Criminology

Books
Print books about criminology are found in the University Library (and many other libraries you might use) arranged on the shelves in classmark/shelfmark (subject number) order, e.g. 364.3 AIN. Within each separate classmark books are arranged by a 3 letter alphabetical code (suffix) which is related either to the author's surname or the first 3 letters of the title (ignoring words like “The” or “A”). So at 364.3 a book by an author called Smith (SMI) would be kept farther along the shelf than books by an author named Brown (BRO) or a collection of essays by different authors entitled “Readings in European Union Criminology” (REA).

In the University Library, you will find criminology textbooks on the first floor at the numbers beginning 364. They are on the open shelves and are available to borrow. In demand titles will loan for 7 days if reservations are waiting or there may be a Library Use Only copy. Library Use Only copies are not loanable and must be used within the Library.

Here are some classmarks for criminology-related subjects at Portsmouth:
(NB: If you are using another library in the UK it may use a different classification scheme and the numbers may vary)

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Finding books
If you know the details of an individual book, you can search the Discovery Service for it by author or title to check whether it is available and to find its classmark. If you want books on a particular subject, you can browse the shelves if you know the right classmark (as above), but shelf browsing will only show you what is available immediately – but not the books already on loan or in electronic format. It is best to do a keyword search of the Discovery Service, and then in the left hand column refine your results to the Catalogue Only, and then select Books. You can reserve books you want which are out on loan if you are campus based. If you are based elsewhere, you can request books or copies of book chapters through the Distance Learners Service. Doing a keyword search of the Discovery Service is also useful if your subject may be found in more than one location in the Library, e.g. psychological or sociological. We have a large number of electronic books which cover criminology. Paper and electronic books appear as separate records: look for the words ‘electronic resource’ or similar wording to indicate the electronic edition. Once you are in an e-book collection (there are about 15 providers), you can do full text searches of its entire content. Ebrary is our biggest collection, but the other collections also contain a significant number of criminology books.

Dissertations
You can view selected Criminology E-dissertations via the University Library website (these are shown in Discovery Service results). You will need to use your institutional login (your university username and password) to access e-dissertations.

library.port.ac.uk
Journals
Criminology journals are shelved alphabetically by title on the second floor (there are no shelfmark numbers for journals) in our print journal collection, either as loose individual issues or bound together into volumes. Titles are shelved alphabetically by the first word of the title so that Cambridge Criminology Journal will be at “C, Modern Criminology Review at “M” and Journal of Business Criminology at “J”. Guide cards at the ends of the shelves will help you find the right place in the alphabetical sequence. You will find some of the most recent issues on display in the Library as well. If you are a distance learner, you can apply via the Distance Learners Service for scans of individual articles which are not available electronically.

To identify what print journals we have on Criminology, you can do a keyword search in the Discovery Service, then in the left hand column refine your results to the Catalogue Only, and then Magazines as source type. Many journals are available in electronic format and using Full Text Only instead of Catalogue Only will show you the huge number of full text articles you can access, regardless of your location. If you are looking for a specific journal in electronic format, use the Publications Link in the Ejournals tab of the Discovery tool and search by title.

Finding journal articles
Whether you have been given specific references by your lecturer or are looking for articles on particular topics for your assignments, using the searches outlined above is much more effective than simply browsing through back issues of journals. Remember, your lecturer may have recommended specific journals as good sources and you should look out for articles in these. If we do not have print or full text electronic access to something you need for your work, you should contact our Enquiry Team as they will be able to help and will explain the Inter-Library Loans service to you if necessary. When looking for specific articles be aware of dates as our holdings of individual e-journals may spread over several providers, possibly covering different time periods.

If the Discovery Service is producing too many results or results which are not relevant to you, consider exploring the Social Sciences version (use the drop down menu just below the Discovery search box from the Library homepage) which will limit your choices to the social sciences areas. You may also want to explore the specific Content Provider option at the bottom of the left hand column of Discovery results. This allows you to search individual collections of material separately. As these operate as separate databases it can be easier to fine tune your search.

Those most useful databases for criminology:
Criminal Justice Abstracts & SocINDEX both cover a wide range of criminology subjects & contain a good proportion of full-text articles.
Heinonline contains full-text articles relating to law & crime.
Lexis Library contains full-text articles.
Westlaw contains a Legal Journals Index as well as full-text articles.

All the electronic services described above can be used anywhere regardless of your location. You will need to use your institutional login (your university username & password) to access electronic resources (see the Library guide for Accessing Electronic Resources for additional help). On-screen help is available within the databases or you can get help from Enquiry desk staff who will show you how to search & download, print or email results. You will find useful resources for criminology (e.g. links to the Home Office website, etc. & much more) on the Criminology subject page under the My Subject tab on the Library website or at www.port.ac.uk/library/subject/law/criminology.

Further help with criminology resources is available from your Faculty Librarian Linda Jones, email linda.jones@port.ac.uk (tel 023 9284 3240) or Sharon Bittner, email sharon.bittner@port.ac.uk (tel 023 9284 3234). For general enquiries & book circulation issues contact our Enquiry Team (tel 023 9284 3228) or for off-campus delivery queries email distlib@port.ac.uk