Library Resources and Research Techniques for Religion 278

Learning Outcomes: By the end of your library classes 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 religion-related encyclopedias.

Finding 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 “Religion” from the menu
  - See also the “Citing Resources” guide from the “All Guides” section (after clicking on “Research Guides”)

Finding Background Material (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 Religion subject guide for a list of some useful titles. A few subject encyclopedias and other works in the Reference Collection include:

Finding Books (click on “Catalog” from Library home page, http://libraries.umw.edu)

- Find books by author (last name first), title, and subject headings (Browse Search).
- Find books through keyword searching (Advanced Search)
  - Keywords: Words or phrases located anywhere in a record.
  - Useful for combining terms or when you are unsure of correct terms.
- Books are shelved by call number: A – L (third floor) and M – Z (second floor).
- Reference books are on the first floor near the Reference Desk.

Finding Articles (click on “Locating Articles” on the subject guide, http://libguides.umw.edu/relg)

- Links to religion-related databases and other resources that provide abstracts of articles (summaries) and full-text articles are available in the “Locating Articles” section of the UMW Libraries Religion subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/relg).
- Consult the Journal Finder for online full-text holdings of periodicals
  - From the Library’s home page, click on “Find a Journal” in the “How Do I?” column at the right or click on “Journals” on the blue tabs at the top.
Finding Books, e-books, and Articles (click on “Quest” from Library home page, http://libraries.umw.edu/)

**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. (Note: Not all of the Library’s databases are covered in the Quest search.)
- 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.

**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, Humanities International Complete, Humanities Full Text, Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective, 1907-1984; MasterFILE Premier, OmniFile Full Text Mega, ATLA Religion Database, and Religion and Philosophy Collection.*

**America: History and Life** (1964 to date)
- Covers United States and Canadian history from earliest times to the present.
- Furnishes abstracts (summaries) of articles and full-text works from 2,000 journals.

**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:**

**ProQuest Historical Newspapers** (coverage varies)
- Provides full-text and full-image articles for the *New York Times* (1851 to 2008) the *Washington Post* (1877 to 1995), and the *Chicago Tribune* (1849-1988).

**Database Search Tips**

- Use subject headings to focus your search.
- Use quotation marks to search for an exact phrase (e.g., “Civilian employees in law enforcement”).
- Use AND to narrow your search (e.g., Civil War and diaries).
- Use OR to broaden your search (e.g., films or motion pictures or movies).
- Use truncation (*) to obtain all words beginning with your keyword (e.g., immigra* will retrieve works with immigration, immigrating, or immigrant in them).

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