

CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts
Database Guide

2008



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CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts

10 Reasons to Use *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts*

1. Access to over 723,475 records
2. Backfile coverage dating to 1975
3. Cited Reference Linking
4. Advance searching capability of 22 indexed fields
5. Searching via Browsable Indexes
6. Thesaurus Searching capability
7. Ability to cross-search with other CSA Illumina databases using an automatic de-duping feature
8. Lateral searching through Authors and Descriptors
9. Provoked searches of the Recent References and Web Resources Related to the Social Sciences and Humanities databases
10. Easy citation formatting via QuikBib

What Is *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* and Why Should I Use It?

CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts is building on the merged backfiles of Political Science Abstracts, published by IFI / Plenum, 1975-2000, and ABC POL SCI, published by ABC-CLIO, 1984-2000. The database provides citations, abstracts, and indexing of the international serials literature in political science and its complementary fields, including international relations, law, and public administration / policy. The serials list of the new database has focused on expanding international coverage. As of August 2005, approximately 1,500 titles are being monitored for coverage, of which 67% are published outside the United States.

Enhancements to the new database include the capability to link to electronic fulltext and the addition of new fields to the record structure. Furthermore, many records from key journals in political science, added to the database since 2001, also include the references cited in the bibliography of the source article. Each individual reference may also have links to an abstract and/or to other papers that cite that reference; these links increase the possibility of finding more potentially relevant articles. All records added since 2000 are indexed using a thesaurus of over 3,000 terms.

Subject coverage includes:

- Comparative politics
- Developing nations
- Disarmament
- Economic policy
- Electoral systems
- Environmental policy
- Government/Political systems
- History and theory of political science
- International relations/trade
- Labor relations
- Military policy
- Methodology and research technology
- Political behavior
- Political economy
- Political psychology
- Politics and law
- Politics and communication
- Politics and religion
- Politics and society
- Public administration
- Security and defense
- Welfare systems

For a complete list of subject coverage, click [here](#).

Supplemental Complimentary Databases

When you search the CSA Illumina social science databases, including *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts*, two supplementary database are searched simultaneously: *Recent References Related to the Social Sciences/Humanities* and *Web Resources Related to the Social Sciences/Humanities*. Access to these databases is included with a subscription to *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* on CSA Illumina.

Recent References Related to the Social Sciences/Humanities

This service supplements CSA Illumina by providing daily updates of citations from over 110 journals in the social sciences. Citations in this database include searchable fields for article title, author name, and journal title. If the search produces any matches to your search, you will see the choice for 'Recent References Related to the Social Sciences/Humanities.' Citations identified include those not yet indexed in the CSA Illumina database(s) being searched.

Web Resources Related to the Social Sciences/Humanities

This database is a collection of over 74,000 high-quality web sites relevant to the social sciences, which are selected and indexed by our editors. Sites indexed include secondary sources providing specific, technical information of interest to a college-level audience, from respected, nonbiased sources such as educational institutions, government agencies, and scientific organizations. Also indexed are sites representing primary sources of interest to social science researchers.

URLs are reviewed on a monthly basis, averaging a phenomenal rate of less than 2% deadlinks.

The screenshot shows the ProQuest database interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ProQuest logo, 'ILLUMINA' branding, and search options like 'Quick Search', 'Advanced Search', 'Search Tools', and 'Browse'. A search bar contains the query: '116 results found for: (corruption or (illegal influence)) and (government ... in ? Web Resources Related to the Social Sciences/Humanities: Alert Me'. Below the search bar, there are filters for 'Published Works 5454', 'Scholars 1478', and 'Web Sites 116'. The results are displayed in a list format with two entries. Each entry includes a checkbox, a title, a resource location URL, and a 'View Record' link. To the right of each entry, there is a 'Database' and 'Descriptors' section. The first entry is titled '"Crude Business": Corruption and Caspian Oil' and the second is titled '"Fujimoro's Rasputin": The Declassified Files on Peru's Former Intelligence Chief, Vladimiro Montesinos, DEA Report of Investigation, Corrupt Officials, Sensitive, August 27, 1996'. The page also features a 'Sort by' dropdown menu set to 'Most Recent First' and a 'Record #' field.

