Finding Scholarly Journal Articles in Sociological Abstracts

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ONE: What is Sociological Abstracts?

- **Sociological Abstracts (SocioAbs)** is a bibliographic database that indexes scholarly writings in sociology and related social science disciplines.

- The writings include the following publication types: journal articles, book chapters, conference papers, dissertations.

- Each citation includes an abstract (summary) of the writing. SocioAbs contains the full-text of some of the writings. For writings not available in full-text in SocioAbs the FindIt tool can be used to link to the full-text if it is available in other databases.

- Although international in scope, the majority of citations (80%) are for writings published in English.

- Although comprehensive in its coverage of the sociology literature, SocioAbs, like other databases, is not exhaustive. It provides indexing to the most important and representative scholarship in sociology.
SocioAbs can be supplemented by using other social science databases. Some of them cover the social sciences in a general way and index literature from many social science disciplines. Others cover a specific social science discipline (e.g. Anthropology) that complements or enhances sociological research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOCIAL SCIENCES</th>
<th>HEALTH</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences Full Text</td>
<td>Health Reference Center Academic</td>
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<tr>
<td>SocINDEX</td>
<td>Health Source: Nursing Academic</td>
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<td>ANTHROPOLOGY</td>
<td>MEDIA</td>
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<td>ECONOMICS</td>
<td>PSYCHOLOGY</td>
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<td>EconLit with Full Text</td>
<td>PsycINFO</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABI/INFORM Complete</td>
<td>PILOTS (…Traumatic Stress)</td>
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<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>SOCIAL WORK</td>
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<tr>
<td>ERIC</td>
<td>Social Services Abstracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Source</td>
<td>Urban Studies Abstracts</td>
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</table>

Mellone / Sociological Abstracts
THREE: Connecting

• Connect via the Library website.

• The direct URL is: http://library.qc.cuny.edu

• You can also get to the Library via the Queens College site: http://www.qc.cuny.edu
  
  – Then click on 'Libraries' on the top bar

• At the Library website, click on, or point to, the category called 'Research'. Then click on 'Databases'.

Off-Campus Access

• If you are connecting from off-campus, you will be asked to enter your Library ID Card barcode the first time you click on a database (e.g. Sociological Abstracts).

• REMINDER: Your ID Card must first be activated. To activate your card you must visit the Circulation Desk on the main level (3rd floor) once to ask them to activate your card. If you have already borrowed library material (book, video, reserve) then your card is already activated. To ensure that your card is in good working order make sure you have no Library fines since overdue financial obligations at the College may block your card.
Connecting
Connecting

- Databases are in alphabetical order (A to Z) by the names of the databases.
- Click on a letter to get to that alphabetical section, e.g. 'S' for *Sociological Abstracts*
- You can also sort the list by large subject area (e.g. Social Sciences) or by the more specific subject discipline (e.g. Sociology) by using the pull-down menu in the center.
- Make a selection (e.g. Sociology), then you must click on the 'Search' button next to it.
Connecting

In order to use these databases off-campus, you must first activate your College ID at the Library's Circulation Desk on Level Three or at the Music Library, which is located in the Aaron Copland School of Music. Then, click on the database you want to use, and enter your barcode located on the back of the ID card.

Databases

Browse the databases alphabetically:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z New Databases

Trials Show All

Filter the database list by subject:

