SHORT GUIDE TO INTRODUCTORY BOOKS, WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

1. Introductory books
2. Magazines and journals
3. Newspapers online
4. Updating statistics
5. Some key sociology websites described
6. Theory trading cards
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1. INTRODUCTORY BOOKS

C. Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination* (1959) is the classic text to inspire students to bring together the personal and the political. More recent books to do this will include Charles Lemert’s *Social Things* (4th edn 2008); Steven Dandaneau’s *Taking it Big: Developing Sociological Consciousness in Postmodern Times* (2001); and Ben Agger’s *The Virtual Self* (2003) – all of which also serve as lively introductions. More advanced arguments for the connections between the personal and the sociological can be found in Pierre Bourdieu, *In Other Words: Essays towards a Reflexive Sociology* (1990) and Dorothy E. Smith *Writing the Social: Critique, Theory and Investigations* (1998).


2. MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS

Look at magazines and journals that discuss sociology.

At an introductory level, the most useful is:

*Sociology Review*

Information and subscription details can be found on: [http://www.philipallan.co.uk/sociologyreview/index.htm](http://www.philipallan.co.uk/sociologyreview/index.htm)

But see also:

*Contemporary Sociology*

A journal of book reviews published by the American Sociological Association (ASA). It can be browsed on: [http://www.jstor.org/journals/00943061.html](http://www.jstor.org/journals/00943061.html)

*Contexts: Understanding People in Their Social Worlds*

Published quarterly by the ASA (vol. 7 in 2008). A magazine from the ASA that is meant to make sociology more publicly accessible and readable.
Understanding Global Issues
These are a useful series of publications which cost around £4.00 each and deal with such topics as:

- Zimbabwe: A New Beginning?
- Afghanistan’s Tragedy: A Problem for the West
- Globalisation 2008: Change and Continuity in a Shrinking World
- The Struggle for Democracy in the Arab World
- The Rise of Political Islam

They are all lively, illustrated reading. Further information from:
http://www.global-issues.co.uk/titles.php

New Internationalist
For teaching global concerns, the journal New Internationalist – along with its accompanying books and guides – is a must. It is very politically committed, and this may be a problem for some. Still, each issue of the magazine contains a wealth of ideas, visual images, key articles, fact files and guides to world music, film and books. If you don’t know it, find information about it on:
http://www.newint.org/index4.html

3. NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

Sociology demands that students keep abreast of world events and that they read good newspapers. It is wise to have a discussion on this with students early on (and indeed to discuss the sociology of media content through this). All the major newspapers and broadcasters now keep websites that update the news, provide archival resources, and generate materials such as images that you can partially download. CNN does a good visual gallery and many provide YouTube video clips. Newspapers online is now a major resource for study. It is really worth a look at:

- BBC News
  http://news.bbc.co.uk/

  Specifically, note the country profiles on each of the regional news sites at the BBC. Each country profile contains information useful for teaching, as well as link to major media of the respective country:

  BBC News Africa: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/default.stm
  BBC News Americas: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/default.stm
  BBC News Asia-Pacific: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/default.stm
  BBC News Europe: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/default.stm
  BBC News Middle East: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/default.stm
  BBC News South Asia: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/default.stm

- The Times
  http://www.thetimes.co.uk/
- The Guardian
  http://www.guardian.co.uk/
- The Independent
  http://www.independent.co.uk/
- The New York Times
  http://www.nytimes.com/
4. UPDATING STATISTICS

The book provides many statistics from many sources – but they are constantly getting out of date. You should keep updated on statistics; set up favourites such as:

- For European statistics – Eurosats  
  http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/
- For the UK – National Statistics  
  http://www.statistics.gov.uk/
- United Nations  
  http://unstats.un.org/unsd/default.htm
- CIA Fact book  

Here are some of the major website links referred to in the text:

- World Bank  
  http://www.worldbank.org/
- CIA Fact Book  
- United Nations  
- Nation Master  
  http://www.nationmaster.com/index.php
- New Internationalist  
  http://www.newint.org/
- UNFPA  
  http://www.unfpa.org/public/
- UN Habitat  
  http://www.unhabitat.org/
- OECD  
  http://www.oecd.org/
- Poverty Net  
- UN Millennium Goals  
  http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/
- Human Development Index  
5. SOME KEY GENERAL SOCIOLOGY WEBSITES DESCRIBED

There are so many websites that can now be used. I recommend:

The Internet Sociologist
http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/he/tutorial/sociologist
This is one of a national series of tutorials written by qualified tutors, lecturers and librarians from across the UK. It is part of the Intute: Virtual Training Suite, funded by JISC.

The following sites may also be helpful:

Sociology Central
http://www.sociology.org.uk/
This is a remarkably useful source for UK teachers and tutors. Designed really for A/S/A level teachers, not only does it have a host of links, it also reviews existing textbooks (and makes links for easy purchase), provides links and advice on different universities and their courses in sociology, suggests study plans, provides teaching notes, guides to videos to purchase, and some overhead slides, as well as a lot of up-to-date information for students.
Students also have access to this site, of course, but you will surely find it a valuable introductory resource. At the last looking, there were signs that it was not being maintained as well as it was in its earliest days.

**The Sociolog**
This is Julian Dierke’s Home Page from Princeton, and for a number of years he has worked on building up a detailed set of sociology resources. It has changed a number of times, but still seems in good working order – even though at last look it has not been updated since 2006. Good for a host of links – including sociological jokes, teaching guides and links to key thinkers. Being US based, it is also good at detailing US universities, journals and organizations. A comprehensive introduction.

**SocioSite**
[http://www.pscw.uva.nl/sociosite/](http://www.pscw.uva.nl/sociosite/)
Like the above, only this time based in Amsterdam, this is an excellent all-round, comprehensive introductory site that is easy to use through a series of tables you just click on.

**The SocioWeb**
Claiming to be the major independent site for sociological resources, at the time of looking it was being very regularly maintained. Again, comprehensive coverage of all things sociological.

**Sociology Research On Line**
This is a pioneering UK-based website (Volume 6 in 2002). There are original articles that can be read online, as well as special features and editions which try to generate sociological responses to immediate world events (such as September 11th). Really worth visiting.

### 6. THEORY TRADING CARDS

[http://www.theorycards.org.uk/card06.htm](http://www.theorycards.org.uk/card06.htm)
A very odd collection of cards treating sociological themes and sociologists. Mainly linked to cultural theory. Many are now bootlegs and are a bit dubious.

### 7. ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAN HELP

Sociological associations often provide teaching materials and collate documents about teaching. It is worth looking at:

- British Sociological Association (BSA)
  [http://www.britsoc.co.uk/](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/)
- American Sociological Association
  [http://www.asanet.org/index.ww](http://www.asanet.org/index.ww)

Both of these have sections which can assist students. See also:

- European Sociological Association
• International Sociological Association
  http://www.isa-sociology.org/

Lists of other sociological associations can also be found here.