Field Name	Label	Search Examples
Title	TI=	ti=(institution)
Original Title*	OT=	ot= El laboratorio de la democracia en America Latina
Author	AU=	au=flint, colin au=(flint, colin) au=flint, c
Author Affiliation*	AF=	af=(Oregon) af=(Reed)
Corporate Author	CA=	ca=(jack vincent)
Source	SO=	so=(Presidential Studies Quarterly and 1998) so=(European and Politics and 2005 and 3(1))
Issue Title	IT=	it=(Globalism/Localism at Work)
ISSN	IS=	is=0419-4209
ISBN*	IB=	ib= 0754642054
CODEN*	CD=	cd= GPPUF7
Notes*	NT=	nt= edition date: 2004
Abstract	AB=	ab=(election)
Language*	LA=	la=Czech
Publication Year	PY=	py=1988
Publication Type	PT=	pt=journal article
Country of Publication	CP=	cp=France
Descriptors	DE=	de=democracy
Identifiers	ID=	id=(fuzzy set analysis)
Classification*	CL=	cl= 9161 politics and law; politics and law
Accession Number	AN=	an= 200408478
References*	RE=	re=(consultants and campaign)

Table of Searchable Fields and Codes

* denotes fields added in 2001.

Publication Types

CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts indexes eight publication types that are searchable by name on CSA Illumina by using the field code PT=. These document types include journal article, book, book chapter, dissertation, book review, film review, software review and working paper.

The publication types (PT=) represented in *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* by percentage:

Journal Article: 85%

Book, Film, and Software Review: 5%

Dissertation: 1%

Book and Book Chapter: 9%

Language

The following languages are indexed in *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts*:

• Afrikaans	• Indonesian
• Arabic	• Italian
• Bulgarian	• Japanese
• Catalan	• Korean
• Chinese	• Multilingual
• Czech	• Norwegian
• Danish	• Polish
• Dutch	• Portuguese
• English	• Romanian
• Finnish	• Russian
• Flemish	• Serbo-Croatian with Roman alphabet
• French	• Slovak
• Galician	• Slovene
• German	• Spanish
• Greek	• Swedish
• Hebrew	• Turkish
• Hungarian	

Cited References

The unique cited reference linking in CSA Illumina allows you to see how many times an author/paper has been cited, who is working on a similar subject, and also find other documents related to a topic.

When available, there will be a link from a cited reference to its original abstract and other articles that have cited the same reference.

As an added benefit, linking on the Abstract link in a cited reference will take you to original abstracts from any of the following databases whether you subscribe to them or not:

ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts

BHI: British Humanities Index

Communication Abstracts

Communication Studies: A SAGE Full-Text Collection

Criminology: A SAGE Full-Text Collection

Education: A SAGE Full-Text Collection

ERIC

Management & Organization Studies: A SAGE Full-Text Collection

Nursing and Health Sciences: A SAGE Full-text Collection

Politics and International Relations: A SAGE Full-Text Collection

Psychology: A SAGE Full-Text Collection

CSA Social Services Abstracts

CSA Sociological Abstracts

Sociology: A SAGE Full-Text Collection

Urban Studies & Planning: A SAGE Full-Text Collection

Worldwide Political Science Abstracts

Selection Policy

The selection policy of *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* classifies the journals as Core, Priority, and Selective.

- *CORE* journals are published by political science associations, groups, faculties, and institutions, and/or have the term “political science” in their titles. All substantive articles appearing in these journals are abstracted and indexed, and citations are provided to the book reviews published therein.
- *PRIORITY* journals are drawn from related social sciences, e.g., economics, international relations, law, public administration, sociology, that consistently address topics of political science relevance, and in which political scientists regularly publish. More than 50% of the substantive articles appearing in these journals are selected for coverage.

- *SELECTIVE* sources include journals from related social sciences that occasionally publish works by political scientists. Less than 50% of the substantive articles appearing in these journals are covered.

The international distribution of the journals indexed in *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* is as follows:

- North America 33%
- South and Central America 6%
- Western Europe 50%
- Eastern Europe 3%
- Australia, Asia, Middle East, Africa 8%

For a complete list of the journals indexed in the database, access the Serial Source List [here](#).

