


The International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS), produced by the London School of Economics and Political Science, includes over 3 million references to journal articles, books, reviews and selected chapters dating back to 1951. The IBSS is particularly strong on international material. The database is updated bi-weekly.

Access

- Access IBSS from the ICH Library website: www.ucl.ac.uk/child-health/support-services/library/databases
- Click on **IBSS International Bibliography of the Social Sciences**
- Click on the **UCL logo**

Basic Search

- Type a word or phrase into the search box, e.g. action research
- Click on  to search
- You may need to think about different ways of describing your topic in order to retrieve all relevant material from the database. You can link your keywords using **AND** or **OR**.

Boolean operators:

AND searches for records containing **all** search terms used – this will reduce the number of hits, but those found will be more relevant e.g. participation and children

OR searches for records that contain **any** of the terms e.g. children or infants or youth – best used for synonyms

- There are other search tips that can help you to find all the relevant documents that are indexed in the IBSS:

Truncation To retrieve variations of a free text search term, use the truncation symbol *, e.g. participat* would retrieve participate, participation, participatory, etc.

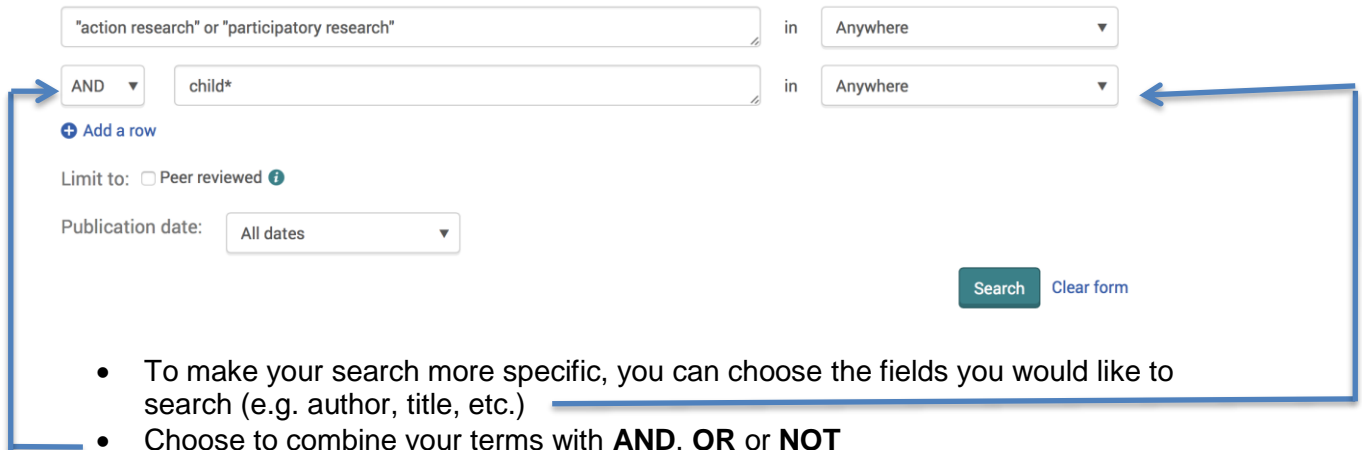
Wild Card To find alternative prefixes to a word, or to find variant letters within a word, use the wild card symbol ?. The number of wild card symbols specifies the number of letters, e.g. wom?n finds women or woman. Ad??? finds added, adult, adopt, etc.

Phrase searching To specify a phrase within a search, surround it with double quotation marks e.g. “inclusive education”

Advanced Search

If you wish to use more than a couple of keywords, click on **Advanced** towards the top of the screen, and select **Advanced Search**.

Enter your keywords, or phrases, into one of more of the search boxes.



- To make your search more specific, you can choose the fields you would like to search (e.g. author, title, etc.)
- Choose to combine your terms with **AND**, **OR** or **NOT**
- Beneath the search boxes, select any **limits** you wish to apply (e.g. publication date range, English language only)
- Click on **Search**

Thesaurus Search

The thesaurus is a list of descriptors that are used to index materials in IBSS. These descriptors are used to organise IBSS by subject.

