Library Resources for Geography

Joy Suh (hsuh1@gmu.edu)
Geospatial Resources Librarian

Geography 415, Spring 2019

https://infoguides.gmu.edu/geog
https://infoguides.gmu.edu/geospatial
https://dsc.gmu.edu/data
What I will cover:

• Steps Getting Literature & Library Research Strategies
• Key Geographical Databases and Journals
• Data & Geospatial Resources.
  o Data and Mapping Databases (SimplyAnalytics and Policy Maps) Other Resources (Geospatial and statistical data)
• What’s New-Workshops (Zotero (citation management), GIS and Statistical)
Steps for Library Literature Research

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

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

• Write down your research question and move up & narrow down your topic.

EXAMPLE: I am interested in location patterns of bank branches in an urban area and a certain time period. Factors influencing the location choice of bank branches.

Topic: “geographical pattern of bank branch” or “bank location decision”>”urban or economic geography”

See Also: http://library.gmu.edu/tutorials#process-
Your Research Question

Location

Spatial change

Location pattern

Geographical distribution

Characteristics of location

Neighborhood characteristics

Location characteristics

Bank Branch

Commercial bank

Federal union bank
Planning Research Strategies

- **Identify your main keywords (or phrases):** Bank Branch, Location, Location decision, Economic Geography, Urban Geography, etc.
- **Find Control Vocabulary:** Geography-Philosophy (Library Congress Subject Heading)
- **Combine your search terms using Boolean Logic** (AND, OR, NOT)
Searching Concepts (Boolean Logic)

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

OR

“location distribution” OR “geographical distribution”

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

NOT

“bank branch” NOT “Federal Union Bank”

Use for excluding a concept or a keyword
Key Databases

- GeoBase
- J-Store
- Web of Science

See Key Geography Journals: Go to Libraries Databases>Geography & Geoinformation or Infoguide at: https://infoguides.gmu.edu/geog/article.

Also see our guide for new library search interface: https://infoguides.gmu.edu/search_help
Evaluating the Literature

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

- [http://infoguides.gmu.edu/maps/cite](http://infoguides.gmu.edu/maps/cite)
- [http://infoguides.gmu.edu/geog/cite](http://infoguides.gmu.edu/geog/cite)
Geospatial Data Resources

• Libraries Geodata Collection
• Online geodata Links: https://infoguides.gmu.edu/geospatial/data

• Other (Census Demographics and data by topics): https://dsc.gmu.edu/data/
• Data and Mapping Databases (Social Explorer, SimplyAnalytics and PolicyMap)
Key Websites

• Library Home Page: library.gmu.edu
• DSC-GIS: https://dsc.gmu.edu/gis/
• Infoguide on Geography: http://infoguides.gmu.edu/geog
  http://infoguides.gmu.edu/geospatial
• See our Education Services’ Tutorial Page:
  http://library.gmu.edu/tutorials (review of literature, peer-reviewed articles, etc)
Ask Questions

Joy Suh
GIS and Geography Liaison Librarian
Digital Scholarship Center (dsc.gmu.edu)
hsuh1@gmu.edu