ARTH 356:

Studies in Materials and Processes of Art: Of Knowing

Researching in the Library
HELLO!

Jenna Dufour | Librarian | jenna.dufour@concordia.ca

Michelle Lake | Librarian | Michelle.Lake@Concordia.ca
What do librarians do, anyway?
Session Outline

I. Identify key concepts & search strategies to use

II. Select relevant resources & search tools to support your research

III. The Library as a colonial institution, terminology and the problem with subject headings
Brief 3: Final Project -- Cabinet of Curiosity

- 8-10 specimens gathered by you, the collector/author/creator
- Present each of these specimens in an appropriate manner (drawing, photograph, tracing, text description, etc.)
- Labels for each specimen
- Essay to explain your collection
  - Where & how you imagine to display these items
  - Collection rationale & method
  - State what collection illustrates and presents
  - Brings in researched context related to the theme of the exhibition, including 3 quotations, well cited
  - Positions how the collection relates to materiality and representations of knowledge via specimens
  - How does the collection relate to or build upon similar collections/efforts at documenting
  - “...contains a bibliography of 10 rigorous research resources that are actually used”
How do you use the library now?
Concordia Library 101: Services & Amenities
Concordia Library 101

Concordia Library: Borrowing
- Library Card | Concordia Student ID
- Books: 30 books | 3 weeks (renewable)
- Video/Audio Recordings | 3 days
- Borrow Laptops (1 day) & Tablets (3 days)

Concordia Library: Accessing Online Resources
- On Campus | IP range, streamlined access
- Off Campus | Netname & Password

Interlibrary Loan
Requests: Colombo

BCI Program
Obtain a BCI card @ Loans Desk

[Types of Resources]
Books, exhibition catalogues, articles, theses, some media, etc.

[Types of Resources]
Print books (in person) from a local BCI research library
Concordia Library 101

Concordia Library: Study Spaces

- Group Study Rooms
- Presentation Practice Rooms

Concordia Library: Getting Research Help

- Live Chat
- Email or phone
- Ask Us/Reference Desk
- Subject Guides for discipline-specific resources
- Subject Librarians (me!)

Concordia Library: Website Tour
Getting Started:
Identifying Key Concepts
Identifying Key Concepts
Asking these types of questions will help you identify search terms

Start by asking yourself: what is it that interests me so much about my chosen objects?

1. **Material Context:** Which processes were used in the production of this object? What is it made of, and where was it produced?

2. **Historical or Symbolic Contexts:** What is the history of the object? Is there a symbolic meaning to the object?

4. **Sociocultural Context:** What does the object say about the society in which it was produced? What are the cultural contexts surrounding this object, or how that might have changed over time?

5. **Value Context:** What types of values does it have? (personal, societal/cultural, economical, etc.)

...Displayed together, are these various specimens more than the sum of their parts? Are there thematic ideas/concepts you want to learn about & explore deeper?
Identifying Key Concepts

Example | You chose a dried flower you had in your apartment to be part of your exhibition.

Interests | given to me by a friend (gift), invokes good feelings (visual cue for a particular memory)

Material Context | process of flower preservation?

Historical Context | History of gift giving and/or flower preservation? transactional or ritual use of flowers over time?

Symbolical Context | what do flowers symbolize in the context of gift-giving in Western culture and/or East Asian cultural spheres?

Sociocultural Context | gender roles, Women and gift exchange? consumerism and flower market?

Value Context | gifts/flowers in relation to friendship/love or loss/mourning? role of physical mementos in constructing or maintaining a sense of the past? friendship/love or loss/mourning, consumerism and the flower/floral market
**Example** | You chose a dried flower you had in your apartment to be part of your exhibition.

