

Advanced search

Advanced Search enables you to search on different elements of the records, eg. if you want to find articles on a specific topic in a specific journal, e.g. articles on *drugs* in the *British Journal of Social Work*. This can be useful if you are looking for references to articles in journals held in St Martin's College Library. You can use the printed [Subject Listing of Current Periodicals](#) to identify the journals we have.

Thesaurus Search

Click on the button in the lefthand frame. Type your keyword in the **Find:** box and click on **Display** to see all the keywords that have relationships with your keyword (eg, broader and narrower terms). This may suggest other keywords to search on.

Further Help

If you need further help using ASSIA or any library resource please ask a member of library staff.

You can book a one-to-one appointment with a member of library staff to help you find information for your assignments, please ask at the enquiry desk.



ASSIA

Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts



What is ASSIA?

ASSIA provides references and abstracts (summaries **NOT** full-text) of journal articles covering health, social services, economics, politics, race relations and education. It currently contains over 255,000 records from 650 journals in 16 different countries, including the UK and US. The coverage begins in 1987. The database is updated monthly. Searches on **ASSIA** will also provide you with links to relevant web sites.

How do I Find ASSIA?

- Go to the library website: www.ucsm.ac.uk/library
- Click on **Resources for your subject**
- Choose your subject e.g. **Business**
- Find the heading **Databases** and click on the link that says **Databases for the Social Sciences**
- You will now see a table of databases, click on the link to **ASSIA**
- You will now need to enter your **ATHENS** passwords
- You will now need to choose a subject area to search, click to select **Social Sciences**
- Now click the **Quick Search** button
- Click the box next to **ASSIA** and you are now ready to search

How do I search ASSIA?

- Before you start searching, decide on the keyword(s) to describe your topic. In the example below I am looking for articles on "drug abuse amongst teenagers" - the keywords would be *drug abuse* and *teenagers*. **If you have more than one keyword, search on each one separately and then combine them as described below.** A keyword can be a phrase, eg. *drug abuse*.
- *Quick Search page* – In the **Find** box at the top of the lefthand frame, type in a keyword or phrase, e.g. *teenage** (this will find *teenage*, *teenager* or *teenagers*). If you are searching on a phrase (e.g. *young offenders*), make sure the **Exact phrase** button is checked. Click on **Search** at the bottom of the form.
- The number next to **ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts** in the righthand frame will show you how many references you have found. Scroll down the righthand frame and click on **View record** for the first reference. This will give you more information on the article including an abstract of it.
- It will also enable you to see which subject descriptors have been used for this reference. Have a look at several records and note the descriptors used for the different records - the easiest way to do this is to click on the **Next** button at the bottom of each record. The descriptors may suggest other keywords you could search on. Eg. if you searched on *teenagers*, you would find ASSIA uses the descriptors *young people*, *young adults*, *adolescent boys* and others.
- To do a thorough search, you need to search on all similar descriptors individually to make sure you are including all relevant articles. So, for example, you could search on *young people*. To do this, delete your original keyword from the search box at the top of the lefthand frame and type in another one. Click on **Search Again**.
- Click on **Go to Search History/Alerts** at the bottom of the lefthand frame (you may need to scroll down to see it.) This will show you all the Searches you have already done, and give them Strategy numbers.
- Tick the boxes next to the searches you wish to combine, e.g. *Strategy 1 KW=(teenage*)* and *Strategy 2 KW=(young people)*. (If you had also searched on other synonyms, you would check the boxes against all of these too.) Under **Combine marked strategies** on the lefthand frame, check **Use OR to broaden**. Click on **Search again**. This will now find all references to *teenagers OR young people*.
- You may now want to combine this with another keyword, e.g. *drug abuse*. Clear the Search box at the top of the lefthand frame and type in your new keyword, eg. *drug** (to find *drug*, *drugs*, *drug abuse* etc.). Click on **Search Again**.
- Click on **Go to Search History/Alerts** again. Tick the boxes against the searches you wish to combine, eg. *(KW=(young people)) OR (KW=(teenage*))* and *KW=(drug*)*. Make sure the button **Use AND to narrow** is checked. Click on **Search again**. You will now have references to articles containing both your keywords, e.g. *teenagers (young people etc.) AND drugs (drug abuse etc.)*.
- If you wanted to make your search even more specific, find some relevant articles and see if there are any other descriptors you could usefully search on, e.g. *prevention*. You can then combine this with your previous search as described in 9. above.
- Your references will be displayed with the most recently published first. You can use the options in the lefthand frame to restrict your search to particular date ranges, or change the criterion by which they are sorted or choose another display format. You then need to click on **Search again** to redisplay your records.
- You can print, e-mail or save your references. If you only want to save selected references, check the box next to the ones you want. Then click on **Save/Print/Email Records** at the bottom of the righthand frame. Decide on a Record Format (i.e. how much information you want to save) and click on the appropriate button.