

COM 308 LIBRARY VISIT

SEARCHING FUNDAMENTALS

There are two ways to search for information: to search by word (keyword) and to search by idea (subject). In keyword searching you choose your search terms; you have greater flexibility but you must try multiple searches using different spellings and synonyms in order to match all the variations authors could use. You will get results not related to your topic. Alternatively, subject searching is very organized and uses only librarian-determined terms; you find your terms -- usually called Subjects or Descriptors -- and you search using them to get fewer, more relevant results. Try using this procedure:

1. Perform a search using important terms that define your topic
2. Find a good result and look at its Subject / Descriptor
3. Perform a subject search using the Subject / Descriptor you find

DATABASES [<http://library.sunyit.edu>]

- Academic Search Premier – full-text articles from over 3,600 peer-reviewed journals
- JSTOR – full-text archive of core scholarly journals.
- Library Catalog – a catalog of our library's print and electronic books.
- Opposing Viewpoints - Provides pros and cons of both sides of social issues. Includes essays, full-text articles, statistics, primary documents, and links to web sites
- ProQuest – full-text articles originally from magazines, newspapers, and journals.
- SAGE Journals Online – full-text scholarly journals in criminology, education, psychology, sociology, and more
- ScienceDirect – full-text scholarly journal articles in science, technology, and medicine.
- WorldCat – an international catalog of books; some are available via Interlibrary Loan.

These databases are available from the Library's Home Page, under "Databases". They provide the full text of articles from professional journals and popular magazines, but they do not have the full text of every article; some results will be only citations or summaries.

All databases are accessible from off-campus through your college SITNetID.

FINDING MATERIAL

You should divide your research into two stages:

Stage 1: Use the library databases to identify a source, e.g., a journal article

Stage 2: Use various resources to obtain the source, including:

360 Link / List of E-journals – a list of magazines & journals available via our databases

List of Print Journals – a list of our print serials; the list is available in print & online

Librarians – always feel free to ask a librarian to help you locate material

Interlibrary Loan – fill out an online ILL form to obtain material we do not own

REMEMBER: THE LIBRARIANS ARE HERE TO HELP YOU !!

(315) 792-7251

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INTERLIBRARY LOAN (ILL)

Our library shares its materials with other libraries and those other libraries share their materials with us; this sharing is called interlibrary loan. If you want a book or journal article which we do not own then fill out an online ILL form and we will get the material for you.

DO NOT LIMIT YOURSELF TO ONLY FULL-TEXT ARTICLES IN DATABASES.
USE THE LIBRARY'S PRINT JOURNALS AND MAKE FREE ILL REQUESTS.

FOLLOW-THROUGH

Finding a couple relevant articles is only the first step. Track down leads -- people, organizations and studies -- mentioned in articles and listed as sources in the articles' references.

CREDIBLE INTERNET SITES

Search the Librarians' Index to the Internet (lii.org) for capital punishment or death penalty.
.aero | .biz | .com | .coop | .edu | .gov | .info | .int | .mil | .museum | .name | .net | .org | .pro

EVALUATING WEB SITES

Always evaluate your web results for their:

accuracy – does the site misstate or misrepresent facts?

authority – who created the site and what are their affiliations and credentials?

bias – does the site offer a point of view or opinion?

coverage – how much information is there? currency – when was the site last updated?

ADDITIONAL EVALUATION INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Evaluating Web Pages: Techniques to Apply & Questions to Ask (UC Berkeley)

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>

Evaluation of Information and Sources: Reliability and Credibility (Purdue)

<http://thorplus.lib.purdue.edu/~techman/eval.html>

Five criteria for evaluating Web pages (Cornell)

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/okuref/webcrit.html>

DOCUMENTING YOUR WORK

Citation handouts for APA or MLA are on the Library's *Research Guides* page

The Library's Make a Citation utility is available at <http://citation.sunyit.edu>

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