International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS)

Contents
International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS) focuses on the four core social science subjects of anthropology, economics, politics and sociology and also includes complementary material in related subjects, such as development studies, environmental studies and media and communication. IBSS includes over 2 million bibliographic references to articles, reviews, books and selected chapters dating back to 1951. Links are set up from IBSS records to the full text of articles in journals subscribed to by our university.

Start
- Go to the homepage of the VU University Library: www.ub.vu.nl
- Choose e-Resources
- Search for IBSS
- Click GO!

Search: Basic or Advanced
Use the start screen of IBSS to perform a search or click on ‘Advanced’ to make full use of the more powerful search tools. Use the ‘Help’ button for extra information.

Basic Search
1) Enter a search term and click . If you enter more than one word, Ethnic minority for example, IBSS will look for documents that contain both ethnic and minority in the document information. Surround your words with quotation marks—“ethnic minority”—to force IBSS to look for your words as a phrase only, rather than finding each word separately.
2) It is possible to search simultaneously in several databases, besides IBSS, by changing the settings at the top of the page:

Using a thesaurus with your search
To get started, click the Thesaurus link under Search Tools in the right column of Advanced Search to display a list of the thesauri (see screenshot on the next page). Browse subject terms, or select one or more to add to your search. By searching with subject headings (places, terms) from a thesaurus, you can broaden or narrow your search, or find related words to further explore your subject of interest.
You can combine terms you find in the Thesaurus with your current search using Advanced Search. When you find a term you want to add, select it, then click Add to Search, and it’s automatically joined to your search with the operator you select.
Results and downloading

Limit to:
Limit the search results by selecting Peer reviewed journals. These journals are scholarly periodicals in which each article is critically reviewed by an independent panel of experts before publication (scholarly or scientific peers).

Advanced:
Use this option to combine several terms in different fields.

Thesaurus:
Use the thesaurus to find related terms on the subject you are exploring or to narrow or broaden your subject. The thesaurus can be very helpful in defining your search term(s).

Alerts:
Set up a personal account to be informed on new literature that is matching your searches.

Sorting results:
Search results can be sorted by Publication date or Relevance rank.

Narrow results:
Multiple options to narrow your results.

Preview:
Displays the Abstract (summary) and the list of Subject terms for this article.

Selected references
can be saved, printed, sent by email or cited in a desired output format like APA.

With the VU-Link you can find the shelf mark of the publication at the VU University Library and/or the full text of an article. It also offers the possibility of repeating your search in other bibliographic databases.