Finding and Citing References for Survey Research Papers

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Common questions

• Where can I find references for a research paper on XXXX?
• What journals should we check out?
• How to search into specialized databases?
• How should we cite references? What are the most common citation styles?
• What are you usually going to miss when you search for references?
A research roadmap

References databases

Citation
Title
Abstract

Full text databases

Single journal full text

Paper version (library)

Interlibrary loan
References databases (RD)

References databases

• Contain references to journal articles, books, sometimes books chapters

• **Do not contain** the electronic or full text of the paper

• It is important to search RD with the right keywords---and narrow keywords (see later
Finding Citations 1
Library subscription RD

• Sociofile or Sociological Abstracts
• PsychINFO
• Worldwide Political Science Abstracts
• Communication abstracts online
• Sage Social Research Methods
• Current Index of Statistics
• Statistical Theory and Methods Abstracts
• Medline
• Social Science Citation Index
• Dissertation abstract international
Finding Citations 2
Free access RD

- Websm
- Scout Report
- Sosig
Some conference and workshop websites

- Professional associations’ conference websites (see professional association presentation)
- Household Survey Nonresponse Workshop [link]
- International Field Director's & Technologies Conference [link]
- Methodology and Statistics Conference, Ljubljana, Slovenia [link]
Some methodological reports

- Census Bureau pretest reports [link]
- NCHS publications [link]
- …
Once you have the full citation:

• For books, books chapter
  – Check your library, ask for a interlibrary loan if you don’t find the book or try Netlibrary (subscription) for an electronic version of the book

• For journal articles
  – Check your library. The paper can be available in electronic full text (full text databases, single journal full text) or in paper version. If not, ask for an interlibrary loan
Full Text (FT) databases

- FT databases contain the entire journal article ready to save or print
- They shouldn't be used for primary source of research
- FT databases can have a moving wall of some years or months for some journals
Single journal FT

• They are basically the electronic version of the journal article
• Some journals start having electronic pre-prints of forthcoming articles
• It is very useful to subscribe (free) to the Table of Contents (TOC) via email
Paper version
library and interlibrary loan

- Some journals (mainly APA journals) do not have an electronic version
- Old issues are on paper only
- Very recent issues are on paper only
- When the journal is not owned by your library you can request the paper via Interlibrary Loan, same for books
Examples of English SRL Journals

American Journal of Political Science [link]

Annual Review of Psychology [link]

Annual Review of Political Science [link]

Annual Review of Sociology [link]

Applied Cognitive Psychology [link]

BMC Health Services Research [link]

Behavior Research Methods, Instruments and Computers [link]

Bulletin de Methodologie Sociologique [link]

Computers in Human Behavior [link]
Examples of English SRL Journals II

European Journal of Research Methods for the Behavioral and Social Sciences [link]

Field methods [link]

IASSIST Quarterly [link]

International Journal of Public Opinion Research [link]

International Journal of Market Research [link]

International Journal of Social Research Methodology [link]

IT& Society [link]

Journal of the American Statistical Association [link]

Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication [link]

Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties [link]
Examples of English SRL Journals III

Journal of Marketing Research [link]

Journal of Official Statistics [link]

Journal of the Royal Statistical Society series A, B, C [link]

Journal of Statistical Software [link]

Metodološki zvezki. Advances in Methodology and Statistics [link]

Political Behavior [link]

Political Psychology [link]

Public Opinion Pro [link] formerly Public Opinion Perspective [link]

Public Opinion Quarterly [link]

Quality and Quantity [link]
Examples of English SRL Journals IV

Research in Official Statistics (Eurostat) [link]

Social Science Computer Review [link]

Social Science Research [link]

Social Research Update [link]

Sociological Methodology [link]

Sociological Methods and Research [link]

Sociological Research Online [link]

Survey Methodology [link]

Survey Methods Newsletter [link]

Survey Research Newsletter [link]
Book, main publishers

- Academic Press
- Cambridge University Press
- Jossey Bass
- Lawrence Erlbaum
- Sage
- Taylor and Francis
- Wiley (Series of Statistics and Methodology)
Working papers

ISER Essex
http://iserwww.essex.ac.uk/pubs/

LSE Methodology institute
http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/methodologyInstitute/

Michigan
http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/smp/

SRAM working papers
http://sram.unl.edu

ZUMA
Lessons learned looking for literature

• Start writing a list of keywords and synonyms
• Start searching into the title field and then move to the abstract field
• Archive the references into a database (e.g. Endnote)
• Many references are just found reading the reference section of a relevant journal article (start from there)
• You will tend to miss references to book chapters in edited books
Example: advance letters in telephone surveys (de Leeuw et al, 2005)

- Keywords: telephone survey, telephone interview(s) advance letter, prenotification, lead letter, response rate(s) contactability, refusal(s)

Some citation styles

• American Psychological Association [link]

• Chicago Style [link]

• For each journal you have to follow the citation style guide on the journal webpage