The indexing practices of *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* provide value-added features that include professional document selection, extensive quality control, and three levels of indexing, including Classification Codes (CL=), Descriptors (DE=), and Identifiers (ID=).

- *Classification Codes* indicate a broad subject area and represent the major focus of the article. *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* identifies 14 broad areas of political science and includes 30 specific sub-headings. The classification codes can be searched by numeric code or word.
- *Descriptors* are assigned using the Thesaurus of Political Indexing Terms. The Thesaurus of Political Science Indexing Terms contains an alphabetical listing of Main Term descriptors used for indexing and searching the *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* database and printed index, beginning with the May 2002 issue. Efforts were made to preserve the terminology of the controlled vocabularies used in the backfiles of ABC POL SCI and IFI/Plenum Political Science Abstracts. Associated term relationships are displayed under each Main Term. These may include a Descriptor Code, Scope Note, Use For and Use references, Broader Terms and Narrower Terms, and Related Terms. Each of these elements of the Thesaurus display is explained below.
- *Identifiers*: The identifiers field in *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* is used as a natural language field to capture terminology and concepts that are discussed in a given document that are not accessible via thesaurus vocabulary.

Boolean Operators and Other Search Tools Supported by CSA Illumina

Boolean operators help define the relationships between words or groups of words.

- AND** Use to narrow a search and retrieve records containing all of the words it separates
- OR** Use to broaden a search and retrieve records containing any of the words it separates
- NOT** Use to narrow a search and retrieve records that do not contain the term following it.
- ()** Use to group words or phrases when combining Boolean phrases and to show the order in which relationships should be considered.

Proximity operators identify the number of words to come between the search terms.

- WITHIN** Use to narrow a search by specifying a proximity relationship of “X” fewer than “X” words between search terms.
- NEAR** Use to narrow a search by specifying a proximity relationship of fewer than 10 words between search terms.



Special symbols can expand the scope of your search.

- * Truncate using the wild card symbol. This expands a search term to include forms of a root word, e.g. politic* retrieves politics, political, etc.
- * Find an unlimited number of characters within a word, e.g. behavi*r retrieves behavior and behaviour
- ? Find alternative spellings. The ? represents any single character; ?? represents two characters and so on. Use within or at the end of a word, e.g. brahm?ns finds brahmans as well as brahmans.

Note: Search queries containing several operators search in the following order:
(), NEAR, NOT, AND, OR

Ready, Set, Search! Using CSA Illumina to Search *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts*

Now that you have an understanding of what *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* is and how the searchable field codes and search tools function, you are now ready to search the database through CSA Illumina.

Clicking on 'Help & Support' at any time will direct you to a context-specific Help page.

Find answers to questions about products, access, use, set up, and administration.

[Search](#) [Browse](#) [Contact Support](#) [FAQ](#) [Give us your Feedback](#)

2186 - Quick Search
Article URL: <http://support.csa.com/article.asp?article=2186&p=101>
Category: [Support Library](#) > [CSA Illumina](#) > [Search Tips](#)
[Support Library](#) > [CSA Illumina](#) > [Interface Features](#)

Quick search provides an easy way to start the search process in CSA Illumina.

Begin by entering a word or phrase into the search field. Then select a subject area or specific databases to search. The subject areas are selected from the pull down menu right below the search field and include the following four broad categories; *Arts & Humanities*, *Natural Sciences*, *Social Sciences*, and *Technology*.

Quick Search | Advanced Search | Search Tools | 0 Marked Records | Search History | Alerts | Help & Support

child welfare Search

Search Tips: e.g., wildcard*, exact phrase

Databases: Selected Databases or Select Specific Databases

Now Selected: PsycINFO (1940-Current) | Sociological Abstracts | Sociology: A SAGE Full-Text Collection

