** to search for synonyms or related concepts: teenagers or adolescents; girls or women

• An asterisk can be used in many databases as a truncation symbol. With it your search will retrieve a root word with multiple endings: child* will find child, children, childhood, childrearing, etc.

• Quotation marks create a phrase to tell the database that you want to search words as a phrase in a particular order: “social media” will find only that phrase in that order.

• Parentheses nest words so the database searches them in the right order. Child* and (dogs or cats or pets) tells the database to look for the words in () first and then to combine that set with child*.

• **NOT** tells the database to eliminate a word that is not relevant to your topic: “Dolphins NOT Miami” will eliminate all the references to the football team so you get items about seagoing ones.

If the Library doesn’t have a book or article

If you don’t find anything useful, we can get books and articles from other libraries through **Interlibrary Services**. Do not wait until the last minute to request items; they can take up to 3 days for articles and longer for books.

You will need to set up an ILS account at [https://aphid.csuchico.edu/illiad/logon.html](https://aphid.csuchico.edu/illiad/logon.html)

When the [Find It](https://aphid.csuchico.edu/illiad/logon.html) refers you to Interlibrary Loan, click the link and enter your portal credentials. The information for the article will be filled in for you. All you have to do is go to the bottom of the form and fill in the date when you need the article and click the request button.

You will be notified by email with a password when the article arrives. The article will stay on the server for 30 days. If you want to keep the article, just download it to your computer.

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Reference Desk (2nd floor)  
M: 10-12, T: 2-4  
Office: M: 1-5, T, W, F: 9-12, Th: 10-12 or by appointment