Library Resources and Research Techniques for Religion 250

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.

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 Religion Subject Guide

- 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 “Religion” (http://libguides.umw.edu/relg).

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:
  - Contemporary Black Biography, 18 vols. (REFB E 185.96 .C66)
  - Encyclopedia of African and African-American Religions (REFB BL 2462.5 .E53 2001)
- 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.”
- Try a Browse Search. For example:
  - Evangelicalism—United States
- 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.

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Finding Articles

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). A good all-purpose database is:

Academic Search Complete (coverage varies; as far back as the 1880s to date)
- Includes hundreds 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.
- 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 Biographical Material

Biography and Genealogy Master Index
- An index to millions of biographical sketches in hundreds of biographical sources.
- You 1) look up your name, 2) note the various titles that contain information on your person, and 3) use the library catalog to locate the reference works.

Finding Primary Sources

- See the “Uncovering Primary Sources” tab of the History and American Studies subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/histamst).
- See also 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.
  - Includes Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers (1836-1922)
    http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
  - Includes 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).

Citing Your Sources

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