

SIRS Knowledge Source Quick Start Guide

About SIRS Knowledge Source®

SIRS Knowledge Source (SKS) is a comprehensive database portal which is comprised of several distinct reference databases including SIRS Researcher®, SIRS Government Reporter®, SIRS Renaissance®, SKS WebSelect™, SIRS Discoverer®, and Discoverer WebFind™.

Updated daily, SKS provides relevant, credible information on social issues, science, history, government, the arts and humanities. Full-text articles and Internet resources are carefully selected from thousands of domestic and international publications and respected organizations.

Part 1: Navigating the Interface

SIRS Knowledge Source portal interface provides a gateway into SIRS databases. Users may use this page to search SIRS databases simultaneously, or select a single database to search within. Users with only one SIRS database, skip directly to that database portal page. You may begin your search from the SIRS Knowledge Source portal page or you may choose one of the search options identified by the tab keys located at the top of the screen.

The screenshot shows the SIRS Knowledge Source portal interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: "Quick Search", "Advanced Search", "Topic Browse", "Database Features", and "Interactive Citizenship". Below these is a search bar with a "GO" button and a "Log-out" link. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column lists several SIRS databases with checkboxes: "SIRS Researcher®", "SIRS Government Reporter®", "SIRS Renaissance®", and "SKS WebSelect™". Below these are links to "SIRS Interactive Citizenship®" and "SIRS Discoverer®". The right column features a "YOUR 'TOP 10' PRO vs. CON LEADING ISSUES" section with a grid of 10 topics: "Marijuana legalization", "Same-sex marriage", "Capital punishment", "Abortion", "Doping in sports", "Cloning", "Eating disorders", "Teenage pregnancy", "Child abuse", and "Gun control".

SKS Search Portal & Search Tabs

SIRS Databases, Search them simultaneously -or- select a database to search individually

Help Topics & Reference Bar

Leading Issues-- Your Top Ten choices based on actual usage and updated monthly.

Help Topics are grouped to be easily accessible from anywhere in the database.

- [Help](#) launches context-sensitive help.
- [How to Cite](#) details how to cite articles and Internet sites retrieved from SIRS Knowledge Source.
- [Dictionary & Thesaurus](#) assists users in defining words, checking spelling, choosing the perfect word and more.

The top **Reference Bar** provides links to functional and reference aids.

- [Home](#) returns to the portal page.
- [Back](#) returns to the previously viewed page.
- [My Research](#) includes:
 - o [Tagged List](#) displays articles added to the list by selecting the tag icon.

- [Search History](#) contains a list of all searches performed during a session and provides links to return to the search results.
- [Session Save](#) provides the ability to save your search history and tagged list by keying in a user name and password.
- [Educators' Resources](#) formerly known as Librarian's Corner, compiles a collection of materials designed to help librarians and library patrons.
- [Toolbox](#) provides a single point of access to all reference materials.
- [Log-out](#) ends your session, clearing the search history and tagged list for the next user.

Pro vs. Con – Your 'Top 10' Leading Issues non-divisive, unbiased editorial approach allows students to build critical thinking skills and form their own opinions by seeing all sides of an issue -pro, con, and everything in between. Best of all, the new Pro/Con and myAnalysis tabs make exploring the issues of our time easier.

Part 2: Search Methods

Quick/Portal Search

You can locate full-text articles with this search method by searching full-text (Keyword/Natural Language) or subject headings based upon your own combination of key words and phrases.

Subject Headings Search: is useful when you have a specific research topic in mind and you want to use a subject index to quickly locate articles and sites related to that topic. Multiple subject headings may be selected and viewed simultaneously. All articles in the SIRS Knowledge Source database are indexed primarily according to Library of Congress Subject Headings.

Keyword Search: Keyword Search is useful when you want to locate articles and Internet sites based on your own combination of key words and phrases.

Sort Order: Quick Search and Advanced Search offer the option of having results returned by relevance or date order. **Relevance** returns articles that contain the most matches of key words or phrases in your search first. **Date Order** returns articles that contain the key words or phrases in your search in reverse chronological order, with the most recent articles in the database first.

Note: Internet Sites and Subject Heading indexes are sorted in Alphabetical order. Subject Heading search results are returned in reverse chronological order.

Advanced Search

Search multiple fields including: full text, author, and title individually or simultaneously. There are several ways to enhance your search.

Boolean operators -- AND, OR and NOT -- are used to establish relationships between key words and keyword phrases. These operators can be used to expand or narrow a search.

- The **AND** operator locates articles that contain all of the key words or phrases.
- The **OR** operator locates articles that contain at least one of the key words or phrases.
- The **NOT** operator eliminates articles that contain certain key words or phrases.

