


Mina Rees Library

library.gc.cuny.edu

PAIS

WHAT IS PAIS?: PAIS (Public Affairs Information Service) is a bibliographic index to the literature of public policy, social policy, and the social sciences in general. It indexes journal articles, books, government documents, statistical compilations, and reports of public, intergovernmental, and private organizations from 1972 to the present. Use the  button to determine if articles are available from a full-text database to which the library subscribes, to see CUNY's holdings for the title, and to make an interlibrary-loan request.

ACCESS TO PAIS: PAIS is available throughout the Graduate Center by going to the Mina Rees Library Web site (*library.gc.cuny.edu*) and clicking *Databases*. For information about possible home access, go to *library.gc.cuny.edu/info/remote.asp*.

BASIC SEARCH: The basic search will look for your term(s) anywhere in the records, although searches may be limited to subject, author, and title. Subject searches occur in the descriptor field of records. (See *Thesaurus*.) Simple Boolean searches may be performed in the basic search: *poverty and (chile or peru)*.

ADVANCED SEARCH: The advanced search allows more complicated Boolean searching with the option of limiting each search term to a particular field, such as author, descriptor, journal name, publisher, title, etc.

THESAURUS: Thesaurus searches locate the descriptors or controlled vocabulary used for indexing. Finding and using descriptors may result in more accurate searching. Thesaurus searches also lead to related terms to allow for broader or narrower searching.

INDEX: Use the index especially when uncertain of an author's name. For example, when a search for an article by Andrew Jones fails, an index search will reveal items by both Andrew Jones and Andrew N. Jones.

DISPLAYING RECORDS: The default records include the author, title, source, and any links to full-text materials. Click the *Complete Record* link for more, or click the *Change Display* button to choose which fields to display.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Also perform social sciences searches in such full-text databases as Academic Search Premier, Infoshare, JSTOR, NetLibrary, Project Muse, PsycArticles, ScienceDirect, SpringerLink, and Wiley InterScience and such bibliographic databases as EconLit, ERIC, Essay and General Literature Index, PsycInfo, Scopus, Social Sciences Abstracts, Social Sciences Citation Index, and Sociological Abstracts.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Links to other useful social-sciences resources can be found at library.gc.cuny.edu/research/subguide.asp.

ADDITIONAL HELP: Contact the reference desk (212-817-7077) on the second floor of the library or use the Ask a Librarian button on the library's Web site to ask questions about using PAIS or any other library resource.

OTHER GUIDES: "Creating Accurate Search Statements," "Finding Book Reviews," guides to other databases, and more may be found at library.gc.cuny.edu/guides/guides.asp.

**A CUNY Graduate Center Mina Rees Library Guide
Revised September 19, 2005**