Core Resources for Social Work

BOOKS – PRINT AND ONLINE

Print books: Search the Levy Library Catalog (follow the link from the homepage)
- Search by keywords, or pick Title or Author from the drop-down menu
- Author: last name [space] first initial (no punctuation) – e.g. Smith A
- Changing the button selection from “Keyword” to “Browse” will give you an alphabetical list of authors or titles
- Write down the call number and find the book on the shelves
- Also, you can use the catalog to find print journals, and some electronic books, journals and databases

E-Books: Follow the link from the homepage to E-Books
- Searching for a book title is the only way to search our entire collection of over 100,000 ebooks
- Use the subject links to browse a subset of e-books

DATABASES

Databases with Information for Clinicians and Patients

UpToDate:
A large collection of condition, treatment and medication reviews which can be printed or emailed. Includes patient information topics, which are written at a 12th grade reading level

CareNotes System
Patient education handouts on thousands of health topics, laboratory tests and frequently prescribed drugs. CareNotes documents are available in English and Spanish and are written at a 6th to 8th grade level. (Part of the MICROMEDEX database.)

Lexi-Comp Patient Education Module
Patient teaching handouts written at a 5th-7th grade reading level. Adult and Pediatric Patient Ed leaflets cover medications and are available in up to 18 languages. Lexi-Patient Education - Disease and Procedure: leaflets cover conditions, procedures, and tests; available in English and Spanish.

Databases for Finding Articles

Social Work Abstracts
Social Work Abstracts is produced by the National Association of Social Workers and indexes articles from over 500 leading social work journals. It’s available on the OvidSP search platform.
- Enter a few words or a question into the search box (“Basic Search” or “Advanced Ovid Search”).
- Or, try the “Multi Field Search” to specify an author, journal or series to search
  - Author search: last name [space] first initial asterisk (no punctuation) – e.g. Smith A*
- Use Limits to retrieve articles from specific years
- Scroll down to see your search results, and use the Search Aid on the left to expand or narrow your results

MEDLINE from PubMed
MEDLINE has a medical focus, but includes citations to many articles about social work in health care settings. PubMed is our preferred interface for searching MEDLINE at Mount Sinai.
- Check the Search Details box to see how PubMed interpreted your search
- Use the Limits link to limit a search by publication type, publication date, etc.
- Author Search: last name [space] first initial middle initial (no punctuation) – e.g. Smith AB
Social Services Abstracts
Social Services Abstracts provides citations to thousands of articles in social work and human services, including areas like community and mental health services, crisis intervention, social and health policy and gerontology.

- In the Quick Search tab, use * to truncate terms in order to search for multiple related words; e.g. alcohol* retrieves alcohol, alcoholic, alcoholics, alcoholism, etc.
- Use an upper-case AND to combine topics (alcoholism AND inpatients), OR to find either one of two or more topics (alcoholism OR drug addiction), or NOT to exclude topics (drug addiction NOT alcoholism)
- Use the Advanced Search tab’s drop-down menus to search for specific authors, journals, etc.

Web of Knowledge/Web of Science and Scopus
Use these “citation” databases to search for the number of times an article has been cited, identify highly cited authors, view the bibliographies of articles, and to trace the evolution of a topic.

- If you have one good article, use a citation database to find more recent articles that have cited the one you already have
- Author search: last name [space] first initial asterisk (no punctuation) – e.g. Smith A*
- When searching for topics, use * to truncate, and use AND, OR and NOT operators for a more powerful search

Google Scholar
Google Scholar can be useful if you want just one good article or need to do a quick citation search. The link to Resources at Levy Library or Full-Text at Levy Library opens up to the Levy Library FIND IT page.

PsycINFO
PsycINFO is an extensive psychological database from the American Psychological Association. It is available on the OvidSP platform and can be searched in the same way (and at the same time) as Social Work Abstracts.

Sociological Abstracts
Sociological Abstracts provides citations to articles, dissertations and books from over 2500 journals in sociology and related areas. It is available on the platform CSA Illumina, and is searched in the same way (and at the same time) as Social Services Abstracts.

GETTING FULL TEXT JOURNAL ARTICLES

- FIND IT (the “yellow button”)
  - links to the article and/or e-journal (if available)
  - links to a Levy Library Catalog search for print material

Available in PubMed, PsycINFO, Web of Science and more. FIND IT does not work in Social Services Abstracts or Sociological Abstracts; use the Levy Library’s E-journals database and Catalog to search for the full text of articles found in these databases.

- LinkOut (the “blue button”): In PubMed only, this button links directly to the full text of articles.

E-journals Database: Follow the link on the Levy Library homepage to search for online journals using the title of the journal.

REFERENCE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Bibliographic management software like RefWorks allows you to organize your research, import references from online databases, and automatically format the in-text citations and bibliographies of your papers. Access RefWorks from the Levy Library homepage, or check if your home institution has a subscription for a more permanent account.

QUESTIONS AND ASSISTANCE

To schedule a research consult for in-depth assistance with your specific project, contact us at 212-241-7204 or refdesk@mssm.edu.

Core Resources for Social Work guide online: http://library.mssm.edu/reference/guide/socialwork

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