



# Library Research Methods

## *Divinity Graduate Students*

**Peggy Findlay**  
Liaison Librarian

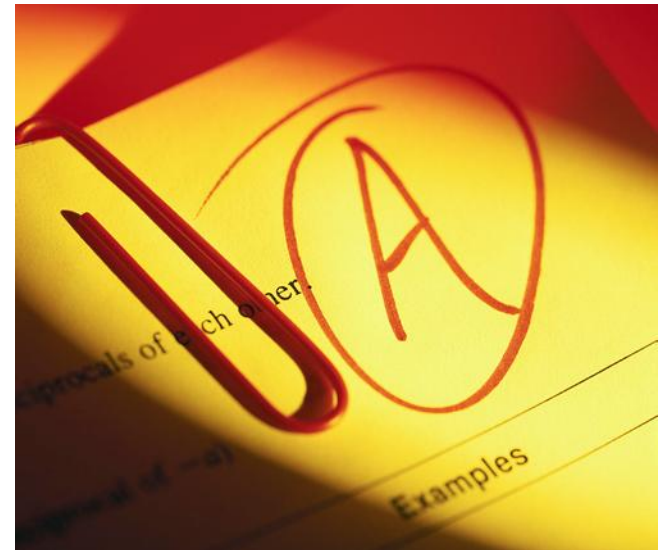
**Mills Research Help**  
2nd floor - ext. 26005  
[findlay@mcmaster.ca](mailto:findlay@mcmaster.ca)

**Email**  
[library@mcmaster.ca](mailto:library@mcmaster.ca)

**Chat**  
Mon-Fri, 11 am-3 pm  
MSN [library@mcmaster.ca](mailto:library@mcmaster.ca)  
AOL and Yahoo Messenger  
*Maclibraries*

**September 2007**

*Info Lit @ Mac*



Library Research Methods: Divinity

# 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

# Searching Tips & Tricks

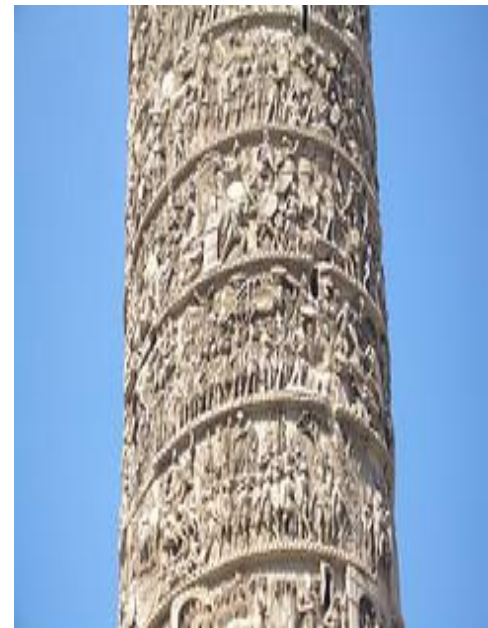
- Use asterisk symbol \* (**truncation**) to retrieve plurals and alternate endings
  - Rom\*
  - Rome
  - Roman
  - Romans



[\[image credit\]](#)

# More Tips

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



[\[image credit\]](#)

# 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

about the recent changes to the way e-Resources are accessed.

## Databases

Use databases to find articles, data, images and more

### FIND DATABASES BY NAME

Database:   by Title  by Keyword  
Example: sociological abstracts  
factiva  
psyc\*

**Databases A to Z**  
[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) [ALL](#)

**GO**

### FIND DATABASES BY SUBJECT

**Broad Subject**

- Arts & Humanities
- Business
- General and Multi-disciplinary
- Health Sciences
- Science & Technology
- Social Sciences

**Subcategory**

- ALL
- Art
- Classics
- Drama & Film
- Ethics/Bioethics
- History
- Language & Linguistics
- Literature
- Music

<Ctrl>+ click to select more than one.

**GO**

[Questions/Comments/Problems?](#)

Best viewed with IE 5.5 or higher or Netscape 6 or higher.

Done

# “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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



[\[image credit\]](#)

[SEARCH](#)[BROWSE](#)[TIPS](#)[SET PREFERENCES](#)[ABOUT JSTOR](#)[CONTACT JSTOR](#)[DISCIPLINE LIST OF JOURNALS](#) | [ALPHABETICAL LIST OF JOURNALS](#)

Your access to JSTOR is provided by  
McMaster University

See a preview of JSTOR's new [reference linking feature...](#)

[EXIT JSTOR](#)

## Browse by Discipline:

[African American Studies](#)

[African Studies](#)

[American Indian Studies](#)

[Anthropology](#)

[Aquatic Sciences](#)

[Archaeology](#)

[Architecture & Architectural History](#)

[Art & Art History](#)

[Asian Studies](#)

[Biological Sciences](#)

[Botany & Plant Sciences](#)

[Business](#)

[Classical Studies](#)

[Ecology & Evolutionary Biology](#)

[Economics](#)

[Geography](#)

[History](#)

[History of Science & Technology](#)

[Language & Literature](#)

[Latin American Studies](#)

[Law](#)

[Mathematics](#)

[Middle East Studies](#)

[Music](#)

[Paleontology](#)

[Performing Arts](#)

[Philosophy](#)

[Political Science](#)

[Population Studies](#)

[Psychology](#)

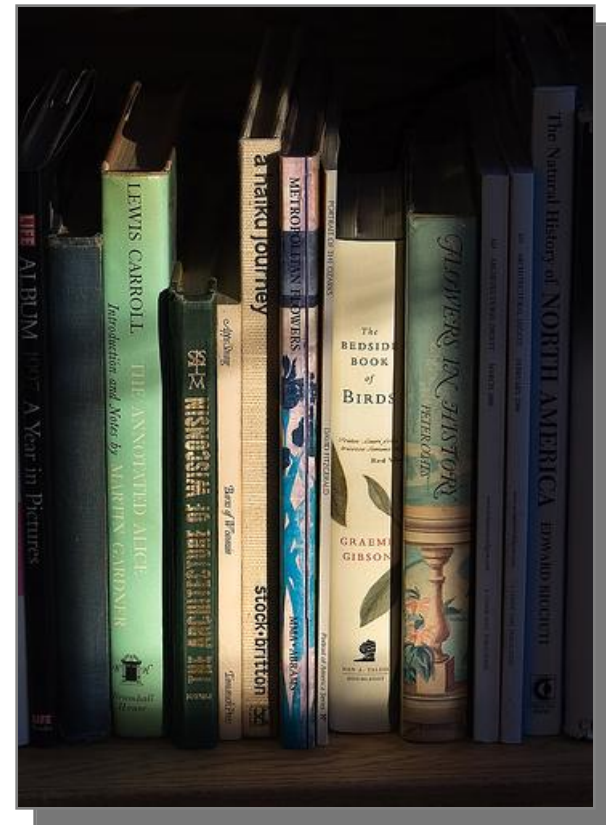
[Public Policy & Administration](#)

# 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



[[image credit](#)]

# 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




[[image credit](#)]

# 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  get it!
- 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



# Choosing the Right Research Tool

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

