

CMST 101--INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

PROF. CAROLE KENNER

STEP ONE: Defining Your Topic

Articles found in the encyclopedias and handbooks below are considered **secondary sources** because they summarize the literature on a given topic, rather than report an individual author's original research. However, they are a good place to begin your research because:

1. You can get a basic understanding of the concepts and issues associated with your topic.
2. You may get ideas about how to refine or narrow your topic.
3. You can use them to find alternate terms for your topic to use as keywords in your database searching.
4. You can look at the bibliographies at the end of the articles to try to identify landmark articles.

The call number of each handbook is given in parentheses. They are all located in the Reference collection on the 4th (main) level of the Central Library.

Suggested starting point (Also start with the appropriate sections of your textbooks):

Handbook of Interpersonal Communication. 3rd ed. Edited by Mark L. Knapp and John A. Daly. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2002. 842 pp. (PERMANENT Reserve. BF637.C45H287 2002)

A collection of basic readings and current trends in interpersonal communication. Includes chapters on Language and Interpersonal Communication, Nonverbal Signals, and Interpersonal Communication in Family Relationships, Discourse Analysis, Personality and Interpersonal Communication, Interpersonal Conflict, Computer-Mediated Communication and Relationships, and Interpersonal Processes in Romantic Relationships. Consult the bibliographies at the end of each chapter to locate landmark studies and other articles.

Try these next:

Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology and Behavioral Science. 3rd ed. 4 vols. Edited by W. Edward Craighead and Charles B. Nemeroff. New York: Wiley, 2001. (Ref. BF31 .E52 2001; available from Acorn online)

Essays with bibliographies by over 1,000 contributors treating over 1,200 topics in psychology and behavioral science.

Encyclopedia of Psychology. 8 vols. Edited by Alan E. Kazdin. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association; New York: Oxford University Press, 2000. (Ref. BF31.E52 2000)

Over 1,500 entries and 400 biographies of significant people in psychology. Articles include bibliographies of related sources. Vol. 8 provides an index to the set and a synoptic outline, which groups related terms, concepts, and theories under major thematic headings.

Survey of Social Science; Psychology Series. 6 vols. Edited by Frank N. Magill. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Salem Press, 1993. (Ref. BF31.S79 1993)

A collection of 410 articles by professionals and practitioners in psychology that provide intellectually accessible discussion of such topics as Attitude Formation and Change, Attraction Theories, Attributional Biases, Cognitive Dissonance Theory, Self Presentation, and many other concepts and theories relevant to Interpersonal Communication. Articles are brief (5-10 pp.) and each is divided into three parts: Overview, Applications, and Context. Each begins with a short summary of the theory or concepts addressed and a list of relevant terms and their definitions. A comprehensive glossary of terms is provided at the end of Vol. 6.

Encyclopedia of Sociology. 2nd ed. 5 vols. Edited by Edgar F. Borgatta and Rhonda J. V. Montgomery. NY: Macmillan, 2000. (Ref. HM425.E5 2000)

Almost 400 articles on individual concepts and theories in sociology; such as, attitudes, attribution theory, courtship, family roles, human nature, interpersonal attraction, and self-concept. Includes projections about likely future research and development in the field. Good list of references for further research at the end of each article.

Handbook of Personal Relationships: Theory, Research and Interventions. 2nd ed. Edited by Steve Duck. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1997. 857 pp. (Ref. HM132.H3325 1997)

A collection of writings on personal relationships from psychological and sociological perspectives. Section III has six chapters specifically related to communication and personal relationships.

Handbook of Psychology, Vol. 5. Personality and Social Psychology. Volume editors, Theodore Millon and Melvin J. Lerner. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2003. 668pp. (REF BF121,H1955 2003 v.5)

The **Handbook of Psychology** is a 12-volume encyclopedic work with each volume covering a specific area of psychology. Vol. 5, **Personality and Social Psychology** is the one devoted to subjects directly associated with all aspects of personality and interpersonal relations. Entries cover such topics as attribution and dissonance theories and all aspects of self-concept, -esteem, -perception, -presentation, and numerous related topics, including self as related to interpersonal interaction of all kinds.

STEP TWO: Finding a Landmark Article

Three possible ways to identify a landmark article

1. Look at the articles cited in your textbook, but make sure it's an article not a book.
2. Look at one of the articles cited in the handbooks.
3. Use **Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)--Web of Science**

Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)--Web of Science - Bibliographic data and author abstracts for about 65% of the articles in the social sciences since 1992. Also includes a list of references cited in the source article and the number of times the article has been cited.

1. From the "Find articles & databases" section of the library's website, enter SSCI in the "Search for database by name" box and press [enter].
2. Click on either choice; they take you to the same place.
3. In the "Current Limits" area (beneath the search boxes), click on Science Citation Index to remove the check mark. You should search only Social Science Citation Index.
4. Enter a topic or a word appearing in the title of articles you like in the topic box and/or enter an author's name – last name first, then first initial and an asterisk (for example, Floyd K*) press [enter].
5. Change the "Sort by" from "Latest Date" to "Times Cited." If an article is cited many times, it may be a landmark study.

STEP THREE: Finding Journal Articles

All resources below are available from the "Find articles & databases" section of the library's website: Vanderbilt Library home page → "Find Articles and Databases" (upper right) → "Top Databases"
Most of these databases provide citations and abstracts only. Use the Find it @VU button to link to see if we have an online version of the article.

Suggested starting points:

Communication and Mass Media Complete (CMMC). Abstracts of journal articles, books, book chapters, dissertations and other documents in the fields of communication and mass media. Some fulltext articles within the database. Link out to other fulltext articles via **FindIt@VU**. Use the advanced search. Wild card: *

After entering your search, you can narrow your search by looking at the "Subject: Thesaurus Term" list to the left of the results. You can substitute that subject for the similar keyword in your original search.

PsycInfo. Abstracts of journal articles, books, book chapters, dissertations and other documents in psychology and related disciplines. Covers over 1300 journals. Link out to fulltext via **FindIt@VU**. Use the advanced search. Wild card: *

After entering your search, you can narrow your search by looking at the "Descriptors" to the right of the results. You can substitute that descriptor (subject) for the similar keyword in your original search.

QUESTION TO ASK: Does the source provide primary research material? Or is it a secondary source? When in doubt, consult Prof. Kenner or a reference librarian. Librarians can provide informed opinions and guidance, while Prof. Kenner will be the final authority.