LIBRARY RESEARCH SOURCES
COMS 325 – APPROACHES TO COMMUNICATION RESEARCH

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Focus on

Library website tools

Techniques for finding research

Resources for background & context

Finding journal articles

Citing your sources
library.concordia.ca

From the home page:

• Library catalogue
• E-journals
• Databases
• Citation guides
• Subject guides
1. What do you have?
Start with any documents that you already have

Readings usually have works cited or bibliographies

A starting point for library research

• important works (bibliography)
• help you think about your topic
Finding sources from bibliographies


Finding sources from bibliographies, 2


Where to look?
- Catalogue search by journal
- Search e-journals
- Search a database
Finding sources from bibliographies, 3


Where to look?
- Catalogue search by book title
- Catalogue search by editor
- Discovery search

**author**
Kivits, Joelle

**book title**
*Virtual Methods: Issues in Social Research on the Internet*

**editor**
Christine Hine

**chapter**
“Online Interviewing and the Research Relationship.”

**pages**
35–49

**publishing information**
Finding sources from bibliographies, 4

Where to look?
• Use the DOI & web browser
• Search within a journal
• Search a database

Finding sources from bibliographies, 5


Where to look?
- Catalogue search by title
- Catalogue search by author
- Discovery search
2. **Background and Context**
Encyclopedias & similar reference books

Subject encyclopedias
- context
- background
- issues
- definitions

From academic publishers
- editorial review
- authoritative

Other reference books
Search an online encyclopedia

1. Go to the Library catalogue

2. Find & connect to the **International Encyclopedia of Communication Online**

3. Find the article about **qualitative methodology**.

4. Find a reference used in this article

5. What university is the author affiliated with?
1. Go to the Library research subject guide for communication studies

2. Find & connect to the International Encyclopedia of Communication Research Methods

3. Use the alphabetical browse functionality to find the entry about Arts-based Methods.

4. Find an entry in this encyclopedia about Visual Research Methods
Try these Library catalogue searches

1. communication* and encyclop*

2. communication* and dictionar*

3. mass media and handbook*

4. culture and encyclop*

5. “popular culture” and encyclop*

**Encyclopedia**
- Background information
- Overview of a subject w/ some in-depth articles
- *broad* understanding

**Handbook**
- Comprehensive focus on a topic
- May include data
- Often provides practical guidance, techniques, best-practices
Looking for books on method

- Culture Methodology
- Mass media research methodology
- Culture Research
- Participant Observation
- Ethnology Methodology
- Social Sciences research methodology
- Interviewing in ethnology
- Discourse analysis
- Communication research methodology

Subject headings in the Library catalogue & Sage Research Methods provides access to ebooks, guides for qualitative and quantitative research, video explainers, practice datasets, and case examples of how other researchers have approached projects.
3. **Identify Other Sources**
Many types of sources

- Encyclopedias, dictionaries, reference books
- Books (academic and non-academic)
- News sources
- Magazines and trade publications
- Scholarly articles; peer reviewed
- Government reports, publications
- NGO publications, associations, professional
- Non-print formats (Video, audio, new media)
- Traditional vs. new media formats (e.g. The Shore Line)
Thinking about sources

Purpose
Authority
Audience
Format
Currency

Scholarly

See our guide
## 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>
How do you find scholarly articles?

- Bibliographies you have
- Searching Library databases
- Searching Google Scholar or other academic tools
- Searching specific journals
- Other sources...
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 type (e.g. journal articles, biographies, patents, sound)

B) Use the Library catalogue
   This will provide similar options as the *Databases by subject* button

Consider bibliographic vs. full-text
Boolean operators

- **AND**
  - Narrows search

- **OR**
  - Broadens search

- **NOT**
  - Narrows search
Search improvements

**Truncation** *

interview* = interview or interviews or interviewing

**Specific phrase** “ ”

“reality television” = reality television
≠ television reality
Use synonyms!

How **authentic** do **audiences** perceive **reality television shows** are?

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

[Sources: wordnik.com, thesaurus.com, wikipedia.org, wiktionary.org]
Database search example

This works the same:

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

(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 database have a thesaurus of terms
Field searching

Use limits to filter results
4. Citing & additional help
Citation styles

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

• Provide integrity to the work by ensuring that an author formats his 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
zotero

https://www.zotero.org

- Keeps track of your sources
- Creates your bibliographies for you in your chosen style
- Easily insert citations while you’re writing
Getting help

In person at the reference desk

Consult a librarian

Subject guides

Online chat