Library Resources and Research Techniques for Spanish 365

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.

Research and Subject Guides

- Start with the Library’s research guides
  - Go to the Library’s home page: http://libraries.umw.edu
  - Under “Get Help” at right click on “Research Guides”
  - Click on “Modern Foreign Languages” from the menu in the left column
  - Also click on “Citing Resources” from the menu in the right column.
- Use the databases in the subject guide to find magazine and journal articles

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 web page for a list of some useful titles, including World Literature in Spanish: An Encyclopedia (REFB PQ 6006 .W67 2011).

Research Tips

- Remember that you can combine terms in the Library’s catalog while looking for books on your topic
- Use subject headings to focus your 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., immigra* will retrieve works with immigrant, immigration, immigrating, or immigrated in them).
- Click on the full-text link (such as “Check for full text”) to see if a periodical article not full text is available in another database or is in the Library’s collection.
- Consult the Journal Finder for online full-text holdings of periodicals
  - From the Library’s home page, click on “Find a journal” under “How Do I?”

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Online Periodical Databases

The following list includes 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).

From the Library’s home page:

Quest: The EBSCO Discovery Service
- A UMW 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.
- Can refine search by using resources in the left column and by clicking on “Advanced Search” at the top.

Covered in Quest are:

Academic Search Complete (coverage varies; as far back as the 1880s to date)
- Includes thousands of full-text academic journals and periodicals in a wide variety of disciplines.
- Can click on “Choose Databases” to add additional databases, such as America: History and Life; Historical Abstracts; Humanities Full Text; Humanities International Complete; Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective, 1907-1984; MasterFILE Premier; OmniFile Full Text Mega; 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 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.
    - Scroll down or see left column for “content types” (biographies, literature criticism, topic and work overviews, etc.).
  - To add a word or phrase to focus your search, use “Keyword” 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 the “Advanced Search” to limit and focus your search.

Not covered in Quest is:

MLA International Bibliography (1926 to date)
- The leading annual bibliography of books and articles on literature, languages, folklore, and related topics.