Date Range: Earliest to Current

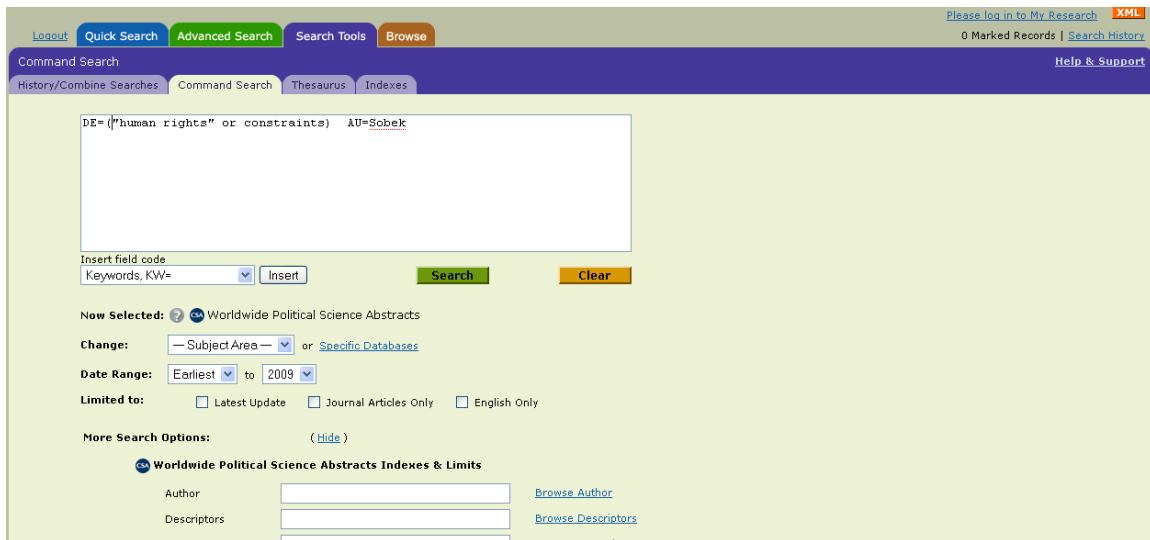
© 2005 CSA | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#) | [Governance](#) | [Help](#) | [Feedback](#) | Interface: English

If you are interested in searching in specific databases, select the subject area and then click on the "Select

QUICK, ADVANCED, OR COMMAND SEARCHING

On CSA Illumina, search strategies can be applied using one of three approaches.

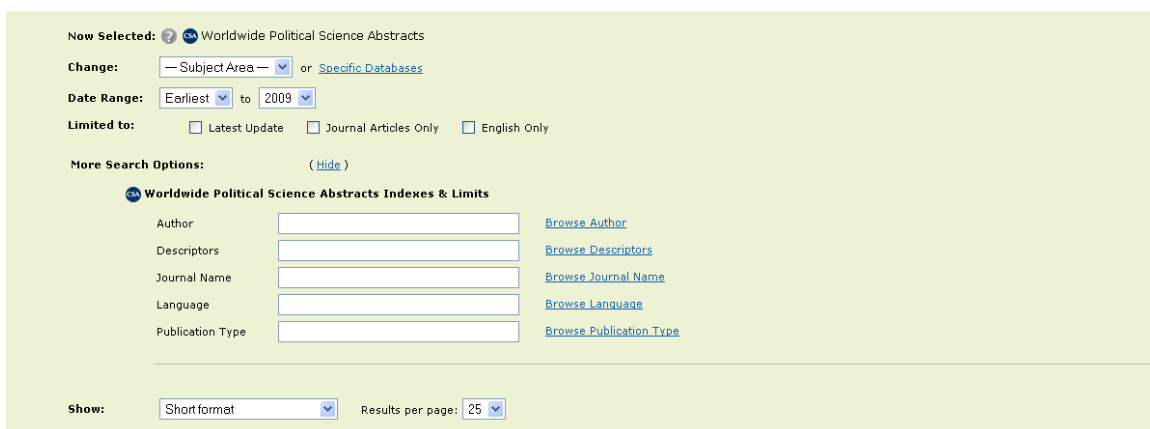
- **Quick Search** restricts your search to anywhere (AY=). An anywhere search searches across all of the available fields in a record. Multiple words entered into the search field, will be treated as a phrase.
- **Advanced Search** gives you the advantage of being able to select any of the 26 field codes from a pull-down menu. The separate search boxes are formatted to include the Boolean Operators to help guide you in formatting your search.
- **Command Search** or *Professional Search* may be preferred by advanced users who are comfortable with entering search strategies without aid of a template.



