Welcome to Mills Memorial Library

Challenge!

find the book:

No sweat

by Andrew Ross
Finding Books & Articles: Scholarly Information at Your Fingertips!

Peggy Findlay
Liaison Librarian

Mills Research Help
2nd floor - ext. 22533
millref@mcmaster.ca

New! IM the library: M - F, 11 - 3
MSN: library@mcmaster.ca
AOL: maclibraries
Yahoo! Messenger: maclibraries

September 2007
Objectives

1. MORRIS: finding books
2. Databases: finding articles

Questions?
Any time during the session!
Before you start a research assignment ...

- Check Library and Research Help Desk Hours
  [http://library.mcmaster.ca/](http://library.mcmaster.ca/)

- time your research so we can help!
The 4 McMaster University Libraries

- **MILLS** -- Humanities and Social Sciences
- **INNIS** -- Business
- **THODE** -- Science and Engineering
- **HEALTH** Sciences
Library Locations

- Thode
- Mills
- Health
- Innis
Finding Books

the library catalogue

http://libcat.mcmaster.ca

also lists: journal titles, videos, CDs and cassettes, music scores, maps, e-resources, etc.

Does not include individual articles!
Welcome to Mills Memorial Library

Challenge!

find the book:

No sweat

by Andrew Ross
Location

- which library?
  - Mills
  - Innis
  - Thode
  - Health
Where in the library?

- Mills Bookstacks
- Mills Reference
- Mills Gov Pubs
- Mills Periodicals
- Mills Research Collections, etc
What’s the Availability?

- Check shelf
- Checked out
- For use in library only
- On order
- In process
- In storage, etc.
What if you don’t have a title or author, just a topic?

- Searching on a topic
  - title keyword
  - subject hotlinks
  - subject browsing
Tips & Tricks

• Break your topic into key words or phrases (main ideas)
  • humanitarian assistance, disasters
• Combine keywords using ‘and’
  • humanitarian assistance and disasters

• Think of synonyms
  • aid or relief
• Add synonyms using ‘or’
• Use brackets around synonyms
  • (aid or relief)
Tips & Tricks

• Use asterisk symbol * (truncation) to retrieve plurals and alternate endings e.g. canad* retrieves
  • canada
  • canada’s
  • canadian
  • canadians
Tips & Tricks

• Use quotations to search phrases
  • “humanitarian assistance”
  • “doctors without borders”
Put it all together!

“humanitarian assistance” and (aid or relief) and canad*

Try this in Keyword(s) Anywhere

“humanitarian assistance” and canad*
Review

- **Library catalogue**: to find **books & other items** the library owns
- **Location Guide**: to find out **which floor**
- **Topic searching**: title keyword, subject/subject keyword
Articles defined

• Articles are published on an ongoing basis, in various sources such as:
  – newspapers (daily)
  – popular magazines (e.g. weekly)
  – journals (e.g. monthly, quarterly)
  – trade publications (e.g. weekly, bi-monthly)
  – online only
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
Peer-reviewed defined

• Many, but not all, academic or scholarly journals are also “peer-reviewed” because the articles within them are evaluated and examined by experts in the same field of study before publication to ensure accuracy/credibility.

*It is very reputable to have your article published in a peer-reviewed journal!*
Canadian journal of political science
Databases – What are they?

- locate articles by **subject**, author, etc.
- **what exists** but not necessarily **what’s in the library**
- some have
  - **full text** of the articles
  - **citations** (references) only
  - **abstracts** (summaries) of articles
How do you find articles in these sources?

- Go to the library home page and click on the “Databases” tab.
- Find Databases by NAME (by Title or Keyword)
  - SOCIOLICAL ABSTRACTS
- Find Databases by SUBJECT
  - BROAD SUBJECT SOCIAL SCIENCES
  - SUBCATEGORY SOCIOLOGY
- Select the Databases(s) you want to search from the “Results” list
Sociological Abstracts

- covers the international scholarly literature in sociology and related disciplines
- over 620,000 abstracts of journal articles
- 1,800+ journals
- 1963 to the present
- book reviews, books, book chapters, dissertations, and conference papers
- unlimited simultaneous logons
Challenge!

Find articles about …

(3 minutes)

Internet in the age of globalization
Avoid the most common mistake in searching

e.g. 
internet in the age of globalization

- search engine tries to find that exact phrase
  - you get 0 results
Tips & Tricks

• Use **and** to combine key words and phrases; use quotes around phrases
  • internet **and** globalization

• Use **or** to broaden your search (synonyms)
  • (computer **or** internet)

• Use truncation (**(*)** to retrieve plurals and different endings
  • computer retrieves computer/computers/computerization
Putting It All Together

\[(\text{computer}^* \text{ or internet}) \text{ and globalization}\]
The “One Good Article” Strategy

- to focus your search
- find 1 good article
- use language from descriptors (subjects) or authors to get more
Do We Have Access to the Article?

- click get it! …to see whether the library has an online or paper subscription to the journal

- we may have:
  - one or more online subscriptions (e.g. #?)
  - one or more paper subscriptions (e.g. #?)
  - or both, or neither
Output

- saving or emailing your list of references

- printing or photocopying an article
Photocopying in The Libraries

- Journals are **Non-Circulating**
  - (they don’t go out)
- **Photocopy machines**
  - self-service; all libraries; no cash
- **Library Debit cards**: dispensers or Bookstore
  - $3 - $20
  - $2 for card; then 10¢ or less a page
The Library Printer Network

- printers in Mills, Thode, Innis, Health Sciences
- send from any library computer
- uses **library Debit card**
- same card, same cost as photocopying (10¢ a page)
Review: Finding Articles

1. use **e-article databases** to find articles
2. use **Get It!** or the **library catalogue** for availability
3. download, email, or print references
4. finding articles on the shelf: **photocopy**
   - call number, volume, year, page, etc.
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.
Questions?

…and don’t forget –

Need Help? Just Ask!

Mills Research Help, Mills 2nd floor
905 525-9140 ext. 22533
millref@mcmaster.ca

IM the library (M-F, 11 am - 3 pm)
MSN: library@mcmaster.ca
AOL: maclibraries
Yahoo! Messenger: maclibraries

Good Luck with your Assignments!