



Modern Caribbean: Finding Secondary Sources

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Need Help? Just Ask!



Session Outline

- Finding Books, Edited Collections
 - McMaster Library catalogue
 - WorldCat (Libraries worldwide)
- Finding Articles (Scholarly Journals)
 - Databases for History



Feel free to ask questions anytime during the session!

Library Catalogue

- Shows what the 4 libraries own
 - Books
 - Journals
 - Magazines
 - Maps
 - Music CDs, etc.
- Does not include records for individual chapters or articles!



[[image credit](#)]

Searching the Catalogue

- You can search many different ways
 - Basic, Advanced, Browse
 - title
 - author
 - subject
 - anywhere
 - and more!



[\[image credit\]](#)

How do you search?

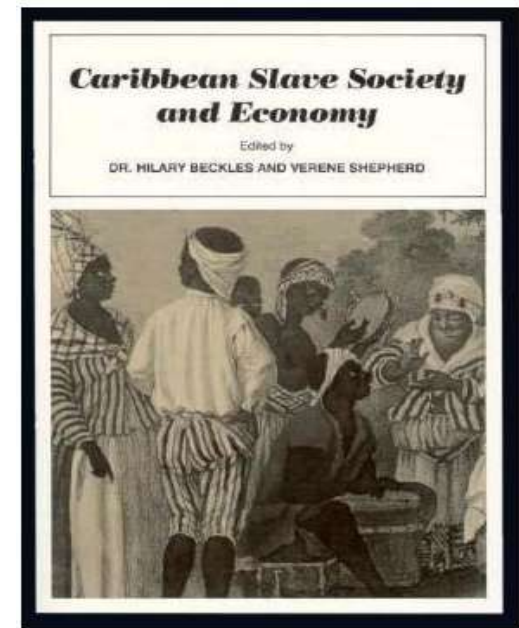
- Let's assume this is your topic:

slavery in the Caribbean

- How would you search for this topic?

Let's talk about what you did...

- What did you type in?
- Where? (Anywhere? In Title? Subject?)



Searching Tips & Tricks


- Pick out the main concepts
 - slavery
 - capitalism
 - Caribbean
- Use quotation marks for phrases
 - “slave trade”
 - “west indies”
- Come up with synonyms for your search terms
 - slave trade
 - economy, economic
 - West Indies

What does it all mean?

- Catalogue record includes
 - Author(s) or Editor(s)
 - Title (complete)
 - Publisher
 - Place of publication
 - Year of publication
 - Subjects
- click “Check Availability” to see whether it’s in or out

Item Details CLOSE X

Caribbean slave society and economy : a student reader [Full Details]



By:
Beckles, Hilary, 1955-
Shepherd, Verene

Subjects:
Plantation life Caribbean Area History.
Slave trade Caribbean Area History.
Slavery Caribbean Area History.
Slaves Caribbean Area Emancipation.
Sugar workers Caribbean Area History.

Published: New York : New Press : Distributed by W.W. Norton & Co., c1993.

Description: x, 480 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

ISBN: 1565840860

MILLS Bookstacks HT 1071 .C34 1993 [Check Availability](#)

Save time!

- Be sure to check Location
 - Which library?
 - Which collection?
 - What call no.?
 - Use Book Location Guide to find the right floor
- Be sure to check availability
 - Check shelf
 - Checked out
 - For use in library only
 - In Storage



[[image credit](#)]

For scholarly books

- Examples include edited works or collections
- Check to see if the publisher is from a University press e.g. Princeton University Press
- Use the words **collections**, **collected works**, **edited** or **editor** in you search

e.g. Anywhere slavery caribbean edited

e.g. in Subject slavery capitalism collections

Advanced Search e.g. for all words slavery caribbean
for any words editor edited


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WorldCat (Libraries worldwide)

- Search “[WorldCat](#)” in the Library Catalogue or Databases
- WorldCat contains holdings of over 9,000 libraries around the world including McMaster
- Limited to 4 simultaneous users
- Example: **slavery caribbean edited**
-  feature

RACER (Interlibrary loan)

- If you find a book in WorldCat that McMaster does not own, search the title in RACER and request the item
- Register for a RACER account using the library barcode on your university ID
- Requests are free of charge
- 7-10 day minimum wait
- Search (for books); complete a Blank Request Form (for articles)

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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

Scholarly 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.

Peer-reviewed - How do you know?

- For print journals, check the description inside
- Check Ulrichs.com (look for it by title in the Databases tab, or under “More Options” in the Get it! window; peer-reviewed journals will say “Refereed”)
- For e-journals, check for information about the journal itself e.g. “About”, “Aims & Scope”
- Examples: *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *The American Historical Review*, *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*

How do you find these sources?

- ALL the newspaper, magazine and journal titles that McMaster owns/subscribes to are in the catalogue
- ...but to find articles *within these sources*, you have to start with a **database**.
- McMaster Library subscribes to 500+ databases!

Searching the Databases

- The 2 main historical databases to search are
 - **America: History & Life**
 - United States and Canada from prehistory
 - **Historical Abstracts**
 - History of the world from 1450 to present
- Search both databases at the same time!
- Currently there are 2 interfaces
 - ABC-CLIO (ends June 2008)
 - EBSCOhost

Searching Tips & Tricks

- Pick out the main concepts
 - slavery
 - capitalism
 - Caribbean
 - freedom
- Come up with synonyms for your search terms
 - slave trade
 - economy, economic
 - West Indies
 - emancipation, liberation
- Use quotation marks for phrases
 - “slave trade”
 - “west indies”
- Use asterisk symbol * (truncation) to retrieve plurals and different endings
 - slave*
 - econom*

Use Limits

- Use **limits** to narrow your search and retrieve precise results
- Some examples:
 - Limit by **language** e.g. English
 - Limit by **format** e.g. Articles, Collections
 - Limit by **time period** e.g. 1830 to 1850
 - Limit by **publication date** e.g. 1980-2008


The “One Good Article” Strategy

- to **focus** your search
- find **1 good article**
- use words from Subjects or Authors to get related articles

Now “get” the Article

- Look for full text **Fulltext:** [[History Cooperative](#) | [Jstor](#)] to get the article online

OR

- Look for  to help you find the article, either online or in print (by searching the catalogue)
- Example: slavery caribbean

Searching the Databases

- You can also try searching in a full text online archive of journals
 - JSTOR
 - Full text of over 400 scholarly journals in the Arts and Sciences (including 100+ in the discipline of History)
 - ProjectMuse
 - Full text of over 300 scholarly journals in the Arts and Humanities

Session Recap

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 - Use RACER to make Interlibrary loan requests
- Finding Articles (Scholarly Journals)
 - Databases for History
 - e.g. America: History & Life, Historical Abstracts



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