

SIRS Knowledge Source NYiT Library Guide[©]

SIRS Knowledge Source consists of two major databases: SIRS Researcher and SIRS Government Reporter. SIRS Researcher includes fulltext information on such diverse topics as Environmental Issues, Health, Crime, World Affairs, Family, Education, Life Sciences, Technology and Business. SIRS Government Reporter contains government documents, and subject coverage includes census data, country profiles, foreign aid, energy issues, Congress and the Presidency. SIRS Knowledge Source also provides access to smaller databases such as maps of the world, excerpts from World Almanac and Book of Facts, U.S. Supreme Court Decisions, current news, and directories of members of Congress and the Presidents.

CONNECTING TO SIRS

1. Access SIRS Researcher from the NYiT Libraries homepage: <http://iris.nyit.edu/library>
2. Select the heading **Databases & Indexes** followed by the heading **Databases & Indexes by Title**.
3. Next, click on the letter "S" or scroll down the page and under the heading **SIRS Knowledge Source** select either on-campus or off-campus, depending on your location.
4. When logging in from on-campus a password is not required. When logging in from off-campus, you are first required to log in to "@Home Access for NYiT." After logging in, click "Databases and Indexes," scroll to SIRS Knowledge Source, and click "enter."
5. First, we will conduct a quick search using keywords in both **SIRS Researcher** and **SIRS Government Reporter**.

QUICK SEARCH

1. Type the words "youth gangs" in the search box, select "Keyword/Natural Language" and click search. A results list will appear indicating that there are over 500 articles on this topic. Click on the citation of your choice and you will be provided with the article in its **entirety**. To the right of each article appear symbols. Clicking on these symbols will provide you with source information, summaries, graphics and subject headings.

ADVANCED SEARCH

1. Once you are logged in to SIRS Researcher, select the "advanced search" button at the top of the screen and 6 search boxes will appear. You may use one, two or more of these boxes at the same time. To the left and right of these boxes are arrows, which you can click on to expand your searching options. These arrows enable you to use boolean searching ("and," "or," "and not"), to search by author, to search by title, or to use proximity searching (looking for terms within 5 to 50 words of each other). You also have the option of searching for articles, which include graphics.
2. In the first search box type "life expectancy," in the second box type "married women," and to the left of the third box click on the arrow and select "not." Next, in box three, type "disabled" and click the search button. This search will result in over 100 articles that pertain to the life expectancy of married women who are not disabled.

TOPICS BROWSE

1. Click the "Topic Browse" button at the top of the screen and two columns will appear, listing general topics such as "Business," "Human Relations," "International Affairs" and "Science." Select the topic of your choice and a sub-menu will appear, breaking the topic into smaller categories. For example, "Human Relations" is sub-divided into "Ethnic Groups," "Sexuality," "Women," "Communication," "Ethics," "Human Rights" and "Privacy."
2. Following each sub-topic two options appear. The first option is "contents," which provides a list of articles in

the same format as other standard searches. The second option is “subject index.” Choose it and a list of more specific subject topics will appear. For example, if your general topic was “ethnic groups” and you select “subject index” among the subjects that will appear are “ethnic groups– Bulgaria,” “ethnic foods” and “Japanese Americans– ethnic identity.” Place a check in the box for the topic(s) that you wish to view. Next, click the “view checked subjects” box, and the citation for the correct subject will appear. Proceed as you would when getting search results from the “Quick” and “Advanced” search options.

KEYWORD/ NATURAL LANGUAGE SEARCH

1. In the quick search mode, the natural language feature is linked to the keyword search option. You may type a question in the search box, press enter and a results list will appear. You may view articles, print or e-mail as in other search modes.

2. Be forewarned that this search mode will search any words except the stop words that have been devised by the system. For example, the search “Where is Dubai?” results in over 70 articles, but uses “where” as a keyword as well as Dubai. This may eliminate potentially useful articles because it is treating a marginal word (where) as a keyword and linking it to Dubai as a phrase. Tip: Try limiting your search to significant terms (e.g. nouns, verbs, etc).

DICTIONARY AND THESAURUS

Both the dictionary and thesaurus function in the same manner; type in a term and either will provide you with a link to click which defines the word or provides synonyms depending on which you select. The buttons for both are at the top of the interface.

The following information applies to the Basic, Advanced and Topic Browse search modes in SIRS Researcher.

TRUNCATION

1. The truncation option is available. In the keyword option, type in the root of a word, and end it with a question mark and you will be provided with various forms of the word. **Example**: Using **handicap?** Finds articles containing the words handicap, handicaps, handicapped and handicapping.

PHRASE SEARCHING

1. If you want words to be treated as a phrase you must place quotation marks around them **Example**: The words “**life expectancy**” will provide results that treat the terms as a phrase.

E-MAIL

You may e-mail an article to yourself or to anyone else. Just click on the “e-mail” button and boxes will appear which enable you to type an e-mail address and add comments if you wish. Next, click the e-mail button, and a message will appear indicating the record has been sent.

PRINTING

Click the button marked **Clean Copy for Printing** directly above the article in question. Your article will be reformatted for printing. Next, click the button marked **Print**.

ADDITIONAL DATABASE FEATURES

1. You may select from an array of additional databases in SIRS Researcher. They include: Maps of the World, Today’s News, a Directory of Publications in SIRS, Country Profiles, Spotlight on U.S. Presidents, U.S. Supreme Court, and New Content and Hot Topics.

TAGGED LISTS

1. When browsing search results, you may indicate which articles are of interest to you by placing a check mark in the box directly to the left of them. When completed searching, scroll to the bottom of the interface, and click the “**update tagged list**” button. Finally, go to the top left corner of the interface and click “**tagged list.**” The tagged titles will remain, and the other titles will disappear.

2. Once tagging has been completed, you may print, e-mail, create a bibliography or delete some of the tagged articles as you wish.