

# **RESEARCHING THE SOCIAL SCIENCE LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT**

## **THE SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT**

### **Research methods in the Social Psychology article assignment:**

**In Social Psychology, we come across several kinds of Research Methods such as: class lectures, practice of learning exercises, critique of a journal (a peer reviewed article), the writing of a term paper, a final examination.**

**All of the above benefit the student and improve his/her awareness of the research process.**

## **Searching the periodical literature with a critical eye**

**Questions one could ask:**

**WHO  
WHY  
WHEN  
WHERE  
HOW  
WHAT**

- **What is the issue at hand?**
- **What is known?**
- **Development of the problem (PBL)**
- **Create a list of what sources you need:**
  - Library of Congress Subject Headings**
  - Special Encyclopedias**
  - Special Dictionaries**
  - Readers Guide to Periodical Literature**
- **Creation of a list of possible actions that will give the “Deliverables”**
- **Production and presentation of the solution to the problem**
- **A product of collaboration and research**

**WHO (names, titles, et.al.)**

**WHY (hypothesis)**

**WHEN (time)**

**WHERE (location)**

**HOW (method used)**

**WHAT (conclusions/suggestions for future research)**

**AGREE (did you agree?)**

**DISAGREE (did you disagree?)**

**YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE ( what did it mean to you)**

**A librarian's suggestion: check ALWAYS FOR BASIC SEARCHING TIPS**

**When in EBSCO look for "Basic Searching Techniques"**

**Start researching your topic:**

- 1. Give the definition of the topic you are researching.**
- 2. Identify all possible kinds of information needed.**
- 3. Find the information by using all kinds of resources in all kinds of formats.**
- 4. Evaluate the information collected.**
- 5. Separate primary from secondary sources**
- 6. Distinguish opinion from point of view**
- 7. Examine the currency of the source**
- 8. Find out how authoritative it is.**

## EVALUATING A JOURNAL ARTICLE

[\[Detailed version of How to Evaluate Journal Articles\]](#)

<http://manta.library.colostate.edu/howto/evaljrl2.html>

**Check for: purpose, bias, usefulness, audience, type of journal publication, et. al.**

**Learn how to tell the difference between a journal and a popular magazine.**

**Popular Magazines VS Trade Magazines VS Scholarly Journals:**

[↓](#)  
**Learn about the parts of an article citation.- - What is an article citation?**

**When ready to cite an article for your bibliography, examine carefully the article citation you have and look for:**

- name of the author who has written the article
- title of the article
- title of the Journal where the article appears
- volume and issue numbers
- year the article was published
- pages cited

**When ready to use an article for your research project look for the following critical parts of it:**

**All of the above plus the following:**

**Summary of the article (otherwise called abstract)**

**Introduction**

**Critique or reviews of the topic**

**Hypothesis; Methods; Results**

**Analysis of data**

**Epilogue (conclusion)**

**Reference titles used; Bibliography and Webliography**

**For MLA or APA citations check also the Library Handouts at the Reference Desk or the DCCC Library Web page.**

## **How many levels of Research should we consider?**

- 1. First level of research - - the original, actual study as it is appearing in scholarly, peer reviewed Journals.**
- 2. Second level of research - - a digest of the original study, a summary one could say, appearing in academically acceptable periodical titles, but not as original and detailed as the ones in the first level.**
- 3. Third level of research - - less scholarly information than levels one and two, appearing in newspapers and other publications not as scholarly as the ones appearing in the first and second levels.**

### **BRIEF RESEARCH GUIDELINES:**

**From the Subjects/Topics listed below select your topic and start building up your Topic/key term research glossary list. For more ideas consult the Library of Congress Subject Headings and their “see also” references.**

**Look for a special discipline oriented Encyclopedia for more into depth information, academic opinions and bibliographies to relevant topics.**

**Check the Readers Guide to Periodical Literature or the Social Science Index and add the topic headings and the “see also “ to the topic / key term list.**

**When ready to begin your thorough search start with the Periodical Indexes in Print format located along the wall in the Periodical area.**

**Keep in mind we might not have all the Periodical titles you may be referred to.**

**Continue your search by using our online periodical databases available to our students for free, accessible through the Internet remotely and/or in house.**

**When using the online periodical databases read the description of each one you use and remember to check the help screen when you need assistance with your searches.**

**Do not enter long sentences in the “Find” space but construct a very brief making sense sentence.**

**In some databases you may use quotation marks around two words**

**that you wish to see next to each other in the text of the article.**

**Boolean logic is recommended especially when one wishes to narrow down a topic that is too broad.**

**How do I search the DCCC online catalog?**

**From <http://www.dccc.edu> go to “Online Services” and select Library. From the Library Homepage become familiar with the DCCC Library Sources and Services.**

**How do I search for a journal article on my topic?**

**Search within the Library webpage for the Online Catalog and look for articles by double clicking “Search for articles”**

**In order to retrieve journals only, before you start your search limit it to peer reviewed articles only.**

## Search for Periodical articles

By using

# Print Indexes and Online Databases

(available in print format and located in house)

Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature

Social Science Index

CIJE

Business Index

CINAHL

Science Index

Humanities Index

New York Times Index

(accessible via the Internet in house & remotely)

From [www.dccc.edu](http://www.dccc.edu)

Go to "Online Services"

Left click on Library

Select "Search for Articles"

## **SUGESTED SUBJECT HEADINGS**

### **Self and Self Presentation:**

**Self Identity (Psychology) - - Social aspects**

**Pluralism (Social Science) - - Psychological aspects**

**Postmodernism - - Psychological aspects**

**Self presentation**

**Clothing and dress**

**Self-efficacy**

**Social physique anxiety**

**Self managementPhysical fitness**

**Factor analysis**

**Scale development**

**Social psychology**

**Interpersonal relations**

**Perception**

## **Social Cognition:**

**Human biology**

**Perseverance (Ethics)**

**Personality**

**Persistence**

## **Social Psychology Attitudes:**

**Social values**

**Personality**

**Interpersonal relations**

**Social psychology and literature**

**Orientation (psychology)**

## **Persuasion:**

**Persuasion (psychology)**

**Communication**

## **Prejudice:**

**Intergroup relations**

**Prejudices**

**Competition**

**Discrimination:**

**Affirmative action programs**

**Discrimination**

**Technocracy**

**Legacies**

**Elitism**

**Classism**

**Social status**

**United States - - Social conditions**

**Universities & colleges - - Admission**

**Nepotism**

**Behavior:**

**Conduct of life**

**Social groups**

**Social interaction**

**Conflict of interest**

**Intergroup relations**

## **Intimate Relationships:**

**Man-woman relationships**

**Marital conflict**

**Intimacy (Psychology)**

**Remarriage**

**Marriage**

**Divorce**

## **Agression:**

**Sociobiology**

**Violence**

**Anthropology**

## **Prosocial Behavior:**

**Behavioral assessment of teenagers**

**Self psychology**

**Teenagers**

**Adolescent psychology**

**Self - efficacy**

## **Leadership:**

**See also Ability**

**See also Command of troops**

**Leadership - - Case Studies**

**Leadership - - Cross – Cultural Studies**

**Leadership - - Religious Aspects**

**Discrimination in education - United States - Research.**

**Educational equalization - United States - Research.**

**Prejudices in children.**

**Sexism.**

**Racism.**

**Interpersonal conflict in children.**

**Interpersonal conflict in adolescence.**

**Prejudices.**

**Interpersonal Relations - Child.**

**Interpersonal Relations - Adolescent.**

**Conflict (Psychology) - Child.**

**Conflict (Psychology) - Adolescent.**