

Internet resources for sociology

By Gary A. McMillan, Margaret R. Dittmore, and Carol Ritzen Kem

ACRL's Anthropology & Sociology Section explores network resources

Sociology—the scientific study of human social behavior—presents a daunting challenge to the Internet explorer. The discipline's theoretical, methodological, and substantive diversity renders almost every site and resource useful for sociological inquiry. In reviewing resources, we sought to develop a guide to help librarians introduce sociology faculty and students to the Internet. Thus, with library instruction in mind, it is wise to consider what sociology is not, e.g., neither socialism, social activism, social engineering, nor social work. Many of the entries cited will indeed lead one to applied social sciences resources, but we have attempted to focus on sites relevant to sociology as a discipline. We cite resources which are clearly "sociology-identified" in terms of sponsorship, production, participation, and/or use. A few key general sources that sociologists should find interesting (e.g., federal and funding-related information) are also included.

Gateway systems: Aids to exploring the Internet for sociology resources

- **Berkeley Sociology Gopher.** Identifies journals, data archives, Internet directories and guidebooks, and selected special collections and Web sites. *Access:* gopher://infolib.lib.berkeley.edu/11/resdbs/soci.
- **NTIS FedWorld.** This unparalleled omnibus gateway to federal-related sites includes

pointers to the White House and Congress, the Bureau of the Census, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes, other federal departments and independent agencies, and information clearinghouses such as the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. Access is provided to 130-plus government bulletin boards not otherwise accessible. *Access:* <http://www.fedworld.gov>.

- **Sociology Departments.** Connect to more than 35 (and growing) sociology departments for descriptive program information plus hot-links to newly identified sociology sources. *Access:* <http://www.shu.edu/~brownsam/v1/institut.html> or http://www.princeton.edu/~sociology/us_links.html.

- **WWW Sociology Virtual Library.** All types of resources are here, including scholarly and professional organizations, academic departments, research centers, and public and private institutions worldwide. *Access:* <http://www.w3.org/hypertext/DataSources/bySubject/Sociology/Overview.html>.

- **Yahoo's Sociology.** The Yahoo ("Yet Another Hierarchical Official Oracle") group represents another ongoing effort to identify and systematize Internet resources. *Access:* http://www.yahoo.com/social_science/sociology.

Scholarly discussion lists and electronic conferences

Over thirty discussion groups were assessed through subscription or communication with the list owner. The following lists should have the broadest appeal to sociologists.

Gary A. McMillan is head of the Social Work Library and sociology/anthropology bibliographer at Howard University, e-mail: mcmillan@cidc.howard.edu. Margaret R. Dittmore is the librarian of the John Wesley Powell Library of Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, e-mail: libem054@sivm.si.edu. Carol Ritzen Kem is the sociology collection bibliographer at the George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida at Gainesville, e-mail: carokem@nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu.

tion for print and electronic formats. *Access:* <http://www.ruu.n1/ercomer/index.html>.

- **Postmodern Culture.** This includes analytical essays, reviews, and various literary forms to stimulate discussion of postmodern culture, encouraging reconsideration of traditional forms of academic writing and publishing. *Access:* <http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/pmc/contents.all.html> or <ftp.ncsu.edu>, <cd/pub/ncsu/pmc> or LISTSERV@LISTSERV.NCSU.EDU, message: subscribe pmc-list Firstname Lastname.

- **Social Science Japan.** An English-language newsletter addressing economic, political science, law, and sociological research on Japan. *Access:* <http://www.iss.u=tokyo.ac.jp/center/SSJ.html>.

Subdiscipline-related sites

The following resources illustrate the wealth of information (bibliographic, numeric, and full-text) on the Internet. Highly specialized sources (e.g., the Anabaptist Sociology & Anthropology Association homepage) may be identified through the gateway systems listed above.

- **Alcoholism Research Data Base.** This file includes citations to books, book chapters, journal articles, documents, technical reports, etc., on alcoholism and substance abuse in the Project Cork Resource Center (Dartmouth University). *Access:* [telnet lib.dartmouth.edu](telnet.lib.dartmouth.edu), log on and then enter: SELECT FILE CORK.

- **Center for the Study of Group Processes.** Information about the center (Department of Sociology, University of Iowa), group processes research, researchers, publications, and events around the country. *Access:* <http://www.uiowa.edu/~grpproc>.

- **Demography & Population Studies WWW Virtual Library.** Provides over 140 links to demographic resources. *Access:* <http://coombs.anu.edu.au/ResFacilities/DemographyPage.html>.

