

2023

BASIC LIBRARY RESEARCH PROCESSES

COMS 240

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Focus on

Library web and physical resources

Steps in a library research process

Finding and using different types of sources

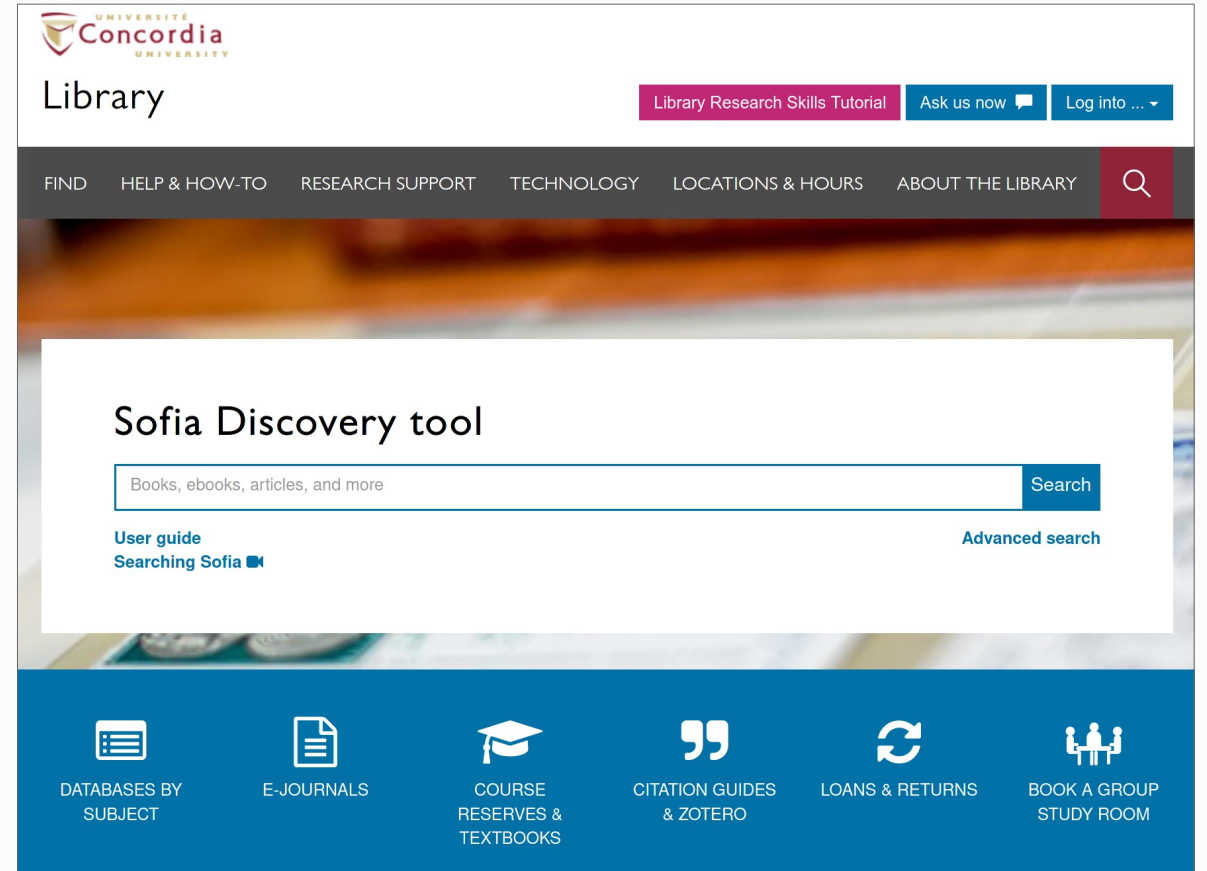
Citing your sources

Where to find resources

From the home page:

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

<https://library.concordia.ca>



Getting started

- Think of a research topic
 - Refine the topic
- Form a good question to *target* your research



What do you have?

Readings usually have works cited or bibliographies

Starting point

- important works (bibliography)
- help you think about your topic

Finding sources from bibliographies

Batchen, Geoffrey. "Electricity Made Visible." In *New Media, Old Media: A History and Theory Reader*, edited by Wendy Hui Kyong Chun and Thomas Keenan, 27–44. New York: Routledge, 2006.

