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English 6503

Links for your projects

Exploratory Essay suggested number of sources: 7-10
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/728/02/

Literature Review suggested number of sources: 7-10
http://library.csueastbay.edu/c.php?g=371925&p=2514947

This handout:
https://csueastbay.libapps.com/libguides/admin_c.php?g=371845&p=2515073

Library Basics

Library Home page: http://library.csueastbay.edu

Help with research:

- in person at the reference desk (hours at upper right)
- 24/7 chat (click the “24/7 chat” link; then “Go to 24/7 Chat”)
- phone (click “phone” and choose your number; there’s also a link to “Call your subject librarian directly” where you can scroll down and find my number; however, it’s best to email if you want me directly)
Center “Search Box” with One Search, Books, Articles, Subject Guides

One Search
- Enter any search term and get many results (rather like Google)
  - Useful if you look for something specific
  - Not always as useful if you have a general subject search
  - **Note:** One search contains many, even the majority, of our resources, but it doesn’t yet contain all of them. “One” search is somewhat misleading.

Books
- Library catalog search
- Includes print books, e-books, government documents, juvenile books, reference books, some media (other media comes from database searches), and a few journals (if they are in print format or both print and e-format—most are in the databases)

Articles
- Search of many databases at once (not all at this point in time)

Subject guides tab gives links to:
- all disciplines by department (TESOL is part of the English subject guide; there’s a separate tab for TESOL)
- “Browse All Subject Guides,” which includes other guides, e.g., Citation and Plagiarism

Key “Quick Links” for your projects

Databases A-Z
- Allows you to select the databases you want to search and use their more sophisticated platforms, which, once you know them, can be easier to follow and can give you more targeted results.
- If the databases you want to search are on the same platform, you can search them together, although you lose some of the specialty limiters that each one offers separately.

You’ve been given a list of suggested databases in your handout from Dr. Nielsen. Some updates about the list:
- Academic Search Premier is now Academic Search Complete and more comprehensive than the previous version.
- PsycInfo is one Psych database. PsycArticles is also available.
- Project MUSE and JSTOR are great databases but they have a 3-5 year embargo period. You can search the other databases and if the full text is in Project MUSE or JSTOR, the “find text” feature will identify that and take you to the article you choose. It’s often best to search the other databases first.

Interlibrary Loan (ILL)
- While you can use ILL from our home page, you can also use it as part of your search process after you’ve identified the item(s) you want.
- You may request up to 10 items at a time.
- The first time you use ILL, you will be asked to complete a profile in order for our library system to link to ILLiad, our ILL system. You must use your Horizon email account.
Journal Search
- This enables you to find out if we carry a specific journal and links to the database(s) in which the journal is indexed.

Library Account
- You have a library account. You need to sign in (netID and password) to
  - use ILL
  - view what books you’ve checked out
  - place holds on books that are checked out to others, but which you want to borrow yourself
  - request a print book through CSU+
  - use electronic content from home
- If you sign in on a public computer, be sure to sign out before you leave. You don’t want others seeing your record or checking books out in your name.

Principles of Searching
1. You want to gather those materials that are valid and relevant to your project and keep out the “noise,” that is, those items that do not belong.
2. When searching, you are looking for information, but you are also looking for clues—terms or names or organizations that appear in your results and which you can use as search terms to go further.
3. Getting more results is not always helpful. It’s better to get fewer results that are on target than hundreds or more results that contain noise or do not fit with your project. Often, the motto to remember is “less is best.”
4. If you get zero results, don’t panic—manipulate.

Search tips
- Begin with keywords, but be prepared to experiment with subject headings, particularly in the library catalog, but also in the databases. These are “descriptors” and a form of thesaurus that is structured language and can help you with principle #1.
  - If you are in a library catalog, which has large items—a book, a
- Once you’ve identified a set of results, take a quick look at the titles and see if they make sense. If they’re on target, look at the full records.
  - In the library catalog, you’ll see more examples of “tables of contents” to help you determine if the book is what you need. If the book is in e-format, you can open it and look at the “table of contents” or the “index” to evaluate the content
  - In the databases, you’ll see abstracts for most of the titles. These are summaries of the content
- If your results are not really on target, look at the subject headings to see if one of those might “describe” what you’re looking for. If so, click on that (your current search will be lost) and
you’ll see: DE “word or phrase” in the top search box. You can add other keywords in the search boxes below that

- If your results are on target, but you have too many, begin to apply limiters
  - Date range
  - Type of material (scholarly peer reviewed article, for example)
  - Additional keywords or a “hidden” subject heading (e.g., sometimes you want to limit geographically to a country, which doesn’t always enter your thinking right away)

- If you get zero results, remove your least important keyword and see if any results pop up. If not, try synonyms, different terms, some terms you’ve identified in your reading (principle #2)

- If all else fails, get help (reference desk, email to libhelp@csueastbay.edu or aline.soules@csueastbay.edu, or 24/7 chat (if it’s 2 a.m. and you can’t wait)