Library Resources for Research: Some Basics

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Outline

• Books and subject encyclopedias
• Scholarly journal articles
• Databases
• Citation styles
Library Website........

http://library.concordia.ca


• To find specific journals, use the e-journals list first. Search by the title of the journal (not the title of the article).

• If it is not in the e-journals list, search CLUES by the title of the journal (not the title of the article) to see if we have it in a physical format such as in paper or on microform.

*Note: If we have the journal in paper format only, you may request a scan of the article be emailed to you using our article delivery service.*
Finding background and context

- Subject encyclopedias
- Books

Communication Studies Research Guide:
http://www.concordia.ca/library/guides/communication-studies.html
What is a Scholarly Journal?

- Purpose is to report original research articles
- Authors are scholars/researchers
- Audience is other scholars in the discipline
- Peer-reviewed (vetted by scholarly experts) prior to publication.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarly journals</th>
<th>Magazines/Newspapers/Trade publications</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 w/ bibliography aka 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 current news and entertainment</td>
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</table>
How to recognize a scholarly article

• Will always have a list of works cited and will have citations throughout the text
• Will usually provide institutional affiliation of author(s)
• Often begins with an abstract (condensed summary) of the article
• Reports original research

See also: How do you know if a journal is peer reviewed?
Finding scholarly journal articles

- From bibliographies you have on hand
- Using article databases to search by topic
Many databases......

- Are a mix of academic and non-academic articles

- Will allow you to limit your results to academic/scholarly/peer-reviewed articles only
Choosing a database

- **Databases by Subject**
- Will usually need to search multiple databases
- Always search the two core communication studies databases:
  - Communication and Mass Media Complete
  - Communication Abstracts
- Supplement these with additional databases, select according to your topic, for example:
  - Academic Search Complete (interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary)
  - Historical Abstracts
  - America: History and Life
  - Gender Studies Database
  - Film and Television Literature Database
Searching multiple EBSCO databases…
Choose Databases

Detailed View (Title lists included) Select another EBSCO service

☐ Select / deselect all

OK  Cancel

☐ Academic Search Complete
☐ Alternative Press Index
☒ America: History & Life
☐ Anthropology Plus
☐ Art Full Text (H.W. Wilson)
☐ Art Index Retrospective (H.W. Wilson)
☐ Art Museum Image Gallery
☐ ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index
☐ ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials
☐ Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals
☐ Business Book Summaries
☐ Business Source Complete
☐ Canadian Literary Centre
☐ Cinema Image Gallery
☒ Communication & Mass Media Complete
☒ Communication Abstracts
☐ Computers & Applied Sciences Complete

☒ Historical Abstracts
☐ Humanities & Social Sciences Index Retrospective: 1907-1984 (H.W. Wilson)
☐ Humanities Abstracts (H.W. Wilson)
☐ Index Islamicus
☐ International Bibliography of Theatre & Dance with Full Text
☐ International Political Science Abstracts
☐ L'Année philologique
☐ Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts
☐ MEDLINE
☐ Mental Measurements Yearbook
☐ New Testament Abstracts
☐ Old Testament Abstracts
☐ Play Index (H.W. Wilson)
☐ Political Science Complete
☐ Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection
☐ PsycINFO
submarine or underwater or transatlantic
AND cable or cables
AND histor^
What if the doesn’t find it?

1. Double-check the e-journals list on library homepage

2. Check CLUES by journal title in case we have a print or microfilm version
Citing your sources

- Citation Style Guides
- Refworks