


Mina Rees Library

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SOCIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

What is Sociological Abstracts?: Sociological Abstracts provides bibliographic citations and abstracts of articles from 2,600 journals concerned with sociology and related fields from 1963 to the present. Approximately 2,500 new records are added each month. A list of the sources indexed is available at www.csa.com/factsheets/supplements/sociossl.php.

Use the  button to determine if journal articles are available from a full-text database to which the library subscribes, to see CUNY's holdings for the journal, and to make an interlibrary-loan request.

Accessing Sociological Abstracts: Sociological Abstracts is available from any PC with Internet access within the Graduate Center through the Mina Rees Library's Web site (library.gc.cuny.edu). Sociological Abstracts is no longer available throughout CUNY but only on individual campuses. See library.gc.cuny.edu/info/remote_gc.asp for information about accessing from home.

Searching Sociological Abstracts: The default search screen is the *Advanced Search Form*, providing Boolean (*and, or, not*) search boxes and drop-down menus allowing the selection of such sections of a record as *Abstract, Author, Affiliation, Descriptors, Keywords, Journal Name, Language, Publication Type, and References*. The earliest available records to the most recent are searched unless the dates are changed with the *Date Range* drop-down menu. The *Quick Search* and *Command Search* can be used to create Boolean keyword searches such as *reform and (school* or education*) and (race or racial or ethnic* or social class*)*.

Indexes: Use *Indexes* to determine if an author or journal is indexed in Sociological Abstracts or when uncertain about the name of an author or journal.

Thesaurus: Use *Thesaurus* to find the descriptors or subject headings Sociological Abstracts uses to index articles. The *Thesaurus* is available in English, French, and Spanish.

Display Options:

- The default display is the bibliographic citation, the first three lines of the abstract, and the descriptors. These descriptors may be broader or more specific than your search term(s) and may be helpful in refining your search. The records may be sorted by relevance: the number of occurrences of your term(s) in the title, abstract, and descriptors. This function may not be as accurate as desired.
- Use the tabs at the top of the display to choose from *Journals*, *Peer-Reviewed Journals*, *Conferences*, and *Web Sites*. The *More>* tab leads to *Books*, *Chapters/Essays*, *Book Reviews*, and *Dissertations*.
- Select *View Record* to a complete record with abstract. The terms under *Classification* may be helpful in refining a search.

Save/E-mail/Print Records: To print records, to save to a disk, your computer, or a bibliographic manager such as EndNote, or to e-mail them to yourself or others, check in the boxes beside the desired records and click the *Save/Print/Email* button at the top of each set of displayed records.

Additional Resources: Sociology-related citations and/or articles can be found in Academic Search Premier, Communication and Mass Media Complete, CQ Researcher, Education Full Text, ERIC, Essay and General Literature Index, JSTOR, NetLibrary, PAIS, Project Muse, PscyArticles, PsycInfo, ScienceDirect, Social Sciences Abstracts, Social Sciences Citation Index, Social Services Abstracts, SpringerLink, and Wiley InterScience. For example, in February 2007, Academic Search Premier included the full text of over 25,000 sociology-related articles, and Social Sciences Citation Index found over 17,000 records for the search *sociolog**.

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 Sociological Abstracts 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
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