Special Collections (these books are for reference only)
Items marked * require ID to view

- Social Statics: Or, the Conditions Essential to Human Happiness Specified and the First of them Developed (1868) – Herbert Spencer
- De l’esprit: or, Essays on the Mind and its Several Faculties (1759) – Helvetius*
- A Comparative History of the Increase and Decrease of Mankind in England and Several Countries Abroad (1767) – Thomas Short*
- An Essay on the Principle of Population (1817) – Thomas Malthus*
- Latter-day Pamphlets (1858) – Thomas Carlyle
- Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792) – Mary Wollstonecraft*
- London Labour and the London Poor (1864: Volumes 1-3) – Henry Mayhew

Journals

- British Journal of Sociology (1950-1996)
- Planning [then PEP Broadsheet; then PSI Broadsheet] (1933-1986)
- Race & Class (1959-2000)
- The Sociological Review (1908-1920)
- Transactions of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Sciences (1858-1884)

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Information and Research
Stock & Collection Guides

Social Science: Sociology & Anthropology

Our Stock & Collection Guides list some of the most unique items held among the 100,000 volumes in the stacks at Leeds Central Library.

The majority of these titles were published prior to the 1990s. Many of the items are classics in their field and are unavailable elsewhere in the library service.

Relevant items held in our Special Collections are also listed here, along with selections from our journal holdings.

Many other items can be found using our online catalogue.
Books (all available to loan for the standard 3-week period)*
These books are kept in our stacks – please ask staff to view any item

- Essays on Sociology and Philosophy (1964) – Emile Durkheim. Alongside Weber and Karl Marx, Durkheim is acclaimed as the founder of sociology
- The Structure of Social Action (1937) - Talcott Parsons. Acclaimed by the International Sociological Association as the most important work of sociology in the 20th-century
- The Sociological Imagination (1959) – C. Wright Mills. Core text that tries to reconcile the abstract concepts of “society” and “individual”
- The Interpretations of Cultures: Selected Essays (1975) – Clifford Geertz. Seminal work of cultural anthropology that popularised the concept of “thick description” in the analysis of public meaning
- A Theory of Semiotics (1976) – Umberto Eco
- The Open Society and its Enemies (1966: Volumes 1 & 2) – Karl Popper. Highly influential study of the perceived totalitarian tendencies in, among others, Plato, Hegel and Marx
- Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason (1967) – Michel Foucault. Examination of the evolving ‘meanings’ given to madness in European culture, law, politics and philosophy
- The Medium is the Massage (1967) – Marshall McLuhan. Cult book intended to make McLuhan’s analysis of the mass media widely read
- Gestures: Their Origin and Distribution (1979) – Desmond Morris
- The Julia Kristeva Reader (1986) – ed., Toril Moi. Collection by the prominent structuralist thinker
- Power: A New Social Analysis (1938) – Bertrand Russell
- The Fear of Freedom (1942) – Erich Fromm. Analysis of humanity’s shifting relationship to ‘freedom’ and the consequences of its absence
- Selected Writings of Mahatma Gandhi (1951) – ed., Ronald Duncan
- The End of Ideology: On the Exhaustion of Political Ideas in the Fifties (1962) – Daniel Bell
- The Decline and Fall of the British Aristocracy (1990) – David Cannadine
- Coming of Age in Samoa (1943) – Margaret Mead. Influential work of cultural anthropology; a key text in the ‘nature and nurture’ debate
- Lady into Woman: A History of Women from Victoria to Elizabeth (1953) – Vera Brittain
- Problems in Materialism and Culture: Selected Essays (1980) – Raymond Williams. Significant contributor to Marxist critique of culture and art
- Postmodernism: Or, the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism (1991) – Fredric Jameson. Seminal look at postmodernism from a Marxist perspective
- The Family, Sex and Marriage in England, 1500-1800 (1977) – Lawrence Stone. Ground-breaking work that applied the quantitative methods of the social sciences to historical research
- The Savage Mind (1966) – Claude Levi-Strauss. Early and influential work of structural anthropology
- The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture (1966) – David Brion Davis
- City Close-up (1971) – Jeremy Seabrook. Portrait, in words, of the people living in Blackburn, Lancashire
- The Culture of Cities (1938) – Lewis Mumford. Seminal work of urban history
- After the Deluge: A Study of Communal Psychology (1931) – Leonard Woolf. Study of the evolution of political theory

*The nerdy bit: all the items in this guide can be found in the Dewey Decimal Classification system from 300 – 307