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SOCIOLOGY

A Subject Guide to Library Resources

This guide was created to assist in locating available information with an emphasis on the discipline of sociology and its branches at the Long Beach City College Library and through the Internet.

Sociology is the scientific study of society, social groups, social change, and the influences of human behavior in a social context. Sociology tends to focus on industrialized societies, human behavior in groups, how groups form, how they are organized, how they interact and how they change.

The discipline was founded by writings of **John Locke** and others as far back as the seventeenth century and continuing with the writings of **Karl Marx**, **Emile Durkheim**, **Max Weber**, **George Herbert Mead** and others. For more information on founding sociologists see [The Dead Sociologist's Index](#).



A good place to start a paper is to read a little general literature about the topic (encyclopedia, internet article) and look up basic terms that are unfamiliar to you. Dictionaries or encyclopedias can be found in the reference area of the library which specifically deal with the areas of sociology and sociological research.

The next step would be to look for books which cover or touch upon your specific topic. Search through the chapter headings and indexes of books that seem relevant to zero in on information relating to your specific topic.

Finally, look for journal articles focused on your specific area of inquiry for more in-depth and recent coverage.

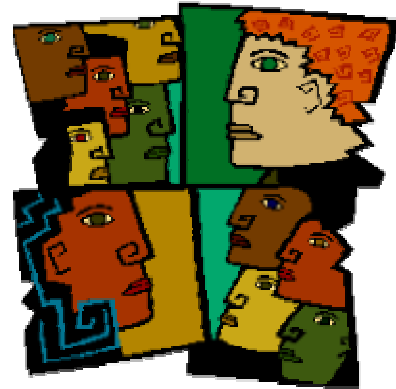
When unable to find answers to your questions in these resources, the internet, bibliographies, and reference books will often give you new leads to the answers. Finally, don't forget the wealth of information contained in videos. Sociological research is particularly aided by information documented in videos.

[FIND REFERENCE TOOLS](#)

Reference tools are generally found in a reference area where many people can refer to general information. Items found in Reference Areas cannot be checked out of the library.

Occasionally older copies of Reference items, or similar items can be found in the circulating collection.

To find articles and books on sociology and related fields, the main printed index to use for extensive research on a given topic is:



Social sciences index.

Location: **LAC Index Table (Reference Room)** Call Number: **AI3 .S62** (Previous volumes known as Social Sciences & Humanities Index **AI3 .R49**)

Dictionaries for Sociology can be found in the Reference Collections:

Dictionary of sociology / Tony Lawson & Joan Garrod. 2001.
Location: **LAC Reference Room Collection** Call Number: **HM425 .L39 2001**

A modern dictionary of sociology [by] George A. Theodorson and Achilles G. Theodorson. 1969
Location: **LAC Reference Room Collection** Call Number: **HM17 .T5**
Location: **PCC Reference Room Collection** Call Number: **HM17 .T5**

Dictionary of sociology / Henry Fairchild. 1970
Location: **PCC Reference Room Collection** Call Number: **HM17 .F3 1970**

A dictionary of sociology / edited by Duncan Mitchell. 1968.
Location: **PCC Reference Room Collection** Call Number: **HM17 .M56 1968b**

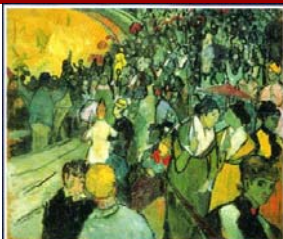
Encyclopedias for Sociology are also available:

Education and sociology: an encyclopedia / editors, David L. Levinson, et al. 1976
Location: **LAC Reference Room Collection** Call Number: **LC189.95 .E38 2002**

The International encyclopedia of sociology / edited by Michael Mann. 1984
Location: **LAC Reference Room Collection** Call Number: **HM17 .I53 1984**

Encyclopedia of sociology / Edgar F. Borgatta. 2000
Location: **LAC Reference Room Collection** Call Number: **HM425 .E5 2000**
Location: **PCC Reference Room Collection** Call Number: **HM425 .E5 2000**

FIND BOOKS IN THE CATALOG



Books can be located by using a subject or keyword search in ***Voyager***, the Library's online catalog. Use the term sociology; or the terms social or society along with another relevant keyword from your topic. Also use your keywords to search the table of contents and index of general texts on sociology. More subject terms or keywords you might use to search the online catalog or the Internet for your sociology research topic include the following:

Collective behavior
Community
Deviant behavior
Educational Sociology
Family
Individualism
Interpersonal relations
Marriage
Organizational Sociology
Personality and culture
Popular culture
Race relations
Religion and culture
Religion and sociology
Social anthropology

