Geography

Geographic Techniques
- Remote Sensing
- Geomorphology
- Environmental Studies
- Cartography
- Geographic Information Systems

Physical Geography
- Geology
- Meteorology
- Biogeography
- Soil Geography
- Pedology

Human Geography
- Historical Geography
- Political Geography
- Economic Geography
- Behavioral Geography
- Anthropology
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Demography
- Economics
- Political Science

History

Science
Library Orientation for Geography

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Goals

• Library Research Strategies (steps).
• Library Resources & Services for Geography
  o Books
  o Databases (Journal Articles)
  o Other Resources (Geospatial data, Atlases, etc)
• What’s New?
Five Steps of Library research

1. Identify the most **important concepts** 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: “Urban Geography”

“What is current migration research in urban geography? What are the major changes in migration research over years? Start as broad and narrow down.

See Also:

http://library.gmu.edu/tutorials#process

Library Home Page>Learn>Tutorials (http://library.gmu.edu/tutorials)--Research Process part 1
Planning Research Strategies

• Identify your main **keywords (or phrases):** Urban Geography, Migration, thoughts, Development, etc.

• Find **Control Vocabulary:** Geography-Philosophy (Library Congress Subject Heading)

• Combine your search terms using **Boolean Logic** (AND, OR, NOT)
Searching Concepts (Boolean Logic)

AND

“Urban Geography” AND “migration” AND “thoughts”

“geographical perspectives”

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

“population migration” NOT “Animal migration”

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

- http://infoguides.gmu.edu/maps/cite
- http://infoguides.gmu.edu/geog/cite
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.)

[Ref call number, G 1000--] ** Each atlas includes explanations and some statistics.
Geospatial Data Resources

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

• Other data (Census Demographics and by topics): [https://dsc.gmu.edu/data/](https://dsc.gmu.edu/data/)
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

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

Geography Liaison Librarian:

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