



# Wichita State University Libraries

## Criminal Justice Abstracts

The ***Criminal Justice Abstracts*** provides comprehensive coverage of the major journals in criminology and related disciplines, extensive coverage of books, access to reports from government and nongovernmental agencies. For each document, a summary of the findings, methodology, and conclusions is provided. Topics include crime trends, prevention projects, corrections, juvenile delinquency, police, courts, offenders, victims and sentencing. Covers the years 1968 to the present.

### Getting Started

*Criminal Justice Abstracts* is available to you from both on-campus and off-campus computers. To use the database from home or off-campus, you must have an Internet connection and be a currently enrolled WSU student. For instructions on how to access *Criminal Justice Abstracts* and many other databases, see the guide entitled **Accessing Library Databases through the WSU Libraries Homepage**.

### Using the Initial Search Screen

The screenshot shows the ERLWebSPIRS search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Search | SDI | Database Guide | Help | Logout'. Below this is a search bar with a dropdown menu showing 'How do I...?'. The main search area has a text input field containing 'homicide AND statistics' and a 'Search' button. To the right of the search bar, there are options for 'Find Terms: Anywhere' and 'Limit Search to: Publication Year greater than 1997'. A 'Return to list of Library databases' link is located on the far right. Five numbered callouts point to specific features: 1. Select a search mode (points to the 'Search' button), 2. Choose a search type (points to the 'Find Terms' dropdown), 3. Limit the search (points to the 'Limit Search to' section), 4. Type keywords here (points to the search input field), and 5. Start the search (points to the 'Search' button).

#### 1. Select a Search Mode

- **Search** (basic or simple search) allows you to type in the keywords you want the computer to match.
- **Advanced** allows you to search for words in a combination of different parts of the database. For example, you could look for both an author's name and a subject (descriptor) at the same time.

## 2. Choose a Search Type

Click on the drop-down arrow for options:

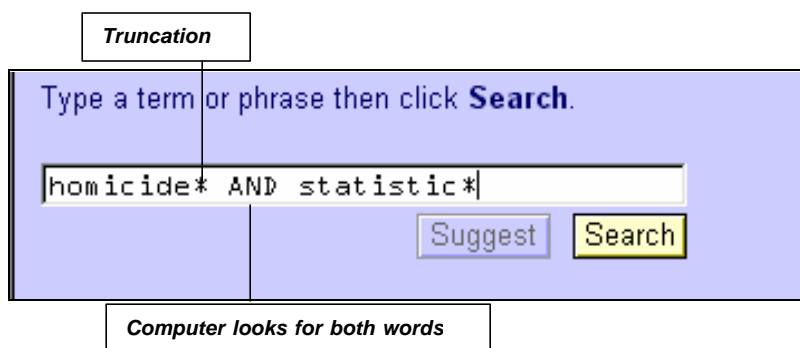
- **Anywhere** allows you to do a *keyword* or *free text* search, which looks through **all** the words in the database to try to match your keyword(s).
- **in Subject** allows you to search **descriptors** (also called *subject headings*) only. *Descriptors* are standardized subject words which provide additional descriptive information for each item in the database.
- **in Title** looks only through the titles of articles or reports for your keyword(s).
- **in Author** searches only through authors' names to find your keywords.

## 3. Limit (or Narrow) Your Search Results (Optional)

Initially, you will be searching the database for the years 1968 to the present. Click on the **Change** button before entering search terms if you want to limit your search results to a specific range of years. The **Publication Year** limit allows you to search for only the years you choose. You can also use the limit option on the initial search screen to limit your search to materials published after 1997.

## 4. Type in your Keywords

Type your search words (*keywords*) into the box. You may use single words (**burglary**), phrases (**violent crime**), or combine keywords using *boolean operators* (**dunk driving AND arrests**), as explained below.



- **Boolean Operators (and, or, not):** Use to link or combine keywords. **And** finds records that have **both** your first **and** second keywords (*stress and anger*), and will narrow your search results. **Or** finds records that contain **either** your first keyword **or** your second keyword, **or** both (*adolescents or teenagers*), and will broaden your search. **Not** excludes the second keyword from your search (*violence not domestic*).
- **Truncation:** Use the asterisk (\*) as the **truncation** symbol to search for all words starting with the same root. For example, **homeless\*** will find **homeless** and **homelessness**, and **child\*** will find **child**, **children**, and **childhood**

## 5. Start the Search

Click on the **Search** button to launch your search.