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Build Your Search Strategy
Search tips & boolean operators
# Search Operators/Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AND</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>“ ”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connects your concepts</td>
<td>Search similar terms/synonyms</td>
<td>Searches 2+ words together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrows your search</td>
<td>Broadens your search</td>
<td>Known as a phrase search</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift giving</td>
<td>gift giving OR gift exchange OR commodity exchange</td>
<td>“gift giving”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td>memory OR nostalgia OR sentiment OR momentos</td>
<td>“visual culture”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>culture</td>
<td></td>
<td>“material culture”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOT</strong></td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Note:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excludes certain terms</td>
<td>Searches all variations of a root word</td>
<td>These search operators can be used in the library catalogue to find books and media items, and in databases as well as search engines like Google Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gift NOT talent</td>
<td>material* = materiality, material, materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gift NOT donation</td>
<td>cultur* = culture, cultures, cultural</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>symbol* = symbolic, symbols, symbol, symbolical</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Search Operators/Strategies

“gift giving” OR “gift culture” OR “gift exchange” AND 55

History OR historical OR antiquity

200 AND 850
Library Catalogue: Search Operators

```
Any Field: "gift culture" or "gift exchange"
Any Field: women or woman or female
Any Field: 
Any Field: 

Limit search to available items
Submit  Clear Form
```
Library Database: Search Operators

Advanced Search

"gift exchange" OR "gift culture" OR "gift giving" OR "commodity exchange"

AND

cultur* OR feminis*

+ Add a row
Background Information: Encyclopedias, Dictionaries
Encyclopedias & Dictionaries

- Book/set of books giving information on many subjects, or on many aspects of one subject
- Provides background information and key concepts/dates
- Points you to further resources/writings on your topic
- Authoritative, reliable, scholarly information, updated

Examples of: **General/Multidisciplinary Encyclopedias**

- Encyclopedia of Ancient History
- Oxford Dictionary of Media and Communication
- Encyclopedia of Philosophy
- Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome
- Oxford Companion to Philosophy
- Indigenous peoples atlas of Canada

Examples of: **Art Dictionaries/Encyclopedias**

- Oxford Art Online
- Materials & Techniques in Art
- Encyclopedia of Aesthetics
Gift-exchange

Neil Coffee

First published: 26 October 2012

https://doi.org/mercury.concordia.ca/10.1002/9781444338386.wbeah06151

Abstract

The phrase gift-exchange refers to the giving of gifts and favors in a cycle that generates a relationship between giver and receiver. Gift-exchange was understood in Classical Antiquity as distinct from the major alternative form of exchange, commodity payment.

The phrase gift-exchange refers to the giving of gifts and favors in a cycle that generates a relationship between giver and receiver. Gift-exchange was understood in Classical Antiquity as distinct from the major alternative form of exchange, commodity payment (see Reciprocity).

Participants in gift-exchange give more than strictly necessary, and thereby show that they esteem and trust the recipient. This generosity engenders a sense of debt and gratitude on the part of the recipient, who then returns a different gift at a later time to continue the cycle of giving. In the absence of the greater legal and institutional guarantees of modern societies, individuals and households in antiquity used gift-exchange relations to create a network of relationships upon which they could rely for economic, emotional, and political support.

Gift-exchange is documented in the Near East from the Late Bronze Age, when kings gave one another precious goods as gestures of respect and alliance (Van de Mieroop 2004: 132–5). The earliest written sources for Classical Antiquity present gift-giving as integral to the functioning of society. In the Iliad and Odyssey, the most conspicuous form of gift-giving is the exchange of precious objects between warrior chieftains. These exchanges are carried out as “balanced reciprocity,” or the giving of gifts between individuals or households with some expectation of longterm balance, as when Odysseus and Iphitus (Od. 21.31–41) exchange gifts to begin a guest-friendship, or reciprocal guest-host relationship. Gifts were also given in the form of “generalized reciprocity,” in which the giver has no strong expectation of a return from the receiver, but only from another member of society if in a similar situation. Thus Odysseus benefits from the custom of giving gifts to strangers on his journey home.
Finding Books
Finding Books

Library Catalogue

WorldCat

Google Books
Finding Books: Library Catalogue

- Records for: books, journal titles, links to databases
- Search by: keyword (any), Author, Title, Subject heading
- Advanced search operators: AND, OR, NOT
- Import citations to RefWorks
- Call Numbers: Library of Congress - Classification

Library call numbers

- N Visual arts
- NA Architecture
- NB Sculpture
- NC Drawing, Design, Illustration
- ND Painting
- NE Print Media
- NK Decorative Arts
- NX Arts in general
- TR Photography
Finding Books: Library Catalogue

