Finding Articles: Hints for Sociology 1113
Dr. Helen P. Clements, Edmon Low Library
helen.clements@okstate.edu

How to Tell a Scholarly Journal from a Magazine?

For Starters
- Look for information about the authors. The article will normally include a statement about their affiliation (where they work—a university or research institute, etc. often on the first page or the end of the article).

Magazines
- Intended for the general/educated reader.
- Often written by journalists rather than researchers.
- Lots of ads, graphics and photos.
- Author’s affiliation may appear somewhere in the article, or in the general information for that issue of the magazine.
- Puzzled? Compare Time or People with a scholarly journal(!)

Scholarly Journals
- Longer than most magazine articles.
- If a scholarly journal article is only 2-3 pages long, it may be an editorial or a book review.
- References List (bibliography) at the end of the article.
- Written by researchers (College professors, writing about their research topics) Check their affiliation.
- Article sections often include: Introduction, review of the literature, methodology, discussion, and conclusions
- Peer Reviewed (have been quality checked by a panel of other researchers. A peer reviewed journal is rated more highly than a non-peer reviewed.)

How to Search for Articles?

Choose the Database
- Select your database from the Databases link on the library homepage.
- Use Sociological Abstracts. This database will give you links to full text elsewhere. (SocAbstracts is a ProQuest database, the leading database for sociology.)
- Or use Academic Search Premier (EBSCO), which includes full text for many sociology journals.
- Databases contain a record for each article they include. This includes the information to include in the citation, and usually an abstract and keywords or subjects.
Set Up Your Search Strategy

- Use the Advanced Search option.
  Enter your **keywords** and select the **field** (section of each record) where you want the database to search.
  - Keywords usually appear in The Abstract (summary of the article). The article title, and the subjects or descriptors.
- Start with one or two keywords. Use more to narrow down your search.
- Tricks:
  - Use quotes to indicate a “phrase search”
  - Use an asterisk (*) to retrieve different endings of a word -- teen* tells the database to search for teen, teenage, teenagers, or teens
- Select the “Peer reviewed” or “full text” options AFTER you get some results
- If you don’t get enough hits, try taking off the “full text” limit
- Check the THESAURUS to see exactly how a word is used, and look at the SUBJECTS (aka keywords, tags or descriptors) assigned to a given article to find related articles.

Citing Your Article:

- Take down all the information you need to make a full citation: author’s name, date of publication, title of the article, title of the journal, volume and page numbers, the date you retrieved the article, and the DOI or database you used. (There is a different format for journals in print.)

American Sociological Association (ASA) Style (selected resources)

- If you use the Citation feature in any database, check to be sure that the format is correct! BE SURE to use the ASA style, if your professor tells you to.
  - Quick guide to basic ASA citation, courtesy the Trinity University Library
    http://lib.trinity.edu/research/citing/ASA_Style_Citations_4.pdf
  - OWL at Purdue, ASA References Page, Formatting:
    https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/03/

(See next page)
Figure 1. Search setup in *Sociological Abstracts* (similar to that for *Academic Search Premier*)

I chose “Anywhere” for the *gender* keyword, the “Abstract” field for *pay* or *wage* (wages), and “Location” to find articles on the United States. I also checked the “Peer Reviewed” choice, and limited the years of the articles by using the date slider.

Other possible keywords:

Gender differences; Wage differential; Comparative studies; Racial differences; Stagnation; Discrimination; Sex Differences; Segregation; Labor Force; Income; Occupational Segregation; Race; Racial Differences; Working Women; Racism; Income Inequality; Females.

(See next page)
Figure 2. List of Results (Note that I used the date slider, and also sorted my results so that the newest article appears first in the list.)
Figure 3. Record for an Article in a Peer Reviewed Journal

Note the author’s name, title of the article, title of the journal, volume, date, and first page of the article. Note the link to full text, where you'll find the article (it’s in a journal published by Sage Publications).

(See next page)

Hadas Mandel\textsuperscript{a} and Moshe Semyonov\textsuperscript{b}

\textbf{Figure 4. First Page of the Scanned (.pdf) Article}

This page also gives you the article DOI, or the link to the Sage journals website, plus a note about the author affiliations. The American Sociological Review is published by the ASA and is highly credible.