Nevo, Maria del. "Developing Gender Sensitive Communication Policies." *Media Development* 47, no. 3 (2000): 3–6.

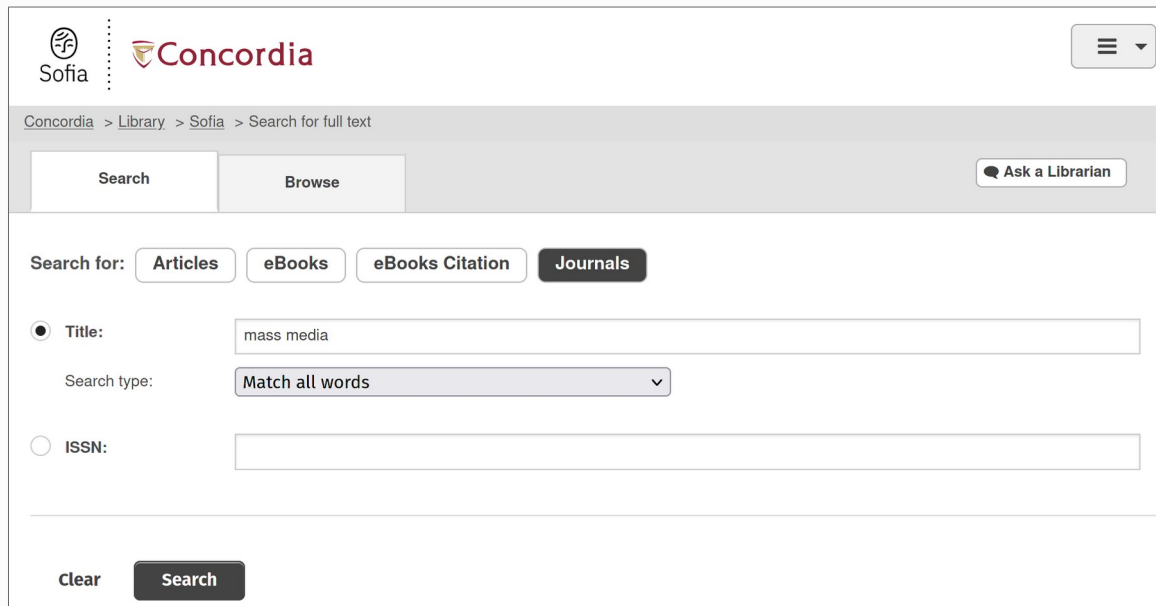
Sconce, Jeffrey. *Haunted Media: Electronic Presence from Telegraphy to Television*. Console-Ing Passions. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2000.

Winseck, Dwayne. "Back to the Future: Telecommunications, Online Information Services and Convergence from 1840-1910." *Media History* 5, no. 2 (December 1999): 137.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13688809909357957>.

