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](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](http://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.

Start off broad, then narrow down your search. Books tend to be broader discussions of research than articles. Begin by looking for “youth OR child? AND crime” rather than just typing in your topic or thesis. Remember to truncate with the question mark to catch all permutations of a word (child, children)

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.

Get materials via Interlibrary Loan

You may discover that perfect article, book or other item that for whatever reason we don’t own here at the Mansfield Library. However, that doesn’t mean we can’t get it for you. Go to the “Get Materials We Don’t Own (ILL)” link on the main page or within many databases to request the item for free from another library. It will be mailed, faxed or emailed to us and we’ll send it on to you. Response rates vary, but figure on at least two days for articles and at least a week for books and other items.
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.

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 on the back describes how to retrieve journal articles from a citation.

PsychINFO is a comprehensive index to psychology and psychiatry literature. It’s a useful resource for investigating human behavior and criminology from the psychological/psychiatric standpoint.

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:


Type Social Forces 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 03/01/1974 to present in Academic Search Premier
from 03/01/1974 to present in Business Source Premier
from 03/01/1993 to present in Expanded Academic ASAP
from 03/01/1997 to present in Wilson OmniFile: Full Text Mega Edition
from 03/01/2001 to present in Project Muse - Full Database Package
from 09/01/1925 to 12/01/2001 in JSTOR Arts and Sciences II Collection

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.