**Keyword search:**
- Keywords as natural language/concepts we use to search for information
- Example: flower* AND history (695 results, many irrelevant)

**Subject Heading search:**
- A descriptor that captures the 'essence of a topic'
- Controlled terminology to search a collection
- Similar to a #hashtag, but more professional and controlled, not created by library users
- Example: Flowers -- History (2 results - very relevant)

Flowers -- History.
Flowers in literature.
Flowers -- Folklore.
Flowers -- Social aspects.
Flowers -- Symbolic aspects.
Gifts -- Philosophy.
Gifts -- Cross Cultural Studies.
Gifts -- Economic Aspects.
Gifts -- Spiritual.
Finding Books: Library Catalogue

Tips for Using Subject Headings

- Start with a keyword search & browse the subject terms assigned
- Subject terms can be helpful to narrow down results, but they can also be limiting
- Search Subject headings can be applied in other library catalogues/systems
- The classification of information and knowledge in libraries is not neutral -- it is important to question the way that information has been organized and classified (Michelle’s talk will touch upon this)
Finding Books: Google Books + Worldcat

Google Books

- 25 million books (citation, partial, or full scan)
- Search expansive index of full-text of books
- Check library catalogue or use ILL to access
- Excellent discovery tool

Example search: “gift culture” antiquity

WorldCat

- Search many libraries at once for an item (72,000 libraries, including Concordia)
- Locate it in a library nearby or request the title through an Interlibrary Loan

Example search: Gifts -- Cross Cultural Studies.
Finding Articles
Periodical Literature: Overview

Category of publications that appear in a new edition on a regular basis:

1. Academic journals
   Published quarterly, semi-annually, etc.

2. Magazines
   Published monthly, weekly, semi-annually, quarterly, etc.

3. Newspapers
   Published daily, weekly, etc.
Periodical Literature: Academic Journals

Academic Journal Articles

- Address similar topics covered in monographs and catalogue essays
- Published more frequently, and are shorter than monographs
- Language: scholarly/written for peers in the field
- Also called: scholarly or peer-reviewed journals

Peer Review Process

- When an article is submitted to a publisher, it is sent to a group of experts (peers) who evaluate the work based on its originality, currency, and validity
- Watch this 3-min video on peer-review!
**Periodical Literature: Magazines**

**Magazine Articles**

- Publish profiles of artists, art news, interviews, editorials, reviews of modern art exhibitions, etc.
- Usually concerned with contemporary visual arts & trends
- Sometimes critical sources when researching a contemporary/emerging artist (and not much has been published on them in peer-reviewed journals)
- If your artist/selected work is very well known, be critical when evaluating your search results between academic articles and magazine articles!
Periodical Literature: News

News Articles (General Interest/Substantive)

- Contain information about current events in various fields, such as art
- Sometimes cite sources, not peer-reviewed
- Language: written for a broad audience of concerned citizens
- Example: *The New York Times, Toronto Star*

News Articles (Popular)

- Entertain the reader/promote a viewpoint
- Do not cite sources, not peer-reviewed
- Language: written for general audience
- Example: *Vogue*

Historical/older news articles (primary sources) can be valuable in the research process, demonstrating the reputation of an artist over time, or exploring first hand accounts of social/political issues during a significant event in time.
Why can’t I just use Google?

Library Databases & Why They’re Essential
Library Databases

● **Scope:** Access to academic resources: journal articles, reports, case studies, dissertations/theses, books & reviews, news, magazine articles, etc.

