Library Resources and Research Techniques for Spanish 375B

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. Note appropriate subject headings (controlled vocabulary terms that describe your topic).
- 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

Evaluating and Citing Your Resources

- Evaluate your print and online resources by CRAAP (Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, and Purpose)
  - Go to the Library’s home page: http://libraries.umw.edu
  - Under “Research” click on “Subject Guides”
  - Click on “Evaluating Information” from the menu in the right column
- 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. Why cite? Citing your sources
    - Supports your claims and helps readers understand your viewpoints.
    - Shows readers how you arrived at your positions on issues.
    - Gives credit to the authors whose works you use.
    - Helps your readers find other works on the same topic.
    - Allows your readers to check your sources if they have any questions.

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 *Humanities International Complete, Humanities Full Text, Humanities and Social Sciences Retrospective, MasterFile Premier, OmniFile Full Text*, and *Women’s Studies International*.

**Artemis Literary Sources** (coverage varies)
- A full-text resource offering biographical and bibliographical information on living and deceased worldwide authors, artists, and their works.
- An advanced search enables users to construct searches using a variety of criteria.
  - For an artist, use “Person by and About” from the drop-down menu.
  - Scroll down or see left column for “content types” (biographies, criticism, topic and work overviews, etc. Watch for the Dictionary of Literary Biography).
  - To add a word or phrase to focus your search, use “Keyword” or “Entire Document” from drop-down menu.

**JSTOR** (1800s to the last 1-5 years)
- A full-text collection of scholarly journals in a wide variety of disciplines.
- Use Basic Search to search journal content in all disciplines.
- Use the Advanced Search to limit and focus your search

**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.

**Quest: The EBSCO Discovery Service**
- A new search tool that allows users to find print and online resources through a single interface.
- Locates books, e-books, articles from journals / magazines / newspapers, DVDs, and much more—all with just one search.

**Project Muse** (coverage varies; mostly 1995 to date)
- Provides online access to more than 400 scholarly journals in the humanities, arts, and social sciences.
- Users can “browse subject headings for articles” or search using keywords in an “advanced article search.”

**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.