Research for HGA 102 Sociology B - Autobiographies

Aim of this document is to provide you with help to:

- find autobiographies using the library catalogue
- write your Research Journal

What we will cover -

1. Searching the **catalogue** to find a suitable **autobiographies**
2. Finding **print and online dictionaries and encyclopaedias** for definitions of your sociological terms
3. Finding **introductory sociological text books** for background information on the "relationship between the individual and culture"
4. Finding **books** for a specific **sociological concept** or **social characteristic**

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1. Searching the catalogue to find a suitable autobiography

- From the **Library's home** page at http://www.utas.edu.au/library
- Click on the **Catalogue** link on the left of the page
- This will open the **Basic Search** page

Select the "**Guided**" search page from the blue band at top of page

- In the left-hand drop-down box change Title Keyword to **General Keyword**
- In the right-hand box type **autobiography**
- Scroll down to **Limits - Locations**
- In the box select – **Loc: Cent**
- Click on red **GO** button

The **Search Results** page will open with the first **10** titles of **581** hits.

- In the **Sort by** drop down box at the top right of the page
- Change Publication date to **Authors**
- Click on the green **GO** button

The records now appear in alphabetical order of the authors' surnames.
Autobiographies by definition should be by and about the author.

QUESTION - Why can't I use a subject heading search?

- The proper subject heading autobiography is mainly used for books about writing autobiographies.

- Autobiographies very often have the subject heading biography, which is not what you want.

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2. Finding print and online dictionaries and encyclopaedias for definitions of your sociological terms

- Use the tab at the top of the page to return to the **Library's Home** page
- Click on the link to **Subject Guides** on the right-hand side of the page
- This will open a list of **subjects** taught at the University
- Scroll down and click on the **Sociology** link in the right-hand list

Scroll to find a list of **print** dictionaries and encyclopaedias in the Library's **Reference** collection. This is just a selection and you will find others on same shelves in the Reference area. e.g. **H 41** and **HM 17.**

Scroll down further down the page to find links to **online** dictionaries / encyclopedias including:

- **Xreferplus** has several good online sociology dictionaries
- **Online Dictionary of the Social Sciences**
- **Oxford English Dictionary Online**
- **Encyclopaedia Britannica Online**
- **International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Online**

NB You can do a search on Google for definitions by typing – **define:(NO SPACE)the word**

WARNING - It is very important to very carefully evaluate any information you find on the internet. Try to find more trustworthy sources, but still ask:

- Who wrote the information?
- Why was the information placed on the Web?
- What is being said?
- What is not being said?
- How accurate is it?
- How up-to-date is it (if important)? etc. etc.

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3. Finding introductory sociological text books for background information on the "relationship between the individual and culture"

- From the **Library's home** page at http://www.utas.edu.au/library
- Click on the **Catalogue** link on the left of the page
- This will open the **Basic Search** page

The drop-down box on the left offers various ways to search the catalogue, eg. title, author, subject, etc. The best way to search (for a known title), is by Title Alphabetical (default).

- You can work from a known source and then find other suitable books.

2 ways to find introductory sociological text books

1. Check on shelves at **HM 51**

2. OR use the **subject** heading in the **full record** for the book

- Click on the **subject** heading **– Sociology** - in the full record for the Giddens book
- This will open an alphabetical list of "proper" **subject headings**
- If you click on **– sociology** this will open **1021 items** with this subject heading
- They are listed in **date order**, so you will not need to scroll far to find several useful general sociology texts

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4. Finding books for a specific sociological concept or social characteristic

- On the **Basic Search** page
- In the left-hand box choose **Subject Keyword**
- In the right-hand box type your sociological term

NB You may need to try a **variety of alternatives**. Remember to check the "proper" subject headings on the Full Record pages. Some searches are more successful using the **General Keyword** search. These are some suggestions:

Subject Keyword	Subject Keyword	General Keyword
ethnicity 176	ethnic identity 130	ethnicity sociology 41
religion 2,356	religion sociology 166	religious identity 52
gender 127	gender identity 120	gender sociology 71

e.g. A Subject Keyword search on ethnicity produces a list of **197** titles. If you open number 8 *Religion and ethnic identity* you will find that ethnicity is a "proper" subject heading. You could also try "ethnic group" as a subject search.