

# Searching *Sociological Abstracts*

## What is *Sociological Abstracts*?

*Sociological Abstracts* is a database that consists of citations and abstracts of journal articles, books, book chapters, and dissertations in sociology and related fields, covering 1963 to the present.

## How do I get to it?

From the library's homepage at [www.usfca.edu/library](http://www.usfca.edu/library)

- Go to *Start Your Research*.
- Click on *Sociology*.
- Choose *Journal and Newspaper Articles*. Choose *Sociological Abstracts*

## Does it have the full text of articles?

*Sociological Abstracts* has citations and abstracts only.

To find the full text of a citation click on 

## Searching Tips

- Use the operators in the chart below to focus your search.

OPERATOR	EXAMPLE	SEARCH RESULT
and	work and stress	Both terms must be present. Reduces results.
or	work or stress	Either term can be present. Increases results.
not	work not stress	Excludes second term. Limits results.
*	alcohol*	Retrieves records with the terms alcohol, alcoholism, alcoholic, alcoholics, etc.

- To check your terminology and to get term details, go to **Search Tools**, then **Thesaurus** for a scope note of the term and its related, broader, and narrower terms. Always notice the *Descriptors* in the record to find other search terms.

**Juvenile Delinquency**  
Formerly (1963–1985) DC 126140, Delinquency, Juvenile.  
**Use For**  
Adolescent Delinquency  
**Broader Terms**  
 [Criminality](#) [+]  
Reinstated, 1999. Formerly (1963–1985) DC 119125, Criminally.  
**Related Terms**  
 [Adolescents](#)  
Persons aged 13 to 17.

## How can I exclude certain publications from my search?

From the search screen:

- Enter your search words.
- Select **NOT**.
- Enter **dissertation** or **conference paper** or **book review** or any other publication type you wish to exclude.
- Select **Publication Type (PT=)** from the drop down list.
- Click **Search**.

The screenshot shows a search interface with three rows of input fields. Each row starts with a dropdown menu containing 'not' and 'and'. The first row has input fields containing 'juvenile delinqu', 'or', an empty field, 'or', and another empty field, followed by a label 'Keywords, KW='. The second row has input fields containing 'dissertation', 'or', 'book review', 'or', and 'conference', followed by a label 'Publication Type,'. The third row has three empty input fields separated by 'or' operators, followed by a label 'Keywords, KW='.

## How can I combine searches?

- Click on the **Search History** box, then **Combine Searches**.
- Enter the numbers of the searches you want to combine, along with any additional terms, and separate them with operators (i.e., OR, AND, NOT)

The screenshot shows a search interface with a text input field containing '#2 and #1 and homeless\*'. Below the input field is a link labeled 'Search Tips: (#3 or #2) and new term'.

## How can I print or email my results?

- Always **Mark** your records before printing or emailing by clicking on the box on the left of the record.
- Click on **Save/Print/Email**.
- Select your print preferences.
- Click on **Email** or **Save** or **Print**.