Library Orientation for Geography

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Goals

• **Steps for Library Research**
• **Library Resources**: Databases, Infoguides, Data, Atlases, etc
• **Library Services**: What’s New?
• Others...
Five Steps of Library research

1. Identify the most **important concepts** in your assignment or in your research topic
2. Bring a few **Keywords** (including control vocabulary)
3. Go to **Catalogs/Databases** to search
4. Evaluate search results
5. Cite

See: Library Research Basic tutorials: Research Process
(http://library.gmu.edu/tutorials)
Develop Your topic

• Write down your research topics as a question

Topic: Questioning geography in a sub-discipline:

“Geography of Sustainability”

“What is current status of Geography of Sustainability as a discipline; how it has been developed; Is there any major changes in development of thoughts in this area; etc”

See Also: http://library.gmu.edu/tutorials:
Research Process (the first one & Narrowing down)
Planning Research Strategies

• Identify your main keywords:
  Sustainability, Geography, thoughts, Development, etc.

• Find Control Vocabulary:
  Geography-Philosophy (Library Congress Subject Heading)
Searching Concepts (Boolean Logic)

“sustainability” AND “geography” AND “thoughts”

Use for Narrow Down Your Search
Searching Concepts (Boolean Logic)

OR

“thoughts” OR “perceptions”

Use for, “Broaden Your Search Result”
Searching Concepts (Boolean Logic)

NOT

“natural” NOT “cultural”

Use for excluding a concept or a keyword
Finding Resources

Find Books

Steps taken:
• Catalog (inPrimo-new)
• WRLC
• Worldcat
• Interlibrary Loan

Find Journal Articles

Steps taken:
• Databases
• GEOBASE
• Jstore (old issues of Geography Journals: 1911-2007)
• Dissertation Abstract
• E-Journal Finder
inPrimo vs Classic Catalog

- Combo Search
- (Mason collection (books and journal articles) + other digital materials (Public Domain)
- Access full-text journal articles and e-books directly from result
- Save it E-self, E-mail, Zotero, etc.

- Search the Mason Collection only (books, journals (name), and media materials)
- Access E-books directly from result
- Save it in your disk or e-mail
Evaluating the Literature

- Relevance to topic
- Authority
- Reliability of source publication
- Nature of Publication
- Originality
- Up to date
- Accessible.
How to Cite My Findings

• APA, MLA Style.
  (http://library.duke.edu/research/citing/worksci
ted/)

• See also Infoguide:
  (http://infoguides.gmu.edu/ggs689/cite)

• Zotero (Citation Management Software)
  (http://infoguides.gmu.edu/content.php?pid=23
  687) – take workshops.
Other Sources

**ATLASES**

World Atlas (Oxford’s Atlas of World)
Regional Atlas (Atlas of a specific county, Atlas of Kansas, a specific place, etc)
Historical Atlas (Historical Atlas of U.S.)

See More: [infoguides.gmu.edu/maps](infoguides.gmu.edu/maps)
Key Websites

• Library Home Page: library.gmu.edu
• Infoguide on Geography: http://infoguides.gmu.edu/geog
http://infoguides.gmu.edu/ggs689
• Research Portal—GGS: http://gmutant.gmu.edu/geoinfo/
• See our Education Services’ Tutorial Page: http://library.gmu.edu/tutorials
Ask Questions

• Reference Desks
• Virtual Reference (IMason Libraries)
• E-mail
• By Phone

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Hands-On Practices

ImPrimo
Catalog/WRLC
Databases: Geobase, Jstore, etc