

Sociological Abstracts (WinSpirs)



Sociological Abstracts indexes over 2,600 journals and is the primary subject index for the discipline of sociology and for related inter-disciplinary research topics such as social problems, family, social psychology, culture, social structure and many other subjects. The index is useful for identifying published scholarly materials on sociology-related topics, and provides bibliographic citations and abstracts for journal articles, books, book chapters, dissertations, association papers, films, and software published since 1974 in the U.S. and dozens of other countries. In addition to coverage of theoretical issues in Sociological Abstracts (SA), the index also covers applied aspects of sociology through the inclusion of the Social Planning Policy and Development Abstracts (SOPODA). Although WSU does not own every journal indexed in the SA database, students and faculty may request desired items through the Interlibrary Loan Dept.

The print equivalent of Sociological Abstracts (SA) also includes the Social Planning Policy and Development Abstracts (SOPODA), and is owned by the WSU Libraries. The latest ten years of this title are located on Index Table 10 in the Ablah Library Reference Area; earlier volumes are in the stacks, level three (HM 1 .S6).

For more information about the SA database, consult the website of the database publisher, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (<http://www.csa.com/detailsV3/socioabs.html>) or the Sociological Abstracts Home Page (<http://www.socabs.org/>).

SOCIOLOGY*Express Document Delivery from INFOTRIEVE

Users may purchase copies of journal articles, conference proceedings and other material cited in SA by contacting SOCIOLOGY*Express, a fee-based document delivery service that delivers SA materials. Their address is: PO Box 22206, San Diego, CA 92191-0206; Tel. (800) 752-3945; Fax (310) 208-2982; email: info@mail.socabs.com; website (<http://www.socabs.org/html/8websa.htm>). The documents are delivered by INFOTRIEVE, a library services company that has an agreement with SA to offer full-text delivery of documents for purchase (<http://www.infotrieve.com/>).

In addition to topics in Sociology, the Sociological Abstracts database also covers sociological aspects of many diverse subjects, including the following: Aging, AIDS, Anthropology, Business, Collective Behavior, Community Development, Disaster Studies, Counseling, Crime, Development and Underdevelopment, Education, Environmental Studies, Gender Studies, Gerontology, Health and Medicine, Labor, Law, Marriage and Family Studies, Methodology, Political Science, Psychiatry, Psychology, Public Administration, Public Health, Race, Rehabilitation, Rural Studies, Social Issues, Social Sciences, Substance Abuse, Technology, Urban Studies, Violence, and Welfare.

SEARCHING SILVERPLATTER SOCIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS ON CD-ROM

The Sociological Abstracts database is available in CD-ROM format by clicking on the WSU "Network Launcher" icon mounted on computer workstations in the Reference Area. It has a sophisticated built-in search template that allows varied types of searches (by author, title, keyword or free text, descriptor term, or by thesaurus terms), combinations of searches on fields and terms, and searches with Boolean operators (and, or, not) and truncation. The WinSpirs (software) version of the SA database, produced by SilverPlatter Information Inc., is searched like their other CD-ROM products (Medline, PsycINFO, and Social Work Abstracts Plus).

- At the Reference Area workstations, double click on the **Network Launcher icon**.
- Click on the Sociological Abstracts icon.
- Add each range of years desired by clicking that segment; then click OK.
- Click OK again at the "About Sociological Abstracts" screen.
- Enter your keyword(s) in the Search window and press Enter (or click on Search). [You may also select the type of search you would like to initiate, i.e. title, author, descriptor, etc.]
- The Search History window displays the number of records retrieved for each keyword and for the combination of keywords, and automatically displays the results of the most recent search.

GENERAL SEARCHING

There are several ways to search by subject in the WinSpirs version of Sociological Abstracts.

To search by fields, use the following abbreviations to specify each field:

Field abbreviations ("in" tells computer which fields to search):	Examples of search string using "in":
ti = title	job satisfaction in ti
au = author	smith, anthony in au
so = source (journal title)	Journal of American Sociology in so
py = publication year	1998 in py, or py=1990-1999
de = descriptor (subject term)	spouse abuse in de
	cultural relativism in de
	class politics in de

To search using Boolean delimiters:

Separate concepts or previous searches with **and**:

Separate terms or related terms with **or**:

Exclude unwanted terms with **not**:

Use truncation to retrieve all words beginning with the characters entered:

Use the **#** sign to combine or modify earlier searches:

To review an earlier search simply type the search number:

Examples of Boolean searches:

AIDS and women

teens or adolescents

substance abuse not alcohol

teen* (will retrieve teens, teenager, teenaged)

#1 and symbolic interactionism

#3

To search with the online index (Thesaurus of Sociological Indexing Terms)

Sociological Abstracts has an online thesaurus, the Thesaurus of Sociological Indexing Terms. The thesaurus contains an alphabetical list of main term descriptors used for indexing and searching the SA database as well as scope notes, related terms, and narrower and broader terms. The print version of the thesaurus is available at Index Table 10 (Z695.1 .S6 T44). Click on Thesaurus button at upper right to initiate Thesaurus searching; select relevant terms.

DISPLAYING SEARCH RESULTS

1. Records from your last search are automatically displayed in a split screen (with the search history on the top portion of the screen). To see records from a previous search, double click the search you want; its records will be displayed.
2. To display next or previous records:
 - Click on the double arrow box of the right vertical scroll bar.
 - Click on single up or down arrow buttons (right side of WinSPIRS window) to scroll up or down, line by line.

MARKING RECORDS

1. Click on the book image next to the record you want to select. A line will appear to the left of the marked record.
2. To unmark a record, re-click on the book image next to it.

PRINTING SEARCH RESULTS

1. Mark those records you want to print (by clicking on the book image to the left of the record number).
2. Click on the Print button at the top of the WinSPIRS window.
3. A text box will appear. Click on the Print button with your choice of records (marked, all or current records). Then print.
4. After sending the print job to be printed, "Clear marked records?" will appear. Click yes to clear the search set.
5. A text box appears to prompt a unique identifier. Type your name or a word to identify your print job.
6. Go to the printing computer, insert your student ID card in the card reader (to pay for your printing), select your print job, and pick up your print out(s) at the printer indicated on the screen (at either the South, Central or West printer).

DOWNLOADING SEARCH RESULTS:

1. Mark the records you want to download (make sure you have a PC formatted disk in the **a:** floppy drive).
2. Click on the Download button at the top of the WinSPIRS window.
3. Type the letter of your disk drive, filename (up to 8 characters), and a 3-character extension in the File Name box. [Example: A:myfile.txt]; and press the DOWNLOAD button to begin downloading.
4. After downloading, the message *Clear marked records?* will appear. Click on Yes to delete your marked list.