

SIRS Knowledge Source, a ProQuest database, was founded for the adult or more advanced researcher to promote critical thinking about controversial social issues. Consisting of four subdivisions (Researcher, Government Reporter, Renaissance, and WebSelect), it provides thousands of full-text articles related to social, scientific, historic, economic, cultural, political and global issues. Patrons have the option to e-mail citations, sources, full-text articles and pictures.

Computer commands, field names and mouse actions are in *Italics*.
Text that you must type is within single quote marks (' ').

Go to: **RCPL** (<http://www.myrcl.com>)
Click: *Research Tools*
Click: *DISCUS Databases*
Scroll to: *SIRS Knowledge Source*
Click: *Inside the Library* OR *Home Access*

1. Which social issues are receiving the most coverage right now?

- To the right of the *Comprehensive Search Portal* screen is a box called *Your Top Ten - Pro vs. Con Leading Issues*. Each of the *Top Ten* is represented by a clickable icon.
- At the bottom of the *Top Ten* box is the link for *More Issues*. This displays a list of nearly 100 currently debated social issues, each a link to more information.

2. I'm writing a paper on the paranormal, but that topic is not among those on the *Leading Issues* list or the expanded list.

- At the *Comprehensive Search Portal*, type 'paranormal' in the *Search* box while leaving the radio button at *Subject Headings*.
- Click the *Search* button.
- The screen will display a link for *Paranormal Phenomena (See: Parapsychology)* that has clickable icons on the left for websites and articles. Clicking the phrase *Paranormal Phenomena: (See Parapsychology)* itself will also display links for periodical articles (newspaper and magazine), graphics, websites, primary sources, government documents, etc. on that topic.
- Listed under the official subject heading will be *See Also* references for related topics.

3. I would like to see a list of official subject headings used by SIRS.

- At the *Quick Search* page (accessed by clicking the *Quick Search* tab at the top of the screen), click the *Browse Subject Heading* link.
- This will display the first page of a very long alphabetical list of subject headings. Clicking the letters of the alphabet at the top of the screen will take the searcher to the beginning of that letter's list.

4. I'm a teacher and would like to see some specific suggestions for topics and the most efficient way to research those topics.

- At the *Comprehensive Search Portal* (accessed by clicking *Home*), click the tab for *Database Features*. This will expand the four subdivisions: *Researcher*, *Government Reporter*, *Renaissance*, and *WebSelect*.

- Under each subdivision is a link for *Suggested Research Topics*. Clicking these links will display the topics along with their official *Subject Headings*, *Keywords*, and *Topic Browse Paths*.

5. Which sources are covered (indexed) by SIRS?

- Click *Educators' Resources* at the top of the *Comprehensive Search Portal*.
- When the *Educators' Resources* page appears, scroll down to the *Source List* (under *General information and Support*).
- Clicking this will display listings of U.S. periodicals and newspapers, government publications, departments and agencies, international periodicals and newspapers, books, wire services and famous authors used by *SIRS*.

6. I need maps of the world for a geography class.

- At the *Comprehensive Search Portal*, click the tab for *Database Features*.
- When the four *SIRS* subdivisions appear, click *Maps of the World* found under the *Researcher* column.
- When the *Maps of the World* screen appears, it will have links for the *U.S.*, *Canada*, *Nations*, *Regions*, *U.S. Historical*, *World Historical*, and *Outline*. All have printable PDF versions available.