Social case work
Social change
Social classes
Social conflict
Social contract
Social equality
Social ethics Social evolution
Social groups
Social history
Social interaction
Social isolation
Social movements
Social perception
Social prediction
Social problems

Social psychology
Social Sciences--statistical methods
Social status
Social stratification
Social structure
Social systems
Socialization
Society, Primitive
Sociology
Statistics
Subculture
Technology and civilization
Urbanization

You can also browse the shelves for books to check out by the Library of Congress Classification letters assigned to books in these subject areas:

Find these call numbers on Stack Level 3, 1st floor of LAC:

HM1-HM299 -- Sociology (General and Theoretical)
HN1-HN981-- Social history, social problems, social reform
HV6001-HV7221 -- Criminology
HQ1-HQ2039 -- The family, marriage, women

Find these call numbers on Stack Level 2, Basement of LAC:

HA -- Statistics

FIND VIDEOS

Some videos may be found in the Library's collection on [Voyager](#). First select a **Quick Limit** of Videorecordings, then do a keyword search on the the name of the topic, society or social group, or the term *sociology*.

You may also view videos inhouse from the Instructional Media Collection. Search [Medianet](#) for the term *sociology*.



FIND ARTICLES

Periodical titles currently held in the LAC Library with sociological articles include:

American Behavioral Scientist
American Demographics
American Journal of Economics and Sociology
American Journal of Sociology
American Sociological Review
Annual Review of Sociology
Archives of Sexual Behavior
Armed Forces & Society
Dissent
Economic Development and Cultural Change
Ethics
Families in Society
Generations
The Hastings Center Report



Health and Social Work
Human Organization
Human Relations
Human Rights Journal of Conflict Resolution
Journal of Social Psychology
Journal of Youth & Adolescence
Occupational Outlook Quarterly
Policy Practice of Public Human Services
Population Bulletin
Population Today
Profit
Public Health Reports
Research on Aging
Science and Society
Signs: Journal of Women in Culture & Society
Social Education
Social Forces
Social Policy
Social Problems
Social Psychology Quarterly
Social Research
Social Service Review
Social Work
Youth and Society

The Library has a subscription to several **online databases** containing sociological articles or information. These databases are particularly helpful in finding information on a specific topic or social group as many journals can be searched simultaneously by the subject words you select. Full-text of these articles are then available for printing or sending to your email account. Some of these databases include:

Country Watch
CQ Researcher
Encyclopaedia Britannica
Ethnic Newswatch
Facts on File On-Line
Matter of Fact

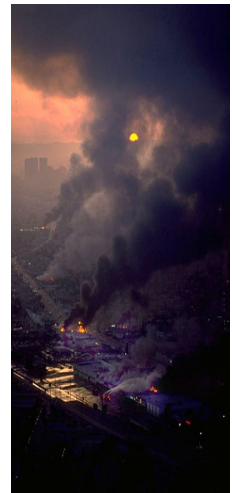
Newsbank
Opposing Viewpoints
Proquest
SIRS Government Reporter
SIRS Researcher

Only current faculty, students or staff may use these databases. Ask for passwords at the Reference Desk at either Library. The Librarians can instruct you on using these article databases. There is a **free workshop** offered for learning the ins and outs of online database searching.

FIND INTERNET RESOURCES

Many good resources can be found on the Internet for current research, basic information, and indexes to more resources. You will also come across many sites that will not carry the authority and accuracy you might be looking for. So review the origin of the information carefully. A few trustworthy indexes to sociology sites include:

<http://bitbucket.icaap.org/> = Online Dictionary of the Social Sciences
<http://www.abacon.com/sociology/soclinks/> = Allyn & Bacon Sociology Links
<http://vax.wcsu.edu/socialsci/socres.htm> = WCSU Sociology Internet Resources
<http://socserv2.mcmaster.ca/w3virtsoclib/> = WWW Virtual Library -- Sociology
http://www.clearinghouse.net/cgi-bin/chadmin/viewcat/Social_Sciences_Social_Issues/sociology?kywd+ = The Argus Clearinghouse: Sociology
<http://www.sosig.ac.uk/sociology/> = Social Science Information Gateway
<http://lii.org/search/file/society> = Librarian's Index to the Internet: Society & Social Issues
<http://lii.org/search?m=p&query=sociology&searchtype=keywords> = Librarian's Index to the Internet: Sociology



Los Angeles Riots

ONLINE WRITING HELP



Finally, while you are writing your paper, there is an online subject guide on **Writing Tips** with links to online help for organizing and formulating your paper, finding online dictionaries and citation tools. There is also a Writing Center at both campuses to help you with the fundamentals of your paper, for information call the Writing Center at **LAC** (562) 938-4520 and at **PCC**: (562) 938-3991.