Library Resources and Research Techniques for English 474

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 subject-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 English 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 “English” (http://libguides.umw.edu/engl).

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 English web page for a list of some useful titles. A few subject encyclopedias and other works related to English literature and John Milton include:
  - British Writers, vol. 2 (REFB PR 85 .B688 v. 2)
  - British Writers, Retrospective Supp. II (REFB PR 85 .B688 Retro. Suppl. v. 2)
  - Magill’s Survey of World Literature, vol. 4 (REFB PN 523 .M29 1993 v.4)
  - A Milton Encyclopedia (PR 3580 .M5). In circulating collection on Library’s second floor
  - World Poets, vol. 2 (REFB PN 1021 .W67 2000 v.2)

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:
  - Milton, John
  - Fall of man
- 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 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 English subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/engl). 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 English subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/engl).

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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