

IBSS Editorial Policies and Principles

The International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS) aims to provide wide coverage of high quality social science research carried out in and about all parts of the world.

To meet the information needs of social science researchers, the majority of current IBSS records are articles and book reviews drawn from scholarly social science journals. The service regularly covers around 2,800 journals and indexes selected monograph and chapters.

Most journals are indexed cover to cover, however:

- for journals whose scope includes both social sciences and non-social sciences material only the social sciences content is indexed (for example, in journals whose focus is regional rather than thematic).
- non-analytical material is not usually indexed – including legal case reports, historical documents, statistical reports, obituaries.
- content sent from external data contributors (see below) is edited by these contributors, and these journals are usually selectively indexed.

IBSS reviews and monitors materials covered on an ongoing and systematic basis, in order to ensure that it continues to provide researchers with access to the leading English and foreign language titles.

The selection criteria detailed below have been developed in accordance with the following four statements which remain the guiding principles of IBSS editorial policy:

- IBSS maintains a coverage of **core titles** considered central to the study of the social sciences. These are published by mainstream publishers or learned societies, and are usually in the English language. These titles encompass the standard publications in the fields of anthropology, economics, political science, and sociology and related social science subjects.
- IBSS provides an **international** perspective on the social sciences. This is achieved through the selection of journals:
 - whose focus is regional
 - whose focus is international and comparative
 - which are the foreign-language equivalents of the core titles
 - which are published outside the US or UK.
- **Interdisciplinary** research is an important feature of contemporary social science research. Whilst the traditional disciplinary focus of the IBSS has been on anthropology, economics, political science, and sociology, IBSS supports interdisciplinary research by drawing supporting material from the complementary disciplines of history, law, philosophy and psychology. IBSS also particularly supports specific important interdisciplinary fields of contemporary social sciences research, including geography, psychology, social policy, archaeology, business studies, criminology, education, environmental issues, history and law.

- IBSS maintains the ***academic standard*** of its content by ensuring that journals covered are of a scholarly nature, with an editorial board of academics, and contain analytical articles, ideally peer reviewed. .

Sources of content development

IBSS is committed to ensuring that its coverage supports the research needs of the social sciences community worldwide. Journal coverage is developed from the following sources:

- [LSE Library](#)
- [Specialist libraries and overseas data contributors](#)
- [Internal evaluation by IBSS editorial office](#)
- [Unsolicited submissions](#)

LSE Library

From 1989 to 2010 IBSS was compiled at the LSE Library. Around 60% of the journals covered by IBSS were taken from the significant holdings of the LSE Library which serves as a national collection of material for research, and is recognised as a centre of excellence for social science resources by the European Union. In addition, IBSS receives valuable information from the LSE Library's Serials Review Group, which meets regularly to agree additions to the Library's periodicals collections. This helps IBSS identify, improve and augment its coverage of core social science journals.

Specialist libraries and overseas data contributors

Specialist libraries and overseas data contributors play a particularly important role in maintaining and developing IBSS's international coverage.

IBSS makes regular collections of journal material from the libraries of:

- School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)
- School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES)

Material is contributed annually by data partners at several international institutions. Specialists from these institutions select and index data from their collections for inclusion in IBSS:

- Library of the Hungarian Parliament, Budapest
- Library of the Finnish Parliament, Helsinki
- Japan Sociological Society, Tokyo
- Centre for Ethnographic Information and Documentation, Polish Ethnological Society, Łódź
- Fondation nationale des sciences politiques, Paris
- German National Library of Economics, Kiel.

Internal evaluation by IBSS editorial office

The IBSS editorial office actively and systematically evaluates its coverage with particular regard to the breadth and scope of international and subject coverage.

Unsolicited submissions

IBSS welcomes submissions from its users and from journal publishers or editors, and in fact receives some 200 such submissions each year. IBSS cannot take on all recommended journals, but evaluates each according to its Selection Criteria. For unsolicited submissions, highest priority is given to titles that are published outside the UK or US.

Selection criteria

Minimum standards and practicalities

- Journals covered should be of a scholarly nature and contain analytical articles, ideally peer reviewed and with an editorial board containing respected academics.
- IBSS does not cover newspapers, magazines, reports, information bulletins, statistical reports or professional publications. However, in exceptional circumstances they may be considered.

Language of publication

- IBSS's main languages are English; French; German; Italian; Portuguese; Russian and Spanish
- IBSS can also consider submissions in related European languages
- Journals in other languages should usually have title translations and/or abstracts in one of the main languages

Subject coverage

All journals must be relevant to IBSS's core, international, or interdisciplinary subject coverage as described above.

International coverage

IBSS aims to maintain international material as a key element of its coverage by including:

- Journals that have an international editorial board
- Journals that are international and comparative in scope, or which have a regional focus other than the US or UK
- Journals published outside UK or US: for unsolicited journal submissions, priority will be given (80%) to titles published outside the US or UK

Open access publishing

Open access journals help to bring research to a wider audience, particularly for researchers in developing countries. IBSS therefore favourably considers open access journals, subject to academic quality and subject relevance.

For more information about submitting your journal for inclusion in IBSS, please contact Rebecca Ursell at Rebecca.ursell@proquest.co.uk.