

Information Sources in Criminology, Politics, Philosophy & Sociology

Introduction

This guide is designed to help students find information for assignments, seminars, or project work in the social sciences.

Textbooks

Use the Library Catalogue <http://www.uwe.ac.uk/library/catalogue/> to find the location of books on a specific topic, as different aspects of a subject may be shelved in a variety of places.

Reference collection

Newer reference books for the social sciences are located in the Reference Area on Level 3. These include encyclopedias, dictionaries, directories, etc., which will help define terminology or provide factual information. Older reference materials are shelved with the main book stock. We subscribe to some reference materials in electronic format, e.g. Encyclopedia of Social Measurement – please follow the links from the Library Catalogue.

Journals

Articles in journals may often be useful either to augment the information that you have already obtained from books or to act as a substitute when the information cannot be found in books. Because journals are published regularly they often contain more up-to-date information. The Library Catalogue lists the titles of journals to which the library subscribes but does not list individual articles contained in them. Where a journal is available in electronic format there is a link at the bottom of the catalogue record for that title.

Finding articles in social science journals

To find journal articles on your subject it is best to use a **database**.

Databases index journal articles and usually contain an **abstract** (summary) for each article in order to help you decide whether it is useful for your research. Note that they often cover literature published worldwide, not just the material available from the library. To access the databases for your subject area go to the Resources by Subject page at:

<http://www.uwe.ac.uk/library/resources/ressub.htm>

Select your subject area and then click on the link to Databases. You will be prompted to log in using your UWE network username and password.

A selection of useful databases:

- **ASSIA (Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts)**
Covers a wide range of contemporary social issues.
- **International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS)**
One of the largest and most comprehensive social science databases, includes some recent abstracts.
- **International Political Science Abstracts**
A bimonthly publication, providing abstracts of articles from a variety of international journals
- **PsycINFO**
International coverage of psychology and related disciplines.

- **SocINDEX**

Covers a range of sociology topics, including criminology, ethnic & racial studies and gender studies.

- **Sociological Abstracts**

Covers sociology and related disciplines.

- **Social Science Citation Index**

Worldwide coverage of books, articles, and book reviews for all disciplines within the social sciences.

Some journal articles are available in full text from e-journal collections such as **Business Source Premier**, **EBSCO Host** and **Science Direct**. You will, however, trace far more articles on a social science subject, including those in the e-journal collections, by using databases.

When you have found references to relevant articles, check the Library Catalogue to link to those available electronically or to see if they are in stock in print format. If not, ask about obtaining copies on Interlibrary Loan.

Newspapers

The full text of all UK and many foreign newspapers, including archives, is available on the database Nexis. Very old issues of the Times newspaper are on microfilm on Level 3, with a printed index from 1929.

Statistical sources

The Statistics Collection on Level 3 contains UK, European, and international statistics. These include:

- Annual Abstract of Statistics
- Eurostat: basic statistics of the European Regional Trends
- Social Trends

Much statistical data is now available online. Use the link to **Statistical Data** from your subject resources page on the library web pages.

Official publications

The Official Publications collection is housed on Level 3. It is filed alphabetically, usually by the name of the government department responsible for the document. The alphabetical sequence is further subdivided by the date of the publication. The collection contains parliamentary papers and debates (Hansard), white and green papers, along with publications by non-governmental bodies. Many official publications are also available on the web via the Library web pages.

Student projects

Final year projects submitted by social science students are available on Level 2 for reference purposes. Some are available electronically from the Library website.

Internet resources

Links to useful internet resources for the social sciences can be found on the library web pages:

<http://www.uwe.ac.uk/library/resources/ressub.htm>

You will also find links to guides to specific databases here.

Enquiries

Use the web pages for hints on information skills and FAQs. On Level 2 you will find the main Enquiry Desk, which is staffed by professional librarians during the library's core opening hours. For further subject-related assistance contact the Faculty Librarian using the web enquiry form at

<http://www.uwe.ac.uk/library/info/faq/enquiry-form.htm> .

This guide can be made available in alternative formats on request.

library.hlss@uwe.ac.uk
Updated July 2010

Ref no. HLSS/SB/08-09



University of the
West of England

Information Sources in Politics, International Relations, Criminology and Sociology

Library Services
www.uwe.ac.uk/library