## Additional Searching Techniques

### Using the *Index* Button

This option allows you to scroll through an alphabetical list of words that appear in specific segments (or fields) of the database. The most useful field to search is the **descriptor** (or *subject*) field. Searching the descriptor index can help you identify additional descriptors you might want to search.

- Click on the **Index** tab near the top of the screen
- Select **DESCRIPTORS (DE)** from the drop-down list in the **Index to search:** box
- Type your subject into the **Term:** box, and click on **Go to Term**
- Click in the box to the left of each descriptor you want to search
- Click on **Search Marked**

The screenshot shows the 'Index' tab selected. The 'Index to search:' dropdown is set to 'General Index'. The 'Term:' box contains 'burglary'. The 'Go To Term' button is highlighted. Below the search area, a table lists descriptors with their record counts. The 'Search Marked' button is also highlighted.

| Term:  | Number of Records |
|--|-------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BURGLARY           | 1531              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BURGLARY                      | 171               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BURGLARY-DWELLINGS            | 1                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BURGLARY-IN-PROGRESS          | 1                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BURGLARY-INSURANCE            | 1                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BURGLARY-PREVENTION           | 2                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BURGLARY-REDUCTION | 2                 |

Callouts include: 'Type index term here' pointing to the 'Term:' box; 'Drop-down list' pointing to the 'Index to search:' dropdown; 'Click here to search' pointing to the 'Go To Term' button; 'Mark Index terms to search' pointing to the checkboxes in the table; 'Number of records with this descriptor' pointing to the 'Number of Records' column; and 'Click here to search marked descriptors' pointing to the 'Search Marked' button.

### Using *Search History*

**Search History** allows you to review all of the searches you have performed during your search session. This is handy because you may forget which keywords you have already tried. After you have run at least one search, you can access your search history by clicking on the **Search History** tab near the top of the initial search screen.

On the *Search History* screen, you can also combine previous searches to create new search sets. Simply 1) click in the boxes to the left of the search sets you want to combine, and 2) click on **Combine and search using [and]**. This new search will be run automatically, and your results will be displayed on the search history screen just above your most recent search listing. Click on the **Display** icon to view the search results.

You may also create an **SDI** (Selective Dissemination of Information) on the *Search History* screen to help you stay current on a topic. An SDI lets you save a search and have it rerun automatically when databases are updated. The search results are e-mailed to you.

The screenshot shows the 'Search History' tab selected. It displays a list of search results with checkboxes, 'Display' icons, and 'Create SDI' icons. The 'Combine and search using' dropdown is set to 'and'. The 'Search' button is highlighted.

| Search  | Results | Display | Create SDI |
|---|---------|---------|------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> #2 white collar     | 738     |         |            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> #1 crime and profit | 191     |         |            |

Callouts include: '1. Check the boxes to indicate which searches you want to combine' pointing to the checkboxes; '2. Click here to run the new search' pointing to the 'Search' button; '3. Create an SDI for this search' pointing to the 'Create SDI' icons; and 'Click here to view the results of this search again' pointing to the 'Display' icons.

## Viewing the Search Results Screen

The results of your search will be displayed after you click on the **Search** button. The number of items or **records** that match your search request will be indicated on the middle left-hand side of the screen. To review your search results, simply scroll through the items listed on the lower part of the screen. Each record contains a description of one publication—typically a journal article. Click on the red up/down arrow icon to have your results displayed on a full-screen rather than a half-screen.

The screenshot shows a search interface with the following elements and callouts:

- Toggle to a full-screen:** Points to the 'Change Display' button.
- Change how search results are displayed:** Points to the 'Show: All Results' dropdown menu.
- Number of records matching your search request:** Points to the 'Records 1 to 10 of 408' text.
- First record in your search results list:** Points to the first search result entry.

