

# ***SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH***

## **A GUIDE FOR NMSU SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS**

This is a guide, not an exhaustive source of resources to help you research historical and legislative social policies issues. Encyclopedias, article databases, and a section on government documents are included.

If you need more help with your research you can contact Alisa Gonzalez, Social Science reference librarian at (acgonzal@nmsu.edu) or stop by the reference desk. If you need help with government publications, contact Government Documents at 646-5791. Government Documents are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Branson Library. They maintain regular (Monday – Friday 8-5) business hours.

### **GETTING STARTED:**

The Green Book <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/wmprints/green/index.html> provides information in great depth about major social welfare programs.

**ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SOCIAL WORK**, National Association of Social Workers; Zuhl Reference **HV35 So13, 19<sup>th</sup> ed.** (plus supplements).

The standard reference work of the social work profession, and another great place to start your research.

### **HISTORY:**

**ENCYCLOPEDIA OF EUROPEAN SOCIAL HISTORY FROM 1350 TO 2000** / Peter N. Stearns, editor-in-chief; Zuhl Reference; **HN373 .E63 2001**

An excellent resource in six volumes. Volume 3, Section 13 covers ‘Social Problems and Social Reform’. Each section includes a bibliography for further reading.

**ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN SOCIAL HISTORY** / Mary Kupiec Cayton, Elliott J. Gorn, Peter W. Williams, editors. Zuhl Reference; **HN57 .E58 1993**

In three-volumes. An excellent source for overviews and introductions to American social history.

**THE CAMBRIDGE ANCIENT HISTORY. D57 .C25 1920; D57 .C252 1970**, 3rd ed. Zuhl Reference The 1970 edition was a complete rewrite, so the older edition was retained. Of all of the reference works—this goes back the farthest chronologically, to what the editors called “prehistory”.

**DICTIONARY OF THE MIDDLE AGES** , Joseph R. Strayer, editor in chief, Zuhl Reference; **D114 .D5 1982**. 13 vols. Containing 5,000 entries, from about 500-1500; geographic areas are Latin West, Slavic World, Asia Minor, Muslim world in the East, and North Africa. Includes bibliographies.

**THE CAMBRIDGE MEDIEVAL HISTORY**, planned by J.B. Bury, edited by H.M. Gwatkin, J.P. Whitney. Zuhl Reference **D117 .C3 1924**, 8 vols. Covers the years 717-1453; geography included is Christian Roman Empire, Teutonic Kingdoms, rise of the Saracens and the Western Empire, and more.

**THE CAMBRIDGE MODERN HISTORY** planned by the late Lord Acton, edited by A.W. Ward, G.W. Prothero, [and] Stanley Leathes. Zuhl Reference **D208 .C16 1902, v.1-v.13 & Atlas**. "Modern" in this case starts with the renaissance and ends at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**THE NEW LARNED HISTORY FOR READY REFERENCE, READING AND RESEARCH**; Zuhl Reference , **D9 .L32 1922, 12 vols**, The actual words of the world's best historians, biographers and specialists; a complete system of history for all uses, extending to all countries and subjects and representing the better and newer literature of history; the work of J.N. Larned. This older work is a very comprehensive source and a good choice if you are having problems finding information on historical social issues.

### **THE ACTUAL LAW:**

Many of the resources will list specific laws related to a policy area. Many laws are cited by their popular names rather than their lengthy formal ones. The Popular Names Index of the *United States Code* (Zuhl Reference Desk KF 62 2000 .A2 2001 v.27 and BRANSON Doc Ref KF 62 2000 .A2 2001 v.27) provides citation information for popular law names.

Governmental policies must be mandated by public law. Once you find the citation of a law, a copy can be found in print or microfilm at Branson Library in the *Statutes at Large*:

Volumes 1-49 [1<sup>st</sup> (1789) – 74<sup>th</sup> (1935/36)] (BRANSON Microform KF 50.U54)  
Volumes 47 to present [1931/32 to present] (BRANSON Doc Ref KF 50.U54)

### **Article Databases—A Selected List**

(Article databases are accessed from the library homepage  
<http://lib.nmsu.edu/index.shtml>)

### ***Social Work Specific (usually better for more current topics)***

#### Social SciSearch

This database provides bibliographic coverage of current research focused on social work, human services, and related areas, including social welfare, social policy, and community development. The database abstracts and indexes more than 1,406 serials publications and includes abstracts of journal articles and dissertations, and citations to book reviews from 1985 to the present.

### Social Work Abstracts

This database provides citations and abstracts to articles from the professional social work literature. Topics include homelessness, AIDS, child and family welfare, aging, substance abuse, legislation, community organization, and more. Coverage: 1977-present.

### ***Government Specific***

#### Congressional Universe

Provides citation information for Congressional documents from 1970 to present. Full text is available for most documents 1994 to present. For documents that are not full text, the Superintendent of Documents classification number is given. Paper or microfiche copies of these documents may be found in the Government Documents Collection, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors of Branson Library.

#### GPO Monthly Catalog

Online from 1976 to present

Paper index from 1893 to 1996 (BRANSON Doc Ref GP 3.8:)

Indexes government publications from 1893 to present. A cumulative subject index for years 1900-1971 is available at BRANSON Doc Ref Z 1223.A1832.

*Or online at.*

**GPO Access** (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html>) [104th (1995/96 to present)]

**Library of Congress Thomas** (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>) [101<sup>st</sup> (1989/90) to present]

### ***Others (better historical coverage)***

#### **Historical Abstracts**

Access to article abstracts in over 2000 history journals; coverage Europe, Asia, Africa, South America. Note: use the "Advanced Search" option; you can limit by time period: EXAMPLE: 1800H OR 1900H RESULTS: Entries dealing with the eighteen or nineteen hundreds (1800-1999).

#### **America: History and Life**

Access to article abstracts in over 2000 history journals; regional focus on the United States and other countries in North America. Note: use the "Advanced Search" option; you can limit by time period: EXAMPLE: 1800H OR 1900H RESULTS: Entries dealing with the eighteen or nineteen hundreds (1800-1999).

#### **PAIS and PAIS Archive**

Index to the literature on public affairs. 1972 – present for PAIS, archive covers 1957-1976