● **Credibility:** Information is evaluated for accuracy & reliability (faculty, librarians, other professionals and specialists)

● **Content:** Reviewed, organized and maintained by experts

● **Search options:** Limit to a variety of criteria (peer-reviewed, document type, dates, language)
Library Databases

Subject Specific VS Multidisciplinary Databases

**Art Full-Text (Fine Arts)**
- Advertising art
- Antiques
- Archaeology
- Architecture
- Art history and criticism
- Costume design
- Decorative arts
- Folk art
- Graphic arts
- Industrial design
- Interior design
- Landscape architecture
- Motion pictures
- Museum studies
- Non-western art
- Painting
- Photography
- Pottery

**JSTOR (Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences)**
- Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Sciences
- Art & Art History
- Anthropology
- Classical Studies
- Communication Studies
- Criminology & Criminal Justice
- Education
- Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
- Economics
- Feminist & Women's Studies
- Geography
- Geology
- Irish Studies
Finding Journal Articles

Library Databases

Database

Journal

Article
35 No. 1 (Spring/Summer 2014): 40-47.
A sense of wonder: many recent museum displays show a renewed interest in the idea of the classic **cabinet of curiosities**, or Wunderkammer. Allowing institutions to celebrate their eclectic origins, they also seem to reflect the challenges of categorising much contemporary art.

**Citation**

Author(s): Barrett, Katy

Source: Apollo, 2014 Feb., v.119, n.617, p.54-58, photographs, illustrations

Language: English.

Place of Publication: England

**Abstract**

**Cabinets of Curiosities and the Organization of Knowledge**


This article reviews some of the recent literature on early modern cabinets of curiosities and other repositories of knowledge. The 'material turn' taken by the history of science in the last two decades has produced claims for the primacy of objects and collectors in narratives about early modern natural inquiry. As these studies shed important light on the contents and shape of early collections, we...
'Worlds in Miniature': some reflections on scale and the microcosmic meaning of cabinets of curiosities

DOI:10.1017/S135913550999008X

This paper springs from some reflections in the context of the design studio on the meaning of miniature representations (such as drawings or scaled models, for example) in art and architecture. In the pre-reflexive understanding of the world which characterises direct human experience, the size of things is an integral and deeply meaningful aspect of their phenomenal reality. Our primary perception of the size of things is, of course, a function of our embodied condition and is inseparable from their essential nature. Things seem great or small to us from the point of view of our moving body and its ability to act upon and manipulate objects of that scale. A mountain is large, difficult to see all at once from close by, and requires a great physical effort to climb. The size of a doll's house provides us with a marvellous power to see and control the life within, a power which is one of the reasons why the miniature pervades our daydreams world. The size of a bacterium makes it invisible to the naked eye and immune to the manipulation of our hand, and this condition endows it for us with a degree of mystery and memorably in the late work of the pioneering modern painter Paul Cézanne. This direct way is how size was perceived through most of human history. Art often tended to reflect these aspects of experiential reality, as is the case, for example, with the size of things in medieval art. At the same time, much of the power of such pre-perspectival...
Evaluate your results! Many journals include book reviews in addition to scholarly articles in each issue.

March 13, 2018
Amelia Jones and Erin Silver
Otherwise: Imagining Queer Feminist Art Histories
Alison Syme
CrossRef DOI: 10.3200/cax.reviews.2018.67

Why is queer feminism not an established subdiscipline in art history or a more influential political in curating, art criticism, or visual theory? Otherwise: Imagining Queer Feminist Art Histories, edited by Amelia Jones and Erin Silver, begins to answer these questions and to identify the problems this absence occasions or exacerbates. Twenty chapters by artists, scholars, and curators of different generations are framed by an introduction by Jones, an epilogue by Silver, and a first chapter authored by both that offers a genealogy of feminist and queer theory and activism in the Euro-American context from the mid-twentieth century to today. With authors drawn mostly from the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada but a few who offer revealing "glimpses into other cultural situations," the essays and dialogues range over twentieth-century and contemporary art and curatorial practice as well as theory, excising a vibrant debate over queer feminism—and its possibilities, challenges, and place in the visual arts and the academy.