The search results shown are:

Search #1 : homicide and statistics  
 1 **TITLE (ENGLISH):** Violence against women: Data on pregnant victims and effectiveness of prevention strategies are limited  
**AUTHOR(S):** US-General-Accounting-Office  
**PUBLICATION YEAR:** 2002  
**PUBLISHER:** Washington, D.C.: U.S. General Accounting Office  
**ABSTRACT:** This report assesses the availability of information on the prevalence and risk of violence against pregnant woman in the United States, and the strategies and programs designed to prevent such violence. Between July 2001 and April 2002, interviews and

### **Changing the Way Search Results are Displayed**

Click on the **Change Display** button to design how you want your search results to be displayed. This option is available on both the initial search screen and the search results screen. You can change your display options at any time during your search. Display options include:

- **After Searching, Display:** choose whether to see your search **Results** immediately, or whether to see a **Search History** of all of your searches prior to viewing results.
- **Results Display Options:** choose how many records to **Display** at a time (**from 1-100**).
- **Fields to Display:** select which fields (such as author, title, publication year) you want to see in your search results display. You may leave the settings as they are (default), or add or delete fields as you wish.
- **Results Sort Order:** Having your search results sorted in **Descending** order by **Publication Year -- PY** places the **newest items at the top** of your search results list.

Having your search results sorted in **Ascending** order by **Full Text -- FTX** brings all of the articles that are **available in full-text** to the top of your results list. **The number of full-text articles available is extremely limited at this time.**

*Note:* When using the **Sort** feature, always set the number of records to be considered to **200** by using the drop-down menu at **Only if fewer than [100] records** in case you have a large number of search results to sort. Also, be sure to change **Do not sort** to **Sort**.

## Sample Record

The record provides you with the **citation** for the item. The citation includes information such as *author name(s)*, *article title*, *journal title*, *volume and issue numbers*, *page numbers*, and *date of publication*. Also included are an abstract or summary of the item, and a list of the descriptors which have been added to the record. To mark records for printing, saving or e-mailing, click in the box near each item's *record number*. Use the buttons on the right-hand side of the screen to **Print**, **Save**, or **E-mail** the marked records.

The screenshot shows a library record interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Change Display', 'Criminal Justice Abs. 1968-2003/06', and 'Change'. Below that, a search bar shows 'Full text articles only' and 'Records 1 to 3 of 3 from 408'. A 'Go To Record:' field contains '1'. There are buttons for 'Clear Marked', a printer icon, a save icon, and an email icon.

The main record content includes:

- 1** **TITLE (ENGLISH):** Intra-familial child **homicide** in Finland 1970-1994: Incidence, causes of death and demographic characteristics
- AUTHOR(S):** Vanamo-Tuija; Kauppi-Anne; Karkola-Kari, et. al.
- JOURNAL:** Forensic-Science-International, 117, (3), pp. 199-204.
- PUBLICATION YEAR:** 2001
- INTERNATIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER:** 0379-0738
- ABSTRACT:** This study investigates all child homicides for the 25-year period 1970-1994 in Finland to identify the specific characteristics of filicide cases. Data for all deaths certified as **homicide** or undetermined for children aged 14 and younger (N = 292) were obtained from **Statistics** Finland. In 69% of the cases, the offender was a parent or a stepparent of the child. Victims were 59% male and 41% female. Neonaticide and **homicide-suicide** cases were then excluded to examine the 70 filicide victims. Of these victims, 60% were male, 37% were killed before the age of 1, and 79% before the age of 5. The offender was the mother in 61% of cases, and the father or stepfather in 37%. The victims of the mother were younger than those of the fathers. The most frequent causes of death were head injuries, drowning, and suffocation. The most common means of assault were battering, drowning, and strangulation. One in two of the fatally battered children had a documented history of previous abuse. Information regarding whether prior abuse of the children had been recognized before the fatal event was not available; however, further studies should examine the risk factors associated with fatally abused children to prevent these cases from occurring.
- DESCRIPTORS:** FINLAND-; **HOMICIDE-**; SEX-OFFENDERS
- DOCUMENT TYPE:** Journal-Article
- Full Text:** [EBSCOhost EJS](#)
- Links to Library Holdings:** [Search Library Catalog](#)
- Order this item:** [Request from ILL \(if not in Library holdings\)](#)
- [Complete Record](#)

