Scholarly Research in Social Work

| **SocIndex with full text** | • SocIndex with Full Text is the world's most comprehensive and highest quality sociology research database.  
| An EbscoHost Database | • Accessed through Ebsco interface, it provides links to articles in other Ebsco database. |

| **PsycINFO** | • Considered the most thorough scholarly Psychology electronic databases.  
| An EbscoHost Database | • Accessed through Ebsco interface, it provides links to articles in other Ebsco database. |

| **JSTOR** | • This archival database provides articles from many disciplines and serves as a wonderful resources for older scholarship. |

| **Social Work Subject Guide** | • To access this, from the library’s Homepage, Click on Research by Subject Area and Social Work.  
| | • Lists databases, web sites, reference tools and additional resources useful for social work research. |

Exercise #1- Creating a Search Strategy: SocIndex with Full Text

- From the library’s home page, select **Find Articles**.
- Select **Databases Listed by Title**
- Click on **S** then **SocIndex with Full Text**.
- In the keyword boxes, enter the terms **foster care** and **adolescents**.
- As this is an interdisciplinary database, always limit to Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals. Then select **Search**.
- You obtain over 692 results, but they are not very specific.
- Click on the Subject Terms tab and in the Browsing: Sociology Thesaurus box enter the term: **Foster care**, it states: **Use Foster home care**. When you click on this term, you obtain related terms as well; enter the term **adolescents**, it states **Use Teenagers**.
- Now search for **Foster home care** and **Teenagers** and you obtain 161 more relevant results. If you use the date limiter on the left hand side and limit to 2007-2017, you obtain 105 results published in the last 10 year!
- Choose #4- Evidence-Based Practice for Youth in Supervised Out-of-Home Care: A Framework for Development, Definition, and Evaluation.

The subject terms for this article include:

*Teenagers -- Services for 
*Foster home care 
*Evidence-based social work 
*Social policy 
*Intervention (Social services) 
*Social work administration 
Foster children -- Services for

Using Subject Terms as keywords in future searches represents the best way to narrow or broaden your search, ensuring that you obtain more recent and relevant results. These terms are the same found in the Thesaurus.
• Ex: When you search using the terms Foster home care and Evidence-based social work, you get 18 perhaps different but highly useful results.

Other useful search terms to try:

• Add additional terms to find the policy and legislative aspects of this social problem or how social workers help solve it. Terms to consider:
  - Policy, Legislation, Social Services, Public Welfare, Social Workers.

• Add additional terms to more clearly define the population:
  - Use terms to identify the race, ethnicity, class and sexual orientation of the population you are studying.

Exercise #2- Using Limiting and Broadening Tools - SocIndex with Full Text

• Explore the other valuable limiting and broadening tools within the record for Evidence-Based Practice for Youth in Supervised Out-of-Home Care: A Framework for Development, Definition, and Evaluation.

  1. Click on the hyperlinked name of each author to view her or his other works that are available in this database. You will discover that scholars often publish several articles on similar topics. Ex: When you click on Greeson, Johanna K. P., you find 11 articles in this database about youth in Foster care.
  2. Click on the Cited Reference (96) link and you will obtain the references that these authors used for this article. Scrolling through the list of references, you will discover several articles are available in full text version directly from this database.
  3. Click on the Times Cited in this Database (2) and you will obtain newer references that cite this article, these articles are available in full text.
  4. Click on the hyperlinked name of the journal, Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work, and select Search within this Publication. Now search for Foster home care; you obtain 10 relevant articles from this journal.

Exercise #3- Keyword Searching and using the Age Group Field– PsycINFO

• From the library’s home page, select Find Articles.
• Select P then PsycINFO.
• Search for rape and aged and major depression and limit to peer reviewed (Academic Journals).
• You obtain 49 results.
• Now identify aged as an Age Group Field and you will obtain 25 results.

![Age Group Field](image-url)
• Article #1 discusses trauma victims across the age span while article #2 focuses on the older adult population. This shows that after you limit to the Age Group Field, you still have to read the title and abstract to ensure it focuses on the population you need.

