

SOCY 122: Library Research Tips

The **Literature Review Assignment** (Fall term) and the **Outline and Research Essay** (Winter term) require you to draw upon a variety of sources including **books, scholarly articles, policy documents, governmental or organizational websites** applicable to your research topic.

The purpose of this library research workshop is to give you the opportunity to refine your research skills and ability to utilize various library resources.

Resources to Bookmark

- Queen's Library Homepage <http://library.queensu.ca>
- Sociology Library Research Guide <http://library.queensu.ca/research/guide/sociology>
- SOCY 122 Library Tutorial: Introduction to Academic Library Research <http://library.queensu.ca/research/guide/socy-122>

Background information on your sociological topic of interest

Encyclopedias can provide a broad overview of your topic and help you to **identify key concepts, terms and theories**. Recommended encyclopedias can be found in the **Sociology Library Research Guide**:

<http://library.queensu.ca/research/guide/sociology/dictionaries-encyclopedias>

Some encyclopedias of note include:

- The **Concise Encyclopedia of Sociology** <https://qcat.library.queensu.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=3585825>
- The **Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology** <https://qcat.library.queensu.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=3497893>

Books

(Module 4 of the online Library Tutorial <http://library.queensu.ca/research/guide/socy-122/module4>)

Use **QCAT** or **Summon**

(access from Library Homepage)



Scholarly Journal Articles (Module 5 <http://library.queensu.ca/research/guide/socy-122/module5>)

Use an **article index or database**. The **Sociology Subject Guide** lists core and related recommended databases: <http://library.queensu.ca/research/guide/sociology/article-indexes>. The best databases to search vary depending on your research area. Some databases to note are:

- **Sociology Specific**

Limit your search results to Peer-Reviewed

Sociological Abstracts <http://library.queensu.ca/research/databases/record/2787>

Comprehensive index to the international literature in sociology and related disciplines.

Sociology @ ProQuest <http://library.queensu.ca/research/databases/record/8917>

Searches 3 indexes simultaneously: Sociological Abstracts, IBSS: International Bibliography of the Social Sciences and ProQuest Sociology (a full text journal package).

- **Multidisciplinary**

Academic Search Complete <http://library.queensu.ca/research/databases/record/3404>

A multidisciplinary index (with abstracts) to more than 10,900 publications including peer-reviewed journals, popular magazines, conference proceedings, monographs and reports.

Social Sciences @ ProQuest <http://library.queensu.ca/research/databases/record/8908>

Comprehensive coverage of literature published in the social sciences disciplines. This database allows you to simultaneously search over 25 social science article databases.

- **Search Engines**

Summon <http://library.queensu.ca/summon>

Search across the library catalogue and many of our electronic resources, all from one search box. Summon contains everything found in the traditional QCAT Library Catalogue, plus millions of full-text articles available from the Library.

Google Scholar <http://library.queensu.ca/research/databases/record/2998>

Use Google Scholar to locate articles from a wide variety of academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories and universities, as well as scholarly articles published on the "open" web. **Access Google Scholar via the Library Homepage (Click on the Database Tab, then type Google Scholar and click search).**

Government Information, International Organizations, Public Policy Documents

<http://library.queensu.ca/webdoc/>

Refer to the **Government Information** section of this site – a very useful resource is the Government Information Search option

See also:

The **Canadian Electronic Library - Public Policy Collection**

<http://library.queensu.ca/research/databases/record/6365>

Includes research reports, policy briefs, studies, etc.



Government Information

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Government Information Search

Google™ Custom Search

Canada

Websites

Refer to Module 6 of the Library Tutorial <http://library.queensu.ca/research/guide/socy-122/module6/effective>

Critically Evaluating Sources

Refer to Module 7 of the Library Tutorial <http://library.queensu.ca/research/guide/socy-122/module7>