Library Online Catalog

How do I find books?
You will find the call numbers and locations for books, government documents, audiovisuals, magazines, journals, newspapers, and course reserves using STEENFIND. It allows you to search for articles and books at the same time.

Subject Databases
The Subject Databases give the most in-depth coverage of journals in your field of study. They have fewer articles in popular magazines and newspapers and more in scholarly journals. Some of the most useful databases are listed on the Social Work Research Guide.

Electronic and Print Resources

One of the best starting points for your research is The Encyclopedia of Social Work (20th ed.). It will give you background information on social issues, policies, and often lists important laws and legislation. It is available to search online. You can find it in the Databases A-Z list or on the Social Work Research guide. The library call number for the print copy is HV35.S6 2008, and it's located in the stacks on the 4th floor. We have many other great print and electronic resources to complement this.
**Occupational Outlook Handbook** (online or on Social Work Research guide under Useful Websites tab) gives information on all professions. Statistics, job outlook, work environment, wage information, etc. is provided.

**Search Strategies**

You can create a successful search strategy (develop a keyword statement) and use it to search SteenFind, the Internet, or the library's databases.

1. Write your topic as a question to focus it.
2. Circle or underline the keywords (main terms). For example:
   
   **“What programs exist for adolescent substance abusers in rural East Texas?”**

3. Use synonyms for your keywords.
4. Combine keywords using Boolean (AND, OR), nesting (use of parentheses), and phrase searching (use of quotation marks). For example:

   programs AND (adolescent OR teen) AND “substance abuse” AND rural Texas

Tames the Internet by limiting search results to scholarly material (i.e. peer-reviewed articles, etc.). To use it, go to the Database A-Z list through Quick Links. That way, there will be links to the full-text of the articles to which the Steen Library has access.

**Dissertations and Theses**

Doctoral Dissertations and Master’s Theses are usually extensive, original research projects with lengthy and useful Works Cited lists. The Dissertations & Theses database is a great finding tool for them.

**At any time, feel free to:**

- Call Kayce Halstead at 468-1574 or email at: khalstea@sfasu.edu
- Drop in a librarian’s office on the 2nd floor
- Make an appointment for an individual research consultation
- Use the Ask-a-librarian link (in quick links) to send a question

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