Developing an Effective Search Strategy

Library’s Website ➔ library.savannahstate.edu

Helpful Research Guide ➔ savannahstate.libguides.com/fye
By the end of the class, you will be able to:

- Recognize the value and difference between popular and scholarly sources.
- Develop and modify keywords that describe an information need in order to search with maximum flexibility and effectiveness.
- Construct search strategies using appropriate commands for the information retrieval system selected (e.g., Boolean operators, truncation, and proximity for search engines)
- Access the library’s research databases (GALILEO) in accordance with institutional policies.
Popular Sources

- Magazine Articles
- Newspaper Articles
- Blog Posts
- News Posts
- Webpages
Scholarly Sources

- **Books**
  Often “Secondary” Sources. Review of papers, anthology of readings, syntheses of other work.

- **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**
  Often “Primary” Sources. Actual Research. “Meat and Potatoes”
What is a peer-reviewed journal article?

Original research, theory, analysis or other scholarly activity that has been reviewed by a knowledgeable expert to determine if information is objective and credible before publication.

“Scholarly” or Refereed or Juried
How does a scholarly source differ from a popular (general) source?
Appearance

- Colorful Pictures
- Advertisements
- Glossy Paper
- Shorter

- Dull
- Mostly Text
- Charts and Tables
- Longer
Audience

- General
- Broad
- By Specialists for Specialists
- Narrower Audience

Image Credits: Available in Notes
Language

- Simple, elementary language
- Technical language
- Disciplinary terms
- Assumes college education
Sources

- Rare Documentation
- Vague or indirect
- Extensive Documentation
- Complete list of References or Works Cited

Image Credits: Available in Notes
Content

- Entertainment
- Current Events
- Opinion
- Not original

- Objective Analysis
- Original Research (Articles)
How do we find ‘em?
It’s a multi-step process!!!!

1. Formulate a **scholarly** research question/topic
2. Identify key search terms and phrases
3. Use search techniques to broaden and narrow search
4. Identify appropriate information
Formulate a **scholarly research question/topic**

Mentoring…… and?

- What do you want to know about mentoring? Why?
- What type of people?
- What type of setting?

**DO THIS NOW ➔** Write a more sophisticated research topic or question in the top line of your paper
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Mentoring

- Counseling/Counsellor
- Coaching/Coach
- Advising/Advisor
- Guidance

University
Higher Education
Academia

College Students

- Undergraduates
- Graduates
- Young Adults
- Teens

DO THIS NOW → Write TWO – THREE keywords in the shaded gray box. What are some similar terms and phrases for those words?
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**Never** use sentence structure, such as your research question or thesis statement.

A **keyword** is a word used to search library catalogs (**GIL-Find, GIL-Find Universal**), article databases (**GALILEO**), and web search engines (**Google Scholar**) in order to locate results that match that word in a specified part or in any part of the item, such as the title or in the full text.
Identify Keywords

Subject Dictionaries

Research Question/Thesis Statement

Subject Encyclopedias

General Thesaurus/Dictionary

Subject Headings

Wikipedia

DO THIS NOW ➔ Fill in the rest of your chart with additional keywords!
Where and How do we find ‘em?
Where and How do we find ‘em?
• GALILEO
  ◦ Galileo Discover
  ◦ PSYCHINFO
  ◦ Psychology Journals (ProQuest)
  ◦ And others!
Now you try…

Complete the remainder of the worksheet. This will be collected at the end of class!

Use the keywords developed in this class and the various search techniques to create sophisticated search queries.

Use the LibGuide to help you!