Arts & Humanities

Search
Connecting

- Click on *Sociological Abstracts*
- *SocioAbs* indexes the sociological literature since 1952.
- It has SOME full-text resident within the database itself (i.e. a direct link to the full-text), and links out to other full-text options through the *FindIt* tool
Connecting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database Name</th>
<th>Start Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small Business Collection</td>
<td>1990 - present</td>
<td>With over 280 periodicals this database is geared both towards students in business classes and entrepreneurs in the business world. NOTE: Alternative access is available at Gale Databases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Explorer</td>
<td>1940-</td>
<td>United States demographic data, maps, and reports taken from the Federal Census, from 1940 to 2000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences Citation Index</td>
<td>1975-</td>
<td>Citations from thousands of scholarly journals in the social sciences. Tracks cited references to determine what journal articles cite or reference other journal articles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences Full Text</td>
<td>1933-</td>
<td>English-language journals in the major social sciences. For topics such as criminology, family, public administration, and social work. Abstracts to journal articles and citations to book reviews. NOTE: Alternative access is available at WilsonWeb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SociINDEX</td>
<td>1950-</td>
<td>Abstracts to English-language journal and magazine articles, conference papers, book chapters and book reviews. For topics such as demography, family, gender, and social work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociological Abstracts</td>
<td>1952-</td>
<td>International literature in all topics of sociology including criminology, demography, family, and social welfare. Abstracts to journal articles, book chapters, dissertations, and conference papers, and citations to book reviews.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something About the Author</td>
<td>1971-</td>
<td>The basic children's literature resource of biographical information, bibliographies of works, &amp; critiques of authors and illustrators. Includes &amp; continues the 109 hardcopy volumes. Also incorporates the 26 volumes of the Autobiography Series.</td>
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</table>
FOUR: Keyword Search

• Construct a search using keywords derived from your topic or research question.

• A topic might begin as a broad question that would need to be narrowed further, as you learn more. For instance:
  
  - What effect does divorce have on the education of children?

• From this question you need to pick out the keywords to use in your search. Remember that the more keywords used in a search the more difficult the search will be. In other words the results of the search will be more specific, and therefore less in number.

• Just searching for 'divorce' will yield thousands of results. Searching for 'divorce and education' will yield less. Searching for 'divorce and education and children' yields even less.

• Fill in each box with a different term. Then complete some LIMITS to focus the search.

• LIMITS for this kind of assignment would include: Peer Reviewed, Date Range (of publication), Source Type (Scholarly Journals), Document Type (Journal Articles), and Language (English).

• For more advanced searching you may want to use other Boolean operators, besides 'AND' to search. AND is used to combine words or phrases. OR is used for synonyms or related terms. NOT is used to exclude a word or phrase.
Keyword Search
Keyword Search: Search Results

- Brief records are displayed which show the citation (article author and article title, journal title, etc.) and part of the abstract (summary).

- The results are listed in order by 'relevance'. The list can be sorted by 'date' or other characteristics.

- Browse the results to find a citation that looks like a good match for your topic.

- Click the Article Title to view the Full Record to read the entire Abstract.

- Some records may have a built-in link to the PDF (Portable Document Format) of the article.
Look through the Search results to identify articles that are close to what you are seeking.

If you identify an article that looks good, click on the Article Title to view the Record (it's like an index card of information about the article)

Read the Abstract, and view the Descriptors (Subjects), to learn better the language for your topic.
• Look through the Search results to identify articles that are close to what you are seeking.

• If you identify an article that looks good, click on the Article Title to view the Record (it's like an index card of information about the article)
**Title**
Consequences of Divorce for Childhood Education: Australia, Canada, and the USA, 1940-1990

**Author**
Evans, M. D. R., Kelley, Jonathan, Warner, Richard A.

**Affiliation**
Departments of Sociology and Resource Economics, University of Nevada-Reno, Reno, NV 89557, USA

**Source**
Comparative Sociology, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 103-146, 2009

**ISSN**
1569-1322

**Abstract**
Parental divorce imposes a small but significant educational disadvantage on American children. Does this generalize across nations and over time? We analyze representative national samples from Australia (n=29,443) and Canada (n=29,265), together with US General Social Survey data (n=32,380). Using OLS and logistic regression with robust standard errors, we estimate models controlling for many potentially confounding variables. Divorce costs seven-tenths of a year of education, mainly by reducing secondary school completion. Importantly, it has become more damaging in recent cohorts. Because this holds in all three nations, the explanation probably lies in common circumstances of, and parallel changes in, modern industrial societies. Adapted from the source document.

**Email Address**
mevans@unr.edu
This article was not available in full-text within SocioAbs.

However, FindIt has located it in SocINDEX (another social science database).

Click on 'Full-Text Online' to retrieve the full-text of the article.
Sometimes the 'Full-Text Online' link retrieves the article instantly (with one click).

Other times you will need to click on a second link, or a third link, to get to the article.