If you find a descriptor for your topic, you shouldn't need to search for variant terminology, or variant spellings. (E.g. a search for the descriptor "action research" will also find material that mentions the alternative phrase "participatory research".)

- Click on **Thesaurus**, above the search boxes on the Advanced Search screen
- Click on **IBSS terms (subjects)** (or select **places** if you want to find a descriptor for a geographical region)
- Type in a key word or phrase, e.g. **action research**, and click on **Find**

A list of keywords that match your topic will appear.

- Click in the check box next to the descriptor that matches your topic
- Make sure the checkbox to the right of the descriptor (in the **explode** column) is also ticked. This will ensure all narrower terms are included in the search
- Click on **Add to search**

The descriptor that you selected will appear in the top search box on the **Advanced Search** screen.

Click on **Thesaurus** again to add additional descriptors to your search.

Recent Searches

Each search you conduct is listed on the **Recent Searches** page. From this screen you can combine your searches:

- Click on **Recent Searches** below the search box
- To combine your searches, type the set numbers of the searches you wish to combine into the search box, linked with AND or OR.

Search

Search tips

Examples: 1 AND 3 or "6"

(1 AND 3) OR (1 AND 2)

3 NOT treatment

The combined set numbers

Items selected: 0

[Delete](#)
[Save](#)
[Show all details](#)
[Export all searches](#)

	Set	Search	Databases	Results	Actions
3	S3	(SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Child welfare") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Only children") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Children in care") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Child psychology") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Childhood") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Adopted children") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Sons") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Children's rights") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Child protection") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Child mortality") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Gifted children") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Abandoned children") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Infancy") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Children") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Child labour") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Daughters") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Disabled children") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Early childhood") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Child development") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Migrants' children")) AND SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Action research")	International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS)	49*	Actions ▾
2	S2	SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Action research")	International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS)	1,030*	Actions ▾
1	S1	SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Child welfare") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Only children") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Children in care") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Child psychology") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Childhood") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Adopted children") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Sons") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Children's rights") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Child protection") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Child mortality") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Gifted children") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Abandoned children") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Infancy") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Children") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Child labour") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Daughters") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Disabled children") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Early childhood") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Child development") OR SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Migrants' children")	International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS)	56,029*	Actions ▾

The results of the combined search

Displaying Results

Your search can be refined further from the **Results** screen. To the left of the screen, there are options narrow the search by publication year, language, document type, etc. Once you make a selection, your results will be adjusted automatically.

To search *within* your results, scroll down to the bottom of the screen. Enter a keyword or phrase into the **Search Within** box and click on **Search** to find any of your results that contain that keyword or phrase.


To view articles that are similar in topic to any one of the results:

- Click on the title of the result you are interested in
- From the options to the right of the screen, click on **Related items**. You also have options to click on **Documents with shared references**, or **Cited by**.

Save or Export Your Results

Select the results you wish to save or export by clicking in the check boxes next to each result (or use the checkbox at the top of the list to select all results on the screen), then select from the options above the results list:

 **Cite**  **Email**  **Print**  **Save**

To save results within IBSS, click on **Save** and select **Save to My Research** - You will be prompted to create a **My Research** account. The results will be saved permanently within your account. To access these results from IBSS at a later date, click on the folder  (in the top right corner of the screen) and sign in.

Email - Send your results to one or more people. You can select a citation style.







Print - You can select a citation style.

Cite – Use this to copy the references, in your selected style, so that they can be pasted into a Word document.

Save – Use this option to export references to bibliographic management software, such as Endnote, Reference Manager, etc.

Save Search Strategies and Create Alerts

- Click on **Recent Searches** below the search box
- Click on **Actions** to the right of the search that you wish to save and select **Save Search**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Set ▾	Search	Databases	Results 0	Actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S1	action research	International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS)	12242*	Actions ▾ <div>  Save search  Delete  Modify search  Create alert  Create RSS feed  Get link </div>

* Approximate result count without duplicates

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You will be asked to sign in, if you have not already done so, and create a name for your search. Click on **Recent Searches** and then **Saved searches** to access the saved search.

If you wish to receive e-mails listing any new publications that are added to IBSS and that match your search criteria, click on **Save search/alert** from the drop-down menu below the search box. Click on **Create alert** and complete the form.