



LIBRARY SEARCH STRATEGIES EXERCISE

There are many ways to search for information— everything from "trace the Wikipedia footnotes and references" through "check the references in a Google Books text" to "look up the references you find in an article on the topic" to ProQuest to whatever system of forward referencing our school now offers. All of you know some of them, but few of them know them all. This exercise is designed to expand your skills.

Use from 5 to 10 different search strategies to locate scholarly literature on your research topic. Do not include popular magazines, chat sites, newspapers, or miscellaneous Internet rants. Find information relevant to your research topic in journals, books, and other work by serious scholars. **For each, provide the following information:**

1. Identify your strategy (Strategy Name and description; make up a Strategy Name if it doesn't have one)
2. Provide a full academic citation for the source you found using this strategy. using the style appropriate to your intellectual discipline.
 - a. For example: Sociology uses ASA or Chicago author-date; Anthropology uses AAA; Psychology uses APA; Environmental Studies uses CSE, ACS, and sometimes Chicago author-date; Public Policy uses ASPA; etc.
 - b. There is a guide with details on our Moodle site, on the "Other Resources" page: The links there indicate how to cite web pages in each style.
3. Provide a brief but clear description of what discoveries this source reports. What data was collected and how was it analyzed? How does this source improve your knowledge of your topic?
4. Tell how you determined that this source was credible and scholarly.
5. Identify what kind of literature the source is:
 - a. Primary literature reports original empirical findings or provides original theory on your topic.
 - b. Secondary literature summarizes and discusses findings from the primary literature. Secondary literature generally appears in books or peer-reviewed journals.
 - c. Tertiary literature also summarizes and discusses findings from the primary literature, but generally appears in in a reputable science magazine, website (e.g., EPA, NOAA) or science news website.

Tell how you know which one of these classes of sources your source is.

6. Tell what you learned from this literature search strategy that you didn't know before.

TEN good strategies, well done, earns you an "A"; EIGHT good strategies, well done, earns you at most a "B"; FIVE good strategies, well done, earns you at most a "C". It takes at least five good strategies, well done, to pass.

NOTE: searching online journal indexes is just one strategy. For example, you can't treat searching ProQuest and searching JSTOR as two separate strategies, even though they are something different.

On the other hand, searching online journals and searching physical journals does count as two strategies, because the latter lets you skim an issue's Table of Contents— bringing you face to face with articles that an online search would not automatically reveal.