

Annual Reviews, Cited Reference Searching, Search Engines, Bibliographic Management Tools

Finding Literature Reviews in *Annual Reviews*

Scholarly research articles generally include a section where the author(s) describe their review of previous research that has bearing on or is in some way related to their own research. In addition, some researchers publish lengthy literature reviews as stand-alone articles. A major journal for such full-length literature reviews is *Annual Reviews*, which covers 40+ disciplines, including sociology. [access via databases tab]

Cited Reference Searching via *Web of Science* Citation Indexes

The *Social Sciences Citation Index*, part of the *Web of Science* collection of databases, is a multidisciplinary index to journal literature in the social sciences. It fully indexes more than 3,000 journals spanning 55 disciplines, plus selected items from 3,500 leading scientific and technical journals. Because the information stored about each article includes its reference list (i.e., bibliography), you can search for articles that cite a known author or work. [access via databases tab]

Major search options

Basic Search: Searches by topic, title, author, journal (“publication name”), author’s address, etc. (Topic is the default option; it searches titles, abstracts, and keywords.)

🔍 **Cited Reference Search:** Searches for articles that have cited (i.e., included in their reference list or bibliography) a specific work. This type of search can locate relevant articles that can’t be retrieved through traditional searches. A cited reference search can identify more recent articles on a topic, and indicate how earlier research has been confirmed, applied, improved, extended, contradicted, or corrected in more recent research.

Advanced Search: For the “power searcher” willing to learn the advanced search mode’s intricacies and conventions. (You probably don’t want to go there!)

Search operators

- and** find records containing all terms
- or** find records containing any of the terms
- not** exclude records containing certain terms
- near/n** find records containing all terms within a certain number of words (n) of each other
example: income near/3 inequality
- same** find records where the terms occur in the same sub-field (article title, sentence in the abstract, or a single address)
- phrase** use quotation marks to search for an exact phrase (e.g., “homeless women”)

Truncation/wildcard characters (may be used inside a term and at the end, but not at the beginning)

* = zero to many characters (it’s the one you’ll use the most)

(ex. hof*man* = hofman, hoffman, hoffmann, hofman’s, hoffmann’s, etc.)

\$ = zero or one character (ex. colo\$r = color, colour)

? = a single character (ex. color? = color, colors, but *not* colorful, coloring, etc.)

Exercise for doing a topic search in Social Sciences Citation Index

1. Go to the Social Sciences Citation Index [access via databases tab]
2. In Box 1, type: "academic achievement" or "academic performance" or "academic success"
3. Add Another Field; in Box 2, type: athlete*
4. Limit to 2003-2017; click "Search"
5. Look at article: Do High School Athletes Get Better Grades During the Off-Season?
SHOW: how to change default sort option to Number of times cited

Additional search options

Refine Results: Allows searching within results and filtering results using various facets including broad subject area, author, source (journal), publication year, language, etc.

Analyze Results: Analyzes results by the field you select, such as institution name, journal ("source title"), author, etc.

Related Records Search: Searches for articles whose cited reference lists include at least one of the sources cited by the original (parent) article. Articles that share the largest number of sources with the original article are listed first. The assumption behind related record searching is that articles whose reference lists include some of the same sources have a similar subject relationship, regardless of whether their titles, abstracts, or keywords contain the same terms. The more sources two articles have in common, the closer this subject relationship is presumed to be.

Other databases with citation information:

SocINDEX, PsycINFO:

both include many cited references and a somewhat hard-to-find Cited References search option; compared to *SSCI*, coverage is for a somewhat smaller, more focused set of journals

both include a Find Similar Results option; Ebsco's search engine uses "SmartText" searching, which is based on words in the article title and abstract, not shared references as with *SSCI*

Google Scholar: includes many cited references; has no separate cited reference search option, but displays cited references automatically in search results; may produce better results than *SSCI* for articles cited in books, or books that are cited in articles; includes citations from non-peer-reviewed sources, such as handouts, syllabi, and PowerPoint slides

Search engines:

Summon

- a single box searches a variety of library materials and source types
- direct links to online content
- Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) must be entered in ALL CAPS; AND is the default for all terms when no Boolean operator is entered; minus sign = NOT, use quotation marks for phrases
ex: (health -"mental health")
- filters make it easy to refine results by content type, availability online, discipline, etc.
- ~ 450 million records: books, scholarly articles, newspaper articles, data, audio, video, images, government documents, etc. from OBIS, article databases, and elsewhere
- find even more records when you "Add results beyond Oberlin College" (digital repositories from colleges, universities, research centers, and other open-access archives)

Keep in mind...

