



Library Research in Communication Studies

Some Basics

Coms 610

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Many types of sources

- News sources
- Magazines and trade publications
- Scholarly articles; peer reviewed
- Books (academic and non-academic)
- Encyclopedias, dictionaries
- Government reports, publications
- Archival and special collections
- Non-print formats (Video, audio, streaming)
- Electronic and print formats

Guides to finding different types of sources ([link to page in Research Tutorial](#))

Library website

<http://library.concordia.ca>

Research Guide Communication Studies

International Encyclopedia of Communication Online

- Browse through the most recent articles added to the encyclopedia and view the full text of one of them (for example: *Communication and Media Studies, History since 1968*)
- Try doing a search by keyword on subject of your choice

Other examples of subject encyclopedia:

[International Encyclopedia of Media Studies \(Wiley\)](#)

- *Browse the table of contents or try a keyword search (ex: convergence)*

[International Encyclopedia of Communication Research Methods \(Wiley\)](#)

- Ex: Browse A-Z, by topic, or search keyword: Arts-Based Methods; Artifact Analysis

- [Oxford Bibliographies Online](#)

- Annotated bibliographies of core works in communication and media studies; search by keyword or browse headings.

Finding books using Library Catalogue

Begin with keyword searches, example:

- Media and globalization
- Media and global*

Look for subject headings in the records, to help you find other items on the same subject, or different terminology

You may also use keyword search to find specific types of material

Ex: [communication and encyclop*](#)
[media and handbook*](#)

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](#)

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

[Communication Studies Subject Guide](#) (lists top databases in com studies)
[Databases by discipline and type](#) (to search in other disciplines or by type)

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 (Note: click on image to go to sample search in EBSCO)

The screenshot displays the EBSCO search interface. At the top left is the EBSCO logo. The search bar contains the text "audience" and "canadian journal of communication" with "AND" operators. A dropdown menu is open, showing various search fields: "SU Subject Terms" (highlighted), "TX All Text", "AU Author", "TI Title", "AB Abstract or Author-Supplied Abstract", "KW Author-Supplied Keywords", "GE Geographic Terms", "PE People", "PS Reviews & Products", "CO Company Entity", "SO Publication Name", "IS ISSN (No Dashes)", "IB ISBN", and "AN Accession Number".

On the left side, there is a "Refine Results" section with "Current Search" and "Limit To" options. The "Current Search" section shows the Boolean/Phrase: "SU audience AND SO canadian journal of communication". The "Limit To" section has a checkbox for "Full Text".

The main search results area shows "Search Results:" followed by a list of results. The first result is "1. Way to Play: A..." with a thumbnail of a newspaper and the text "Academic Journal". Below it is a thumbnail of a book cover and the text "Cited Re...". At the bottom of the result list is a PDF icon and the text "PDF Full Text (11.3MB)".

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.