Finding Articles
Social Sciences Inquiry

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

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Finding Scholarly Articles in the Social Sciences

1. Finding references to articles
2. Getting the articles
3. Downloading, emailing, printing, etc.

Questions?
any time during the session!

Inquiry 1SS3
Before you start a new research project...

- Check Library and Research Help Desk Hours
  
  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
Article Indexes – What are they?

- most are online **databases**; some are in print only
- 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
Connecting to Databases

- start at the Library home page:
  - [http://library.mcmaster.ca](http://library.mcmaster.ca)
  - click on the **Databases** tab > **Databases by Subject** > **Social Sciences > Music**

- authentication required?
  - from **library, MacConnect, technology centre, home**: yes! -- MAC ID (or LibAccess)
  - from **residence**: no!
Social Sciences Databases

- AgeLine
- America, history and life
- Anthropology plus
- Communication abstracts
- Contemporary women's issues
- EconLit (CSA)
- PsycINFO
- Social sciences abstracts
- Sociological abstracts (CSA)
- Studies on women and gender abstracts
- Worldwide political science abstracts (CSA)
Challenge!

Find articles about

quality of life of people on social assistance

(3 minutes)
Searching Databases Skills & Tips

or,

“Databases Don’t Work the Same Way as Google!”
Avoid the most common mistake in searching

quality of life of people on social assistance

- search engine tries to find that exact phrase
  - you get 0 results
Tip: Identify Key Words and Phrases

● analyze your search statement:
  quality of life of people on social assistance
● …and break your topic into parts:
  quality of life, social assistance
Phrases are fine, but...

- not too long, just one idea per phrase,
  e.g. *social assistance*

- **MORRIS**
  - have to use “quotation marks” to indicate a phrase

- **most other databases**
  - assume any string of words is a phrase
  - exceptions: *and, or, not*
Truncation, or Wild Card

- an asterisk * retrieves words with different endings
- broadens your search

\[ \text{canad}^* \text{ gets canada, canadian, canadians, etc.} \]
Truncation Tips – Be Careful!

- don’t truncate too far back:
  - e.g. can*
    you’ll get words like candy
    canal, etc.

- don’t truncate too close to the end
  - e.g. canada*
    you’ll miss words like canadian
Combining Terms: **AND**

- *narrows* your search by requiring both search terms

  *quality of life* **and** *social assistance*
Combining Terms: **OR**

- broadens your search
- to include *synonyms, alternate spellings, abbreviations*, etc. in your search
- always enclose the or’d words in *parentheses*:

  *(social security or social assistance)*

  *(united nations or u.n. or un)*
Putting It All Together

quality of life and
(social security or social assistance)
Sorting by Relevance

Challenge!

Sort this set of results by Relevance
Peer-Reviewed Journals

Challenge!
Limit your results to “Peer-Reviewed Journals” Only
The “One Good Article” Strategy

- to focus your search
- find 1 good article
- use language from descriptors (or identifiers or subject headings), authors to get more
Search Within Fields

- to focus your search
- use the green ‘advanced search’ tab and drop-down menus to search only within the:
  - titles
  - authors
  - descriptors, etc.
Limiting

- to **narrow** your search
- Advanced Search screen
- typical limits:
  - **date**, e.g. 2001-2006
  - **publication type**, e.g. journal article
  - **language**, e.g. English
Do We Have Access to the Article?

- some databases have hotlinks to some articles
- if no hotlinks, 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
  - one or more paper subscriptions
  - or both
  - or neither
What if Get It! doesn’t work?

- if Get It! doesn’t appear, or doesn’t work:
  - open another browser
  - go to MORRIS
  - and do a Journal Title search

- what would you type in the MORRIS search box if you were looking for #1? that way?

- how would you find article #1 on the shelf?
Output

- saving or emailing your list of references

- printing or photocopying an article

Inquiry 1SS3
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)
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
What if we don’t have it?

- **RACER**
- inter-library loans
- articles: $5  -- now free!
- books: free
- 7-10 day delivery (average)
Ulrichs

- to check if a journal is
  - academic/scholarly
  - peer reviewed/refereed

- how to get it:
  - through the Database tab: type *ulrichs* in the search window
Review: Finding Articles

1. Finding references to articles
   • article index (via Databases)

2. Getting the articles
   • Get It! or MORRIS

3. download, email, print or photocopy references and articles
   • library debit card, library printer network

4. find articles on the shelf:
   • location + call number – MORRIS
   • volume, issue, year, pages, etc. – article database
Questions?
…and don’t forget –

Need Help? Just Ask!

Mills Research Help, Mills 2nd floor
905 525-9140 ext. 22533
library@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!

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