Library Resources and Research Techniques for GERM 311

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 Modern Foreign Language 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 “Modern Foreign Languages” from the menu (http://libguides.umw.edu/mfl).

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 Modern Foreign Languages web page for a list of some useful titles, including:
  - The multi-volume Dictionary of Literary Biography (call number REFB PN 501 .D5x) offers critical essays on authors of all types of literary works from all eras. (The last volume has an index to the set, and the essays are also available online through the Gale Literary Sources database.)

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:
  - German drama
  - German fiction
  - German literature
- 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 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 Modern Foreign Languages subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/mfl). For example, see:

  **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 *Humanities Full Text, Humanities International Complete, Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective, 1907-1984; MasterFILE Premier*, and *OmniFile Full Text Mega*.
  - Can also choose *all* the databases that are provided by this particular publisher.

  **Gale 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 or About” from the drop-down menu.
    - Scroll down or see right column for “content types” (biographies, literature criticism, topic and work overviews, etc.).
    - You can add a word or phrase to focus your search.

  **MLA International Bibliography** (1926 to date)
  - The leading annual bibliography of books and articles on literature, languages, folklore, and related topics.
  - Includes easy-to-browse thesaurus and list of subject headings.

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.

Reviewing Your Research

- See the “Reviewing Your Research” tab on the UMW Libraries Modern Foreign Languages subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/mfl).

Citing Your Sources

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