Library Research in Communication Studies
Some Basics

Coms 610
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Many types of sources

- News sources
- Magazines and trade publications
- Scholarly articles; peer reviewed
- Books (academic and non-academic)
- Encyclopedias, dictionaries
- Government reports, publications
- Archival and special collections
- Non-print formats (Video, audio, streaming)
- Electronic and print formats

Guides to finding different types of sources (link to page in Research Tutorial)
Library website

http://library.concordia.ca
Research Guide Communication Studies

*International Encyclopedia of Communication Online*

- Browse through the most recent articles added to the encyclopedia and view the full text of one of them (for example: *Communication and Media Studies, History since 1968*)
- Try doing a search by keyword on subject of your choice
Other examples of subject encyclopedia:

*International Encyclopedia of Media Studies (Wiley)*
- Browse the table of contents or try a keyword search (ex: convergence)

*International Encyclopedia of Communication Research Methods (Wiley)*
- Ex: Browse A-Z, by topic, or search keyword: Arts-Based Methods; Artifact Analysis
• Oxford Bibliographies Online
  - Annotated bibliographies of core works in communication and media studies; search by keyword or browse headings.
Finding books using Library Catalogue

Begin with keyword searches, example:
• Media and globalization
• Media and global*

Look for subject headings in the records, to help you find other items on the same subject, or different terminology

You may also use keyword search to find specific types of material
Ex: communication and encyclop*
    media and handbook*
Looking for scholarly articles

• From bibliographies you have on hand...

• Using Databases
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

• By discipline or subject area, for example:

  Communication and Mass Media Complete
  Communication Abstracts

• By type of publication included – such as journal articles, magazine articles, newspaper articles, transcripts, statistical data, images, video etc

  Communication Studies Subject Guide (lists top databases in com studies)
  Databases by discipline and type (to search in other disciplines or by type)
MULTIPLE DATABASES?

• You may need to use more than one database.
• Interfaces are different
• Some full-text, others not
Common Principles!

• Are portable from database to database
BOOLEAN OPERATORS

• AND
  Both terms must appear

• OR
  Either term must appear

• NOT
  Term must not appear
TRUNCATION AND WILDCARDS

• interview* interview or interviews or interviewing
• Wom?n women or woman
NESTING SYNONYMS

Reality television and (audience or consumer*)
• Parentheses control the ORDER of operations
FOR EXAMPLE......

Reality television and (audience or consumer*)

Vs

Reality television and audience or consumer*
CONTROLLED VOCABULARY

• Controlled vocabulary to describe the subject of the article
• Subject, descriptor fields

• Many database have a thesaurus of terms
Field Searching

(Note: click on image to go to sample search in EBSCO)
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.