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Basic Library Research Processes COMS 240

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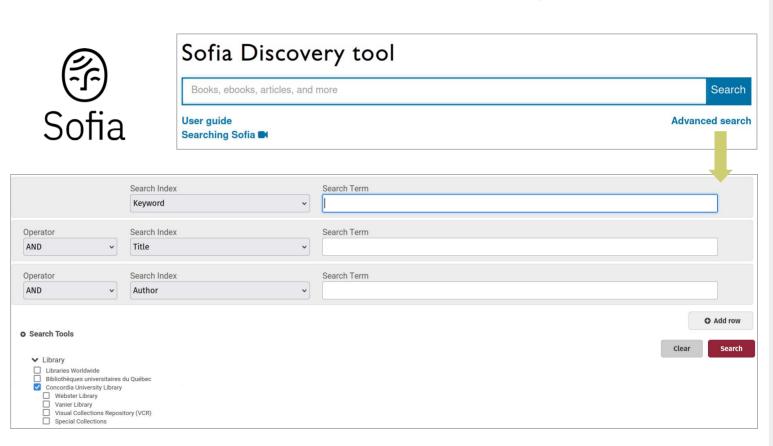
Agenda

- 1. Resources we'll use
- 2. Steps in a library research process
- 3. How to use the tools/resources
- 4. Collecting sources to make a bibliography

http://library.concordia.ca

Resources: Sofia (Catalogue)

- Books
- Film
- Music
- Journals
- Games
- Databases
- (Articles)



Resources: Library Databases

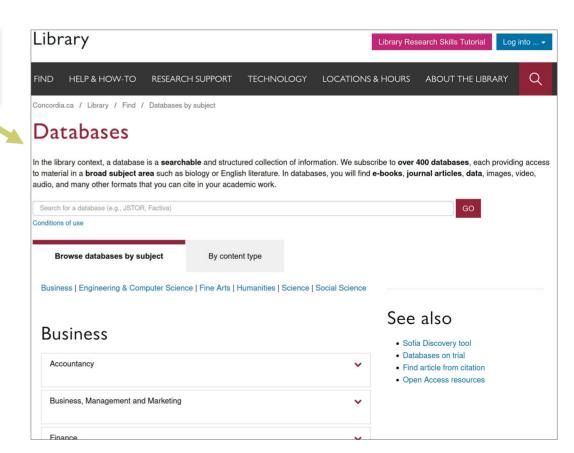
DATABASES BY

SUBJECT

- Subject oriented
- Peer reviewed articles
- Trade journals
- News
- Images
- Magazines, etc.

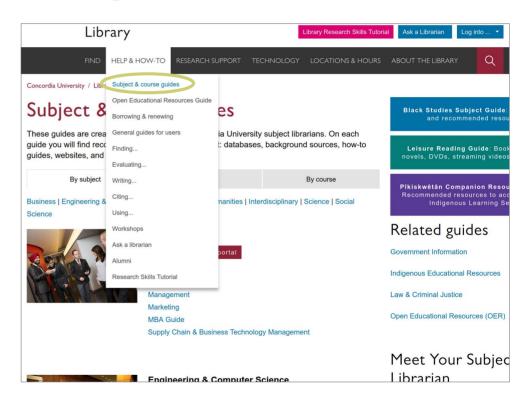
Academic search engines are different.

- scholar.archive.org
- openalex.org
- scholar.google.com
- semanticscholar.com



Resources: Subject Guides

- Quick access
- Reference sources
- Other resources
- Contact

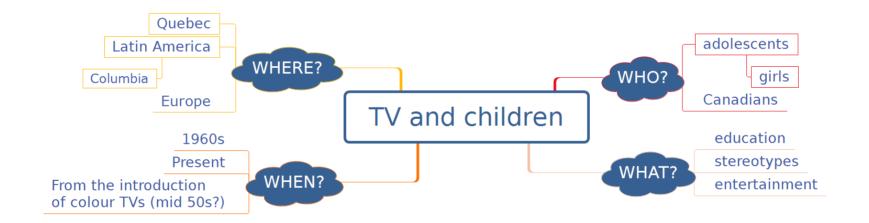


www.concordia.ca/library/guides/communication-studies

Library Search Process 1. Getting Started

Research Question

Topic → Refine it → Form a good question to target your research



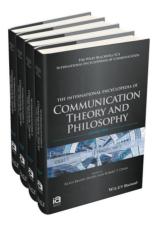
Iterate

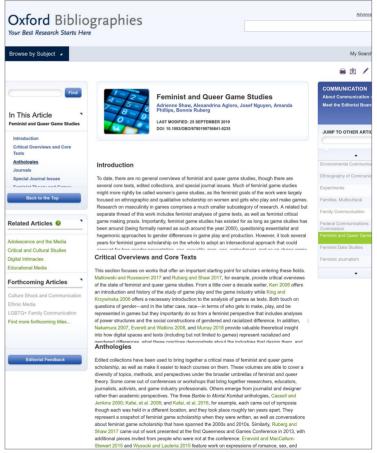
Your topics: What do we need to know?

