Library Research Methods
Divinity Graduate Students

Peggy Findlay
Liaison Librarian

Mills Research Help
2nd floor - ext. 26005
findlay@mcmaster.ca

Email
library@mcmaster.ca

Chat
Mon-Fri, 11 am-3 pm
MSN library@mcmaster.ca
AOL and Yahoo Messenger
Maclibraries

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Objectives

1. Library Catalogue
2. Database search engines
3. RefWorks: citation manager and bibliography builder
Passwords

- library card (student card) barcode
- MAC ID (LibAccess) library resources from off campus/in Mills
- RACER (Interlibrary Loan) barcode
- RefWorks
Library Catalogue

- Endeca catalogue  http://library.mcmaster.ca
- Shows what the 4 libraries on campus own
- Does not include individual articles!
Searching the catalogue

- **Title**
  - Perfect for when title is known
  - no need to use whole title (first 3-4 words)
  - no need to use capitals
  - no need to use initial articles (ie. A, An, The)

- **Author**
  - Use when author is known
  - Think about phonebooks!

- **Keywords**
  - Best when only know the topic
  - Can limit to specific part (title, author, keyword)
  - Start with title or subject keyword
  - Keyword anywhere – largest search

- **Subjects**
  - Great for finding related items

*Library Research Methods: Divinity*
Searching Tips & Tricks

- Use asterisk symbol * (truncation) to retrieve plurals and alternate endings
  - Rom*
  - Rome
  - Roman
  - Romans
More Tips

- Advanced Searching: more choices
- Use "quotation marks" to search for exact phrases
  - “roman army”
  - “Apostle Paul”
Searching Tips & Tricks

• Pick out the main concepts
  • Apostle Paul
  • teaching*

• Combine using ‘and’
  • Apostle Paul and teaching*

• Think of synonyms
  – preaching
  – message
  – teaching

• Join with ‘or’
  – (preaching or message or teaching)
Three Types of Articles

- Newspaper
- Magazine
- Scholarly Journals
Journals defined

• Journals are often “academic” or “scholarly” because the articles within them are:
  – written by and for researchers/academics
  – long, in-depth
  – no advertisements
  – include references or a bibliography
Databases – over 500

Databases
Use databases to find articles, data, images and more

FIND DATABASES BY NAME

FIND DATABASES BY SUBJECT

Questions/Comments/Problems?

Best viewed with IE 5.5 or higher or Netscape 6 or higher.
“Search Engines” (e-article databases)

- ATLA Religion Database
  - The American Theological Library Association's ATLA Religion Database (formerly known as the Religion Index) covers such topics as Biblical studies, world religions, Church history, and religious perspectives on social issues
  - Some fulltext

- Religious & Theological Abstracts
  - Provides English language abstracts of religious periodical literature in more than 400 scholarly journals published around the world. Includes Christianity, Judaism and other world religions.
Academic “Search Engines” (e-article databases)

- Humanities Index
  - archaeology, area studies, art, classical studies, communications, dance, film, folklore, gender studies, history, journalism, linguistics, literary & social criticism literature, music, performing arts, philosophy, religion & theology

- British Humanities Index

- Arts & Humanities Citation Index (Web of Science)
  - who’s citing whom?
Academic “Search Engines” (paper & electronic)

- Old Testament Abstracts
  - Mills Ref (2nd floor) ZBS 410.O6

- New Testament Abstracts
  - ZBS 410.N4
Searching Tips & Tricks

- Define key concepts and combine with **and**
- Think of synonyms and combine with **or**
- Use ***** for alternate endings
- Use "" for phrase searching
- Use **not** to exclude word/concept
The “One Good Article” Strategy

• to focus your search
• find 1 good article
• use words from the Subjects to get more articles like it
Finding historical articles

- JSTOR
  - Historical collection
  - Includes the entire runs of journals from the very first issue to volumes published a few years ago.
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Academic “Search Engines” (e-article databases)

- Proquest Dissertations
  - Dissertations and theses 1861 – present
  - Dissertations & Theses@McmasterUniversity (fulltext)

- LexisNexis Academic
  - Newspapers (fulltext)

- Book Review Index/Book Review Digest
Why use a book for information?

- Books often provide a broad overview of a topic;
- Books are good sources of background and summary information;
- Books might be used to understand a topic initially and to provide a context.
Why use an article for information?

- Journal articles are shorter than books, therefore they usually have a narrow focus and provide specific information.
- Journal articles are usually intended for an academic audience.
- Journal articles are published frequently, therefore they’re usually more up-to-date than books.

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What is RefWorks?

- A Web-based citation manager and bibliography builder
- Used to create a personal database of citations from online databases or text files
- Insert citations while writing papers and generate bibliographies in seconds
RefWorks Advantages

- Web-based
  - No software to download & update
  - Access your account(s) from any computer connected to the Internet

- Link to McMaster’s full-text through

- Can reformat citations from one style to another in seconds

- No limit on number of citations in database
RefWorks

- What is RefWorks?
- Sign-up for an Account
- Creating a Database
- Managing Your Citations
- Generating a Bibliography
- Creating Your Paper & Bibliography Together
- RefShare
- Help/Support

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Choosing the Right Research Tool

- Library catalogue
- E-Resources Database
- RefWorks
- Consultations