

## Madeleine Clark Wallace Library

### Political Science 291 – Judicial Politics

#### Selected Resources

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#### Locating Information about Crime in General News Sources

*Lexis-Nexis Academic*, dates of coverage vary

Includes largely full-text coverage for US newspapers, national and local. Search the *Boston Globe* here.

*New York Times Online*, 1851-2001, 1999+ (2 files)

Full-text of *The New York Times*. Consult the current file.

*Washington Post on the Web*, Current file: 1987+

Indexing, plus full text articles.

#### Locating Empirical Studies Relating to Criminal Topics: Research Databases

>> Access all of the following databases through the *Wallace Library Electronic Resources* link to *Online Reference Databases*

*InfoTrac Expanded Academic*, 1980 – current.

Indexes articles from journals in all disciplines. **Limit to refereed publications.** Includes many full-text articles.

*NCJRS Abstracts Database*

<<http://www.ncjrs.org/search.html>>

Summaries of more than 180,000 criminal justice publications including: Federal, State, and local government reports; books; research reports; journal articles; unpublished research -- often with links to full-text.

National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) is a federally funded resource offering justice and substance abuse information to support research, policy, and program development worldwide.

*PAIS International (Ovid database)*

1972-present

Indexes topics relating to political, social, and public policy issues in selected journal articles, books, directories, conference proceedings, pamphlets, reports, and government documents.

*Sociofile (Ovid database)*, 1974-current

Indexes and abstracts sociology journals – for analyses of crime from a sociological perspective.

*Google Scholar*

<<http://scholar.google.com> (in beta testing)>

“...enables you to search specifically for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from all broad areas of research.” Use **in addition to** other databases.

#### TO FIND WHETHER WALLACE LIBRARY OWNS A JOURNAL...

...look up the title of the journal (**not** the article title) in ELIZA. *Ovid* database results link to ELIZA directly.

## Sources for Crime Data and Statistics

### Gateways

#### *Statistical Resources on the Web: Sociology/Crime*

<<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/stsoc.html#crime>>

*Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)* collects, analyzes, publishes, and disseminates statistical information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

*Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA)* is an organization of Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs), state agencies that collect, analyze, and disseminate justice data.

<<http://www.jrsa.org/sac/index.html>>

### Destinations

#### Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) from the FBI

- *Crime in the United States (CIUS)* is an annual statistical publication in which the FBI compiles volume and rate of crime offenses for the nation, the states, and individual agencies.

<<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>> also, Ref HV6787 .A3 2003 (latest) on the shelf in the Reference Room

- *Crime Trends* (U.S. and States) using FBI UCR data:  
<<http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/Crime.cfm>>
- *Homicide Trends* (state and local) using FBI UCR data:  
<<http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Homicide/Homicide.cfm>>
- *State of the Cities Data Systems (SOCDS)* This system provides crime data for individual cities from a database derived from FBI crime data, 1997-2002. <[http://socds.huduser.org/FBI/FBI\\_Home.htm?](http://socds.huduser.org/FBI/FBI_Home.htm?)>
- The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's *Crime Index* is composed of selected offenses used to gauge fluctuations in the volume and rate of crime reported to law enforcement.  
<[http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius\\_02/html/web/offreported/offreported.html](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_02/html/web/offreported/offreported.html)> *Suspended in 2004*

A word about these UCR statistics:

These Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program statistics are compiled from data representing crimes reported to police. The UCR Program is currently being expanded to a National incident-based reporting system (NIBRS) to provide more comprehensive and detailed crime statistics. Not all states are using this system at this time. All statistics should be used with an understanding of the following caveat: "Since crime is a sociological phenomenon influenced by a variety of factors, the FBI discourages data users from ranking agencies and using the data as a measurement of law enforcement effectiveness."

*Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*, 30<sup>th</sup> ed. (2002), from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics* brings together data from more than 100 sources about many aspects of criminal justice in the United States. These data are displayed in over 600 tables. Trends information.

<<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook>>

also, Ref HV7245.N37b

(Characteristics of the criminal justice systems; Public attitudes toward crime and criminal justice-related topics; Nature and distribution of known offenses; Characteristics and distribution of persons arrested; Judicial processing of defendants; Persons under correctional supervision.)

#### *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2004-2005*

<<http://www.census.gov/statab/www/>> also, Ref HA202.U5

The National Data Book contains a collection of statistics on social and economic conditions in the United States. The Abstract is a Guide to Sources of other data from the Census Bureau, other Federal agencies, and private organizations. Useful for observing social and economic trends.

*Need help? Be sure to contact Margaret Gardner ([mgardner@wheatonma.edu/x3705](mailto:mgardner@wheatonma.edu/x3705)) or ask at the Reference & Information Desk.*