LIBRARY RESEARCH IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES
COMS 610 – MEDIA STUDIES SEMINAR

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Agenda

1. Library website tools
2. Research sources
3. Background & context
4. Techniques for finding the information you need
5. Managing sources & citing
library.concordia.ca

From the home page:

• Sofia (*library catalogue*)
• Databases
• E-journals
• Research support
• Interlibrary loans
• Guides

Reserving group study or presentation practice rooms?
Key resources

**Communication Studies Subject Guide**

- Subject-specific databases, books, ebooks, etc.
  - bibliographic or full text
- Encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks
- Guides for courses, projects, writing, citation, etc.
- Librarian contact information

Avoid paywalls & access problems by connecting to through the library website.

Go to the top menu:
Help & How-To -> Subject & course guides -> Communication Studies

Look under the Humanities heading
Note: resources for online media (e.g. audio, video)
2. RESEARCH SOURCES
Consider types of sources

- Scholarly articles; peer reviewed
- Books (academic and non-academic)
- Non-print formats (Video, audio)
- Reference books (encyclopedias, handbooks, etc.)
- News sources
- Magazines and trade publications
- Government reports, publications
- NGO publications, associations, professional
- Traditional vs. new media formats
## Contrasting types of publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarly Journal</th>
<th>Magazine / Newspaper / Trade Publication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Articles are scrutinized for quality by other scholars in the field before publication (peer review)</td>
<td>Editor reviews articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authored by scholars in the field</td>
<td>Authors are journalists, practicing professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information is sourced with bibliography (previous research)</td>
<td>No bibliography. Information may be sourced by some fact-checking; interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose is to advance knowledge; report original research</td>
<td>Purpose is often current news and entertainment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where to find and access information?

- **Repositories (e.g. mediArxiv.org, Spectrum)**
- **Sofia (Library catalogue)**
- **Databases (e.g. Communication & Mass Media Complete)**
- **Google Scholar, Semantic Scholar & other search tools (e.g. individual website searches)**

Bibliographies in articles? Specific journals?
3. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT
Using an online encyclopedia

1. Go to the Library website and use Sofia

2. Find & connect to the International Encyclopedia of Communication

3. Try to find the full text of the article: Communication and Media Studies, History since 1968

4. Locate where the references used in this article appear

5. What university is the author affiliated with?
Online encyclopedia, 2

1. Use a different encyclopedia: *International Encyclopedia of Communication Research Methods*

2. Find an entry in this encyclopedia about *Visual Research Methods*

NB: there are several ways to find the article in this encyclopedia.
Other reference sources

Oxford Bibliographies

• Annotated bibliographies
• Core works in communication and media studies
• Search by keyword or browse headings

Also consider consulting handbooks, dictionaries, etc.
4. TECHNIQUES FOR FINDING THE INFORMATION YOU NEED

*articles, books, databases*

Sofia
Finding books using Sofia (catalogue search/discovery)

1. Try a basic keyword search:
   media AND globalization

2. Use the advanced search to help you build more complex expressions.
Sofia facets

Easily filter your results

Help with Sofia searching

Sofia Discovery tool

https://library.concordia.ca/help/using/sofia/searching.php

User guide

Advanced search
Looking for works within a subject

• su:Research Methodology
• su:Proposal writing for grants
• su:Media and globalization
• su:Research Moral and Ethical Aspects
• su:Communication research methodology
• su:Scholarly Publishing
• su:Scholarly Electronic Publishing
• su:Universities and colleges

Browsing by subject heading:
Click a subject heading in a record to see other books
Successful searching: Sofia & databases
Boolean operators

AND

OR

NOT

Narrows search

Broadens search

Narrows search
# Search improvements

## Truncation * and other Wildcards ? #

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Sofia</th>
<th>EBSCO DBs (Communication &amp; Mass Media Complete)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>interview* = interview or interviews or interviewing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>thes#s = thesis or theses (1 character)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>col?rs = colors or colours or collars (0 – 9 characters, ?4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>encyclop#dia = encyclopaedia or encyclopedia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wom?n = women or woman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How do these symbols help find what you need?
Search improvements

Specific phrase " "

"reality television" = reality television
≠ television reality
Brainstorm & track synonyms, spellings, related words!

Do Canadian audiences perceive reality television as authentic?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept:</th>
<th>authentic</th>
<th>audience</th>
<th>reality television</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Synonyms:</td>
<td>trustworthy</td>
<td>Canadians</td>
<td>reality tv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>believable</td>
<td>viewer</td>
<td>reality show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sincerity</td>
<td>consumer</td>
<td>program</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

wordnik.com  thesaurus.com  wikipedia.org  wiktionary.org
Select the database you want to use

A) Use the *Databases by subject* section of the Library website
   - Browse by subject
   - Search by name or subject
   - Browse by content type (e.g. biographies, patents, sound)

B) Use Sofia
   This will provide similar options as the Databases by subject button
Database search example

(authent* or trust*) and (audienc* or view* or spectator*) and ("reality television" or "reality tv")
What do these do? Which is most useful?

*Remember: parentheses group concepts and have an impact on the order of operations*

(authent* OR trust*) AND (“reality television” OR “reality tv”)

authent* OR audienc* AND (“reality television” OR “reality tv”)

(authent* OR trust*) AND (audienc* AND view* AND spectator*) AND “reality television”
Controlled vocabulary

- CV describes the subject of the article
- Subject, descriptor fields
- Many databases have a thesaurus of terms
Field searching

- - -

Use limits to filter results
5. MANAGING SOURCES, CITING, AND ADDITIONAL HELP
Citation styles

• Used to compile bibliographies in academic works (articles, books) and assignments.

• Provide integrity to the work by ensuring that authors format their references in a way that is understood by others.

Consult the specific style guide to learn how

Concordia how-to guides on academic citing
library.concordia.ca/help/citing
• Manage your research sources
• Creates your bibliographies for you in your chosen style
• Easily insert citations while you’re writing
Getting help

Reference desk
Consult a librarian
Subject guides
Online chat

Fig. Conversation. (Downey).