- 1. Does social media contribute to body image ideals for teens and young adults?
- 2. How do people use social media to self-diagnose? e.g., Eating disorder, mental health
- 3. Youth and consumerism & self-care
- 4. The impact of AI on writing in high schools
- **?** 5. Isolation and connection on the internet
 - 6. Representations of young adult, trans women on Reddit

Background & Important Literature

- Your understanding of key concepts and their definitions?
- Literature central to the work in this domain?
- Who is doing research in this domain?





Your topics: What terms do people use?

children	colour broadcasting	TV programming
• kid	• color broadcasting	• program
• pre-teen	 color television 	• tv show
 adolescent 	 broadcasting standards 	• sitcom
• youth	 black and white tv 	

Library Search Process 2. Searching a Database

Database Search Interface



Or write the whole search expression on one line, using parentheses () instead of the individual fields.

(underwater OR transatlantic) AND (cable OR wire) AND (news OR press)

How to Improve Search Results

- 1. Not enough results?
- 2. Too many results?
- 3. Irrelevant results?
- 4. Cannot access results?
- 5. Other?

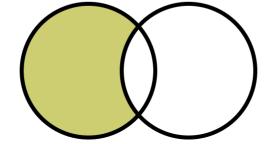
Operators Boolean

AND OR

Narrows search

Broadens search

NOT



Narrows search

Truncation & Phrases

Truncation *

activ* = activist OR activists OR activism

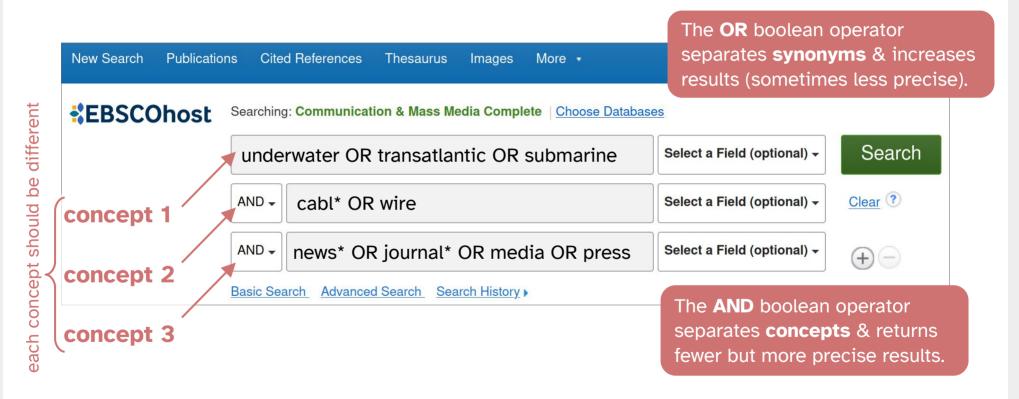
Specific phrase " "

"social media" = social media (no words between)

≠ social AND media

≠ Pride, R. A. (1995). How Activists and Media Frame Social Problems: Critical Events Versus Performance Trends for Schools. Political Communication, 12(1), 5–26. https://doi-org/10.1080/10584609.1995.9963052