- **Disaster Research Center (University of Delaware).** Addresses group and organizational preparations for, responses to, and recovery from communitywide emergencies, both natural and technological disasters. Provides information on the center as well as extensive listings of books, monograph series, preliminary papers and project/technical reports, articles, dissertations, etc. *Access:* <gopher://nisee.ce.berkeley.edu:70/1/1/drc>.

- **Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) Gopher.** Provides information on the

institute, its programs, and publications. Instructions for retrieving discussion papers and newsletter features (in PostScript format) are provided. *Access:* <gopher://eunice.ssc.wisc.edu:70/1/1/irpgopher>.

- **Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Gopher.** Provides information on ICPSR, its staff, members, services, and summer training program, with pointers to topical archives, Census 2000, data archives at other U.S. universities, and social and behavioral science and government Internet services. The ICPSR Guide to Resources and Services is searchable. *Access:* <gopher://icpsr.umich.edu>.

- **International Networks for Social Network (INSN) Analysis.** Provides background information on INSN, its journal and ftp site, including social network analysis reference resources, course descriptions, and related links. *Access:* <http://home.mcom.com/comprod/mirror/index.html>.

- **IRSS Public Opinion Data Archives (Institute for Research in Social Sciences, University of North Carolina).** Provides access to the General Social Survey codebook with response frequency distributions. Other opinion data include: Louis Harris surveys, *USA Today* polls, National Network of State polls, *Atlanta Journal Constitution* survey, and Latin American public opinion polls. Other IRSS data are also cataloged. *For access instructions:* <gopher://uncmvs.oit.unc.edu:70>, select "Getting started."

- **Marx & Engels.** Marxist classics in ASCII text files, plus contemporary Marxist material, graphics, and lyrics, and a sound recording of "The Internationale." *Access:* <gopher://csf.Colorado.edu:70/1/1/psn/Marx>.

- **Progressive Sociologists Network (PSN).** PSN brings together sociologists worldwide, especially the American Sociological Association's Marxist Sociology section, concerned with progressive issues and values such as working class struggles, civil rights, community development, justice, ecology, and the environment. It provides access to archival material, reviews, syllabi, discussion, etc. *Access:* <gopher://csf.Colorado.edu:70/1/1/csf-lists/psn>.

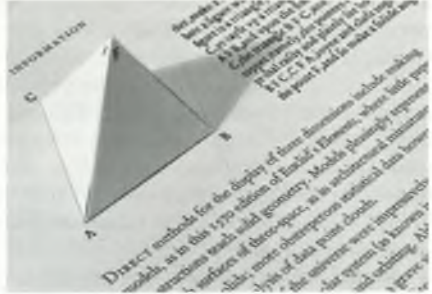
For like-minded resources, see also the **Economic Democracy Information Network (EDIN)**, "the voice of community organizations on the Information Superhighway," providing links to progressive issues and net connections,

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national policy and budget information, third party politics, electoral reform, organizations and movements, magazine and news services, e-mail lists, and fast facts on selected social and economic problems. Access: gopher://garnet.berkeley.edu:1250/1/.

- **Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction (SSSI) Homepage.** A social science professional organization for qualitative, especially interactionist, research. The society organizes panels and sessions at annual meetings of the American Sociological Association and other organizations. Access: <http://sun.soci.niu.edu/~sssi>.

- **World-Systems Archive.** This electronic archive promotes the free exchange of information on the modern world-system and earlier intersocietal networks, including announcements, documents, books, data, biographical information, bibliographies, newsletters, the *Journal of World-Systems Research*, and the World Systems Network (WSN) listserv archive. Access: gopher://csf.colorado.edu/70/11/worldsystems.

Grantsmanship and funding sources gateways

Internet information on grants, contracts, scholarships, and other financial assistance is found on numerous, reciprocally linked sites. Typical hot-links include the *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance*, *Commerce Business Daily*, the *Federal Register*, MOLIS (Minority Online Scholarship Service), FEDIX (Federal Funding Programs Information Exchange), and Foundation Center background information. Below are three excellent gateways.

- **Foundation and Grant Information (the University of Michigan).** Access: gopher://una.hh.lib.umich.edu; Port 70, select: genref.

- **Grants, Scholarships and Funding (Rice University).** Access: gopher://riceinfo.rice.edu:70/1/1/Subject/Grants.

- **GrantsNet (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).** Access: [gopher://gopher.os.dhhs.gov](http://gopher.os.dhhs.gov), select: DHSS Resources by Topic.

American Sociological Association headquarters

If you have membership-related queries, the American Sociological Association may be contacted by e-mail at: asa_executive_office@mcimail.com. ■

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