About Sociology Databases

This guide is intended for students studying Sociology. It outlines the information sources available to help you research for assignments, essays and dissertations.

What is a database?
If you want to find journal articles on a topic, and you don’t already have the journal reference, you will need to use a subject database. Some subject databases provide the full text of journal articles, which you can download, while others provide bibliographic information only, but this information is enough to help you find the full article in The Library’s printed journal collection, or order it using The Library’s Document Delivery service.

How do I access the databases?
To access SOLAR go directly to: [http://students.salford.ac.uk/](http://students.salford.ac.uk/) and choose the SOLAR Library Search link under the Web Resources tab.

- Select the Sign in tab in the top right and you will be prompted to enter your network username and password.
- Click on the Find Databases heading (top right of screen).

If you know the name of the database you can search using the A-Z lists.

Click the title link to go directly to the database.

- A list of Subject Databases relevant to Sociology will be displayed.
- Select the database name to login. You may be prompted for your network username and password.
- There are help pages on most databases that you can access for more information. You can also ask at the Enquiry Desk in the library for help.
Which one do I choose? Key Subject Databases for Sociology

These are some of the databases which have been chosen by your academics and specialise in your subject area. They are not available freely via the web and contain access to quality, peer-reviewed material.

**JSTOR**
An archive of some of the major journals in a variety of disciplines. Allows you to access full text journal articles, all peer reviewed so ensuring that the articles you find have been reviewed by other academics before publication.

**Academic Search Premier**
Designed specifically for academic institutions, *Academic Search Premier* Academic Search Premier is a multi-disciplinary full text database containing full text for more than 4,600 journals, including nearly 3,900 peer-reviewed titles. In addition to the full text, this database offers indexing and abstracts for 8,470 journals.

**Sociological Abstracts**
Bibliographic information and some full-text coverage for articles in sociology and its related disciplines in over 1,800 different journals, plus books, dissertations and conference papers, from 1950 to the present.

**Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts (ASSIA)**
Indexing and abstracting database covering health, social services, psychology, sociology, economics, politics, race relations and education. ASSIA currently contains over 375,000 records from over 500 journals published in 16 different countries, including the UK and US.

Please note that not everything you find will be available in electronic format. For these items you will need to check SOLAR to see if we have a print copy available. You can also click on the FIND IT tab to do this and to see if it is available elsewhere. See SOLAR User Guide, [www.salford.ac.uk/library/userguides/57224](http://www.salford.ac.uk/library/userguides/57224), for more information.

**Off campus access**
You can gain access to many databases off campus (outside the University) by using your network username and password. Visit a Library Enquiry Desk or email [library@salford.ac.uk](mailto:library@salford.ac.uk) if you have problems.

To access some resources you may need to set your web browser to authenticate you as a Salford user: see the Library Guide Web Authentication – access to restricted web pages from off campus for details: [www.salford.ac.uk/library/userguides/62729](http://www.salford.ac.uk/library/userguides/62729).

**Further help and assistance**
Each library site has a dedicated Library Support Team available during the key opening times. They will be happy to help you find any material you require and answer any general questions you may have about using library material.

You can also contact your Academic Support Librarian, Gemma Smith for help. Gemma is based in Allerton library and you can email her at [g.a.smith@salford.ac.uk](mailto:g.a.smith@salford.ac.uk). Please get in touch if you would like any further help, advice or arrange a 1-2-1 appointment.