LIMITS

Search strategies may be refined by using the following limits (available in ‘Advanced Search’ and ‘Command Search’):

- **Latest Update** limits your results to include only the most recent records that were added to the database. *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* is updated on a monthly basis.
- **Journal Articles Only** limits the search to only include the publication type of journal articles.
- **English Only** limits retrieval to only records that are available in English. *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* indexes source publications in over 30 languages; for non-English documents, titles are translated into English, and, whenever possible, an abstract is provided in English.
- **By Publication Date** limits retrieval to a specific date range.



SORTING

The sorting features give you the opportunity to order your results based on the publication date or relevancy.

- ***Most Recent First*** displays the records in order beginning with the most recent.
- ***Relevance Rank*** displays records in order based on relevancy. Relevancy is determined through a rating system that weighs the records based on the number of times the term(s) appear in the record and where they appear.

SHOWING RECORDS

Select how to display records from the 'Show' pull-down menu. Options include displaying the short format, full format, full format-omit references, and custom format.

The 'de-dupe' feature automatically removes any duplicate records that appear in your set of results, which is especially useful when you are cross-database searching. You can also use the 'Show Duplicates' feature to display the duplicates.

When viewing records on CSA Illumina, both the author and descriptors are hot linked. Clicking on the hot-link will search the database for each occurrence of the selected author or descriptor.

PRINTING, SAVING, & E-MAILING RECORDS

Printing, saving, and e-mailing records can be done by using the 'Save, Print, E-mail' function. This function also includes an exporting feature to a number of bibliographic managers such as RefWorks and the use of our output format editor, QuikBib. Creating a My Research Profile on CSA Illumina will also afford options for saving searches, creating search alerts, and setting up custom interface settings and login links. Click [here](#) to learn more about a My Research Profile on CSA Illumina.

Value-Added Features

CSA Illumina offers a number of value-added features to help with the search process and maximize the relevancy of search results.

THESAURUS SEARCH

CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts may be searched directly from the Thesaurus, using the Thesaurus Search Feature.

- The Alphabetical display presents an alphabetical list of thesaurus terms.
- The Thesaurus displays a term and its hierarchy, including its Scope Notes, any Use For (UF) or Use directions, and its hierarchical relationships with Broader Terms (BT), Narrower Terms (NT), and Related Terms (RT).

- The Rotated Index displays all thesaurus terms or phrases that contain the search term used.

Marked terms can be searched from any of the displays, applying AND, OR, or Explode operators, and setting limits as defined above.

Thesaurus of Political Science Indexing Terms

A thesaurus provides a standard language or set of terms with which to describe a subject area. The thesaurus terms are used by indexers to describe the contents of publications in a consistent, comprehensive, and concise manner. These terms are listed in the Descriptors field (DE=) of each record added to the database. A searcher uses these terms to retrieve the most precise set of relevant documents.

Using our interactive Thesaurus Search you can browse for terms via a hierarchical, alphabetical, or rotated index display. These display formats allow you to navigate the thesaurus alphabetically or through the hierarchical relationships between terms. After finding appropriate terms, you can submit a search for those terms in the database descriptor field.

Introduction

The Thesaurus of Political Science Indexing Terms contains an alphabetical listing of Main Term descriptors used for indexing and searching the *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* database and printed index, beginning with the May 2002 issue. Efforts were made to preserve the terminology of the controlled vocabularies used in the backfiles of ABC POL SCI and IFI/Plenum Political Science Abstracts. Associated term relationships are displayed under each Main Term. These may include a Descriptor Code,

Scope Note, Use For and Use references, Broader Terms and Narrower Terms, and Related Terms. Each of these elements of the Thesaurus display is explained below.

Main Terms

Main Terms appear in boldface letters. Nouns and noun phrases are preferred for Main Terms, with plural word forms used with nouns that can be quantified (Constitutions, Politicians, Values) and singular word forms used with nouns representing processes, properties, and conditions (Employment, Globalization, Validity). The gerund or verbal noun is also used with process terms (Data Processing, Marketing).

