Library Resources and Research Techniques for DGST 101

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 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).
- Some excellent works that furnish both research ideas and bibliographies include:
  - *American Decades* (org. by decades; each vol. cataloged separately, but see REFB E 169.12)
  - *This Fabulous Century* (volumes organized chronologically; REFB E 161 .T55)
  - *The Twenties in America, The Thirties in America, The Fifties in America; The Sixties in America, The Seventies in America, The Eighties in America; The Nineties in America, The 2000s in America* (you need to look up call numbers as each title is cataloged separately)

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:
  - Video games
- 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 historical databases and other resources that provide abstracts of articles (summaries) and full-text articles are available on the UMW Libraries home page. 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, Humanities Full Text, Humanities International Complete, Humanities and Social Sciences Index Retrospective, 1907-1984*, and *Newspaper Source Plus*.
- Can also choose *all* the databases that are provided by this particular publisher.

*America: History and Life* (1964 to date)
- Covers United States and Canadian history from earliest times to the present.
- Furnishes abstracts (summaries) of articles and full-text works from 2,000 journals.
- Can limit by historical period.

*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).

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](http://libraries.umw.edu).
- A search in Quest will locate:
  - Books, e-books, articles, DVDs, and much more.

Citing Your Sources

- Click on “Cite Sources” in the “How Do I?” section on the Library home page, [http://libraries.umw.edu](http://libraries.umw.edu).
- Provides links to guides to specific citation styles.
- Remember to check your citations using the UMW citation guides!