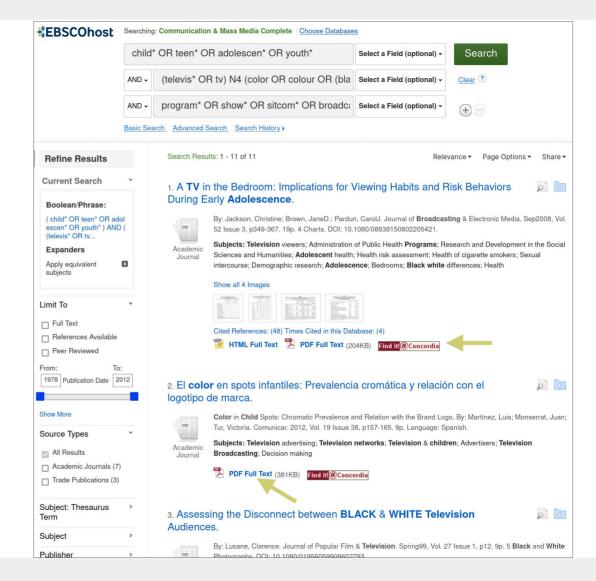
Database Search Interface



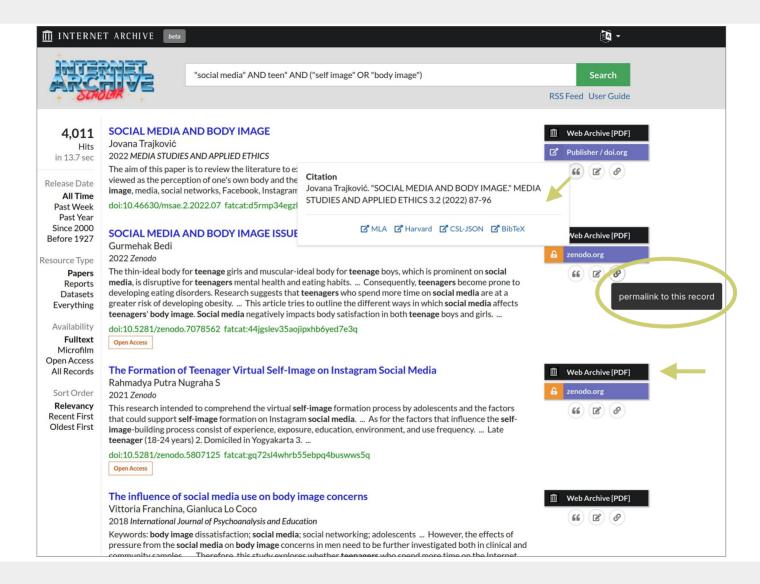
(underwater OR transatlantic OR submarine) AND (cabl* OR wire) AND (news* OR journal* OR media OR press)

DB Result Tips

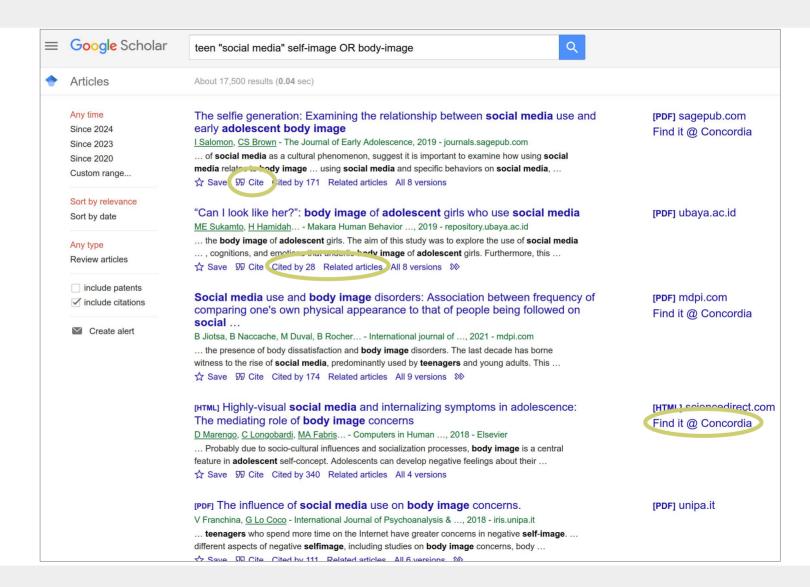
- 1. Filter for academic results
- 2. Filter languages
- 3. Date of publication
- 4. Access the document