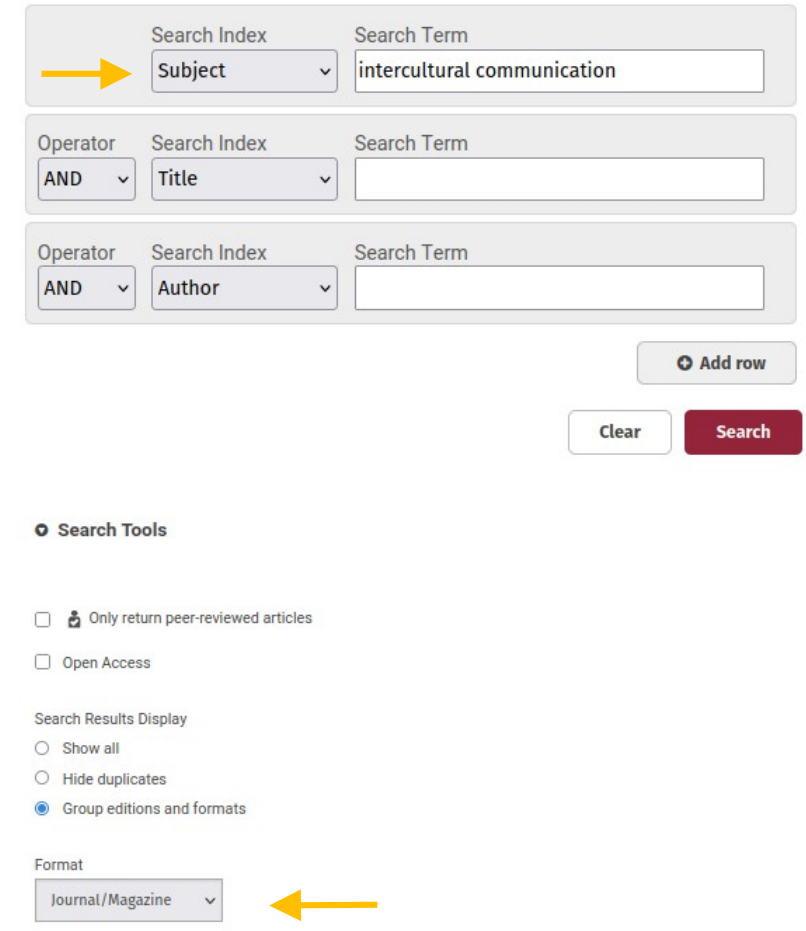
Finding journals

A) Use the *electronic journals* section to search/browse by

- Title
- ISSN (e.g. 1918-5901 or 1918-591X)

The Sofia library search interface. At the top, it shows the Sofia logo and the Concordia name. Below is a breadcrumb trail: Concordia > Library > Sofia > Search for full text. There are two tabs: 'Search' and 'Browse'. A button 'Ask a Librarian' is on the right. Under 'Search for:', there are buttons for 'Articles', 'eBooks', 'eBooks Citation', and 'Journals'. The 'Journals' button is selected. Below this, there are two search options: 'Title:' and 'ISSN:'. The 'Title:' option is selected, and the search term 'mass media' is entered. The 'Search type:' dropdown is set to 'Match all words'. At the bottom, there are 'Clear' and 'Search' buttons.

Advanced Search

The Advanced Search interface. It has three rows of search criteria. The first row has a yellow arrow pointing to the 'Search Index' dropdown, which is set to 'Subject', and the 'Search Term' is 'intercultural communication'. The second row has 'Operator' set to 'AND', 'Search Index' set to 'Title', and an empty 'Search Term' field. The third row has 'Operator' set to 'AND', 'Search Index' set to 'Author', and an empty 'Search Term' field. To the right of the third row is an 'Add row' button. Below the search criteria are 'Clear' and 'Search' buttons. Under 'Search Tools', there are checkboxes for 'Only return peer-reviewed articles' and 'Open Access'. There are also radio buttons for 'Search Results Display' with options 'Show all', 'Hide duplicates', and 'Group editions and formats' (which is selected). At the bottom, there is a 'Format' dropdown set to 'Journal/Magazine' with a yellow arrow pointing to it.

B) Search Sofia (Library catalogue)

This will show **print**, **microform**, and **digital** holdings.

Finding background & context

Subject **encyclopedias**, for an authoritative introduction to a topic

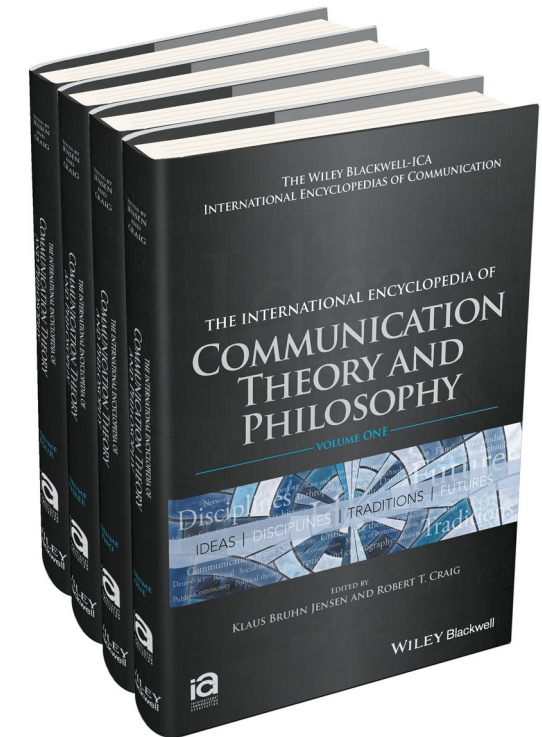
See the Communication Studies Subject Guide

