Key databases for social science

Multidisciplinary bibliographic databases, subject-specific and full-text resources for social science and public policy

These resources can be accessed via Library Services Databases: http://metallib.kcl.ac.uk

1. Bibliographic databases

If you want to search for academic literature related to a particular topic, and you don't know the names of all the journals you wish to consult, use a bibliographic database to search a wide range of journals.

Most bibliographic databases provide abstracts of journal articles and links to check if the full text of the article is available at King's. Many bibliographic databases also include records of books, chapters, book reviews, dissertations, conferences and other periodicals and publications.

**Advanced search** - Before searching any database think about all the key words and concepts that relate to your topic. Spend a little time beforehand identifying the different facets of your topic. This will enable you to get the most out of these databases. In addition to a simple search box all databases have an advanced search facility which you can use to construct a detailed set of terms using variations of key words, synonyms and alternative spellings.

**Thesaurus and subject-headings** - Many databases offer two search methods. One is a free text search where the database only searches for the word you type in. The other uses the database's subject-heading index or thesaurus to include other closely matching or related terms. Use both methods, if available, for thoroughness.

**Other features** - Most databases offer additional features that enable you to increase the number of potentially relevant articles e.g. using truncation, wildcards and proximity searching. Details on how to use these features are usually explained in the Search Tips or Help section on the database.

### 1.1 Proquest databases

Search individual databases for focused or systematic searching or multiple databases for broad coverage - once logged on click # database in the top left:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIA</th>
<th>Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health, social services, psychology, sociology, economics, politics, race relations and education. 1987 – current.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Humanities Index</td>
<td>Anthropological linguistics, applied linguistics, descriptive linguistics, discourse analysis, learning disabilities, nonverbal communication, phonetics, phonology, psycholinguistics. 1973 – current.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History, arts, literature, language, economics, environment, foreign affairs, gender studies, linguistics, philosophy, political science and religion. 1962 – current.</td>
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<tr>
<td>British Nursing Index</td>
<td>Social Services Abstracts - Social work, human services, social welfare, social policy and community development. 1979 – current.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Covers mainly UK published nursing and midwifery journals and articles from selected medical, allied health, community and health management journals. 1994 – current.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology, and behavioural sciences including social structure, inequality, social change and social problems. 1952 – current.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EconLit</td>
<td>Sociological Abstracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business + economics literature including economic development, history, macroeconomics and microeconomics. Published by the American Economic Association. 1969 – current.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology, and behavioural sciences including social structure, inequality, social change and social problems. 1952 – current.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBSS</td>
<td>Worldwide Political Science Abstracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology, cultural studies, demography, economics, education, ethnology and ethnography, political science, religious studies, sociology. 1951 – current.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative politics, developing nations, electoral systems, government/political systems, history and theory of political science, international relations, political behaviour, political economy, political psychology, politics and society, public administration. 1975 – current.</td>
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1.2 OvidSP databases

A number of databases covering nursing, medicine, biomedical sciences and health & social care are available on OvidSP (cross-search for broad coverage or select individually for systematic searching).

**Global Health** - Among many other aspects of human health and disease, this database covers community and public health including chronic diseases, occupational health, health status indicators, the impact of agriculture on health, and cancer epidemiology. 1973 – current.

**Health Management Information Consortium** - Health and social care management information with a focus on the UK, from official publications, journal articles and grey literature. 1979 – current (King's Fund data) and 1983 – current (DoH data).

**PsycARTICLES** - Articles from journals published by the American Psychological Association, APA Educational Publishing, Canadian Psychological Association and Hogrefe Publishing. 1894 – present.

**PsycINFO** - Psychological, social, behavioural and health sciences. Produced by the American Psychological Association. 1800s – current.

**Social Policy and Practice** - Evidence-based social science research, mainly from the UK, in public and social policy including public health, social care, community development, mental & community health, homelessness, housing, crime, equalities, law & order, families, children and older people. A significant number of the references are to UK government publications and grey literature such as semi-published reports, surveys and statistics. 1890s – current (majority of references are from the 1980s onwards).

