Library Workshop

COMS 325
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Begin with what you have

- Readings usually have works cited or bibliographies
- Best starting point

      - point to important works (bibliography)

      - help you think about your topic

Context/Background

- Subject encyclopedias

    - context, background, issues, definitions

    - academic publishers, editorial review, authoritative

- Other books

- Go to CLUES, type in and connect to:

  International Encyclopedia of Communication Online

- Find the article on qualitative methodology.

- Using "see also" references at the bottom of the article, follow up and view an article on a specific methodology.

- Go to the Research Guide in Communication Studies and connect to:

International Encyclopedia of Communication Research Methods

- Use the Browse A-Z to find the entry on Arts-Based Methods

- Try the search function to find the entry on Visual Research Methods

Connect to CLUES and try the following searches in keyword:

- Communication* and encyclop**

- Culture and encyclop**

- Popular culture and encyclop**

- Communication* and dictionar**

- mass media and handbook*

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

Recap: First two steps:

- 1. Use what you already have

- 2. Get authoritative background information

Next step ➡ Identifying additional sources.

Many types of sources

- News sources
- Magazines and trade publications
- Scholarly articles; peer reviewed
- Books (academic and non-academic)
- Encyclopedias, dictionaries
- Government reports, publications
- NGO publications, associations, professional
- Non-print formats (Video, audio)
- Electronic and print formats
- Traditional vs new media formats

Thinking about sources

- Purpose

- Audience

- Authorship

- Format

- Time period

- Scholarly

- Non-scholarly

What is a scholarly journal?

- Purpose is to report original research by scholars
- In-depth articles cover specific research questions or specific issues
- Peer- reviewed/editorial board
- Audience is other scholars in the field
- Bibliography of works cited.

Scholarly journals versus non-scholarly

Scholarly journals	Magazines/Newspapers/Trade publications
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 w/ bibliography or previous research	No bibliography. Information may be sourced by some fact-checking; interviews
Purpose is to advance knowledge; report original research	Purpose is current news and entertainment
Audience is other scholars	Audience is general public, practicing professionals

Looking for scholarly articles

- From bibliographies you have on hand…

- Using Databases

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

- By discipline or subject area, for example:

  Communication and Mass Media Complete

  Communication Abstracts

  Sage Research Methods Online

- By type of publication included – such as journal articles, magazine articles, newspaper articles, transcripts, statistical data, images, video etc and time period.

MULTIPLE DATABASES?

- You may need to use more than one database.
- Interfaces are different
- Some full-text, others not

Common Principles!

- Are portable from database to database

BOOLEAN OPERATORS

- AND

  Both terms must appear

- OR

  Either term must appear

- NOT

  Term must not appear

TRUNCATION AND WILDCARDS

- interview*   interview or interviews or interviewing
- Wom*n   women or woman

NESTING SYNONYMS

Reality television and (audience or consumer*)

- Parentheses control the ORDER of operations

FOR EXAMPLE……

Reality television and (audience or consumer*)

Vs

Reality television and audience or consumer*

CONTROLLED VOCABULARY

- Controlled vocabulary to describe the subject of the article
- Subject, descriptor fields

- Many database have a thesaurus of terms

Field Searching

CITATION STYLES

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

- Provides integrity to the work by ensuring that an author formats his references in a way that is understood by others.

- Many different citation styles, style guides

- [RefWorks](#)

Software that allows you to import references from various sources and to generate bibliographies in various citation styles.