

SYG 2010 Social Problems Library Research Methods
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Some important questions to consider:

- What is the assignment and why am I doing this research?
- What kind of information, how much, and when do I need it?
- What do I already know about my topic and can I apply what I am learning now?
- Did I completely answer my initial research question[s] and support it with relevant resources?
- How can I best share my conclusions with others?

To **find a book** (circulating, reference, and/or electronic) for an introductory examination of a topic:
- Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on **#4 Library Catalog** >>> it helps sometimes to narrow your search for items located on the **Gibbs campus** or to a certain **format, date,** and/or **language** >>> conduct a **subject, title** or **keyword** search?

Conducting a **subject** search for **developing countr*** will display 711 results and a **keyword** will locate 853 results. The keyword search will look everywhere throughout the bibliographic record. It also helps to add more specific keywords and/or an appropriate subject heading to your search. (**Note:** the asterisk on the word **countr*** will locate variants of country, countries etc.)

Try a Subject search for **family planning** too.

You can add **Boolean operators** (i.e. AND, OR, NOT) easily in the **Advanced Search** mode. Boolean operators help to combine and/or eliminate concepts and keywords. For example, searching for **developing countr*** (Subject) AND **demographic*** (Keyword) will display 8 results.

Keyword Search Browse Lists Advanced Search		
Search by:	Subject	developing countr*
end	Keyword	demographic*
end	Keyword	

[AND = both terms/phrases must be present (this will narrow your search results). You could use **OR** to find synonymous terms/concepts or **NOT** to eliminate certain terms/phrases.]

Note: It is possible to request books from other libraries and have them sent to your main campus library!

St. Petersburg/Tarpon Springs Circulation	HF5381 .T2212 2006	Available	Request
Valencia/East	Circulation	HF5381.T2212 2006	Available Request

Borrower ID = Student Number

PIN = Last 4-digits of Social Security Number



Some other good starting resources:

- The CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- The world economic factbook (REF HC59.15 .W67)
- The world factbook. (REF G122 .W67 2003)
- Handbook of the nations (REF G122 .W67)

Find Electronic Books via NetLibrary: Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on **#1 Articles and Databases (Student ID)** [Note: You are now able to search for all of our electronic books (over 58,000 titles) within our main library catalog! However, using netLibrary will allow you also to search within the Full Text of the electronic book.]

After logging in to the databases you should see a page with a list of subject categories. Click on the + sign next to Electronic Books and then select NetLibrary eBooks. (**Note:** you may also sort all our databases alphabetically!)

- Try a search for **immigration** (subject) AND **policy implications** (Full-Text)

To find articles in journals, magazines, newspapers and more:

- Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on **#1 Articles & Databases**

Academic Search Complete: largest scholarly, multi-disciplinary full text database containing full text for nearly 4,650 serials, including more than 3,600 peer-reviewed publications.

- Try a basic search for **crime**.

... and then let the system help narrow down results for you. Of course, you will probably need to fine-tune your search strategy a few times.

and limit again

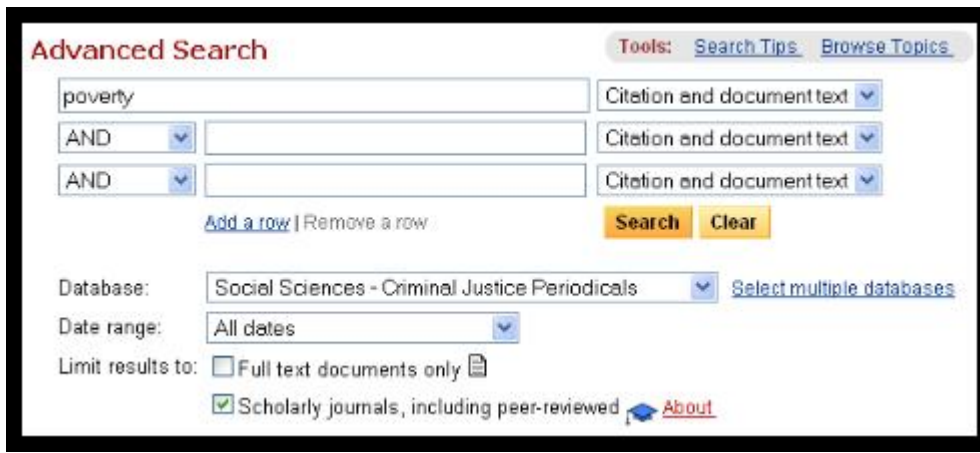
Don't forget to Update Results.

Research Tip: Academic Search Complete will generate citations in APA, Chicago, MLA, and other styles! For example:

Ritakallio, M., Kaltiala-Heino, R., Kivivuori, J., Luukkaala, T., & RimpelÄ, M. (2006, June). Delinquency and the profile of offences among depressed and non-depressed adolescents. *Criminal Behaviour & Mental Health*, 16(2), 100-110. Retrieved January 23, 2009, doi:10.1002/cbm.620

Criminal Justice Periodicals Index: Covers a wide variety of criminal justice topics, including corrections administration, law enforcement, social work, industrial security, drug rehabilitation, and criminal and family law. Full-text and image coverage for about 50 journals.