<https://www.concordia.ca/library/guides/communication-studies.html>

Books, for a deeper focus

Search Sofia (Library catalogue)

<https://concordiauniversity.on.worldcat.org>



ARTICLES & THE SEARCH PROCESS

Contrasting publications

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

Recognizing scholarly articles

- Includes a list of works cited as well as having citations throughout the text
- States the institutional affiliation of author(s)
- Often begins with an abstract (condensed summary) of the article
- Reports original research

Finding scholarly articles

From bibliographies

Using article databases

Search the two core communication studies databases:

- Communication and Mass Media Complete
- Communication Abstracts


Search other databases such as:

- Academic Search Complete (multi-disciplinary)
- Historical Abstracts
- America: History and Life
- Gender Studies Database
- Film and Television Literature Database



Search a database

[New Search](#) [Publications](#) [Cited References](#) [Thesaurus](#) [More ▾](#)

 Searching: **Communication & Mass Media Complete** | [Choose Databases](#)

underwater

Select a Field (optional) ▾

AND ▾ cable

Select a Field (optional) ▾

AND ▾ news

Select a Field (optional) ▾

Search

Clear ?


+

-

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History ▶](#)

Search improvements: synonyms

How did **underwater** **cables** change the dissemination of **news**?

Concept:	underwater	cables	news
Synonyms:  <ul style="list-style-type: none">wordnik.comthesaurus.comwikipedia.orgwiktory.org	undersea transatlantic submarine	cable wire	journalism media press

Search improvements

Truncation *

cabl* = cablel or cablesl or cabling

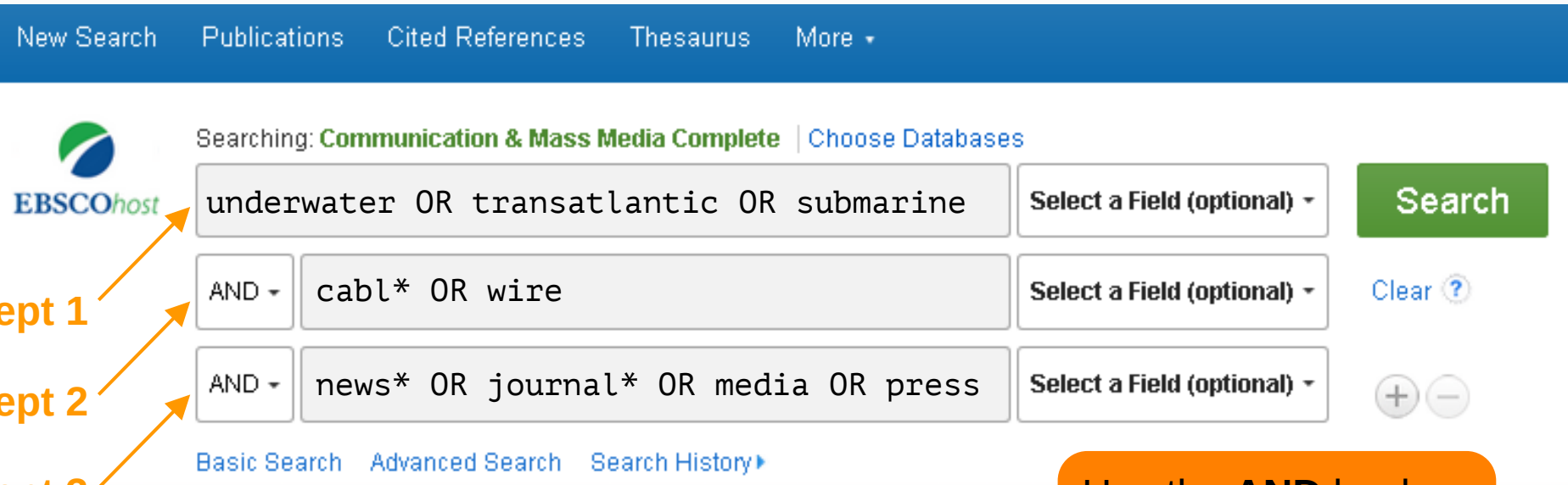
Specific phrase “ ”

“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...”

