

# A Guide to Sociological Abstracts

## What is Sociological Abstracts?

Sociological Abstracts is an online database that indexes the international sociological literature. It covers journals, book chapters and reviews, conference proceedings, and dissertations. Database coverage is from 1952 to the present. It is not a full-text database, but Knox may still subscribe to these journals either online or in print. Always click the **Find It!** button and check the Library Catalog for full-text availability.

## How to Access Sociological Abstracts:

Start from Seymour Library's home page <http://library.knox.edu>.

### Option 1

- Click on "Selecting a journal database: A-Z list"
- Scroll down to the bottom and select Sociological Abstracts

### Option 2

- Click on "Selecting a journal database: subject list"
- Within the box, select Anthropology & Sociology and then Sociological Abstracts

## Searching Sociological Abstracts

### Quick Search

- Start with a basic keyword search – searches everywhere in database.
- Multiple words will automatically search as a phrase (no need for quotation marks) unless separated by AND, OR, or NOT

### Advanced Search

Add **synonyms** in the boxes between the ORs.

Add **different concepts** on each line.

Limit search to a specific date range or to search journal articles only.


The screenshot shows the advanced search interface for Sociological Abstracts. It features a table with three rows for building search terms. Each row has a dropdown menu (set to 'and'), a text input box, and a dropdown menu (set to 'Anywhere'). The first row contains 'children', 'adolescents', and 'kids'. The second row contains 'discipline' and 'punishment'. The third row contains 'classroom' and 'school'. Below the table are buttons for 'Search' and 'Clear', and a 'Search Tips' link. Underneath, there are options for 'Now Selected' (CSA Social Services Abstracts and CSA Sociological Abstracts), a 'Change' dropdown (set to 'Subject Area'), a 'Date Range' (set to 'Earliest' to '2007'), 'Limited to' checkboxes (Latest Update, Journal Articles Only, English Only), and a 'Show' dropdown (set to 'Short format') and 'Results per page' (set to '25').

Default is to search anywhere. **Narrow** your search by selecting Keywords, Title, Descriptors, etc.

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## Search Results

The screenshot shows a search result for the article "Authentic Identities: Straightedge Subculture, Music, and the Internet" by Williams, J. Patrick, published in the Journal of Contemporary Ethnography, vol. 35, no. 2, pp. 173-200, Apr 2006. The page includes a "Database" section (Sociological Abstracts), "Descriptors" (\*Identity | \*Subcultures | \*Music | \*Internet | \*Consumption), and links for "View Record", "References", "Cited by 2", and "Find It!". Numbered callouts 1-6 point to: 1) the title, 2) the author's name, 3) the "References" link, 4) the "Cited by 2" link, 5) the "Find It!" button, and 6) the "Descriptors" section.

- ① Click on the title or "View Record" to view the complete record.
- ② Click on author's name to view all items in the database by that author.
- ③ Click on "References" to view the cited references in article.
- ④ Click on "Cited by..." to view citations in Soc. Abstracts that refer to that article.
- ⑤ Click on the  to check full-text availability in another database.
- ⑥ **Descriptors:** these words describe the content of the article/record. Search with these terms to focus your search.

### Search Tools

**History:** this function allows you to combine searches and narrow your results.

**Thesaurus:** this function will help find preferred terms that the database uses to describe the contents of the record. They also provide broader, narrower, and related terms.

**Indexes:** alphabetical listing of author and journal names which then can be selected and searched.

## Other Helpful Features

### Marked Records

- Use this feature to save records for later use. Check the boxes of the records you want to save and then click "Update Marked List" View them later by clicking the marked records link toward the top of the page.

### Save, Print, Email

- Save, print, or email your marked records or all search results

### QuickBib

- This feature converts the saved records into ALA, Chicago, MLA formats.

*Important note: this database includes Dissertations, Conference Proceedings, and foreign language publications that may not be obtainable through interlibrary loan.*

## Help with the Database

- ⇒ Chat with a librarian: stop by the reference desk or call ext. 7228
- ⇒ Click on "Search Tips" or "Help & Support" to find tips on searching, tutorials, FAQs, and general information about the database.