• Notice that each record in **PsycINFO** provides similar limiting and broadening options:
  o Use combinations of the Subjects listed in each record for future searches.
  o Click on the hyperlinked name of each author.
  o Click on the hyperlinked name of a journal to search for topics within that journal.
  o Click on the Cited References link to obtain relevant articles.

**Exercise #4- Finding Full Text – PsycINFO**

• Select #3 - Cortisol at the emergency room rape visit as a predictor of PTSD and depression symptoms over time.
  o Notice that the record does not show a PDF full text icon.
  o Select **Full Text Finder**

**Full Text Finder Results**

*Resources Located for this Citation*

[View this article at Science Direct 1995-01-01 - present]

**Science Direct Results:**

[Click on this link to get the Full Text in Science Direct]

**Always choose the PDF Option**

**Exercise # 6- Researching the Historical Aspects of a Social Problem.**

• From the library’s home page, select **Find Articles.**
• Select **Databases Listed by Title**
• Click on **J** then **JSTOR** and then select Advanced Search.
• Search for “social welfare” and poverty, limiting to Articles in the Item Type box.
• IMPORTANT – use quotation marks to indicate phrases in JSTOR.
• View the wide variety of disciplines represented by the results you retrieve.
• Change the sort from Relevance to Oldest.
• Now you can obtain articles discussing poverty starting from the 1840s.
Select– *Notes on the Statistical Determination of the Causes of Poverty* – This article, published in 1889, offers a glimpse into how poverty was viewed in the late 19th century.

Notice that JSTOR offers the opportunity to obtain a list of references. If you look through references list, you will find some links to the full text within JSTOR.

**Exercise #7- Finding Information about Social Problems on the Internet**

When you have a social problem topic, search for the Governmental Agency that is responsible for that population or issue and then consult that agency’s website:

1. Finding a Government Agency through a Search Engine:
   - Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and search for the term *Mental Health*.
   - Select advanced search and in the --search within a site or domain—box, enter .gov – This ensures that all of your results will come from U.S. Government Sites.
   - Choose- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) a division of the National Institutes of Health.
   - Click on Outreach and Outreach Partnership Program and click on National Partners. You obtain a list of over 80 National Organizations, each of which offers programs to help people with Mental Illness.
     - Search for Mental Health Programs and you will obtain information about research initiatives sponsored by NIMH.
     - Search the National Institutes of Health website for Mental Health to see what information this site offers. This site also provides information about programs sponsored by other government agencies.

2. Finding Legislation from a legislative Website:
   - Go to congress.gov – Includes Bills and Laws from 1973-Present
   - Search for the legislation Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act and select All Legislation.
   - Limit bill Status to Became Law (This bill includes: Subtitle B: Improving Opportunities for Children in Foster Care and Supporting Permanency.)
   - Go back to the search box and search for “Foster Care” (you must put phrases in quotes) and select All Legislation. When the results appear, limit to the 114th and 115th Congresses. You discover that 286 pieces of legislation that mention foster care have been discussed from 2015 to the present. Once you limit under bill status to Became Law, you obtain 10 results.

**Exercise #8- Finding Older Legislation**

- Search this to determine the Public Law # of the final piece of legislation and then search by that Public Law in Google.
- Ex: Select Popular Name Tool and open the PDF
- When you search the PDF, for Civil Rights Act of 1964, you discover that the Public Law # is: Pub. L. 88–352
• When you search for this in Google, you obtain the full text of this Law

Exercise #9- Finding Executive Orders –

• The National Archives – Click https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/disposition to search a Subject Index and get the full text of orders from President Clinton through the current president.

• American Presidency Project - Click http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/executive_orders.php to get the full text of orders from 1826 - Present.

Additional Searching Hints:

Interlibrary Loan
• The inter-library loan service, Illiad, allows you to obtain journal articles and books that this library does not own.
• From the library’s home page, select the Illiad (Interlibrary Loan) link. You must first register to use the Illiad system. You only need to do this once.
• Once you register, order articles through a database by selecting the Illiad Wolfgram link and the fields will be populated for you.
• Request items as early as possible!

Off-Campus Access
• As a Widener University student, you can access all of the subscription databases from home.
• You must have a Student ID or Research Card.
• After you click on the name of the database, a screen will appear. The username is your name as it is printed on your ID, and the barcode# is the full number on the back of your ID.