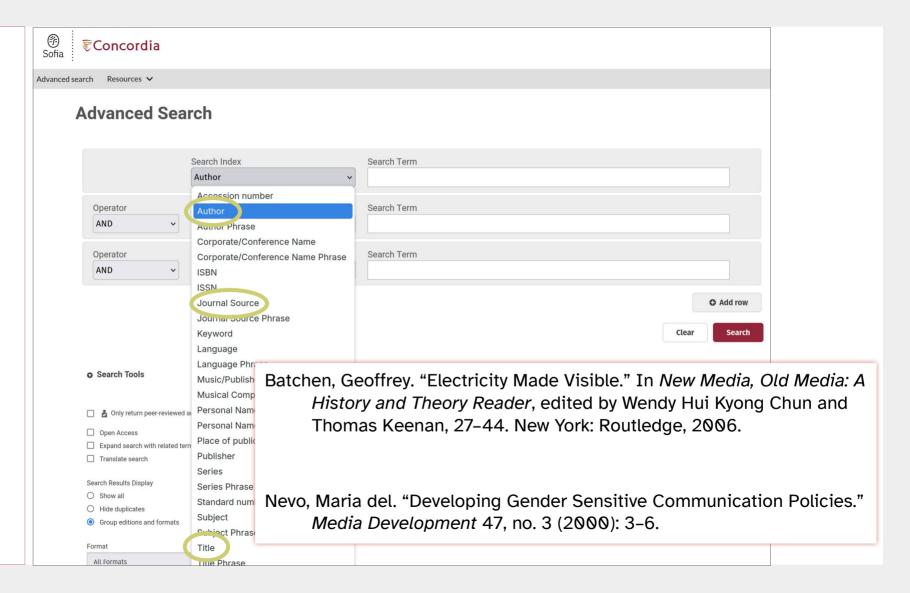


Additional Ways to Search



scholar.google.com

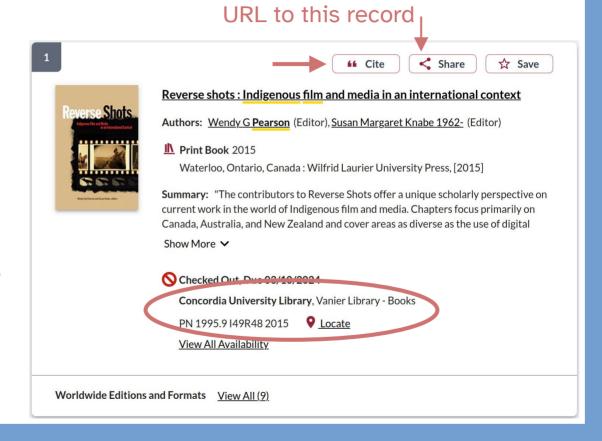




Activity: Use sources you found to search Sofia

Search metadata:

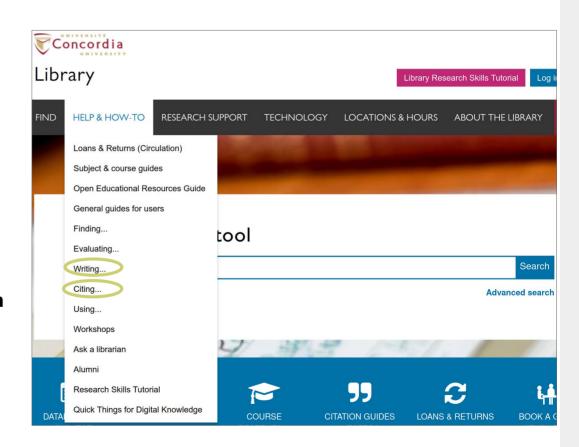
- author
- book title
- publication name
- combination



Making a Bibliography

Making an annotated bibliography

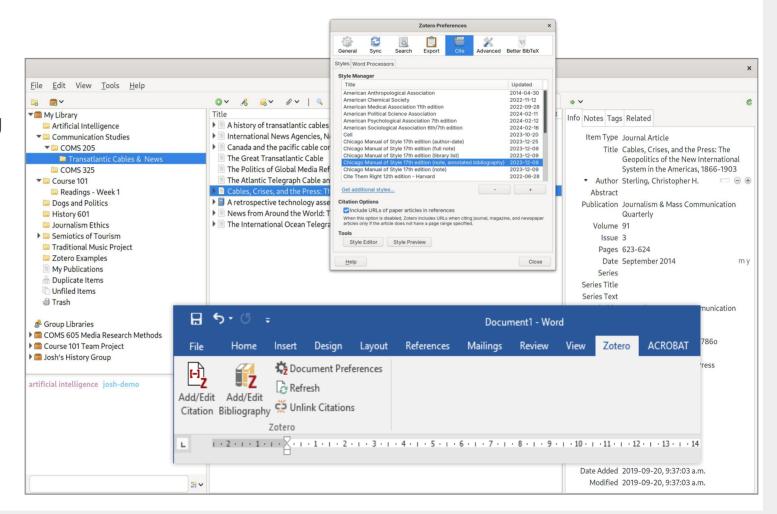
- Style guides (MLA, Chicago, etc.)
 Library site's menu:
 Help & How to > Citing...
- 2. Capture bibliographic data
 DB citation buttons
 copy author, title, pub, date, source, etc.
- 3. Writing guidance
 Library site's menu:
 Help & how-to > Writing > how to write an annotated bibliography
- 4. Software help zoterobib (https://zbib.org) & Zotero (https://zotero.org)





https://www.zotero.org

- Keep track of your sources
- Generate your bibliographies in your chosen style
- Insert citations while you're writing



Thank you. Questions?

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