

Literature Reviews

A literature review is a summary of what has been published on a research topic, along with analysis of the publications. For a great description of what a literature review is and how to do one, check out <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/litrev.html>

Using The Library Catalog

Books are an important component for literature reviews—here’s how to track down what we own.

Go to the Mansfield Library home page (www.lib.umt.edu). Click on the “Catalog” link on the top left side of the page. This is how you search for books, videos, sound recordings, government documents and theses owned by this library.

Select the “Advanced Search” tab. This gives you more flexibility in your search, since you can combine concepts. Type in one or a few words describing your topic/concept into the first box, for example, television AND violence.

Start off broad, then narrow down your search. Books tend to be broader discussions of research than articles. Begin by looking for general keywords rather than just typing in your topic or thesis. Remember to truncate with the question mark to catch all permutations of a word (evaluat? for evaluation, evaluate, evaluating)

Keep an eye out for keywords that describe your topic in words other than the ones you’re using. If you don’t have many results on your first search, go broader and think of other terms you can use.

Using Electronic Databases to Find Articles

Go to the Mansfield Library home page (www.lib.umt.edu). Click on the Find Articles Link, and then on the Sociology & Criminology topic in the subject grid.

Academic Search Premier is one of the largest scholarly, multi-disciplinary full text databases. It contains full text for nearly 4000 scholarly publications, including more than 3100 peer-reviewed publications.

Social Sciences Full Text is a large database covering the fields of anthropology, economics, geography, law and criminology, political science, social work, sociology, and international relations. When you select this database, be sure to also select “Social

Science” from the Subject Area listing at the lower right of the database search screen. Contrary to its name, not everything in this database is full text. Follow the directions below or use the “Link to Article” button to see how to get articles not in full text.

Sociological Abstracts indexes the international literature of sociology and related disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences. This database primarily displays citations to articles with some access to full-text. The section below describes how to retrieve journal articles from a citation.

Locating Electronic and Print Journals in the Mansfield Library

If you have a citation to an article and need the full text, use the UM-M Journals list to find out how to get the article. Go to the Mansfield Library home page (www.lib.umt.edu) and click on the Journals list. Enter the title into the search box near the top of the page.

For example, to locate the following article:

Fox, C. (2004). The Changing Color of Welfare? How Whites' Attitudes toward Latinos Influence Support for Welfare. *American Journal of Sociology*, 110:3, p580-596.

Type American Journal of Sociology into the search box on the Journals page, and click the Search button. Your results will look like this:

American journal of sociology (0002-9602) [Title details from ulrichsweb.com™](#)
in [The University of Montana's Print Holdings](#)
from 01/01/1990 to 1 year ago in [Academic Search Premier](#)
from 01/01/1990 to 1 year ago in [Business Source Premier](#)
from 07/01/1895 to 05/01/2000 in [JSTOR Arts and Sciences I Collection](#)
from 07/01/1993 to present in [Expanded Academic ASAP](#)

Click on the link to the database to pull up the electronic full-text version of the article, or click on the link to the “UM Print Holdings” to find out where the print version is in the library.

Getting Materials We Don't Own

To get items found in databases like Sociological Abstracts or Social Science Full Text, use the “Get Materials We Don't Own (ILL)” link on the Mansfield Library website.

Ask A Librarian

Remember that the library is here to help—please call, email, IM, or stop by with your questions! Our phone number is 243-6866 and you can contact us electronically through our website: <http://www.lib.umt.edu/contact.htm>