Read the screen carefully, looking for 'full-text' or 'PDF', then click on them as appropriate.
• The PDF of the article appears.
• This scanned image looks exactly like the article as it appears in the paper format of the journal.
• Use the function icons in the PDF viewer (e.g. Adobe Reader) to output the text (save, print, email).
• Closing the PDF window should lead you back to the window that displays the Record for this article.
• Click on 'Return to Results' to continue looking through the Results for other good articles.
You can sort the Results List by 'Relevance', or continue to view them in date order (Most Recent First). To modify your original search, click on 'Edit Search'.

For this edited search, make use of the Descriptors (Subjects) you learned to make your search more specific. This will lead to more exact (better) results.
- Search by 'Divorce' and 'Children' as Descriptors.
- Also, Limit the search by Date (2000- ), Source Type (Scholarly Journal), Document Type (Journal Article), and Language (English).
With more limited search parameters a more limited (and exact) result is retrieved.

Browse the results, most of which should be on the topic.

As you browse the records, continue to learn about the subjects associated with this topic.
Once you learn about other subjects affiliated with your topic, you can use them to broaden your search results, while still staying focused on the topic.

Strategic use of the Boolean operator 'OR' allows you to search for synonyms or related terms.

This will expose you to various aspects of the topic.
The Controlled Vocabulary, the list of subjects that govern the topic classification, can be searched or browsed by using the Thesaurus.

Type the word you suspect is a subject term (e.g. Divorce) to verify that it is a subject in SocioAbs.
• If the word (e.g. Divorce) appears in the results list, click on it to verify it is indeed a subject term.

• You will also see term like it that you can also use for researching this topic.
'Broader Terms' tells you what larger sociological area your term is a part of (e.g. Divorce is a type of 'Marital Disruption').

'Related Terms' allow you to further explore this social issue (e.g. families, marriage, parenting, etc.).
• The Related Terms are all relevant aspects of the entire phenomenon of 'Divorce.'

• Social science research is very detailed, and these Related Terms help you discover the level of specificity with which social scientists have conducted research on this topic.
Returning back to the 'Search Results', you are able to output the results of your search (print, save, email).

Mark the records you want to output by clicking in the box next to each record.

FYI, other databases (e.g. those from EBSCO) may call this marking function 'add to folder'.
Decide what level of information you want to record from each record.

Full format, or full citation, provides every detail in the record, including all the unimportant codes and identification numbers that you do not need.

Instead, use Custom Format to record just the parts you need for the annotated bibliography.
• Be sure to select the Bibliographic Style that will provide you with the citation information (author, title, journal, etc.) AND the 'annotations' (i.e. abstracts).

• Usually the only style which does this is APA Annotated with Abstracts. Select the most recent APA available.
In the Custom Format select the most important fields, the ones you need for the annotated bibliography. This is usually all the publication information (author, title, journal, volume, issue, date, pages), the abstract, and the database name.
An intermediate page may appear, asking you to select the target page (output screen containing the annotated bibliography) by clicking appropriately.

The intent of this study was to examine the perceived value of a 4-hour divorce education program for adults offered in a Midwestern state. Parents Forever: Education for Families in Divorce Transition is a divorce education program directed toward educating adults about separation, divorce, and the effects on children. Participants included 342 adults who attended the class and responded to retrospective questionnaires assessing their perceived satisfaction, knowledge, and demographic status. Also, 32 legal and community professionals participated in the program and responded to questions designed to assess perceptions of program value. Both respondent groups reported high satisfaction levels and significant knowledge gains through the class experience. Implications of the findings for program support and brief divorce interventions are discussed. Adapted from the source document.


This study examines the short-term effects of change and stability in family type on the educational adjustment of children aged 10-15 years. Data for study are drawn from five waves of the Canadian National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth. Our focus is on comparing cohabiting (biological and step) families and marital families. No differences are observed for changes in school engagement based on cohabitation. Perceived achievement shows greater declines for children in stable cohabiting relationships compared to...

- A new window should appear with the Annotated Bibliography results (citations with abstracts) listed in alphabetical order by the authors' last names.
- You can output the bibliography (print, save, email) for future use.