Library Resources and Research Techniques for Spanish 328A

Learning Outcomes: By the end of your library class you will be able to locate books and articles on your topic using the library catalog and periodical databases. You will also be familiar with subject-related encyclopedias.

Tips to Make Your Research Go Faster, Easier . . . and Better)

- Start with the Library’s research guides
  - Go to the Library’s home page: http://libraries.umw.edu
  - Under “Research” click on “Subject Guides”
  - Click on “Modern Foreign Languages” from the menu in the left column
- Remember that you can combine terms in the Library’s catalog while looking for books
- Use the databases in the subject guides to find magazine and journal articles
- Consult the Journal Finder for online full-text holdings of periodicals
  - From the Library’s home page, click on “Journal Finder” under “Research”
- Analyze the bibliographies and end / footnotes that authors consider significant to their research
- Take advantage of the UMW help guide on Citing Resources
  - Go to the Library’s home page: http://libraries.umw.edu
  - Under “Research” click on “Subject Guides”
  - Click on “Citing Resources” from the menu in the right column

Subject Encyclopedias and Other Reference Works

- Define and narrow your topic; provide background material.
- Provide lists of other significant resources (that is, bibliographies).
- See UMW Libraries Modern Foreign Languages subject guide for a list of some useful titles. A few works in the Reference Collection related to literary studies include:
  - Dictionary of Literary Biography, vols. 113 and 145, Modern Latin-American Fiction Writers (REFB PN 501 .D5x); also available online as part of Literature Resources from Gale.
  - Hispanic Literature Criticism (REFB PQ 7081 .A1 H573)
  - Literary Cultures of Latin America (REFB PQ 7081 L525 2004)
  - Notable Latino Writers (REFB PS 153 .H56 N68 2006)
  - Poetry Criticism (REFB PN 1010 .P62). Note: Has cumulative indexes.
  - Short Story Criticism (REFB PN 3373 .S56). Note: Has cumulative indexes.
  - Spanish American Authors: The Twentieth Century (REFB PQ 7081.3 .F57 1992)
  - World Literature and Its Times: Latin American Literature and Its Times (REFB PQ 7081 .M625 1999)
  - World Literature in Spanish: An Encyclopedia (REFB PQ 6006 .W67)

(over)
Online Periodical Databases

Here are just a few of the many databases to which the libraries subscribe. Links to them and other resources that provide abstracts of articles (summaries) and full-text articles are available in the “Locating Articles” section of the UMW Libraries Modern Foreign Languages subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/mfl). For an alphabetical list of databases, go to the UMW Libraries home page (http://libraries.umw.edu) and click on “Databases A – Z” under “Research.” If you need discipline-specific resources, click on “Subject Guides.”

Academic Search Complete (coverage varies; as far back as the 1880s to date)
- Includes thousands of full-text academic journals, periodicals, books, and reports in a wide variety of disciplines.
- Can click on “Choose Databases” to add additional databases, such as Historical Abstracts; Humanities Full Text; Humanities and Social Sciences Retrospective, 1907-1984; Humanities International Complete; MasterFILE Premier; and OmniFile Full Text Mega.

Literature Criticism Online (coverage varies)
- Provides “centuries of critiques on authors and their works that span all time periods, types of literature, and regions.”
- Includes criticism on poetry, drama, short stories, children’s literature, Shakespeare, the classical and medieval eras, and works published from 1400-1800 and 1800 to 1900.

MLA International Bibliography (1926 to date)
- The leading annual bibliography of books and articles on literature, languages, folklore, linguistics, and related topics.
- Includes easy-to-browse thesaurus and list of subject headings.

Literature Resources from Gale (coverage varies)
- A full-text resource offering biographical and bibliographical information on living and deceased worldwide authors and their works.
- An advanced search enables users to construct searches using a variety of criteria.
  - For a title of a work, use “Name of Work” from the drop-down menu.
  - For an author, use “Person by and About” from the drop-down menu (not “Author,” which refers to the author of the criticism).
  - To add a word or phrase to focus your search, use “Keyword” from drop-down menu.

Database Search Tips
- Use subject headings to focus your search.
- If a thesaurus is available, use it to find subject headings (as well as synonyms, which you can use in an OR search).
- Use quotation marks to search for an exact phrase (e.g., “American hard-boiled detective fiction”).
- Use AND to narrow your search (e.g., Shakespeare and Hamlet).
- Use OR to broaden your search (e.g., crime fiction or detective fiction).
- Use truncation (*) to obtain all words beginning with your keyword (e.g., philosoph* will retrieve works with philosophy or philosophical in them).
- Click on the full-text link (such as “Locate Journal Article”) to see if a periodical article not full text is available in another database or is in the Library’s collection.

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4/2014