Main Term descriptors are limited to 60 characters. Punctuation is used minimally. Hyphens are used where needed for clarity. In cases where ambiguity may occur, and to distinguish the meaning of homographs, Main Terms and Use reference terms appear with qualifying expressions in parentheses.

Authoritarianism (Political Ideology)

Authoritarianism (Psychology)

Ministers (Clergy)

Ministers (Political)

Descriptor Codes

Descriptor Codes are seven-character, alphanumeric authority numbers for Thesaurus terms. Descriptor Codes have been assigned to all Main Terms. These are distinguished by the "P" prefix. Since a Descriptor Code is a unique number representing a specific Main Term, it may be used in online searching as an alternative to specifying the Main Term itself.

Arms Trade P046400

Scope Notes

Scope Notes are brief statements of the intended meaning or usage of a Main Term. They may provide definitions, user instructions, or both.

Censure

A power vested in a legislative body by which each chamber can discipline its own members or other public officials.

Checks and Balances

A principle of the US constitution whereby branches of the government have some controlling authority over the actions of other branches.

Incumbency

The sphere of action or period of office of an elected official.

Representative Democracy

A form of democracy in which people elect a small number of people to represent their interests and views in legislative bodies.

Use For

Terms referenced by the Use For designation are nonpreferred terms. They include synonyms and variants of the Main Term and specific terms indexed under a more generic descriptor. For every Use For term, a reciprocal Use reference is generated, pointing to the preferred Main Term.

Legislators**Use For**

Congressmen

Member of Parliament

Senators

Use

"Use" references direct the user from synonyms and other nonpreferred expressions to the preferred Main Term. They are the reciprocal entries of terms referenced by the Used For designation.

Munitions

USE Armaments

Broader Terms & Narrower Terms

Broader Terms indicate the more general class or classes to which the Main Term logically belongs. Narrower Terms indicate the more specific sub-classes of the Main Term. The Broader Term/Narrower Term relationship is reciprocal: for every Broader Term reference there is a corresponding reciprocal Narrower Term reference.

Central Government

Broader Terms Government

Government

Narrower Terms Central Government

Broader Term/Narrower Term relationships create thesaurus hierarchies, i.e., sequences of class relationships that may extend upward more generally or downward more specifically through several levels. At any point in the hierarchy, Broader Term/Narrower

Term designations refer upward or downward only to the next most general or specific level. However, by tracing these references, a complete hierarchy or "family tree" can be approximated.

Broader .Social Institutions
..Government
...Central Government
NarrowerFederal Government

Related Terms

Terms referenced by the Related Term designation bear a close conceptual relationship to the Main Term, but they do not share the direct class/sub-class relationship described by the Broader Term/Narrower Term relationship. Related Terms are always entered reciprocally. They should be considered for use as other appropriate search terms.

