Organizing the Literature Review

Dissertation Forum
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## Find My Librarian

### Ask a Librarian

*Ask a Librarian*

*Please submit your question via email*

### Menu

- USF Libraries Catalog
- Databases by Title
- Databases by Subject
- E-Journals
- Digital Collections
- Scholar Commons

### Research Help

- Finding Articles
- Finding Books

### Find My Librarian

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<th>SUBJECT LIBRARIANS</th>
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The Research Process

Identify & select manageable topics
Create research questions
Set up a search plan
Match questions/search terms to resources
Identify & evaluate your sources
Cite sources appropriately
Writing Process as Recursive

- Writing a draft
- Discovering topic, audience, and purpose
- Gathering data and information
- Writing the thesis and developing a sketch
- Reviewing and categorizing information
Research is recursive too!
Objectives

Identify strategies for planning a literature search
Using library resources for discovery
Expand your knowledge of databases
Use bibliographies and cited references
Accessing materials beyond the USF library
Discovery Versus Information-Seeking

Exploring topics versus finding specific information

Using discovery tools, books, and reference materials to get background/overviews about your research

Using advanced searching strategies in catalogs and databases to find more specific and relevant information
Interdisciplinary Databases and Discovery

FindIt!
Academic Search Premier
JSTOR
WorldCat
Identifying Key Concepts for a Search Plan

- Most topics consist of two or more concepts. Developing effective search strategies depends upon identifying:
  - the primary concept
  - the secondary concepts
  - the relationships between the concepts
  - the keywords, synonyms, and related terms for each concept

See: From Question to Keyword
Creating A Search Plan of Keywords

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<tr>
<th>Concept Categories</th>
<th>Keywords (Synonyms &amp; Related Terms)</th>
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Map out the major concepts of your research question, creating synonyms for each of your concepts.
Identify Databases & Resources

Match research queries with disciplines
   Social Sciences
   Sciences
   Humanities

Match specific disciplines with databases
   Use **Guides** and Databases by Subject Links
Selecting Databases
Subject Guides vs. MetaLib

Go to:
Library home page >
**Guides** >
Top Subject Guides

Or
**Full Subject List A-Z** >
Subject area
Another Way to Find Subject Resources

Go to:
Library Home page >
Research Tools >
Databases by Subject
Select Subject and Subcategory
Click “GO”
Federated Search Engines

Using FindIt and federated search engines for discovery purposes but not as information-seeking tools

Read “Why Federated Searching Isn’t Such a Good Idea”
Federated Search Engines

“Merging databases into a single search is like putting your lunch in a blender and then trying to retrieve a potato chip—it may be in there, but you’ll never find it.”

Advanced Search Tips

Employing thesauri with large databases
Using keywords vs descriptors
Conducting searches without thesauri using creative phrase searching
Databases—Size Matters

Find database information
Use controlled vocabulary when possible
Example: The ERIC or PsycInfo thesaurus
Search Cited References

Academic Search Premier
Web of Knowledge
  Science Citation Index
  Social Sciences Citation Index
Google Scholar
Google Books
Importance of Bibliographies

Discovering essential resources
Tracking who is citing a noted scholar
Uncovering more resources
Using analysis and critical thinking

Follow the trail!
Tracking Down Known Citations

See the [screencast](#) on finding online journal articles using [citation linker](#)

See the [screencast](#) on accessing print only journals.

See also the [screencast](#) about finding online journal articles using the Findit Tool or Google Scholar.

*Links also in Canvas*
The Bibliographic Trail
Go Beyond Your Library

U-Borrow vs. ILLIAD (Interlibrary Loan)
Worldcat or WorldCat Local
Google Book Search
Locate Dissertations

Go to:
Theses and Dissertations Subject Guide
http://guides.lib.usf.edu/theses
Alerting Services

Key Journals in Your Field
Web of Knowledge
EBSCO databases
Sage databases
Google Scholar
RefWorks
Online Resources

Dissertation Forum Resources Guide

Research Rescue Services Page
Thanks
and
We are
here if you
need help!