- Try a basic search for poverty and limit results to Scholarly journals.



Advanced Search Tools: [Search Tips](#) [Browse Topics](#)

poverty Citation and document text

AND Citation and document text

AND Citation and document text

[Add a row](#) | [Remove a row](#) **Search** **Clear**

Database: Social Sciences - Criminal Justice Periodicals [Select multiple databases](#)

Date range: All dates

Limit results to: Full text documents only Scholarly journals, including peer-reviewed [About](#)

At the results screen, take note of the Suggested Topics and consider adding terms.



Suggested Topics [About](#)

[Poverty](#)

[Poverty AND Crime](#)

[Poverty AND Criminology](#)

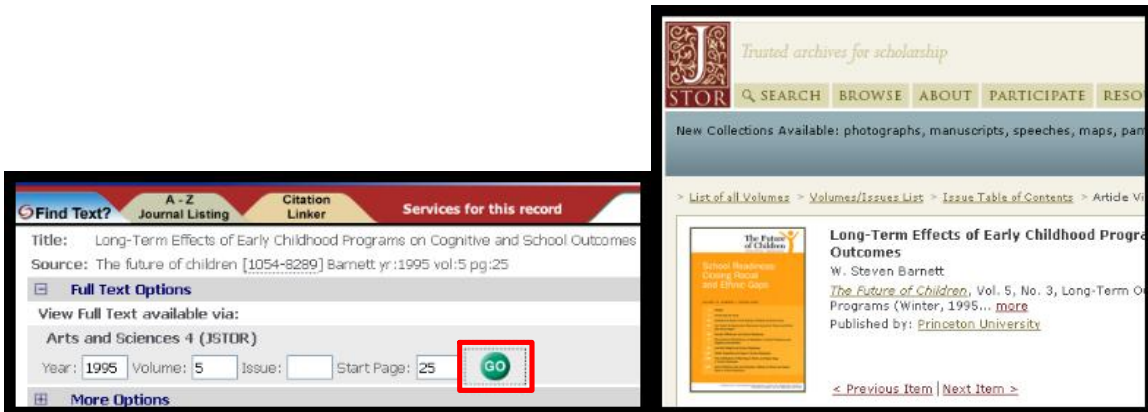
[Poverty AND Children & youth](#)

JStor: Access back issues of core journals in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Over 700 titles available.



“Find it at SPC” using Google Scholar.

Try a search for "elementary education" "public policy" florida



(“Find it at SPC” Using Google Scholar handouts are available at:
http://www.spcollege.edu/SPG/WSPCL/Find_it_at_SPC_GoogleScholar_Student.pdf




Although many articles are now available in full-text, you may still find some that are in a printed format (i.e. bound in book form). If the article is not in full-text you will need to determine if our library owns that particular volume. A librarian will help you locate articles not in full text. **JSTOR** is another database that can be helpful when searching for older articles.

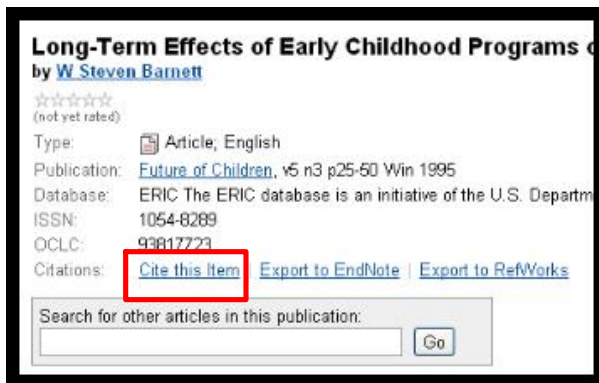


Finding information via the World Wide Web (WWW): (Note): If you do research via the

World Wide Web please consider the following:


- Anyone can create a website.
- Can you clearly determine who has written the article? Do they have subject expertise?
- Is the website relevant to your research? Is it comprehensive? Up-to date? Biased?
- Can the information be verified?

Research Tip: Within Google Scholar preferences, you can select a Bibliography Manager to import citations. Also,  <http://www.worldcat.org> can cite sources too! Just copy/paste the title.



Some more things to consider ...

1. Computers do a fine job storing and retrieving information; however, they are only as intelligent as their users. We must continue to use our brains and critically evaluate what we read and judge it accordingly. Computers allow researchers to find lots of information easily, but it is clearing the thickening “data smog” that can be difficult while at the same time rewarding.
2. Try to add content that you may think is missing from an article and ask vital questions along the way. This will force you to think more openly about a topic and to remain focused throughout the research process.
3. Don’t forget to cite your sources! Take good notes and remember to document where and when you found the information. Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> and under Quick Links select Citing Sources for more information. Read SPC’s Academic Honesty Policy at <http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/admit/honesty.htm>.
4. Have fun and enjoy the learning process!

Don’t forget to  ... Librarians are available to help every person within the library and even in cyberspace select and effectively use the library’s resources!