Search a database

Use the **OR** boolean operator to separate your **synonyms**.



The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top is a navigation bar with links: New Search, Publications, Cited References, Thesaurus, and More. Below this, the search area is titled "Searching: Communication & Mass Media Complete | Choose Databases". The search query is entered in three rows, each with a "Select a Field (optional)" dropdown. The first row contains "underwater OR transatlantic OR submarine". The second row starts with an "AND" dropdown, followed by "cabl* OR wire". The third row starts with an "AND" dropdown, followed by "news* OR journal* OR media OR press". To the right of the query rows are buttons for "Search", "Clear", and "+" and "-" icons. Below the query rows are links for "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", and "Search History".

concept 1

concept 2

concept 3

Use the **AND** boolean operator to separate your **concepts**.

Same as writing:

(underwater OR transatlantic OR submarine) AND (cabl* OR wire) AND (news* OR journal* OR media OR press)

Use limits to filter results

How do you get the document?

Refine Results

Current Search

Limit To

☐ Linked Full Text
☐ References Available
☐ Peer Reviewed

1960 Publication Date 2018

[Show More](#)

Source Types

☒ All Results
☐ Journals (33)
☐ Academic Journals (33)
☐ Trade Publications (1)
☐ Magazines (7)
☐ Reviews (4)

[Show More](#)

Subject: Thesaurus Term

Subject

Publication

Publisher

Company

Language

☐ english (62)
☐ portuguese (1)

Geography

NAICS/Industry

Database

Search Results: 1 - 30 of 63

Relevance ▾ Page Options ▾ [Share](#) ▾

- ### 1. The Undersea Network.

By: Plantin, Jean-Christophe. **Media**, Culture & Society, Oct2018, Vol. 40 Issue 7, p1111-1114, 4p; DOI: 10.1177/0163443717738129, Database: Communication Abstracts

Subjects: Power and Communication Line and Related Structures Construction; Fiber Optic Cable Manufacturing; Communication and energy wire and cable manufacturing; Electrical Contractors and Other Wiring Installation Contractors; SUBMARINE cables; FIBER optic cables; NONFICTION; UNDERSEA Network, The (Book); STAROSIELSKI, Nicole

[Find it! @Concordia](#) [PlumX Metrics](#)
- ### 2. INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES, NEWS-FLOW, AND THE USA-AUSTRALIA RELATIONSHIP FROM THE 1920S TILL THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

By: Putnis, Peter. **Media History**, Aug2012, Vol. 18 Issue 3/4, p423-441, 19p; DOI: 10.1080/13688804.2012.721646, Database: Communication Abstracts

Subjects: AUSTRALIA; UNITED States; REUTERS Ltd.; News Syndicates; Wired Telecommunications Carriers; MASS media & international relations; NEWS agencies; HISTORY of telegraphs & telegraphy; COMMUNICATIONS in World War II; FOREIGN relations of the United States; AUSTRALIA -- Foreign relations -- 1900-1945; HISTORY

[HTML Full Text](#) [PDF Full Text](#) [PlumX Metrics](#)
- ### 3. THE GLOBAL MEDIA AND THE EMPIRE OF LIBERAL INTERNATIONALISM, CIRCA 1910-30.

By: Winseck, Dwayne; Pike, RobertM. **Media History**, Feb2009, Vol. 15 Issue 1, p31-54. 24p. 2 Charts. DOI: 10.1080/13688800802176961, Database: Communication & Mass Media Complete

Subjects: Wireless communications; Globalization; Offices of Other Holding Companies; Radio and Television Broadcasting and Wireless Communications Equipment Manufacturing; Wireless Telecommunications Carriers (except Satellite); **Mass media** -- History; Internationalism; Consolidation & merger of corporations; World War I; Technological innovations; Autarchy; Conglomerate corporations

[HTML Full Text](#) [PDF Full Text](#) (154KB) [PlumX Metrics](#)
- ### 4. 'Warning: Do Not Dig': Negotiating the Visibility of Critical Infrastructures.