1.3 Large multidisciplinary databases

**Academic Search Complete** - Unlike the other bibliographic databases in this section, this is a multidisciplinary database featuring thousands of full-text journals. **Access via free membership of Senate House Library.**

**FirstSearch** - Provides access to ArticleFirst and ECO, two databases with multidisciplinary coverage: business, humanities, medicine, popular culture, science, social sciences and technology (1990 – current).

**Scopus** - Scientific, technical, medical, social sciences, arts and humanities. 1823 – current.

**Web of Science** - Covers journals and conference proceedings in the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities. 1899 – current. **On Web of Science select the index to search or click Learn More:**

Following up citations - Both Scopus and Web of Science provide forward and backward linked citations and cited reference searching which allow you to trace the development of a research area or explore related topics.

2. Subject-specific and full-text resources

2.1 Education & Professional Studies


**Dictionary of Religion** - covers the different theologies and doctrinal declarations of official institutionalized religions as well as a multiplicity of other religious phenomena.

**Encyclopedia of Language & Linguistics** - covers historic and emerging areas of research within applied linguistics giving a detailed overview of key developments and ideas.

**Encyclopedia of Language & Linguistics** - around 3,000 articles, 1,500 figures, approximately 700 biographical entries and 200 language maps and supplementary audio, video and text files.

**International Encyclopedia of Education** - The multidisciplinary coverage in over 1,000 articles makes it a source of information for those inside and outside the field of Education.

**MathEduc** - A bibliographic database covering research, theory and practice in mathematics education. Also covers education in computer science on the elementary level.

**Philosopher’s Index** - A bibliographic database covering major fields of philosophy and philosophy of related interdisciplinary fields. 1940 – current. Access via free membership of Senate House Library.


**Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy** - A philosophy resource that is free and open access, published by the Center for the Study of Language and Information at Stanford University.

**EBSCO databases**

Search these databases individually for focused or systematic searching or multiple databases for broad coverage.

**ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials** - A bibliographic database covering religion and theology which also provides the full-text of most articles. 1908 – current.

**British Education Index** - Covers research, policy and practice in education and training in the UK, including records from the University of Leeds’ EDUCATION-LINE database. 1975 – current.

**Child Development & Adolescent Studies** - A reference source for the current and historical literature related to growth and development of children through the age of 21.

**Education Abstracts** - Indexing and abstracts for more than 680 periodicals and yearbooks, dating back to 1983.

**Educational Administration Abstracts** - Includes bibliographic records covering areas related to educational administration, including educational leadership, educational management, and educational research.

**ERIC** - Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, covers education-related literature including teacher education, testing, measurement and evaluation. 1966 – current. Some records in ERIC provide direct links to the full text of publications online.

**Teacher Reference Center** - Provides indexing and abstracts for 280 of the most popular teacher and administrator journals and magazines to assist professional educators.

**2.2 Geography, Geospatial data**

**Digimap OpenStream** - Provides access to a Web Map Service offering Ordnance Survey OpenData products, including: GB Overview; Miniscale; 1:250000 Colour Raster; VectorMap District Raster and OS Streetview.

**Digimap Ordnance Survey Collection** - Ordnance Survey Collection offers a range of contemporary Ordnance Survey mapping data products. A range of online tools are available to facilitate viewing, interrogation and download of these products.

**Encyclopedia of Hydrological Sciences** - Contains approximately 200 articles providing detailed, expert coverage of the subject.

**Historic Digimap** - Offers a range of historical Ordnance Survey mapping data products from 1843 to 1996. A range of online tools are available to facilitate viewing, interrogation and download of these products.

**International Encyclopedia of Human Geography** - Covers every field of human geography and the discipline’s relationships to other disciplines, and is global in scope, involving an international set of contributors.

**UKBORDERS** - Provides access to digitised boundary datasets and geographic look-up tables corresponding to the geography of the UK.

**2.3 Economics, Business, Management, Marketing**

**ABI/INFORM** - A business database covering thousands of publications, most of which are available in full text. Includes current business and financial information. Access via free membership of Senate House Library.