JUDITH MAYNE
Feminisms: Diversity, Difference and Multiplicity in Contemporary Film Cultures, edited by Laura Mulvey and Anna Backman Rogers

Political Animals: The New Feminist Cinema by Sophie Mayer

There is feminism, and there is feminist theory. Both are contested and sometimes controversial terms, containing different definitions and different approaches to gender equality and women’s freedom. And then there is feminist film theory. Despite the distinctive influences and debates that have shaped theoretical discussions about women, gender, and the cinema over many decades, “feminist film theory” too often evokes a singular approach. In her introduction to Feminisms, an anthology that traces the legacies of feminist film theory of the 1970s in relationship to contemporary issues and debates about women, theory, and feminist practice, co-editor Laura Mulvey offers a straightforward definition of the scope of feminist theory during that era: “1970s feminist theory (film and beyond) is associated with the influence of Freud and the use of psychoanalytic ideas for a feminist critique of patriarchy” (20). What came to be called “feminist film theory” was indeed shaped by the engagement with Freud and Jacques Lacan and the striking connections be-

Book Review Examples

The future of feminism
Camille Paglia
Free Women, Free Men: Sex, Gender, Feminism. Pantheon, 352 pages, $26.95
reviewed by Helen Smith

Camille Paglia was a voice for men before the word “misandry” was widely used or even understood. “Freedom,” she says, “in the gender realm means the freedom of each sex to define its history and destiny without blame or harassment.” She acknowledges that men have been “impugned and silenced by feminism.”

Her brand of libertarian feminism stands in clear contrast to the incessant voices of mainstream feminism that demand women be given special privileges without personal responsibility. Men, the mainstream feminists believe, should have responsibility with fewer rights. In her new book, Free Women, Free Men: Sex, Gender, Feminism, Paglia’s collection of essays explores why both sexes deserve and need freedom—and why that freedom is so important.

Paglia is pretty much a household name by now, but for those who have not read her work, she is the University Professor of Humanities and Media Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.
Evaluate your results! Many journals include book reviews in addition to scholarly articles in each issue.

Material Histories: Feminism and feminist art in post-revolutionary Romania.

Authors: Nite, Oliva
Source: a.paradise: the only international feminist art journal 2009, Vol. 24, p69-97, 3p
Physical: Illustration
Description: 
Document Type: Article
Subjects: Romania; Art exhibitions; Feminist art; Feminisms; Social status; Women
Abstract: A consideration of the issues of feminism and feminist art in postrevolutionary Romania. Romania lacks a powerful feminist cultural center, as well as an active feminist assumed as part of how artists make work, and when it does appear in artistic practice, feminism seems that, inconsistent, or marginalized. There are only a few artists’ feminist implications in the capital of Bucharest. The writer discusses how, in response to this situation, she curated ‘Perspective 2008,’ an exhibition of 13 feminist and demonstrated the relevance of feminist art as proof of an active and pertinent feminist discourse.
ISSN: 14610434
Accession Number: 50532102

Feminisms: Diversity, Difference and Multiplicity in Contemporary Film Cultures.

Authors: MAYNE, JUDITH
Source: Film Quarterly; Fall 2016, Vol. 70 Issue 1, p120-123, 4p
Document Type: Book Review
Subjects: Feminisms: Diversity, Difference & Multiplicity in Contemporary Film Cultures (Book); Mulvey, Laura, 1941-; Backman Rogers, Anna; Feminism & motion pictures -- History; Feminist films -- History & criticism; Nonfiction
ISSN: 00151388
Accession Number: 117754894
Evaluate your results! Many journals include book reviews in addition to scholarly articles in each issue

Woman's Art Journal

Vol. 35, No. 1, SPRING/SUMMER 2014

Published by: Old City Publishing, Inc.
https://www.jstor.org/mercury.concordia.ca/stable/i24395355

**PORTraits, Issues And Insights**

- **The Art of Judy Dater and her Photographic "Memoir"** (pp. 3-13)
  - Donna Stein
  - Read Online  Download PDF  Save  Cite this Item

- **Apocalypse in Paradise: Niki de Saint Phalle in Los Angeles** *(pp. 14-22)*
  - Cécile Whiting
  - Read Online  Download PDF  Save  Cite this Item

- **Lee Bontecou and Drawing: From the Real to the Strange** *(pp. 33-39)*
  - Mona Hadler
  - Read Online  Download PDF  Save  Cite this Item

- **Gendered Reception: There and Back Again: An Analysis of the Critical Reception of Helen Frankenthaler** *(pp. 33-39)*
  - Sybil E. Gohari
  - Read Online  Download PDF  Save  Cite this Item

