INTRODUCTION TO CONCORDIA LIBRARY RESOURCES FOR JOURNALISM STUDENTS

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Agenda

The Concordia Library’s spaces

Databases

Search techniques & sources of information

Practice searching the Library’s collections

Other sources of information

Citing and additional research resources
Where to find resources

From the home page:

- Library catalogue (named CLUES)
- Databases
- Subject guides

https://library.concordia.ca
SEARCH TECHNIQUES
**Databases**

A collection of RECORDS

A DB record includes fields such as:

- keyword
- title
- subject
- author
- abstract
- etc.
Boolean operators

AND

OR

NOT
George Boole
AND
hair
sideburns  OR  eyebrows
George Boole

NOT

hair
Search improvements

Truncation *

Journal* = journals or journalism or journalist, etc.

Specific phrase “ ”

“chief executive officer” = chief executive officer

- no chief financial officer
- no chief officer
- no “The officer said the chief reason Ms. Smith called 911 was...”

Some databases allow “chief * officer” to retrieve “chief financial officer”
Combining operators

Use parentheses ( ) to group synonyms using the OR operator

Parentheses control the ORDER of operations

Construction AND (corruption OR conspiracy)
Searching: databases

Find DBs through the:
- **Databases by subject** (via library homepage)
- **CLUES** (library catalogue)
- **Subject guides** (by discipline)

- Subject-specific databases (DB) of academic journal articles
- There may be delays on news content
- Sometimes only plain-text news is available, but sometimes an image of the article as-printed is available
- Specialized news databases **Canadian Newsstream**, **Eureka** (good for Canadian & Québécois content), and **Factiva** (includes business information)
Other Sources
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

Consider non-print formats (video, audio, new media)
Searching: Library catalogue (CLUES)

Search for keywords, titles, authors, subjects

Find similar materials using the subject heading links

Apply Boolean operators to expand or focus your search

Try the catalogue’s filters for material type and location
Reference sources

Dictionaries, encyclopedias, & handbooks
For checking facts
- definitions and meanings
- dates of historical events
- how something is done

For an introduction to a topic
Statistics, almanacs, biographies
Business information, etc.
Thinking about sources

Purpose
Authority
Audience
Format
Currency
Scholarly

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?

See our guide
Other sources online

Include statistics, government documents, legal information, and more

Links to many reliable sources can be found on library subject guides
CITING & ADDITIONAL HELP
Citing work in an academic context

To credit original authors, show that work is supported by research, and let others follow-up

Concordia how-to guides on academic citing
  - https://library.concordia.ca/help/citing/

Directly from the style guides

Other institutions’ sites, especially Purdue OWL

APA style blog, Chicago Manual online
Keeps track of your sources

Creates your bibliographies for you in your chosen style

Easily insert citations while you’re writing

https://www.zotero.org
Getting help

In person at the reference desk

Consult a librarian

Subject guides

Online chat