Library Resources and Research Techniques for History 298

Databases: Provide access to published material in magazines, journals, newspapers, and other sources. The UMW Library subscribes to these databases and they are part of the “Deep Web,” as opposed to the “Surface Web” or “Free Web.”

Finding the History and American Studies Subject Guides

- Click on “Guides” in the blue tab on the Library home page, http://libraries.umw.edu, or click on “Research Guides” in the “Get Help” section.
  - Click on “History and American Studies” (http://libguides.umw.edu/histamst).

Finding Subject Encyclopedias and Other Reference Works

- Define and narrow your topic; provide background material and bibliographies.
- See UMW Libraries History and American Studies subject guide for some useful titles.
- Watch for the subject heading subdivisions of “encyclopedias” and / or “dictionaries.”

Finding Books

- Find books by author (last name first), title, subject headings (approved words and phrases that describe a topic), or just by typing words “anywhere.”
- 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

Links to history-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 History and American Studies subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/histamst). A good all-purpose database is:

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.
- Important: Can click on “Choose Databases” to add additional databases, such as America: History and Life, Historical Abstracts, Humanities Full Text, Humanities International Complete, and Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective, 1907-1984.
- Can also choose all the databases that are provided by this particular publisher.

Finding Books and Articles

Quest
- A search tool that allows users to find print and online resources at UMW Libraries through a single interface.
- Click on “Quest” from Library home page, http://libraries.umw.edu.
- A search in Quest will locate:
  - Books, e-books, articles, DVDs, and much more.
Finding Primary Sources

A. Notes and Bibliographies

- Researchers often utilize—and cite—original resource material when writing their secondary works. Consult the bibliographies / notes in these books and articles.

B. Books

- Primary resources are often collected and reprinted as entire books. For example:
  - The Journals of Patrick Gass: Member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition
  - Lakota Noon : The Indian Narrative of Custer’s Defeat
  - Forbidden Diary: A Record of Wartime Internment, 1941-1945
  - Tokens of Affection: The Letters of a Planter’s Daughter in the Old South
  - Woodrow Wilson: An Intimate Memoir
  - The Russian Menace to Europe: A Collection of Articles, Speeches, Letters, and News Dispatches

- How do you find collections of primary sources such as these? A subject heading in the Library’s online catalog with the subdivision “sources” indicates primary sources on that subject (e.g., “West (U.S.)—History—Sources.”
  - Using a keyword search, combine your topic with “sources”
  - For first-person accounts, try “personal narratives”
  - Another term is “interviews”
  - With people’s names, you can use “diaries” and correspondence”
    - You can also try just looking up a person’s name as a subject heading. “Lewis, Meriwether” brings up The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

C. Newspapers

- Contemporary articles can be found in newspapers. See the UMW Libraries’ guide to finding newspaper articles (http://libguides.umw.edu/newspapers). This newspaper resource is also linked on the “Finding Articles” and “Uncovering Primary Sources” tabs of the History and American Studies subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/histamst).

D. Online Resources

- See the dozens of resources listed in the “Uncovering Primary Sources” tab on the UMW Libraries History and American Studies subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/histamst).

Reviewing Your Research

- See the “Reviewing Your Research” tab on the UMW Libraries History and American Studies subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/histamst).

Citing Your Sources

- Provides links to guides to specific citation styles.
- Remember to check your citations using the UMW citation guides!

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