- **Engaging Masculinity: Weimar Women Artists and the Boxer** *(pp. 40-47)*
  - Julie Nero
  - Read Online  Download PDF  Save  Cite this Item

**reviews**

- **Nancy Grossman: Tough Life Diary by Ian Berry** *(pp. 48-49)*
  - Review by: William Kaizen
  - Read Online  Download PDF  Save  Cite this Item

- **Carrie Mae Weems: Three Decades of Photography and Video by Kathryn E. Delmez** *(pp. 50-51)*
  - Review by: Jennifer Zarro
  - Read Online  Download PDF  Save  Cite this Item

- **Jennifer Bartlett: History Of The Universe Works 1970-2011 by Klaus Ottmann, Terrie Sultan** *(p. 52)*
  - Review by: Joyce Beekenstein
  - https://www.jstor.org/mercury.concordia.ca/stable/i24395366
  - Read Online  Download PDF  Save  Cite this Item

- **The Reckoning: Women Artists of the New Millennium by Eleanor Heartney, Helaine Posner, Nancy Princenthal, Sue Scott** *(pp. 53-54)*
  - Review by: Jan Garden Castro
  - Read Online  Download PDF  Save  Cite this Item
Google Scholar

- **Scope:** web search engine that searches a wide range of scholarly literature across many disciplines

- **Credibility:** Not always easy to identify peer-reviewed publications

- **Content:** controlled by algorithms

- **Search options:** advanced search options, but no limiters to narrow down easily

- **Useful for:** multi- and interdisciplinary research

- **Tip:** Sign in through the library OR set Up Your Library Links
Neat nature: the relation between nature and art in a Dutch cabinet of curiosities from the early eighteenth century

B Van de Roemer - History of science, 2004 - journals.sagepub.com

In collections of the early modern period, the combination of art and nature could accomplish attractive results. A good example of this is still to be seen at the Zoological Museum in Amsterdam, where three drawers containing shells, dating from the beginning of the …
Set Up Your Library Links in Google Scholar to be linked to the library from off campus while searching.

1. Log in with your gmail
2. Click on “menu”
3. Click on “settings”
4. Go to “Library Links”
5. Type in: “Concordia University”
6. Select: “Concordia University Libraries - Find it @ Concordia.”
7. Click save.
Databases to Consider:

**Art Full Text | (EBSCO)**
- Scope: International coverage; all periods & media

**Artbibliographies Modern | (ProQuest)**
- Abstracts, Full Text (some) 1974-
- Scope: Late 19th century, great for contemporary/modern art

**JSTOR | Ithaka**
- Full Text
- Scope: All subject areas; some titles not available last 3-5 years

**Arts & Humanities Collection | (ProQuest)**
- Art, Architecture, Design, History, Philosophy, Music, Literature, Theatre and Cultural Studies

**Project Muse |**
- Full Text
- Arts & humanities, social sciences, mathematics

**Gender Studies Database | 1972 - (EBSCO)**
- Citations, Abstracts, Full Text

Given the interdisciplinary approach, explore more on “Databases by Subject” via the Concordia Library website (i.e., Anthropology, Sociology, Religions & Cultures, etc.)
Tips: Finding Journal Articles

- If you only see the abstract or citation, always try using the “Find it @ Concordia” Linker which leads you from one database to another easily to access the full-text version.

- If it’s not working, try the CLUES Journal Title E-Journals search.

- If the article is only available in print format (the “linker” usually informs you), you can consult in the library (Webster or Vanier) or use the Article Delivery service to request a PDF copy which will be emailed to you.

- If the library does not subscribe to the journal, request a copy through the library’s Interlibrary Loans (ILL) service (COLOMBO).
Database Demo
The Library as a colonial institution, terminology and the problem with subject headings
A note on sensitive subject matter and language…
Michelle Lake

Subject Librarian for First Peoples Studies, School of Community and Public Affairs, Political Science and Government Publications

Non-Indigenous white settler
1828 - “Mohawk Institute” Indian Residential School opens in Brantford, Ontario.

Residential Schools history in Canada

1830's – 1996 (Gordon's Residential School in Punnichy, Saskatchewan)

National network school system

Children from 4-16, removed from their home as early as possible

Government partnered with churches

Mandate: to indoctrinate, civilize & christianize
Removed generations of children from Indigenous communities.

