Links

(Includes Literature tab)

Citation LibGuide: [http://csueastbay.libguides.com/citation](http://csueastbay.libguides.com/citation)
(Includes Tutorials, Videos, and Helpful Websites tab and Zotero tab)

Topics

- Research is a process—spiral, not linear
- Track your process
  - Date
  - Search engine or platform(s)
  - Search terms
  - # of results
  - List what you think will work and what will not, using citation format from the start. This enables you
    - to go back to where you found the result or to the full text
    - to build your bibliography as you go along
- Search
  - Try the databases on the Literature tab of the library guide
  - Try Google Scholar (but be aware that the results may not always lead you to the features of the databases that give you “extras,” like descriptors or a citation)
  - KEY POINT: You are looking for relevant information, but you are also looking for “clues” to other relevant information
- Tips
  - Start with terms from your titles, focusing on verbs and nouns. English literature is particularly helpful because you have authors’ names and the titles of their works. If you find nothing or you don’t think you’re “close” enough,
    - try synonyms, e.g., instead of “greed,” try “avarice”
    - try alternate approaches, e.g., instead of “deadly sins,” try individual sins
    - remove the least important term from your search string and see what you get
    - split your topic in two and search for each part of your topic
  - If you find good results
    - look at the record and see if there are “subject headings” (library catalog) or “descriptors,” which are different from “keywords”
• read any abstract provided to verify usefulness and select other search terms you might try
• grab the citation for your tracking and bibliography

Read
  o Take notes
  o Highlight, but ONLY if you have your own copy
  o Begin “winnowing” and “refining”
  o Adjust your “Works Cited” as you go along

Citation

Libguide for citation: http://csueastbay.libguides.com/citation

• Modern Citation Process
  o Bibliographic information enables you to identify a specific item
  o Access information enables you to find and re-find a specific item
  o Today, you need both
  o Also useful, although not required in MLA, 8th ed., is the DOI, the Digital Object Identifier that appears on articles. It ensures that you have the exact item.

• Use provided citations as “starters,” but verify.
  o Starter sources
    ▪ Database entries
    ▪ WorldCat, http://www.worldcat.org (for bibliographic information only; be sure you have the same edition as the item you are viewing)
    ▪ Note: There are few starter sources for web pages
  o Verify
    ▪ MLA, 8th ed. Housed behind the reference desk. As an English major, you may want to buy a copy for yourself. Cost: $12 (paperback). Link: https://www.mla.org/Publications/Bookstore/Nonseries/MLAHANDBOOK-EIGHTH-EDITION
    ▪ Try Zotero (use on Firefox platform)
      ▪ Allows you to “capture” your research
      ▪ Stores your information by folder/project
      ▪ formats your data in the style you want

Help

• reference desk
• chat, IM, email, telephone
• individual research sessions by appointment: aline.soules@csueastbay.edu