Okanagan College Library – Kelowna

SOCW 200A (Introduction to Social Work Practice)  
Fall 2019  
Instructor: Olivia Sullivan

OC Library WebPage  www.okanagan.bc.ca/library

Refer to: Social Work Research LibGuide or Sociology LibGuide

Search OCtopus for Books, Media, Articles, and More!

Access Tip! For off-campus access to OCtopus (EBSCO Discovery Search engine), at prompt enter MyOkanagan username (current OC student id number) and password.

Type in your terms  examples:  homeless* housing services canada  
refugee* famil* resettlement  missing murdered indigenous women  
“intimate partner violence”  domestic family violence research  #metoo  
“elder abuse” canada  opioid* overdose* british columbia

Tip! add phrase “social work” to your search combination

At top of left menu, Refine Results

1. Click Print books only, to limit to books on campus libraries shelves  
   Click down Resource Types  e-books [click show more]  
   before opening e-book PDF, click Most relevant pages or Table of Contents

2. For Journal Articles  
   Tick Peer Reviewed & Scholarly  
   OR Click down Resource Types  Academic Journals  
   Magazines (practitioner journals)

3. Use data-slider to get most current results e.g. 2014-2019

4. Use Geography (click show more) tick Canadian, North American locations

5. Limit to results in a group of article sources, on bottom of left menu column  
   under Databases (click Show More to see full list of databases with results)  
   for a specific database e.g. SocINDEX, Social Sciences Fulltext
Need better results?

From a good result, look for the Subjects. Substitute or add these terms and/or phrase into the top search box e.g. “older people” “native women” “temporary shelters” social services “harm reduction”.
Add a geographic indicator eg. Canada “British Columbia”

On right menu column, Also Try Searching, click a specific Canadian database from ProQuest
Canadian Business & Current Affairs (CBCA) (academic articles)
Canadian Major Dailies (newspaper articles)
results displayed in a new window
Tip! Click Modify Search to re-apply limits for publication date, peer-reviewed

Results Tip!
Use Add to Folder to gather selected results then print/email/download results set
Tick the citation format box for APA you get a references list along with full-text of articles that can be the foundation for your paper’s References page.
For accuracy check against OC Library’s APA style guide examples

Library Webpage tab: Articles & Databases
select SUBJECT Human/Social Services

Access Tip! For off-campus access to databases, at prompt enter MyOkanagan username (current OC student id number) and password.

Best bets!
Canadian Business and Current Affairs (CBCA) Can
Current social issues, policy, and Canadian academic information - scholarly journal articles, trade publications, reports, CBC & CTV transcripts, newswires, newspapers and magazines
Tip! Use Advanced Search
Canadian Major Dailies Canadian
National, local and regional news coverage – newspapers

Library Webpage tab: Citation Guides
- Keep details of your sources, cite them (in-text) in your essay & list them on a References page at the end of your paper or presentation.
- Library WebPage > OC Library’s APA style guide resources, also with Sample APA paper Writing a Scholarly Paper
- APA Style Guide from Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL)

Library Webpage: Research Help
- Ask librarians at the Library Research Help desk
- Research Help links to librarians by email & AskAway live chat on Library WebPage
- Michelle Ward, Kelowna Campus Librarian email: mward@okanagan.bc.ca
### Evaluating Information Sources

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Scholarly Academic Publications</th>
<th>Popular Publications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written by an expert in the field of study (an academic or trained specialist) Name &amp; credentials of author are provided</td>
<td>Written by those without expertise in the field (a member of the public or journalist) OR no author is provided</td>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Date of publication is provided</th>
<th>Popular publications, especially WWW publications, often do not give a date of publication</th>
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<th>Popular Publications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inform other experts about research, experiments, case studies, methods and theories</td>
<td>To sell advertised products To promote a viewpoint To entertain To inform the general public</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colleges/Universities, professional associations, scholarly publishers + research institutes</td>
<td>Commercial for-profit publishers or members of the public</td>
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<th>Popular Publications</th>
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<td>Peer review by other experts in the field</td>
<td>Review by a generalist (a magazine editor) OR no review</td>
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<th>Popular Publications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sources used in the author’s research are cited in a reference list or footnotes</td>
<td>Sources are rarely cited OR citations are inaccurate</td>
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<th>Popular Publications</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lengthy articles</td>
<td>Short articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accurate spelling + grammar, logical + well written</td>
<td>Many advertisements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Few advertisements</td>
<td>Glossy colour photographs or illustrations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Black &amp; white and illustrations &amp; graphs are used only to support the text</td>
<td>Spelling + grammar errors may occur and writing quality varies</td>
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**EXAMPLES**

| Canadian Journal of Sociology | Macleans |
| Families in Society | Girl’s Life |