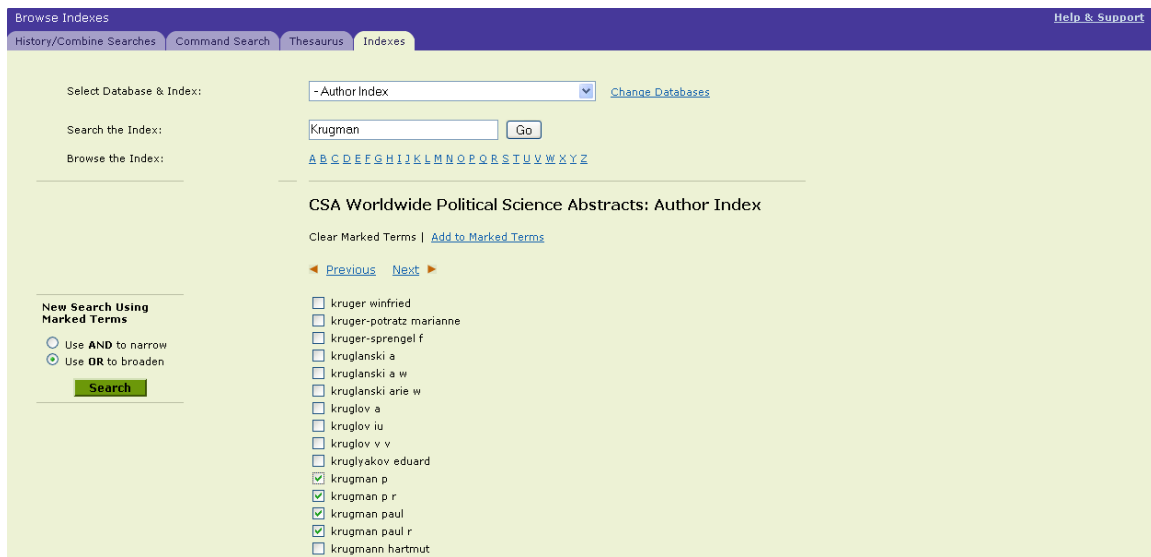
Class Politics

Related Terms
Class Relations
Labor Relations
Social Class
Syndicalism
Worker Consciousness
Working Class

BROWSE INDEXES

Searches may also be activated through five browsable indexes: Author, Descriptors, Journal Name, Language, and Publication Type.

A browsable index is an alphabetical listing of terms used in a specific field of a database. You can browse this list to see various spellings of author names, types of publications covered by a particular database, or names of journals indexed in a certain database. After finding appropriate terms, you can submit a search for those terms. Searches may also be activated through three browsable indexes: Author, Journal Name, and Publication Type in *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts*. Once the appropriate author name, journal name, or publication type is located, you can search directly in *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* using the Indexes Search Feature within the Search Tools tab (see below).



The Research Process

I) How to begin the electronic research process

A. Determine your goals:

1. State your research question:
"How might the United States begin to decrease its dependence on foreign oil as an energy source?"
2. Set parameters for your search
"What types of possible solutions are going to be analyzed (behavioral changes, research possibilities, policy shifts, etc.)?"
"Are certain solutions more practical than others?"

B. Identify general concepts:

1. Which general terms relate to your search?
"Energy consumption"; "energy policy"; "energy conservation"; petroleum"

C. Choose the appropriate database

1. Are there specific journals that specialize in energy policy or national issues?
Environmental Politics
Perspectives on Global Development and Technology
The National Interest
Survival
2. Are any of these journals covered in *CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts/SAGE* full-text collection database(s)? What other resources are available on the Web Resources Database?

II) Build your search strategy:

A. Quick search:

1. Enter phrase or multiple search terms separated by Boolean operators AND to link terms, OR to link similar words or synonyms:

"petroleum and energy policy" or enter **"(petroleum or petroleum production) and energy consumption and United States"** in Quick Search box

Note: Consult thesauri for proper use of terms. For example, use "petroleum" instead of "oil"; use "energy consumption" instead of "energy use"

B. Advanced Search:

The drop boxes allow you to limit the search by any of the searchable field codes including Keyword (KW), Author (AU), Journal Name (JN), Descriptor (DE), Abstract (AU), or Title (TI). You can also limit your search to specific publication years and choose the record format. The descriptor field (DE) and abstract field (AB) will allow you to narrow down your search even more by locating specific descriptors and key words in the abstract.

Example: If I wanted to limit my search to policy options...

**KW = (petroleum or (petroleum production)) and KW = (United States) and
DE = (energy policy)**

III) Analyzing Results

A. Good results:

If results are satisfactory, then download them to a bibliographic manager like RefWorks; alternatively, save, print, email your citations, or output them via CSA's QuikBib.

B. If results are not on target:

1. Check spelling of search terms and use thesauri or browsable indexes to drop unnecessary or misleading terms.
2. Increase precision: for example, if you want to emphasize energy policy as a possible solution then you may have to search *energy policy* as a descriptor (DE) or word in the title of the article instead of by keyword (KW).
3. You may need to rethink whether the database you selected is appropriate for your search.

C. Too few/too many results:

1. Increase retrieval by using fewer ANDs and more ORs

**Example: KW=petroleum or petroleum production or energy source
Or...**

2. Increase precision by using additional ANDs and fewer ORs (NOT can be used to exclude some terms)

**Example: KW=petroleum and energy policy and energy conservation
not (petroleum production)**
