



Reference tools in the **Social Sciences and Humanities**

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Objectives

- Present an introduction to reference tools in the social sciences and humanities
- Introduce some main challenges and advantages to using these tools.

Indexes and Journals in the Social Sciences

- Current and historic research findings
- Citation indexing
- Online tools offer comprehensive search functions. Paper copies good for browsing and historic perspectives.

Selected Resources:

- **Social Sciences Citation Index** (1981-current)
<http://scientific.thomson.com/products/wos/>
ex. *Social Science Quarterly*
- **SocIndex** (1895-current)
ex. *Journal of the Academy of Social Sciences*
- **LexisNexis Academic** (1970s onward)
ex. *The Globe and Mail*
- **Gender Watch** (1970s onward)
ex. *Canadian Woman Studies*
- **E-STAT** (1665 *census data-onward)
ex. Census of Canada Data

Books and Web Content in the Social Sciences

- In-depth discussion of chosen topic
- Guides the reader to key texts on specific topics
- Physical artifact which can aide perception by use of multiple senses

Selected Resources:

- **International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences**, Edited by N. J. Smelser and P. B. Baltes. Elsevier: Burlington, MD. (2001)
- **Guidebook for Change and Innovation at Rural and Small Urban Transit Systems**, National Research Council, Washington D.C. (2004)
<http://www.national-academies.org/trb/bookstore>
- **The Social Science Encyclopedia** (2d ed., Routledge, 1996)
- **Reader's Guide to the Social Sciences**, Jonathan Michie, Routledge: United Kingdom. (2001)
- **The Palgrave Macmillan Dictionary of Women's Biography**. Maggy Hendry and Jennifer Uglow Palgrave MacMillan: (2005)
- **Guide to Reference Books, 11th Edition**, ALA: Chicago. 2008
http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=81
- **The Blackwell Dictionary of Twentieth-Century Social Thought** William Outhwaite, ed., Blackwell: Oxford, England. (1993)
- **The Dictionary of Critical Social Sciences**, T. R. Young, Bruce A. Arrigo. Westview Press: Colorado, (1999).
- **Social research methods. 4th ed.** Dooley, David. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. (2001)
- **The Social Sciences: A Cross-Disciplinary Guide to Selected Sources (3rd edition)** Nancy L. Heron., Libraries Unlimited: Westport, Connecticut. (2002)

Indexes and Journals in the Humanities

- Current and historic literature and abstracts
- Few general databases and indexes; tend to be more specialized.
- Paper copies good for browsing and also good for older material which may not be available online.
- Electronic sources allow the user to find information quickly.

Selected Resources:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Humanities Abstracts (1984-Current)
ex. <i>Eighteenth-Century Studies</i> ▪ JSTOR
ex. <i>Philosophical Perspectives</i> ▪ Arts and Humanities Citation Index (1981-Current)
ex. <i>Contemporary Literature</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ British Humanities Index (1962-Current)
DBW periodical ref AI 3.B75 @ Weldon ▪ MLA International Bibliography (1963-Current)
DBW periodical ref Z 7006.M63 @ Weldon ▪ Arts and Humanities Citation Index (1975-1999)
DBW periodical ref AI 3.A688 @ Weldon |
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Books and Web Content in the Humanities

- Varied and vast amount of information available
- General works are few and far between
- Most of the reference books in the humanities are extremely specialized
- There is a general trend towards making information available electronically

Selected Resources:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography ▪ (2004) Oxford University Press ▪ Oxford Reference Online Premium ▪ Available through Western's list of Databases by Title ▪ Dictionary of Literary Biography ▪ Volume 338 (2008) Gale Research Co ▪ Gale Literary Index ▪ Available through Western's list of Databases by Title | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACLS Humanities E-Book
Available through Western's list of Databases by Title ▪ Intute: Arts and Humanities
http://www.intute.ac.uk/artsandhumanities ▪ Voice of the Shuttle
http://vos.ucsb.edu/ ▪ Art and Culture
http://www.artandculture.com |
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** This handout has provided a list of just some of the reference tools that may be helpful to users with an interest in the social sciences and humanities. For a more complete list of databases available to UWO users, go to www.lib.uwo.ca, select Resources by Subject, and scroll down to the appropriate discipline of interest.*