



Finding Secondary Sources

History 1B03

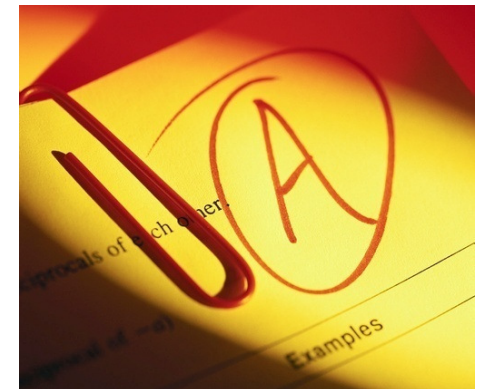
The Americas and the World

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Fall 2007



Session Outline

Developing Research Skills in...

1. Using Databases to find scholarly articles
2. Using the Library Catalogue to find scholarly books



Questions?

Any time during
the session!

Three main types of articles

- Newspapers (daily)
- Magazines (weekly)
- Scholarly Journals
(e.g. monthly, quarterly)



Scholarly Journal Articles

- Written by and for researchers
- Long and in-depth
- No advertising
- Can be “peer reviewed” or “refereed”
- Include references or bibliographies

Use Databases to find Articles

- McMaster Library subscribes to **500+ online databases**
- Determine an **appropriate database** to search
- Databases show “what exists” but not necessarily “what’s in the library”
- Some databases display
 - **full text** of the articles
 - **citations** (references) only
 - **abstracts** (summaries) of articles

Connecting to Databases

- Start at the Library home page
 - <http://library.mcmaster.ca>
 - click on the **Databases** tab > **Databases by Subject** > **History**
- MAC ID Authentication required?
 - from libraries, technology centres, home: **yes!**
 - from residence: **no!**

Databases for History

- America: History & Life
- Historical Abstracts
- Humanities Abstracts
- JSTOR
- Project Muse

Searching Tips

- Use “and” to combine keywords and phrases
e.g. slavery and abolition
- Use “or” for synonyms
e.g. freedom or liberation or emancipation
- Use an asterisk “*” to search plurals and different endings
e.g. slave* searches slave, slaves, slavery

Searching Tips

- Use “Limits” to make your search more precise
 - e.g. Language – English
 - e.g. Document Type – Articles
- Search by “Subject” and find on-topic articles
 - e.g. Abolition movement

Databases for History

- America, History and Life
 - Covers the history of the United States and Canada from prehistory to the present
 - Over 2000 journals

Databases for History

- Historical Abstracts
 - Covers the history of the world from 1450 to the present
 - Excludes the US and Canada
 - Over 2000 key historical journals

Databases for History

- Humanities Abstracts
 - Subject coverage includes art, folklore, history, philosophy
 - Over 500 sources including scholarly journals and specialized magazines

Databases for History

- JSTOR
 - Digital archive of full text journals in the areas of Arts, Business, Economics and Sciences
 - Historical only; excludes the most recent issues until a certain number of years have passed (3 to 5 years)

Databases for History

- Project MUSE
 - Online international access to the full text of over 300 scholarly journals
 - Coverage includes the arts & humanities, social sciences and mathematics


The “One Good Article” Strategy

- to **focus** your search
- find **1 good article**
- use language from **subjects** (or descriptors), **authors** to get more


Do We Have the Article?

- Look for a full text link e.g. **Fulltext:** [Project Muse | Ebsco]

OR

- click  to see whether the **library has an online or paper subscription** to the journal
- we may have:
 - one or more **online** subscriptions
 - one or more **paper** subscriptions
 - or **both**, or **neither**

What if “get it!” doesn’t work?

- If  doesn’t appear, or doesn’t work:
 - open another browser
 - go to the Library Catalogue
 - do a **Journal Title** search to find the record for the journal



Session Outline

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2. Using the Library Catalogue to find scholarly books



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Library Catalogue

- What's in the Library Catalogue?
 - Everything that the 4 McMaster libraries own
- Search by
 - Title
 - Author
 - Subject
 - Anywhere... and more!



Library Catalogue

- 3 options to search
 - **Basic, Advanced, Browse**
- Break your topic in to keywords and phrases
 - e.g. Slave trade in the Americas
slave trade, americas

Library Catalogue – Scholarly books

- Use the words “collections”, “collected works”, “editor”, “edited” in your search
 - e.g. anti slavery, collections
 - e.g. slavery, editor
- Check to see if the publisher is from a University Press
 - e.g. Princeton University Press

Locating a Book

- Check Location
 - e.g. Mills Bookstacks
 - e.g. Mills Reserve
- Check Availability or Status
 - e.g. Check shelf
 - e.g. Checked out



Mills Book Locator Slip

Mills Memorial Library

Where's My Book?

Location	Collection	Call No.
MILLS LIBRARY	?	HM 51 .T4 1999

Mills Bookstacks Other Mills Locations

Call numbers *beginning with...*

A, B - BT	6th floor
BV - BX	5th floor
C, D, E, F, G	5th floor
H - HN	5th floor
HQ - HX	4th floor
J, K	4th floor
L	5th floor
M	1st floor
N	4th floor
P - PM	4th floor
PN - PQ	5th floor
PR - PS	4th floor
PT	4th floor
Q, R, S	4th floor
T, U, V	4th floor
Z	4th floor
200	6th floor
800	4th floor
100, 300, 400, 600	Storage*
Oversize & Theses	...on same floor as call no.

Circulation	
Data Service	1st floor
Gov Pubs (Government Publications)	1st floor
Interlending & Document Supply (LOS)	2nd floor
Maps	1st floor
McLay	1st floor
Music	2nd floor
Periodicals	1st floor
Reference	3rd floor
Research Collections	2nd floor
Reserve	Lower Level
Russell Archives	1st floor
Russell Library	Lower Level
Other Campus Libraries	Lower Level
HEALTH (science)	H50 - Z8
999 (business)	K7H - 108
1000 (Science & Engineering)	

*Request Storage items at Circulation Desk or online at: <http://library.mcmaster.ca/forms>

(Rev. 01/08)

Session Recap

Developing Research Skills in...

1. Using Databases to find scholarly articles

- History Databases e.g. America: History & Life

2. Using the Library Catalogue to find scholarly books

- Library Catalogue – Basic, Advanced
- Search “Anywhere” when using words like “collections”, “edited”

Questions?

Need Help? Just Ask!

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IM the library (M-F, 11 am - 3 pm)

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