A SOCIAL WORK STUDENT’S
MERIAM LIBRARY SURVIVAL GUIDE

Meriam Library’s OneSearch Station
The starting place for all research:
http://library.csuchico.edu/

Reference Librarians staff the Reference Desk (2nd Floor);
Library hours
Chat, Call or text a librarian
Call: 530-898-5833    Text: 530-402-8263

Library homepage OneSearch box:  Search multiple resources at one time, including books from all CSU campuses, government documents, and many Meriam Library Databases.


Social Work Abstracts:  This is THE major index to social work literature.  An absolute must for comprehensive literature reviews

Social Science Abstracts:  A multidisciplinary social science database with a focus on a variety of social work topics.

SocINDEX:  Provides coverage of social work, sociology and a variety of multidisciplinary social sciences.

PsycINFO:  A psychology database with strong social work representation.  Especially good for mental health research.

ERIC:  An education database with a strong school social work representation.

CINAHL:  A nursing/allied health database with medical social work representation.

Academic Search Premier:  A general database but it has a broad range of social science, including social work, literature referenced in it.

Get Materials Chico State Does Not Own – Use Interlibrary Services (ILL) to request books, articles, and government documents from other libraries.
Top Social Work Journals

British Journal of Social Work
Child Welfare
Health & Social Work
International Social Work

Encyclopedia of Social Work request articles via Interlibrary Loan; find articles to request via the online search
Location: Reference 2nd Floor Call Number: HV35 S6

Government Documents —
Since 1993, most Government Documents are online. They provide statistics, program information, funding information, demographic information and much more.

- Congressional Record (Federal 1873-2019):
- Proquest Congressional:
- Fed Stats: Listing of statistics by agency or state.
- California Legislature: Find bills and laws from the California legislature.
- Rand California: Statistics on California and its cities and counties, an online library of research reports, and a monthly report on California’s economy.
- Social Work Guides
- Foundation Center: Library Use only

Search for a Specific Journal

To search for the journals listed above, or any journal you have the title for, follow these steps:
OneSearch → Journals by Title

Once you open “Journals by Title”, enter the title of the journal you are searching. The record for the journal will indicate if the journal is online or print and the years it is available.

Brainstorm synonyms for your concept/keyword.
Different databases use different words for the same concept. Searching for alternative words improves your chances of success. Elderly OR Aged; Teenagers OR Adolescents

Modify your searches based on your results.
If you find articles that reflect your interests, redo your search using words that appear in the title, subject headings, abstract, or full text of that article.

Use the asterisk (*) to find various word endings. (i.e., home* finds homeless, homelessness, homes)

Use quotes (“”) to find phrases. (i.e., “Foster children”)