By: Starosielski, Nicole. **Journal of Visual Culture**, Apr2012, Vol. 11 Issue 1, p38-57, 20p; DOI: 10.1177/1470412911430465, Database:

MORE SOURCES

Many types of sources

- Newspapers, broadcasts
- 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? Authority? Audience?
Format? Currency?

Value toward
reconsidering
&
augmenting
what you know

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

<https://library.concordia.ca/help/guides.php?guid=evaluating>

CITING & ADDITIONAL HELP



Citing work in an academic context

What do you need to cite?

- Text copied from another document, website, or book
- Paraphrased words or idea
- Images, graphs, etc.

What do you not need to cite?

- Common knowledge facts, events, dates, concepts.

Consult the style guide to find out how.



Concordia how-to guides on academic citing

library.concordia.ca/help/citing

Other institutions' sites, especially [Purdue OWL](https://owl.purdue.edu)



<https://www.zotero.org>

- Keep track of your sources
- Generate your bibliographies in your chosen style
- Insert citations while you're writing



The screenshot displays the Zotero application interface. On the left, the 'My Library' pane shows a hierarchical structure of folders: 'Artificial Intelligence', 'Communication Studies', 'COMS 205', 'Transatlantic Cables & News', 'COMS 325', 'Course 101', 'Readings - Week 1', 'Dogs and Politics', 'History 601', 'Journalism Ethics', 'Semiotics of Tourism', 'Traditional Music Project', 'Zotero Examples', 'My Publications', 'Duplicate Items', 'Unfiled Items', and 'Trash'. Below this, 'Group Libraries' are listed: 'COMS 605 Media Research Methods', 'Course 101 Team Project', and 'Josh's History Group'. The main pane shows a list of items with columns for 'Title', 'Creator', and 'Year'. The selected item is 'Cables, Crises, and the Press: The Geopolitics of the New International System in the Americas, 1866-1903' by Christopher H. Sterling, published in 2014. The right pane shows the 'Info' tab for this item, including 'Item Type', 'Title', 'Author', 'Abstract', 'Publication', 'Volume', 'Issue', 'Pages', 'Date', 'Series', 'Series Title', and 'Series Text'. A document window titled 'Document1 - Word' is overlaid on the bottom right, showing the 'Zotero' tab in the ribbon. The 'Zotero' tab includes buttons for 'Add/Edit Citation', 'Add/Edit Bibliography', 'Document Preferences', 'Refresh', and 'Unlink Citations'. An orange arrow points to the 'Zotero' tab. The document window also shows a 'References' tab and a 'Zotero' toolbar with a list of items.

Title	Creator	Year
A history of transatlantic cables	Schwartz and Hayes	2008
International News Agencies, News-Flow, and the USA-Austr...	Putnis	2012
Canada and the pacific cable controversy, 1923-28: Forgotten...	Boyce	1998
The Great Transatlantic Cable	Hochfelder and Ax...	2005
The Politics of Global Media Reform, 1907-23	Pike and Winseck	2004
The Atlantic Telegraph Cable and Capital Market Information ...	Hoag	2006
Cables, Crises, and the Press: The Geopolitics of the New Int...	Sterling	2014
A retrospective technology assessment: submarine telegraph...	Coates	1979
News from Around the World: The Newspapers of Buenos Air...	Caimari	2016
The International Ocean Telegraph	Brown	1989

Document1 - Word

File Home Insert Design Layout References Mailings Review View Zotero ACROBAT

Add/Edit Citation Add/Edit Bibliography Document Preferences Refresh Unlink Citations

Zotero

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Date Added 2019-09-20, 9:37:03 a.m.
Modified 2019-09-20, 9:37:03 a.m.

Getting help

Reference desk

Consult a librarian

Subject guides

Online chat



Fig. Conversation.
(Downey).

Ask us now 

Chat with a librarian!

Name (optional)

Your email address

Your question

Start chat

Minimize chat