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### SOCW200 Library Workshop Activity: Identifying Academic Sources

**Form groups. Each group will be provided a package with five information sources** on topics: 1) domestic violence, 2) elder abuse, 3) homelessness, 4) MMIWG, 5) opioid crisis, 6) refugees

- book – for edited book, a chapter/essay will be tagged

- for journals & magazines, an article will be tagged with yellow marker, or a single article pdf printed

1) **browse to identify source type from choices below** (then consider is it academic/scholarly?, for practitioner/professional audience? popular – news/opinion?)

2) **evaluate** using the preceding table criteria, **Make notes** on author credentials, publisher, date, **purpose of source**

**Report** these back to class when asked for feedback
**SOURCE PACK : TOPIC**

**Book**

**Tips!** Consider the title page & reverse, book cover, Introduction / Preface/ Foreword, Table of contents

Author credentials

Publisher (university, academic …)  
Publication year

Content focus  
eg. research  populist  textbook  case study  memoirs/stories

**Circle: Academic/Other**

**Edited book of essays**

**Tips!** Consider the title page & reverse, book cover, Introduction / Preface/Foreword, Table of contents, contributors pages

Editor & contributor credentials

Publisher (university, academic …)  
Publication year

Content focus  
eg. research  case studies  memoirs/stories

**Circle: Academic/Other**

**News Magazine (Maclean’s)**

**Tips!** Consider article title, first & last paragraphs, date, any boxed features, photos/illustrations

Author credentials  
Publication date

Content focus

References? research/studies mentioned?

**Circle: Academic/Other**
Journal, Practitioner (CrossCurrents: Journal of Addiction & Mental Health)

Tip: Consider the article title, any abstract, other details of first page, date, introduction, conclusion / first & last paragraphs, any boxed features, photos/illustrations, references?

Author credentials

Content focus

References? research/studies mentioned? extra resources?

Circle: Academic/Other

Journal, Academic | Scholarly (peer-reviewed)

Tip: Consider the article title, abstract, other details of first page, date, introduction - first & last paragraphs, conclusion, diagrams/tables, references?

Author credentials

Content focus: research | study review of research, studies

References?

Circle: Academic/Other
Terms to search for your SOCW topic & Sources

- Before you begin your research, consider [brainstorm] terms you want to search (enter as keywords in library & web search engines):

  * **Variants** of same word eg. *teen, teens, teenage, teenagers*  
    * teen*
  
  * Every-day popular usage vs formal academic terminology  
    eg. *teens - adolescents, youth; bosses – employers, managers, supervisors*
  
  * **Acronyms** - spell out in words & use those words eg. MMIWG, LGBTQ
  
  * **Synonyms** eg. *women – females*  
    * indigenous – natives, aboriginal*
  
  * **Narrower terms or specific aspects** eg. *housing – homeless shelters, temporary shelters, community housing*
  
  * **Related terms** eg. *sexual harassment – abuse, assault, violence*

- **the types of information sources** you are required to, or wish to find (will determine which Library databases and web sources you locate & how to search them):

  - **primary sources** (original accounts, memoirs)
  
  - **secondary sources**
    books - edited books collections of essays by different authors/researchers  
    articles – newspapers, media reports  
    articles – journals (practitioner, professional)  
    **articles – academic, scholarly peer-reviewed** - research, case studies,  
    surveys  
    statistics  
    reports - government, non-governmental, commercial, educational, legal

  - **geographic** perspectives – Canadian, North American, international

  - **date ranges:** current, most recent x years, **historical perspectives**
SOCW200 Library Workshop Activity:
Search Terms for OCtopus & Library Catalogue

Topic: ________________________________________________________

Brainstorm with a partner, on search words for each others topic.
Write down as many as 4

Write down similar words you might search

Narrower terms or specific aspects of your topic

Publication Timeframe for your results _________________________

Any geographic limits: circle or add
Canada  British Columbia  western Canada  Okanagan  Vancouver

OCtopus
Use search words from above, find and write down/email a reference for:

One book or ebook relevant to your topic

One peer-reviewed scholarly article, published in last 5 years