Library Orientation for Geography

Geography 689, Fall 2017

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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

Q: How mobile banking affects changes of the distribution of branch bank locations in a region? → retail banking industry as a topic.


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

• Identify your main **keywords:**
  Mobile-banking, Bank locations (distribution of branches), & a specific area (Virginia).

• Find **Synonyms** of these keywords

• Find **Control Vocabulary:**
  Economic Geography; Banks and Banking-Location (Library Congress Subject Heading)
Searching Concepts (Boolean Logic)

“banking” AND “locations” AND “Virginia”

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

**OR**

“Online bankings” OR “Mobile Bankings”

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

NOT

“branch” NOT “mobile”

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.
Finding Most Cited Articles

• Web-of-Sciences
  Filter Result by> Highest Cited in Field
  Sort by> time cited; Create Citation Report

• Journal Impact Factor (JIF)—Journal Citation Report (JCR) to locate IF> Identify RANK of a Journal.
How to Cite My Findings

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

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

• Zotero (Citation Management Software)
  (http://infoguides.gmu.edu/content.php?pid=23687) – 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
What’s New

• Sage Research Methods & Case Online >Learn methods, data analysis & real research cases in Geography

• NY Times in Education (high quality journalism topics)
Key Websites

• Library Home Page: library.gmu.edu
• Infoguide on Geography: http://infoguides.gmu.edu/geog
  http://infoguides.gmu.edu/ggs689
• Infoguides on GIS & Maps
Ask Questions

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

Geography Liaison Librarian:

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Hands-On Practices

ImPrimo
Catalog/WRLC
Databases: Geobase, Jstore, etc