**Business Source Premier** - A business research database, featuring the full text for more than 2,100 journals and bibliographic records for many others. Access via free membership of Senate House Library.
| **Emerald** – Ebooks and journals covering strategy, economics, marketing, HRM, accounting and finance. **Euromonitor Passport** – A global market information database and analysis tool containing comprehensive data and reports across all industries, countries and consumers. **Factiva** – a global business aggregator and archive, featuring news and information from 35,000 sources, 200 countries and 26 languages. **Henry Stewart Talks Marketing and Management** - Audio visual presentations by experts covering advertising, management, marketing, finance and transnational crime. **IDS Online** - information and analysis across the employment field, includes HR in practice, Employment Law, Pay and reward and Executive compensation. Special password required: www.kcl.ac.uk/library/help/Accessing-eresources.aspx | **Management Journals** - A collection of management journals and other periodicals. When using this resource use the search feature to limit results to ‘documents with full text’. **NER Working Papers** - NBER (US) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting a greater understanding of how the economy works. **OSIRIS** - Information on listed, and major unlisted/delisted, companies worldwide. The information is detailed and includes a lot more than financial reports. **World Advertising Research Center** - a global provider of ideas and evidence for marketing professionals. Access over 6,000 case studies, in-depth trend analysis and research reports. **XpertHR** - a source of legal compliance, good practice and benchmarking information for HR professionals drawing on a range of HR information from specialist journals and online services. |

| **2.4 War studies, Defence studies, International Relations, Political Science** | **Cold War Intelligence** - declassified documentary record (1945 – 1991) about the successes and failures of the U.S. intelligence community in its efforts to spy on the Soviet Union during the Cold War. **Columbia International Affairs** - Contains ebooks, working papers, case studies, conference proceedings and policy briefs on international affairs. 1991 – current. **The Churchill Archive** - a digital library of modern international history that includes over 800,000 pages of original documents. Spanning 1874-1965, sources include Churchill’s personal correspondence as well as his official exchanges with kings, presidents, politicians, and military leaders. **Digital National Security Archive** - Contains declassified government documents covering critical world events, countries, and U.S. policy decisions from post World War II through to the 21st century. **Documents on British Policy Overseas** - Primary source documents from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, covering diplomatic history throughout the twentieth century. **Encyclopedia of Political Science** - Offers an exploration of the central ideas, ideologies, and frameworks underlying the study of politics, and highlights intersections of politics with philosophy, cultural studies, sociology, religion, psychology, history and economics. **HeinOnline** - Mainly covers international legal research journals but also provides access to other documents such as Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS); Pentagon Papers; World Constitutions Illustrated and many others. **House of Commons Parliamentary Papers** - 18th to 21st century - includes over 200,000 House of Commons sessional papers from 1715 to the present, with supplementary material back to 1688. **International Studies Encyclopedia** - Peer reviewed essays in international studies and international relations written and edited by a global team of scholars and teachers. **Middle East Online** - Arab-Israeli Relations (1917 – 1970) and Iraq (1914 – 1974) - material from the British Foreign Office, Colonial Office, War Office and Cabinet Papers. **Praeger Security International** - Covers ebooks in international and regional security, terrorism, humanitarian operations, WMD, intelligence and military history. Includes a terrorism chronology (1968 – present). Special password required: www.kcl.ac.uk/library/help/Accessing-eresources.aspx **UPCC Political Science and Policy Studies** - Peer-reviewed ebooks from university presses and scholarly publishers. Over 300 journals in the humanities, arts and social sciences also available. **U.S. Intelligence on the Middle East** - This document set sheds light on the U.S. intelligence community’s spying and analytic efforts in the Arab world, including the Middle East, the Near East, and North Africa (1945 – 2009). |

| **OSIRIS** - Information on listed, and major unlisted/delisted, companies worldwide. The information is detailed and includes a lot more than financial reports. **World Advertising Research Center** - a global provider of ideas and evidence for marketing professionals. Access over 6,000 case studies, in-depth trend analysis and research reports. | **XpertHR** - a source of legal compliance, good practice and benchmarking information for HR professionals drawing on a range of HR information from specialist journals and online services. |
2.5 China


Encyclopedia of China Online - focused on the period from the mid-nineteenth century to the 21st century, covers the history, geography, society, economy, politics, science, and culture of China.

CNKI China Academic Journals Database - a full-text Chinese journals database. King's subscribes to content in the Politics, Military Affairs and Law collection, the Education and Social Science collection and the Economics and Management collection.

