

Journalism Library Workshop

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The ability to know when there is a need for information, to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively [and ethically] use that information for the issue or problem at hand. ⁽¹⁾

Today:

- Library website
- Basics of database searching
- Major news databases
- Types of Sources

Clues Exercise

Database searching

- Different interfaces (look different)
- Common principles – portable from database to database

Databases

- A database is a collection of RECORDS
- Records are made up of fields, such as title, author, subject, text, etc.

Fields vary with database

- Example from CLUES
- Example from Canadian Newsstand

Field searching

- Limiting the results to those records with terms in specific fields

Field searching

- Searching all fields vs specific fields
- All fields is the broadest way to search
- Default in many databases is all fields
- Full text databases

Boolean operators

- AND

Both terms must appear

- OR

Either term must appear

- NOT

Term must not appear

Combining operators

- Always use parentheses when combining synonyms using the OR operator
- Parentheses control the ORDER of operations
- Construction and (corruption or conspiracy)

For example.....

Construction and (corruption or conspiracy)

Vs.

Construction and corruption or conspiracy

Basic strategy

- Use keywords to describe your topic
- Combine your keywords using boolean operators or connectors
- Search within specific fields when needed or appropriate.

Truncation and wildcards....

- Truncation searches for variations of a word root.

Ex: journalis* retrieves:

Journalism or journalist or journalistic or journalists

- Wildcards normally replace one character within a word

Ex: wom?n retrieves:

women or woman

- Question: Will lab?r retrieve labor or labour?

Proximity operators

- W/3 = within three words of one another
- Different proximity operators depending upon the database

Establishes a relationship between the terms

woman and journalists

woman w/3 journalists

News Databases Exercise

Many types of sources

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

Thinking about sources

- Purpose
 - Audience
 - Authorship
 - Format
 - Time period
-
- Scholarly
 - Non-scholarly

Publisher based (may be electronic or print)	User Generated (may also be print eg. vanity press)
Books	Wikipedia
Magazines/Journals	Blogs
Newspapers	Social networking sites (Facebook)
Websites	Websites

Publisher based:

- Formal process of review
- Information is fact-checked prior to publication
- Reputation of the publisher depends upon quality

What is a scholarly journal?

- 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.

What is a reference book?

- Designed for QUICK, FACTUAL information or CONTEXT and BACKGROUND.
- Published by established publishers
- Information is fact-checked, reviewed prior to publication
- Many print versions existed before electronic versions, and have long been established as authoritative sources.
- Different flavours (types) of reference books for different kinds of information

- Canadian Who's Who (U of T)
- Current Biography (Wilson)
- Statesman's Yearbook (Macmillan)
- Canadian Encyclopedia (Historica)

Different types

- Dictionaries
- Directories
- Almanacs
- Yearbooks
- Encyclopedias

Directories: Organizations and People

- Biographical directories of people

[Canadian Who's Who](#)

[International Who's Who](#)

- Business directories

[Mergent Intellect](#)

- Specialized directories that focus on a subject/theme:

[Directory of Community Services of Greater Montreal](#);

[Associations Canada](#)

[Canadian Almanac & Directory](#)

Context & Facts

- Dictionaries

Shocked and Awed: A Dictionary of the War on Terror
Language of Canadian Politics

- Encyclopedias, handbooks

Canadian Encyclopedia;
Encyclopedia of Journalism;

- Year books

Canada Year Book
Europa World
U.S. Statistical Abstract
Statesman's Year-book

Aggregates

- [Oxford Reference Online Premium](#)
- [Gale Virtual Reference Online](#)

Finding reference sources

- Online Reference
- Database Finder
- CLUES (library catalogue)
- Research Guides

What is the purpose?

- To persuade? Present a point of view?
- To sell something?
- To inform? To entertain? To report research?

Who is the author?

- What are their credentials? Are they listed? Can they be verified in another source?

References

- Where do they get their information?
- Is it credited?
- What references are listed?
- Can they be verified?

Reviews of the source

- How is the source regarded by others?
- Are there reviews of the source?

Google tips

- Use quotes to find a phrase: “turcot interchange”
- **Group synonyms:** (violence OR abuse)
- Use site command to limit to specific sites: gc.ca
Federal government sites

gouv.qc.ca Quebec government sites

emsb.qc.ca English Montreal school board

For example....

- Curriculum site:emsb.qc.ca
- turcot interchange site:ville.montreal.qc.ca
- Violence statistics site:gouv.qc.ca
- “spousal violence” statistics site:gc.ca
- Violence (women OR spousal) site:gc.ca