

Journalism Library Workshop

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Outline

- Library intro and website
- Databases
- Reference resources

- Library website:

<http://library.concordia.ca>

- Library catalogue

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.

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

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

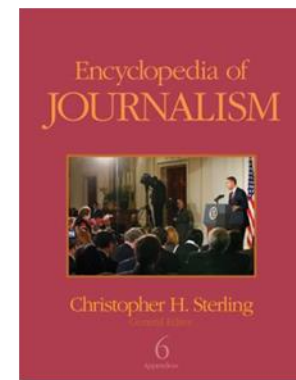
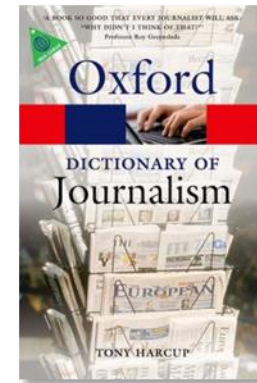
- Scholarly
- Non-scholarly

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

Finding reference sources

- Online reference
- Database finder
- 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?