- Summon searches many, *but not all*, library resources
- Comprehensive or complex searches may yield better results in subject specific databases
- OBIS, our catalog, is often more efficient for finding whether we own a specific book

Google Scholar

- a single box searches the free web, as well as some content that's not free
- focuses on articles, patents, and case law (judicial opinions)
- preferences allow useful customizations, including library access and RefWorks export links
- may lead to content and imply that Oberlin does not have access, even when we do
 - search **Journal Finder** to see if Oberlin has access to specific journals
 - search **Summon** to see if Oberlin has access to specific articles

Finding Full Text of Journal Articles

☞ Use  or "Find It!" where available in research databases; often leads directly to article.

☞ Next, try **Journal Finder** (select **Journal Finder tab** on library home page; also on Quick Links menu on library web pages).

JSTOR: The Scholarly Journal Archive

- 2,000+ academic journals, highly relevant to the Oberlin curriculum, from 800+ publishers
- Deep back file, but recent issues are often excluded (frequently there is a 3-5 year "moving wall")
- Every word of every article is searchable

EJC: The OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center

- 10,200+ journals, some only tangentially related to our curriculum, from 50+ publishers
- Emphasis on recent issues, limited back file (generally mid-1990's or later)
- Only words in citations and abstracts are searchable

Interlibrary Loan (ILL or ILLiad):

- how it works: libraries provide materials to each other, including delivery of scanned or photocopied articles from journals
- use for: articles in journals not accessible at Oberlin, books not available via OhioLINK
- to request: select "ILLiad/Interlibrary Loan" from the Quick Links menu on the Library's home page; set up an account; enter and track ILL requests online in your ILLiad account

Bibliographic/citation management tools

Use a citation manager such as ProQuest RefWorks to:

- create a personal database of references and sources consulted
- export or copy/paste citations from OBIS and many databases directly into your account
- organize and edit citations, add notes, and attach documents
- automatically format bibliographies and lists of works cited in hundreds of different styles

More information:

- Choose “For Students” (under “Services” on library home page):
 - Under “Video Tutorials,” watch the Oberlin-produced “Using RefWorks” video
 - learn more about Oberlin’s RefWorks subscription under “Citation Help / Citation Guides - Online”
- Create an account: <https://refworks.proquest.com>
- ProQuest’s help guide (includes some videos): proquest.libguides.com/newrefworks

Ways to Focus a Search

☞ If your search retrieves too many items, try narrowing your search:

- add an additional concept to your search query
for example, “gender and discrimination and income” instead of “gender and discrimination”
- try phrase searching rather than connecting search terms with “and”
for example, “educational attainment” instead of “education” and “attainment”
- use proximity operators to require your search terms to be near one another
for example, “urban n5 japan” instead of “urban and japan”
- restrict some of your search terms to specific parts of the record (i.e., “field qualification”)
for example, search for the word in the title only, instead of anywhere in the record
- use subject terms (controlled vocabulary indexing terminology) to find records that have been assigned specific subject terms by an indexer (i.e., a person!), rather than searching all fields
for example, “drug abuse” as a subject term, rather than as a general keyword search
- narrow your topic to a specific geographical area (e.g., country, region, state, city)
- apply limits or filters to your search results to make them more manageable, for example:
 - only items published since 2005
 - only English-language articles
 - only articles from peer-reviewed publications
 - only items of a certain publication format (e.g., academic journals)
- research a particular angle or aspect of the topic that interests you (e.g., historical, sociological, psychological, ethical, political, religious)
- choose a research database that is narrower in scope
for example, a database that indexes only sociology journals instead of journals from many different disciplines

☞ If your search doesn't retrieve enough items, try broadening your search statement:

- do the opposite of the suggestions listed above for narrowing search results, for example:
 - eliminate a concept from your search query
 - expand your topic to include broader/additional geographical areas
- truncate important words to retrieve more items, for example: “immigra*” instead of “immigration” or “immigrants”
- find additional terms and synonyms: browse a list of search results, locate a record that is a close match to your topic, and closely examine words used in the title, abstract, and subject headings
for example, if you searched for “teenagers,” but a close match uses the word “adolescents,” try a new search using “teenager* or adolescen*”
- scan the bibliography or list of references of an article that closely matches your topic
- search for additional articles by the author(s) of an article that closely matches your topic
- think more broadly, drawing in additional concepts, ideas, and issues, related to your topic;
incorporate these into your search strategy
- try your search in other databases that may be more relevant to your topic, or that may index a larger or broader range of journals; ask your professor or a librarian for suggestions

☞ A “Find more like this” or similar option may be available to identify “on target” articles