

GEN 310: Critical Methods of Inquiry in the Social Sciences and Humanities

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

- Academic Search Premier – full-text scholarly multi-disciplinary database
- America: History and Life – abstracts of scholarly articles on the history of Canada & the US
- JSTOR – a complete full-text archive of core scholarly journals
- Literature Resource Center - full-text journal articles, critical essays, author biographies, and more
- ProQuest – full-text coverage of articles originally from magazines, newspapers, and journals
- Sage Journals Online – full-text scholarly journals in ... political science, psychology, sociology, and more
- SUNYIT Catalog – a catalog of items that SUNYIT owns
- WorldCat – an international catalog of books; some are available via Interlibrary Loan, *q.v.*

HOW TO FIND EXAMPLES OF SCHOLARLY REVIEWS

1. Login to the library database ProQuest.
2. Click on the “Advanced Search” tab.
3. In the first empty box, type *the name of the item*.
4. Change the corresponding drop-down box to “Document title.”
5. In the second empty box type either *Book review* or *Movie review*.
6. Change the corresponding drop-down box to “Document type.”
7. Click on the “Scholarly Journals” tab.
8. Click on the “Search” button.

SEARCHING FUNDAMENTALS

With Keyword Searching, you determine your search terms; you have greater flexibility but you get broader results. You must try multiple searches using different spellings and synonyms in order to match all the variations authors could use. Alternatively, Subject Searching is very organized and uses only librarian-determined terms; you find your Subject Heading and you search for it. You get fewer, better results, but you must use the term chosen by the person who cataloged the book or article. Keyword searching should lead to subject searching:

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

RESEARCH IS A TWO-STEP PROCESS

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:

SFX / 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

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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.

RECOMMEND WEB DIRECTORIES

Google's Directory of Humanities Sites

<http://www.google.com/Top/Arts/Humanities/>

Google's Directory of Social Sciences Sites

http://www.google.com/Top/Science/Social_Sciences/

Internet Public Library

<http://www.ipl.org/>

Librarians' Index to the Internet

<http://lii.org/>

The WWW Virtual Library

<http://vlib.org/>

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?

DOCUMENTING YOUR WORK

- Official manuals for APA, MLA, and the Chicago Manual of Style are on Reserve or in Ready Reference
- Citation handouts are available online through the Library's *Research Guides* page
- Make A Citation -- <http://citation.sunyit.edu>