Library Resources for Spanish 413: Advanced Writing

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 literary encyclopedias.

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

- Start with the Library’s research guides (called LibGuides)
  - 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.
- 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 useful subject encyclopedias and other works in the Reference Collection include:
  - Archaeology of Ancient Mexico and Central America: An Encyclopedia (REFB F 1218.6 .A73 2001)
  - The Oxford Encyclopedia of Mesoamerican Cultures: The Civilizations of Mexico and Central America (REFB F 1218.6 .O95 2001)
  - World Literature and Its Times: Latin American Literature and Its Times (REFB PQ 7081 .M625 1999)
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/muhl). 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)
- Provides abstracts of articles (summaries), and full-text articles from more than 10,000 books, journals, magazines, newspapers, and reference works on a wide variety of topics.
- Can click on “Choose Databases” to add additional databases.
- Click on “Locate Journal Article” to see if a periodical article not full text is available in another database or is in the library’s collection.

**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.

**Ethnic NewsWatch** (1960 to date).
- Supplies full-text articles from newspapers and periodicals of the ethnic, minority, and native press.

**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

**Database Search Tips**

- Use subject headings to focus your search
- Use the thesaurus (if available) 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 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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