



Social Theory - quick guide

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QG SOC012 [<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/documents/guides/qgsoc012.pdf>]

This guide aims to give you a very quick introduction to **Social Theory**. If you would like any help with **Social Theory**, or with finding and using other information resources, please contact the **Information Consultant for Education, Music and Social Science**, Claire Molloy, on **Floor 6** of The Sir Duncan Rice Library or by email: c.a.l.molloy@abdn.ac.uk.

Accessing the database



ACCESS INFORMATION: You will need to use the **Shibboleth/UK Federation** authentication route to access this resource when off-campus. Follow the prompts as detailed below:

1. Go to <http://solomon.soth.alexanderstreet.com/>.
2. Off-campus you will need to click on **Browse** then **Authors**.
3. Under **Shibboleth Credentials** select **University of Aberdeen** and click **Login**.
4. You will be prompted to log in via your Microsoft365 account and you may be prompted to use the multifactor authentication app to authorise.

About the database

Social Theory offers an extensive selection of documents that explore the complexities and interpret the nature of social behaviour and organisation. The collection includes more than 122,000 pages from 346 works by 100 authors. Highlights include 33 volumes of the Complete Works of Marx and Engels and nearly 26,000 pages of German language content.

Authors covered

The current release features more than 145,000 pages of content by such major theorists as Jean Baudrillard, Simone de Beauvoir, Ulrich Beck, Howard Becker, Pierre Bourdieu, Nancy Chodorow, Lewis Coser, John Dewey, Émile Durkheim, Michel Foucault, Erving Goffman, Jürgen Habermas, Claude Levi-Strauss, Robert Merton, Talcott Parsons and Dorothy Smith.



Each book is also listed in our information gateway, **Primo**: <http://primo.abdn.ac.uk>.

Searching the database

Search Tips

- You can combine and separate your search terms using the Boolean Operators **AND** or **OR** or **NOT** (in uppercase!).
- Quotation marks can be used for phrase searching e.g. **“social theory”**.
- You can expand your search using * as the truncation symbol, for example **phil*** will find **philosophy, philosopher, philosophical** and so on.

The symbol * can also be used as a wildcard within a word; for example **wom*n** will find **woman** and **women**.

There are a number of search options

Clicking on **BROWSE** allows you to:

- browse an A-Z list of **Authors** – this gives you short biographical details, plus a link to their documents and sources (documents are the individual chapters or sections of a source)
- browse an A-Z list of **Sources** (the full-text of titles)
- browse a list of **Documents** (each section or chapter of each title)
- browse a list of **Years** (of publication)
- browse a list of **Theories** (by author's theoretical perspective and by social theories) and
- browse a list of **Subjects**.

Clicking on **FIND** gives you two options:

- Find by **Sources**
 - If looking for a particular title, type the details in the **Source title** search box, e.g. **the School and Society** will find the **John Dewey** book.
 - You can also use **Source title** as a keyword search. For example, a search for **society** will find all the items with **society** in the title such as Baudrillard's **The Consumer Society** and Durkheim's **The Division of Labor in Society**.
- Find by **Author**

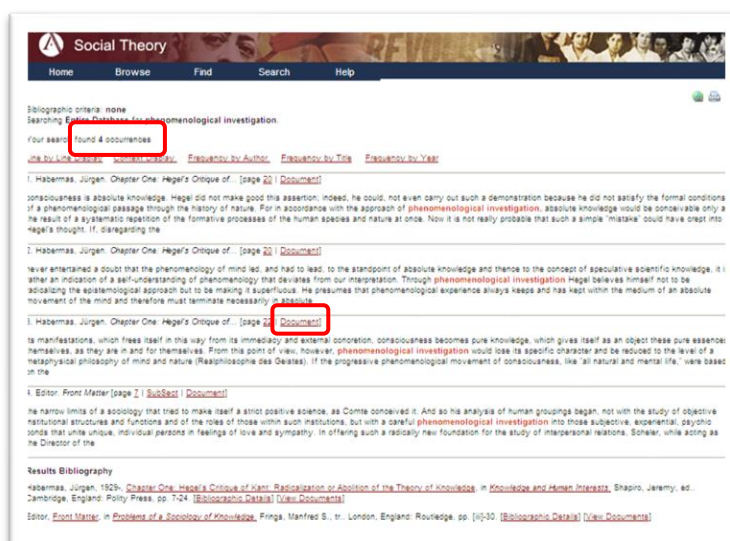
Clicking on **SEARCH** gives you two options:

- **SIMPLE** search allows you to search within the text or to search for an author or for a particular title. As you type, you can check your author or title details as **suggestions** appear. (You can also use the **Terms** button.)
- **ADVANCED** search allows you to search more specifically, for example **within document titles** which allows you to search for chapters by name. You can also search for theories or books discussed by the author.

[See image for an **Advanced Search** within the text]

Displaying the results

1. After the search, the screen will refresh and display the results found – it should state at the top of the results list how many were returned for your search.
2. You can click on **Document** to see the chapter.



Emailing, sharing and exporting to RefWorks

You can **print** and **create permanent weblinks** to a page using the onscreen icons (top right of page – **permalink**). Sharing to social networking sites is not yet supported.

You can **import** details of the titles into RefWorks, our bibliographic management software. You must have already set up a RefWorks account; if you would like more details, contact Claire: c.a.l.molloy@abdn.ac.uk

1. To import titles into **RefWorks**, you must first **log in to RefWorks** itself.
2. Go to the **Search** menu and select **Online Catalog or Database**.
3. Select **University of Aberdeen**.
4. Search our **Catalogue** for the title.
5. Tick the relevant match and move to your desired folder.

