Introduction to Concordia Library Resources for Journalism Students

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Agenda

The Concordia Library spaces

Basic search techniques & sources of information

Practice searching the library’s collections

Databases

Other sources of information

Citing and additional research resources
Where to find resources

From the home page:

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

https://library.concordia.ca
BASIC SEARCH TECHNIQUES
Create a search expression. Do not search using natural language like Google.

A DB record includes fields such as:

- keyword
- title
- subject
- author
- abstract
- etc.

Boolean operators
George Boole

AND

hair
sideburns OR eyebrows
George Boole

NOT

hair
Search improvements

**Truncation** *

journal* = journals OR journalism OR journalist, etc.

**Specific phrase “ ”**

“chief executive officer” = chief executive officer

◦ no chief officer

◦ no The officer said the chief reason Ms. Smith called 911 was...

*Some databases allow “chief * officer” to retrieve “chief financial officer”*
Combining operators

Use parentheses ( ) to group synonyms using the OR operator & control the order of operations.

Construction AND (corruption OR conspiracy)

Concept 1

Concept 2 with two synonyms
Many types of sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Where to look</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>News articles</td>
<td>Library databases, microform, specialized sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazines and trade publications</td>
<td>Library catalogue, databases, popular websites, industry organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarly articles; peer reviewed</td>
<td>Library databases, Google Scholar, Semantic Scholar, academic journals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books (academic and non-academic)</td>
<td>Library catalogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encyclopedias, dictionaries, reference books</td>
<td>Library catalogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO publications, associations, professional</td>
<td>Organization websites, databases, dedicated newsletters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consider non-print formats (video, audio, new media)
Using Sofia (library catalogue search/discovery tool)

1. Boolean operators are case sensitive!
   * journalism AND international*

2. Use the advanced search to help you build more complex expressions.
Searching: Library catalogue (Sofia)

Search for keywords, titles, authors, subjects

Find similar materials using the subject links

Apply Boolean operators to expand or focus your search

Try the filters for format type and location
Searching: databases

Find DBs through the:
- **Databases by subject** (via library homepage)
- **Sofia** (library catalogue)
- **Subject guides** (by discipline)

- Subject-specific databases (DB) of academic journal articles
- There may be delays on news content
- Sometimes only plain-text news is available, but sometimes an image of the article as-printed is available
- Specialized news databases **Canadian Newsstream**, **Eureka** (good for Canadian & Québécois content), and **Factiva** (includes business information)
Reference sources

Dictionaries, encyclopedias, & handbooks

For checking facts
- definitions and meanings
- dates of historical events
- how something is done

For an introduction to a topic
Statistics, almanacs, biographies
Business information, etc.
Thinking about sources

Purpose

Authority

Audience

Format

Currency

Scholarly

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
Other sources online

Include statistics, government documents, legal information, and more

Links to many reliable sources can be found on library subject guides
CITING & ADDITIONAL HELP
Citing work in an academic context

To credit original authors, show that work is supported by research, and let others follow-up

Concordia how-to guides on academic citing
  ◦ https://library.concordia.ca/help/citing

Directly from the style guides

Other institutions’ sites, especially Purdue OWL

APA style blog, Chicago Manual online
- Keeps track of your sources
- Creates your bibliographies for you in your chosen style
- Easily insert citations while you’re writing

https://www.zotero.org
Getting help

In person at the reference desk
Consult a librarian
Subject guides
Online chat