

Choosing a database for your literature search

PRI Library Bibliographic & Statistical Databases: <http://www.pop.psu.edu/info-core/library/library.htm>

University Libraries: <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/>

Guide to selected bibliographic databases

Database Name	Access	Type of documents indexed	Years of coverage	Full text	Subject coverage
Google Scholar	scholar.google.com	journal articles, books, working papers, reports	not specified	some links, uses Citation Linker	general
JSTOR	through library	journal articles	archival (typically starting from volume 1 but not including the most recent 1-5 years)	yes	general (selected journals, including several major population studies titles)
Popline	www.popline.org	scientific articles, reports, books, and unpublished reports	not specified	links to free full-text	reproductive health, population, family planning, emphasis on developing countries
ProQuest	through library	journal articles, book reviews, newspaper and magazine articles, dissertations	varies, typically 1980's-present (also includes historical newspapers)	some included, uses Citation Linker	general, plus business, education, nursing, and psychology
PsycINFO	through library	journal articles, chapters, books, dissertations, conference papers	1806-present (little content prior to 1890)	some included, uses Citation Linker	psychology and related disciplines, also provides some citation counts and links to cited or citing papers
PubMed (Medline)	www.pubmed.gov	journal articles, news articles, reports	1950-present	some links, some manuscripts available in PubMed Central	biomedical
Sociological Abstracts	through library	journal articles, chapters, books, dissertations, conference papers, book reviews	1952-present	uses Citation Linker	sociology and related disciplines
Social Sciences Citation Index	through library	journal articles	1956-present	uses Citation Linker	social sciences, also provides citation counts and links to cited or citing papers

Locating full text

University Libraries: <http://www.libraries.psu.edu>

E-Journal List: find online access to journals by title

Citation Linker: find full text of an article when you have a full or partial citation

The CAT: find holdings for books and journal issues

Interlibrary Loan (ILL): request books or articles not available locally

PRI Library: <http://www.pop.psu.edu/info-core/library/library.htm>

Catalog: find books, bound journals, and reports

Journals and newsletters: journal holdings, some full text online (*Stata Journal*)

Demography links: working papers available online

Contact library staff for assistance obtaining difficult to find materials:

library@pop.psu.edu

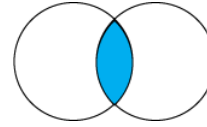
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Constructing your search

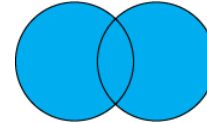
To find records containing **BOTH** of your search terms, use **AND**

Example: health care AND retirement



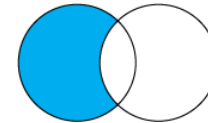
To find records containing **EITHER** of your search terms, use **OR**

Example: Latino OR Hispanic



To find records containing **ONE BUT NOT THE OTHER** of your search terms, use **NOT**

Example: neighborhoods NOT lexical



To find records containing your search terms near each other, use a **PROXIMITY SEARCH**

Example: multilevel NEAR model
(usage varies by database)

To find variations of your search term, use a **TRUNCATION** or **WILDCARD CHARACTER**

Example: demog*
(finds demography, demographic, demographer, demographers)
Example: wom?n
(finds woman, women)

Search operators in bibliographic databases commonly used by demographers

	AND	OR	NOT	PROXIMITY	WILDCARD
Popline	& health care & retirement	/ Latino / Hispanic	! neighborhoods ! lexical	w# multilevel w3 model	* demog*
ProQuest	and health care and retirement	or Latino or Hispanic	and not neighborhoods and not lexical	w/# multilevel w/3 model	*, ? demog*, wom?n
PsycINFO, Sociological Abstracts (CSA)	and health care and retirement	or Latino or Hispanic	not neighborhoods and not lexical	within #, near multilevel within 3 model multilevel near model	*, ? demog*, neighb*hood, wom?n
PubMed (Medline)	and health care and retirement	or Latino or Hispanic	not neighborhoods not lexical	not available	* demog*
Social Sciences Citation Index	and health care and retirement	or Latino or Hispanic	not neighborhoods not lexical	same multilevel same model	*, ?, \$ demog*, wom?n, neighbo\$rhood