Search Examples

Boolean Operators

ethics AND cloning
Cloning NOT sheep

Truncation

ethic* (ethic, ethics, ethical)
clon* (clone, cloning, cloned)

Phrases

"human cloning"
"human embryos"

Natural Language

*What are the ethical concerns
with human cloning?*

Truncation - Truncation is a shortcut used to include alternate word endings in your query. This is a quick and easy way to include plurals, tense variations and alternate spellings. To use truncation, type an asterisk (*) after the root of your key word.

Phrase Search - Phrase Search allows searching of article text for keyword phrases. The phrase must be enclosed in quotation marks to ensure that the entire phrase is searched for in its entirety, rather than the individual words in the phrase.

Proximity Search - Proximity search narrows your search for key words to within 5 to 15 words of other related key words.

Graphic Captions Search - Graphic Captions search allows you to locate graphics related to topics you are researching.

Topic Browse

You can search for a possible research topic or narrow down a general topic to a more specific area through one of the three SIRS databases. You may locate documents by exploring categories, topics, and subtopics in a multi-level subject tree. Articles are displayed in reverse chronological order.

<p>Architecture & Design Domestic Architecture, Historic Preservation, Public Architecture, more...</p> <p>Business Consumerism, Economics, Money, more...</p> <p>Culture Cultures & Civilizations, Mythology & Folklore, more...</p> <p>Environment Energy, Habitat, Population, more...</p> <p>Family Aging, Parenting, Relationships, Youth</p>
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Database Features

SIRS Knowledge Source databases feature significant information in several content areas. Depending on your licensed databases your options are displayed from those available. Database features are available as part of SIRS Researcher, SIRS Government Reporter, SIRS Renaissance and SKS WebSelect.

SIRS Researcher	SIRS Government Reporter	SIRS Renaissance	SKS WebSelect
Hurricane Katrina	Country Profiles	Literary Corner	Featured Web Sites
Focus on Terrorism	Federal Agencies	Award Recipients	Astronomy and Space
Today's News	Historic Documents	Glossary of the Arts	Criminal Justice
Maps of the World	National Archives Documents	Notable People	Dictionaries
World Almanac Excerpts	U.S. Congress	Recommended References	E-Books
Spotlight on...	U.S. Presidents	Spotlight on... National Hispanic	U.S. Historic Documents
			HIV/AIDS

Part 3: Analyzing Your Results

The numbers of results returned for each source type are listed up to 1000 results. Selecting the corresponding link may further narrow search results to: Newspapers, Magazines, Government Docs, Primary Sources, References, Graphics or WebSelect Sites depending on available options and licensed databases.

You searched for: CAPITAL PUNISHMEN 

1000+ All Articles	343 Newspapers	490 Magazines	381 Gov't Docs	18 Primary Sources	7 Reference	469 Graphics	36 WebSelect Sites
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Details: [Show](#) | [Hide](#)

Sort: [Relevance](#) | [Date](#) | [Lexile](#) ▲ ▼

Legend:  Source  Summary  Descriptors  Graphics

Check items and select "Update Tagged List" below.

[Can the Sciences Help Us to Make Wise Ethical Judgments?](#)   

Skeptical Inquirer Sept./Oct. 2004; Lexile Score: [1260](#); 36K, SIRS Researcher

[Capital Punishment 1991](#)    

Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin Oct. 1992; Lexile Score: [1390](#); 73K, SIRS Government Reporter

[Killing 'Can Never Even the Score'](#)   

Commercial Appeal (Memphis, TN) Jan. 16, 2000; Lexile Score: [1100](#); 29K, SIRS Researcher

Part 4: Working within the Full-Text Document

The full-text article is accessed by clicking the **article title**. The article display page lists the publisher, date and page number(s), article title and author. In addition, any search term(s) used to locate the article are bold in the text. The [1st Keyword](#) link, scrolls the page to the first occurrence of such a key word. The arrow  indicators scroll the page to either the previous or next key word instances. In addition, the following features are available:

 Results List	Results List returns to the previous search results list.
 Tag	Tag adds the article or document to your Tagged list enabling you to e-mail, save, or create a bibliography.
 E-mail	E-mail sends the full text, source, summary and/or graphics to your personal e-mail address.
 Clean Copy for Printing	Clean Copy for Printing loads a printer-friendly version of the article text, removing all keyword indicators and inline graphics.
 Source	Source loads the article or site source.
 Summary	Summary loads the article or site summary.
 Descriptors	Descriptors loads a list of words which describe the subject matter and link to related resources.
 Graphics	Graphics loads accompanying graphics or graphics list.
 Printable PDF	Printable PDF loads a printable version in Adobe's Portable Document Format.
 Bookmark	Bookmark creates a shortcut to a clean copy of the article text and saves it in Internet Explorer's Favorites list for up to 60 days.

 The icon for the 'Top' button, featuring a purple triangle pointing upwards with the word 'Top' in purple text below it.	Top scrolls the window to the top of the page.
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