Library Resources and Research Techniques for American Studies 201

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 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 “History and American Studies” (http://libguides.umw.edu/histamst).

Finding 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 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.”
- Try a Browse Search. For example:
  - Discrimination in Sports—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 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.

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!