At the bottom, it says 'In Database: Criminal Justice Abs. 1968-2003/06.' Callouts point to various features: 'Click here to mark' points to the record number '1'; 'Citation' points to the title and author information; 'Buttons for printing, saving or e-mailing' points to the printer, save, and email icons; 'Indicates full-text of article is available' points to the 'Full Text' link; 'Click here to see the full text of the article' points to the 'EBSCOhost EJS' link; 'Click here to see if Library subscribes' points to the 'Search Library Catalog' link; and 'Initiate an Interlibrary Loan request' points to the 'Request from ILL' link.

## Locating Articles in the Library

To find out if the library subscribes to journals you need, click on the **Search Library Catalog** link in the record, when available. If this link is not available (frequently, it is not), go to the library's catalog at <http://libcat.wichita.edu>. Do a **Journal Title** search on the title of each journal you want to locate.

The screenshot shows the library search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Basic Search', 'Guided Search', and 'Course Reserve'. The 'Search For:' field contains 'policing'. Below it, there's a 'Quick Limits (Optional-See instructions below):' section with a list of options: 'None', 'Musical Sound Recordings', 'Musical Scores', 'Videorecordings', 'Chemistry Library', 'Government Documents', 'Music Library', and 'Special Collections and University Archives'. To the right, the 'Search by:' dropdown menu is open, showing options: 'Title', 'Journal Title', 'Author', 'Subject Heading', 'Keyword (and, or, not)', 'Relevance Keyword', 'Call Number', and 'Author Sorted By Title'. The 'Journal Title' option is selected. At the bottom, there's a '30 records per page' dropdown, 'Search' and 'Reset' buttons, and a 'Set More Limits' button. Callouts explain: 'Type title of journal here' points to the 'Search For:' field; 'Click on Journal Title to select type of search' points to the 'Journal Title' option in the dropdown menu.

## Journal Title Record from the WSU Libraries Online Catalog

Notice the **Call Number** information on the lower half of the screen. **Recent issues** are located in the Reserve Room on the first floor of the library. Issues listed under **Volumes Held** (older, bound issues) are shelved on the third, second, or lower level (basement) floors, according to the first letter of the call number after *per*. Use the **Location** guide on the screen. For example, the call number below ( *per HV 7551 .P6125*) would be shelved on the third floor of the Library because the letter **H** falls within the **A – L** range.

**Title:** Policing (Bradford, West Yorkshire, England)  
Policing.  
**Published:** Bradford, West Yorkshire, Eng. : MCB University Press Ltd., 1997-  
**Description:** v. ; 25 cm.  
Four no. a year  
Vol. 20, no. 1 (1997)-  
**Subject Headings:** [Police Periodicals.](#)

**Database:** Wichita State University Libraries Catalog  
**Location:** Ablah(A-L on Floor3)(M-QE on Floor2)(QH-Z on LowerLevel) Stack Guide  
**Call Number:** [per HV7551 .P6125](#)  
**Recent Issues:** v. 26, no. 2 (2003 ) Call Number  
v. 26, no. 1 (2003 ) Issues Shelved in Reserve Room  
**Volumes Held:** Incomplete holdings  
v.20 (1997)-v.24 (2001) Bound Volumes Shelved in Stacks  
**Status:** Returned - v.23 2000 10/04/2002  
Returned - v.20 1997 04/15/2002 Issues or volumes that are currently, or have recently been, checked out and/or returned

**Database:** Wichita State University Libraries Catalog  
**Location:** at Bindery, due back on August 28, 2003.  
**Call Number:** No call number available  
**Notes:** v.25 (2002)

## Locating Articles Not Owned by the WSU Libraries

If you need an article from a journal that is not available in the WSU Library, you may request that a copy be obtained for you through the Library's Interlibrary Loan (ILL) service. This is a free service for WSU students and faculty. To submit an electronic request for an article, use the link provided in the *Criminal Justice Abstracts* record, or go to the Interlibrary Loan Department's homepage at <http://library.wichita.edu/ill>. Select either the Books or the Periodicals request form. Requests typically take 7-14 days to fill.