

## **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 Electronic Databases to Find Articles**

Go to the Mansfield Library home page ([www.lib.umt.edu](http://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. It has a good deal of breadth across disciplines but not much depth into sociology.

**Social Sciences Full Text** is more focused on the social sciences than Academic Search Premier and provides access to the full text of thousands of publications, but still doesn't go to the depth that some topics require.

**Sociological Abstracts** indexes the international literature of sociology and related disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences. This database explores deeply into the sociological literature, but may miss articles on your topic if they are outside the discipline. 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](http://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:

Scott, Wilbur J. 1986. "Attachment to Indian Culture and the "Difficult Situation": A Study of American Indian College Students." *Youth & Society*, 83:1, p381-395.

Type *Youth and Society* into the search box on the Journals page, and click the Search button. Your results will look like this:

**Youth & Society** (0044-118X) [Title details from ulrichsweb.com™](#)  
in [The University of Montana's Print Holdings](#)  
from 1982 to present in [Sage Sociology](#)  
from 03/01/1997 to 12/01/1998 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.

### **Web of Knowledge and the Citation Trail**

The library also gives you access to a powerful resource called Web of Knowledge, available on the Find Articles page under Sociology and Criminology (like the databases above). This resource allows you to see who has cited a particular article, leading to other articles that may not turn up in a regular database search. It also allows you to assess how influential an article may be, under the assumption that articles cited frequently may be more influential than others in the field.

In Web of Knowledge, click on “**Cited Ref Search.**” On the search screen put in one of the authors’ names (last name and first initial followed by an asterisk (\*) for the first listed author works best), the abbreviated journal title (which can be found with the link above the search box), and the year the article was published. You don’t need all of this information—in fact, this resource can be a handy way to find other articles published by an author over a span of several years.

Find the proper article from the results list and click on “**View Record.**” The next screen will show you the times the article was cited by others (the **Times Cited** link), and give you access to works cited by the article as well (the **Cited References** link). This is called “following the citation trail.”

### **Citing Your References**

The library provides a brief online guide to ASA style formatting and citation here:  
[http://www.lib.umt.edu/research/guide/soc\\_literature\\_cited\\_asa.htm](http://www.lib.umt.edu/research/guide/soc_literature_cited_asa.htm)

We also have the full ASA guide available at the Information Center desk and will gladly assist you with citing and formatting.

For those who wish to try it, the library has a new subscription to **RefWorks**, an online citation management system. You can import or enter information from your cited references to create a database that can be used to track your research and automatically create a bibliography in a number of styles. This resource can be found on the **Find Articles** page by clicking on the “**R**” in the alphabet listing across the top of the page.