## **Library Resources for CRM 105**

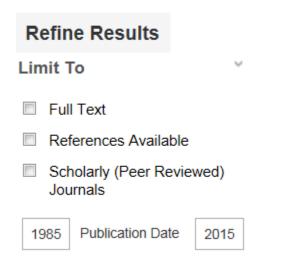
## Databases:

- Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text
- Legal Collection
- SocINDEX

At the Search Menu enter a keyword or phrase that represents the issue or problem you are researching. Combine that with another keyword, for example; *statistics* or *trends*, to locate articles on a specific aspect of the issue.



At the Search Results page, the Refine Results column offers options for narrowing your results, for example; by Publication Date, by Source Type or by Subject.



To see the detailed record, click on the article title in the Results List. The detailed record displays the information you need for the article citation and a summary (abstract), as well as links to the full text or an Interlibrary Loan request form.





## Websites:

Government agencies (local, state and federal), collect a broad range of statistical information that is available on the Web. To search for **government sites** enter *.gov* and a keyword or phrase that represents the issue or problem you are researching, for example; *.gov* and *sentencing*. You may also use the U.S. government's official Web portal:

U.S. Data & Statistics; Laws & Legal Issues: <a href="https://www.usa.gov/laws">https://www.usa.gov/laws</a>

Information about the issue, such as a description of the current situation, points of view, and possible solutions, etc., can be found on the **Websites of social service agencies, non-profit organizations and professional associations**. Enter *.org* and a keyword or phrase that represents the issue or problem you are researching, for example; *.org* and *wrongful conviction*.

- Innocence Project: www.innocenceproject.org/causes-wrongful-conviction
- Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies: <a href="www.oacca.org/find-a-service/behavioral-developmental-care/delinquent-unruly-youth">www.oacca.org/find-a-service/behavioral-developmental-care/delinquent-unruly-youth</a>

You may also search for the issue combined with a **geographic term** to find Websites about a particular location, for example; *Ohio* or *Cincinnati*.

City of Cincinnati, Crime Statistics: www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/crime-statistics

## **Evaluating Information Sources:**

It is important to evaluate any information source you may want use in your research. This is especially critical for Websites, as anyone may create and post a Website! Use the following criteria to evaluate Websites:

- Authority: Who (or what institution or organization) created, and/or is responsible for this source? What are the author's credentials? With what organization or institution is he or she affiliated?
- **Content**: Is the information accurate? Is it properly annotated or cited? How does the information compare to other sources? How well is the subject covered?
- **Currency**: When was the page or site created? When was the site last updated? Are links to other Websites current?
- Objectivity: Who is the intended audience? What is the purpose of the site or the information it contains? Is the information fact or opinion? What is the perspective of the information being presented? Is there a bias, or a particular point of view being presented?

To help you evaluate Websites:

- Look for a link that says About, About us, or Who we are
- Examine the URL to determine the source
- Check the links and dates on the Website
- Search for clues that the site may be an advertisement or a fan page