Subjected to:
- Neglect & abuse
- Suppression of language
- Isolation
- Starvation & disease
- Medical experimentation
- Dehumanization
A Bentwood Box, commissioned by the TRC, carved by Coast Salish artist Luke Marston.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC)

"The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was a commission like no other in Canada. Constituted and created by the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, which settled the class actions, the Commission spent six years travelling to all parts of Canada to hear from the Aboriginal people who had been taken from their families as children, forcibly if necessary, and placed for much of their childhoods in residential schools."

(Preface, p. v)
Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC)

“For over a century, the central goals of Canada’s Aboriginal policy were to eliminate Aboriginal governments; ignore Aboriginal rights; terminate the Treaties; and, through a process of assimilation, cause Aboriginal peoples to cease to exist as distinct legal, social, cultural, religious, and racial entities in Canada.

The establishment and operation of residential schools were a central element of this policy, which can best be described as ‘cultural genocide.’"

(Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015, Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future, p. 1)
TRC “Calls to Action”

Addressed to: all Canadians, Government of Canada, provincial, territorial and municipal governments, indigenous governments, medical schools, law schools, churches and church organizations, Library and Archives Canada, museums, archives, libraries and all levels of education: primary, elementary, secondary, and post-secondary

To address and make changes to:
- Child welfare
- Education and schools
- Health
- Justice
- Language and culture
- Religious organizations
- Reconciliation and the Residential schools agreement
“The library is always an ideological structure” – Daniel Heath Justice, Ph.D, ACRL Choice Webinar: Indigenous Literatures, social justice and the decolonial library

“When we look into the collections, the actual ‘information’ contained in libraries and how it is organized, we can see that it (surely by accident) somehow manages to construct a reality wherein whiteness is default, normal, civilized and everything else is Other.” – nina de jesus, Locating the library in institutional oppression, *In the library with the lead pipe* (Sept 24, 2014)
In the Library of Congress classification (used in most academic libraries in the U.S. & Canada), the main subject heading for books about Indigenous peoples in Canada and the United States is “Indians of North America”.

Under the broader subject area of “History of North America”.

This represents an erasure of living peoples

The term *Indigenous* is still very new in these systems.
The topic of genocide in the Americas is considered a controversial one: within the field of genocide studies there is considerable debate as to whether or not what was inflicted on the continent’s Indigenous peoples qualified as “genocide.” The government of Canada does not recognize the use of this term in this context.

As such, researching Indigenous genocide poses some difficulties, as standard subject headings related to genocide rarely apply. More often, however these are the commonly used headings:

Indians of North America, Treatment of
Indians of North America, Government Relations
Indians of North America, relocation
Indians of North America, assimilation

Adapted from: University of Winnipeg Library, Indigenous Studies: https://libguides.uwinnipeg.ca/c.php?g=124957&p=817562
The subject heading “Residential School” is seldom used in the Library of Congress classification system.

The more common subject headings are:
• “Off-reservation boarding schools Canada”
• “Indians of North America Education”
Terminology

• Indigenous
• Aboriginal
• Native
• Indian
• First Nations, Metis, Inuit
• First people
• Autochtone (native)
• Autochtones (indigenous)
• Amérindien (Indian)

Regional terminology:
Aboriginal – Australia & Canada
Native American or American Indian – U.S.
First Nations – Canada
Indigenous - international
There is a tension between finding keywords and subjects that will result in the most comprehensive search, and the terminology or way of speaking about indigenous peoples respectfully.
Indigenous educational resources guide

http://www.concordia.ca/library/guides/indigenous-fac-res.html


Concordia Library > Help & how to > Subject & Course Guides > Interdisciplinary > Indigenous educational resources
THANKS!
Any questions?

Email Us: jenna.dufour@concordia.ca or michelle.lake@concordia.ca
Live Chat  M-F: 10am-9pm, Sat-Sun: 12pm-5pm | Ask Us Desk  M-F: 9am-9pm, Sat-Sun: 12pm-5pm

Good luck with your exhibitions!