

SOCI 475 – Nancy Lewis
Lecture Notes, Spring 2011
9 students registered

From Nancy:

The topic of the seminar is sexual offenders, looking at treatment (not just psychological treatment, but more generally treatment by the community and criminal justice system including civil commitment) and recidivism. Some students may look at community notification laws, civil commitment, treatment outcome statistics, rates of recidivism by different types of offenders

-Quick review of research process

-Overview of Sociological Abstracts vs. NCJRS

-Soc Abs:

- Thesaurus
 - sexual offenders – no results
 - Sex offenders – present
 - Show begins with vs. contains w/ sex
 - Recidivism also there
- keyword search for Sexual offenders – 1526 results
 - See the suggested subjects
 - Note that they are all connected by AND; so don't just click, but go back and retype
- Example Searches
 - Sex offenders as subject search – 1165
 - Sex offenders and recidivism subject search – 103
 - Limiters: journal articles in English – 79
 - Show article linker and talk about date problem
 - First record: Recidivism of Sexual Offenders: A Re-Appraisal from *British Journal of Criminology* (1978) has links in article linker that are inaccurate because of the date. Date must be checked manually.
- Talk about “my research” and personal research logs

-NCJRS – Gov. database, has info about articles, books & book chapters, gov docs, etc.

- Not connected with Article Linker, so must locate materials manually once you decide what you want.
- Demonstrate with search for Sex offenders, then add treatment, then add community
- Talk about the index terms and the thesaurus

-Other databases to search will depend upon the topic.

-Why you would or would not want to use book resources and Worldcat (or beta IDS catalog)

- Brief demo for IDS beta catalog

-Hands-on searching time