3. Archives, reference works, data, news, ebooks, theses, ejournals

3.1 Archives

17th and 18th Century Burney Newspapers - newspapers and pamphlets of English news media gathered by the Rev. Charles Burney (1757 - 1817).

19th Century British Library Newspapers - national and regional newspapers representing different political and cultural segments of 19th-century British society.

19th Century UK Periodicals - multi-part series which covers the events, lives, values and themes that shaped the 19th century world.

British Newspapers 1600 - 1950 - a digital historic newspaper archive of national and regional papers from the British Isles that includes the 17-18th Century Burney Collection and 19th Century British Newspapers.

British Periodicals 1681 – 1937 - This resource offers facsimile page images and searchable full text for nearly 500 British periodicals published from the 17th through the early 20th centuries.


Eighteenth Century Collections - Contains works published in the UK during the 18th century plus thousands from elsewhere.

Empire Online - Cultural Contacts 1492-1969; Literature of Empire; The Visible Empire; Religion & Empire; Race, Class, Imperialism and Colonialism, 1607-2007.

Entertainment Industry Magazine Archive 1880 – 2000 - primary sources for studying the history of the film and entertainment industries, from the era of vaudeville and silent movies through to 2000.


Making of the Modern World - The Goldsmiths'-Kress Library of Economic Literature 1450-1850 offers researchers new ways of understanding the emergence of modern economics and other social sciences. Tracks the development of the modern, western world through the lens of trade and wealth. Access via free membership of Senate House Library.


Individual newspaper archives include:

- Economist Historical Archive 1843 – 2010
- The Guardian 1821 – 2003
- The Observer 1791 – 2003
- Times Digital Archive 1785 – 1985
- The Times of India 1838 – 2003

Also listed on Ejournals
http://sfx.kcl.ac.uk/kings/az:

- New Statesman 1913 – 2000
- The Spectator 1828 – 2000
3.2 Reference works

**Blackwell Reference** - access to over 500 reference ebooks covering humanities and social sciences, including Blackwell Companions and Handbooks, dictionaries and encyclopaedias.

**New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics** - reference works, essays and articles covering all spheres of economics.

Search for *Oxford* on the Databases list to access:
- Oxford Dictionary of National Biography
- Oxford English Dictionary
- Oxford Handbooks
- Oxford Journals
- Oxford Reference
- Oxford Scholarship

3.3 Data

**Indiastat** - collects, collates and compiles socio-economic information about India and its states. 
*Special password required for Indiastat: www.kcl.ac.uk/library/help/Accessing-eresources.aspx*


**UK Data Service (including Census Support)** - acquire, curate and provide access to the UK's largest collection of social and economic data. Core services include The Rural Economy and Land Use Programme Data Support Service and the UK Data Service – a unified point of access to data from ESDS, Census Programme, Secure Data Service and others.

3.4 News

**Nexis UK (International news and business)**
Covers up to date news and business content from hundreds of sources including UK and international newspapers and sources such as BBC Worldwide Monitoring and Global Insight.

**Factiva** - a global business aggregator and archive, featuring news and information from 35,000 sources, 200 countries and 26 languages.

3.5 Ebooks

Ebooks are listed on the library catalogue with all other books. If King's has a print version plus an ebook version, they will both be listed in the search results. *You can choose to restrict your search to ebooks only by selecting SUBSETS, e-Books before searching.* You can also discover ebooks in the following growing collections listed on Databases: [http://metalib.kcl.ac.uk](http://metalib.kcl.ac.uk): Cambridge, Ebook Library, Ebsco, Elgar, JSTOR Books, MyiLibrary, Oxford, Springer, Taylor & Francis, UPCC

3.6 Theses

PhD theses submitted at King's are held in the Maughan Library store and are listed on the library catalogue. Theses and dissertations from other institutions can be discovered using other databases: *On the Database list, select the Subject tab. Under Subject select General Resources. Under Sub-category select Theses + Dissertations. Click GO.*

3.7 Journal databases

Key multidisciplinary ejournal databases relevant to social sciences include: JISC Journal Archives, JSTOR, Project Muse, Periodicals Archive and Ingenta.

These resources can be accessed via Library Services Databases: [http://metalib.kcl.ac.uk](http://metalib.kcl.ac.uk)

Further information, help and support: [http://www.kcl.ac.uk/library/help/](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/library/help/)