Pathfinder #2 for ROLE: Database searching

**STEP # 1: Search process.**
Search statement. I am looking for articles to answer the question.

Search statement:

Circle the important key terms you wish to search. Once you have decided on the key concepts you wish to search think about possible alternate search terms or synonyms for each of those concepts. Example: social welfare or public welfare or social policy.

**Step #2 Select Databases**
After you have defined your search statement and identified your key concepts and synonyms you will need to select the databases that are most closely related to your topic. Some of the social sciences databases available to you through Adelphi University are listed below.

**Academic Search Complete (Ebsco)** Full-text database provides more than 7,000 multidisciplinary full-text periodicals, nearly 6,000 peer-reviewed journals, and more than 11,600 monographs, reports, conference proceedings, dating back as far as 1887.

**Proquest Central** Full-text database large multidisciplinary database including more than 12,000 titles, over 9,745 in full text. Besides journals, PQC includes 880 full text newspapers, some 30,000 full text dissertations, and nearly 9,000 market reports, with some backfiles dating as far back as 1905.

**Biography Reference Bank** (Wilson) - covers 500,000 people from antiquity through today. Combines the in-depth, original profiles of Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated, the thorough periodicals coverage of Biography Index, and full-text articles, page images, and abstracts from the complete range of Wilson databases, to bring you Wilson's largest biography database yet. **Look at the tabs at the top of the entry ’Recent articles’, ’Reviews and Criticism’, etc for further sources.**

**Social Services Abstracts** Database (CSA) - provides bibliographic coverage of current research focused on social work, human services, and related areas, including social welfare, social policy, and community development, from 1980 to the present.

**Social Work Abstracts (Ebscohost)** Database provides extensive coverage of social work, covering theory and practice, areas of service and social issues. Coverage extends as far back as 1965.

**Social Sciences Full Text** Full-text database (Wilson) - includes citations and abstracts, 1983 to the present, with some full text articles, 1995 to the present, in applied and theoretical aspects of sociology, anthropology, geography, economics, political science and law.
**SocIndex with Full Text** Full-text database (Ebscohost)- a comprehensive research database covering a broad range of topics in the social sciences, with full text journal articles dating as far back as 1895. Full text coverage of books, monographs, and conference papers is also included.

**Sociological Abstracts** Database (CSA)- provides bibliographic information from 1963 - present in the international literature in sociology and related disciplines. Coverage includes journal articles, book reviews, books, and book chapters. Includes articles with pro and con viewpoints on a wide range of social issues, from terrorism and gun control to stem cell research.

**Pais Archive** Database (CSA) - provides historical perspective on many of the 20th century’s public and social policies, including references to articles, books, and more, from 1937 - 1976.

**Pais International** Database (CSA) - index to articles, books, conference proceedings, etc. about public affairs.

*indicates the database covers all subjects and disciplines.

**Step# 3 formulate search**
Almost all online searching in our subscription databases requires you to use some form of Boolean logic and truncation when you make up your search string. After selecting the database you wish to search click on the ADVANCE search screen to enter your search. Use each line for each of your concepts.

Boolean logic uses the OR connector to tell the system to retrieve synonyms for your key terms or concepts. (OR broadens your search)

It uses the AND connector to link together your key concepts and retrieve citations that include the key concepts or terms included. (AND limits or narrows your search)

You may continue to revise your search string or have several alternative searches as you work with the online resources - making it narrower or broader depending on result.

**Example of a Search**
**For an era in Social welfare History**

Concept 1  Progressive Era OR Gilded Age OR twentieth century

**AND**

Concept 2  social welfare OR public welfare OR social policy

**Search for a topic in Social welfare history**

**Search string 2**

Concept 1  social welfare OR public welfare OR social policy

**AND**

Concept 2  sweat shops OR child labor OR working conditions
Remember you can always search for articles about a person as well. Just enter the name of the in the search box e.g. Line 1 Addams, Jane or Jane Addams

Example of search using a notable person

Search string 1
Jane Addams OR Addams Jane
AND
Settlement house OR charitable organizations OR philanthropy

Search String 2
Jane Addams OR Addams Jane
Worksheet for Pathfinder # 2: Database Searching

Try to create and write at least two different searches you might try for your own research

**Search string 1.**
Concept__________________________OR__________________________OR__________________________
AND
Concept__________________________OR__________________________OR__________________________

**Search string 2**
Concept__________________________OR__________________________OR__________________________
AND
Concept__________________________OR__________________________OR__________________________

Find three articles in the library on the subject of your research paper.
The articles should be from scholarly journals social work or related disciplines.
Provide a complete citation in APA format for each article and answer the questions about each article. (consult the library website http://libraries.adelphi.edu/guides/citations.php for sample bibliographic formats.)

1. Article:
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Did you locate this article through a periodical database? Yes □ No □
If you answered yes, what is the name of the database?
____________________________________________________________________________________

If you answered yes, list all of the keywords, synonyms or subject headings you used while searching this source.
1)____________________________________________________________________________________
2)____________________________________________________________________________________
3)____________________________________________________________________________________

If you answered no, how did you locate the article?
____________________________________________________________________________________

Why is it promising and why will the article be useful for your paper? Be specific.
____________________________________________________________________________________
2. Article:

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Did you locate this article through a periodical database? Yes □ No □

If you answered yes, what is the name of the database?

________________________________________________________________

If you answered yes list all of the keywords, synonyms or subject headings you used while searching this source.
1) ________________________________________________________________
2) ________________________________________________________________
3) ________________________________________________________________

If you answered no, how did you locate the article?

________________________________________________________________

Why will the article be useful for your paper? Be specific.

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

3. Article:

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Did you locate this article through a periodical database? Yes □ No □

If you answered yes, what is the name of the database?

________________________________________________________________

If you answered yes list all of the keywords, synonyms or subject headings you used while searching this source.
1) ________________________________________________________________
If you answered no, how did you locate the article?

__________________________________________________________________

Why will the article be useful for your paper? Be specific.

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