



SOCI 203 Library Workshop

Getting help with your research:

➤ **GOOD STARTING POINT:**

Sociology Research Guide

<http://www.concordia.ca/library/guides/sociology.html>

[and don't forget the [Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology](#) we discussed!]

- **Connecting from Home + MyCLUES**

<http://library.concordia.ca/research/databases/offcampus.php>

- **Workshops in the Library: RefWorks & more**

<http://library.concordia.ca/help/workshops/>

➤ **ASKING for help:**

REFERENCE DESK, Live CHAT & more:

<http://library.concordia.ca/help/questions/>

To contact me : Susie.breier@concordia.ca

Using Article Databases

[such as SocINDEX, Sociological Abstracts, Anthropology Plus Academic Search Complete, etc]

POSSIBLE SEARCH STRATEGIES:

Some students find it useful to start by writing out possible keywords:

What are the **key concepts** (and synonyms) of your topic? These are your **search words**.

Key Concept #1	Key Concept #2	Key Concept #3
teenagers	violence	video games
Synonyms	Synonyms	Synonyms
teens, youth, young, adolescents, adolescence	violent, aggression, aggressive	

TIPS:

- Combine your synonyms with OR, all on one search box line
- Combine your separate concepts with AND, one concept per search box line
- * stands for **any number of letters**, and is useful when you want to find all words that share the same root, i.e. **teen*** finds *teenage*, *teenager*, *teenagers*, etc.
- Quotation marks ("") help you search for exact phrases of two words or more
- You can **sometimes** use **SUBJECT** or **DESCRIPTOR** fields (to the right of the search boxes) to narrow your search if you get too many hits.

For example, to search for articles about the topic of **teenage violence and video games** try this:

teen* or adolesc* or youth or young	in	SU Subject Terms
AND "video game"	in	SU Subject Terms
AND violen* or aggress*	in	SU Subject Terms

Scholarly Articles Tip:

- When viewing your search results, there is usually a **tab** or **checkbox** that you can select to limit your search to **peer-reviewed** or **scholarly** articles.