

Library Research Process: Some Basics

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Focus will be:

- Steps in library research process
- Finding and using different types of sources
- Citing your sources

- [Library website](#)

Starting out.....

- Choosing and refining a topic is part of the research process.

Begin with what you have

- Readings usually have works cited or bibliographies
- Best starting point
 - point to important works (bibliography)
 - help you think about your topic

Finding sources from bibliographies

Winseck, Dwayne (1999). "Back to the Future: Telecommunications, Online Information Services and Convergence from 1840 to 1910." *Media History*, 5 (2): 137-157.

Jeffrey Sconce, *Haunted Media: Electronic Presence from Telegraphy to Television*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press 2000

Geoffrey Batchen, 'Electricity Made Visible', in *New Media, Old Media: A History and Theory Reader*, ed. Wendy Hui Kyong Chun and Thomas Keenan, New York: Routledge 2006, 27-44

Del Nevo, Maria. (2000) "Developing Gender Sensitive Communication Policies." *Media Development*, 47 (3):3-10

- To find specific journals, use the [e-journals list](#) first. Search by the title of the journal (not the title of the article).
- If it is not in the [e-journals list](#), search [CLUES](#) by the title of the journal (not the title of the article) to see if we have it in a physical format such as in paper or on microform.

Note: If we have the journal in paper format only, you may request a scan of the article be emailed to you using our [article delivery service](#).

Finding background and context

- Subject encyclopedias
- Books

Communication Studies Research Guide:

<http://www.concordia.ca/library/guides/communication-studies.html>

Finding books in the Library:

<http://clues.concordia.ca>

Recap: First two steps:

- 1. Use what you already have
- 2. Get authoritative background information

Next step  Identify additional sources.

Why scholarly journals?

- Purpose is to report original research by scholars
- In-depth articles cover specific research questions or specific issues
- Peer- reviewed/editorial board
- Audience is other scholars in the field
- Bibliography of works cited.

Scholarly journals	Magazines/Newspapers/Trade publications
Articles are scrutinized for quality by other scholars in the field before publication (peer review)	Editor reviews articles
Authored by scholars in the field	Authors are journalists, practicing professionals;
Information is sourced w/ bibliography aka previous research	No bibliography. Information may be sourced by some fact-checking; interviews
Purpose is to advance knowledge; report original research	Purpose is current news and entertainment

How to recognize a scholarly article

- Will always have a list of works cited and will have citations throughout the text
- Will usually provide institutional affiliation of author(s)
- Often begins with an abstract (condensed summary) of the article
- Reports original research

Finding scholarly journal articles

- From bibliographies you have on hand
- Using article databases to search by topic

Many databases.....

- Are a mix of academic and non-academic articles
- Will allow you to limit your results to academic/scholarly/peer-reviewed articles only

Choosing a database

- [Databases by Subject](#)
- Will usually need to search multiple databases
- Always search the two core communication studies databases:

Communication and Mass Media Complete
Communication Abstracts

- Supplement these with additional databases, select according to your topic, for example:


Academic Search Complete (interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary)

Historical Abstracts
America: History and Life

Gender Studies Database
Film and Television Literature Database

Searching multiple EBSCO databases...

New Search Publications Cited References Thesaurus More ▾

 Searching: Communication & Mass Media Complete | Choose Databases

	submarine or underwater or transatlantic	Select a Field (optional) ▾	Search	Clear	?
AND ▾	cable or cables	Select a Field (optional) ▾			
AND ▾	histor*	Select a Field (optional) ▾			+ -

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)

Choose Databases ?



[Detailed View](#) (Title lists included) [Select another EBSCO service](#)

Select / deselect all

OK

Cancel

- Academic Search Complete
- Alternative Press Index
- America: History & Life
- Anthropology Plus
- Art Full Text (H.W. Wilson)
- Art Index Retrospective (H.W. Wilson)
- Art Museum Image Gallery
- ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index
- ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials
- Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals
- Business Book Summaries
- Business Source Complete
- Canadian Literary Centre
- Cinema Image Gallery
- Communication & Mass Media Complete
- Communication Abstracts
- Computers & Applied Sciences Complete

- Historical Abstracts
- Humanities & Social Sciences Index Retrospective: 1907-1984 (H.W. Wilson)
- Humanities Abstracts (H.W. Wilson)
- Index Islamicus
- International Bibliography of Theatre & Dance with Full Text
- International Political Science Abstracts
- L'Année philologique
- Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts
- MEDLINE
- Mental Measurements Yearbook
- New Testament Abstracts
- Old Testament Abstracts
- Play Index (H.W. Wilson)
- Political Science Complete
- Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection
- PsycINFO

New Search

Subjects ▾

Publications

Images

More ▾



Searching: Communication & Mass Media Complete, America: History & Life, Communication Abstracts, Historical Abstracts [Show Less](#) | [Choose Databases](#)

submarine or underwater or transatlantic

Select a Field (optional) ▾

Search

Clear



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cable or cables

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[Basic Search](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

[Search History](#)

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Refine Results

Current Search

Boolean/Phrase:

(submarine or underwater or transatlantic) AND (cable or cable...

Limit To

- Linked Full Text
- References Available
- Peer Reviewed

1940 Publication Date 2014

[Show More](#)
Options set

Source Types

- All Results
- Journals (88)
- Academic Journals (88)
- Magazines (15)
- Reviews (4)
- Conference Materials (2)

Search Results: 1 - 4

1. The Transatlantic



Academic
Journal

Die transatlanti
Historical Peri

Subjects: Pow
Telecommunica
TELEGRAPH &

[Find it!](#) @ Co

2. Ocean's Depths.



Academic
Journal

By: Rozwadow

Subjects: UNC

[Linked F](#)

3. Industrial research



Academic
Journal

By: NOAKES, F

Subjects: EAS
cables -- Histo

[Find it!](#) @ Co

4. Telecommunication



Academic
Journal

Telekommunik
Historical Peri

Subjects: CAN
-- History; IMP

[Find it!](#) @ Co

What if the doesn't find it?

1. Double-check the [e-journals list](#) on library homepage
2. Check [CLUES](#) by journal title in case we have a print or microfilm version

Many types of sources

- News sources
- Magazines and trade publications
- Scholarly articles; peer reviewed
- Books (academic and non-academic)
- Encyclopedias, dictionaries
- Government reports, publications
- NGO publications, associations, professional
- Non-print formats (Video, audio)

Thinking about sources

- Purpose
- Audience
- Authorship
- Format
- Time period

- Scholarly
- Non-scholarly

CITATION STYLES

- Used to compile bibliographies in academic works (articles, books) and assignments.
- Provides integrity to the work by ensuring that an author formats his references in a way that is understood by others.
- Many different citation styles, [style guides](#)

- [RefWorks](#)

Software that allows you to import references from various sources and to generate bibliographies in various citation styles.