Researching Across Disciplines

Strategies and Tools Available to HUSL Students

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Planning Your Research Strategy

1. Select your topic
   - Where do you begin your research?

2. Receive Professor feedback
   - What type of resources are available?
   - What are the best strategies to employ on those resources?
Timeline Example

Day 1: Planning
Day 2: Searching
Day 3: Advanced Legal Research
- Multidisciplinary Research
Day 4: Synthesizing
Day 5: Writing

Research Deadline
Suggested Practices: Building a Search Vocabulary

- Identify the who, what, where, when, why, and how
- Brainstorm keywords and phrases
- Think of abstract and concrete concepts
Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.

- Zora Neale Hurston
Suggested Practices: Conducting Background Research

- Search Google for organizations that may have a stake in your topic
- Use the `site:` feature on Google to limit results to U.S. Government websites (.gov) or Academic websites (.edu)
- Refer to Google’s Boolean Logic rules
- Search Google Scholar and use the Versions / Cited By / Related features
Google: “marriage trends” site:.gov
Google: “sex work” AND legalization site:.edu
Google Scholar: Enter a basic search for phrases: “Mark Poster” “Foucault and History”; Click “All Versions” and open the PDF format for full text; Go back and click “Cited By” to expand your research; Go back and click “Related Articles” to expand your research; Allow Google Chrome to “Translate the Page”
Suggested Practices: Tracking and Organizing Research

- Create an annotated bibliography based on the outline of your paper
- Collect bibliographic information in an Excel Spreadsheet
- Use folders and tagging on your computer
Journal Articles

1. SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES:
   a. HeinOnline
   b. JSTOR
   c. EBSCOhost
      i. Academic Search Premier
      ii. PsycARTICLES
      iii. PsycINFO
      iv. SocINDEX with Full Text

Books

1. PRINT BOOKS:
   a. ONLINE CATALOGS:
      i. WRLC Catalog
      ii. WorldCat

2. ELECTRONIC BOOKS:
   a. DATABASES:
      i. Oxford Scholarship Online
      ii. ProQuest ebrary
Suggested Practices:
Subscription Database Searching

- Access HU Libraries A-Z listing of databases
- Locate and use the “Advanced Search” feature
- On search forms select “Full Text” search options
library.howard.edu/library: Select: “Databases”; Select: first letter of the database; Select: database title; Enter: HU username and password (username: first part of HUSL email before @ symbol; password: same as your HUSL email password)
EBSCOhost-Academic Search Premier: Select “Advanced Search”; Define Field: “Text”; Enter Search: “sex inequality”; Define Field: “Subject”; Enter Search: “family”; Select Options, run search, and select post-search filters
JSTOR: Select “Advanced Search”; Define Field: “Full Text”; Enter Search: “intersex”; Define Field: “Full Text”; Enter Search: “gender self-determination”; Pre-Filter: “Articles, Books, and Research Reports”; Pre-Filter: “English”; Run search; Open an article; View references; Download the article
Suggested Practices:

Catalog Searching for Books

WRLC

- Sign in to see full results
- Use the “Advanced Search”
- Use “any field” and “contains” to limit

WorldCat, Oxford Scholarship Online, and ProQuest ebrary

- Use the “Advanced Search”
- Fill in appropriate fields to search for on point books
WRLC Catalog: library.law.howard.edu; Click “Sign In”; Select “Network ID”; Enter: HU username and password (username: first part of HUSL email before @ symbol; password: same as your HUSL email password)
WRLC Catalog: library.law.howard.edu; Click “Catalog”; On the Advanced Search form select “Any field” and “contains”; enter your search **without** Boolean Logic: transgender athletes
Post-search filter: “English”
Data and Statistics

1. SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES:
   a. Statista
   b. Inter-University Consortium for Political & Social Research

2. FREE DATABASES:
   a. UN Dept. of Economics & Social Affairs: Gender Statistics Worldwide
   b. World Bank: Gender Statistics
   c. Database of Transgender Homicides

3. FREE WEBSITES:
   a. Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law: LGBTstats
   b. FBI: Uniform Crime Reporting
      i. Hate Crime
      ii. Human Trafficking
   c. United States Census Bureau: Same Sex Couples
**Statista**: Statistics Drop-Down Menu: “Topic Overview”; Search for Topic: gender inequality; Expand Search by checking off resource types: Statistics, Infographics, Topics, Dossiers, and Additional studies, then click the “Refresh Search” button in the search box.
News and Current Awareness

1. SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES:
   a. Ethnic NewsWatch
   b. Legal News
   c. Newspapers

2. WEBSITES
   a. Howard University: National and International News and Media Resources
   b. UN WomenWatch
Legal News on Lexis: Log into Lexis; Select “Legal News” from the “Content Type” box; Find the publisher of the publication, “ALM Media”; Use Control-F (on a PC) or Command-F (on a Mac) to search the webpage for the title: National Law Journal; Check the coverage information; Click the title to open the publication and search using Boolean Logic: “death behind bars”
Newspapers: library.law.howard.edu/multidisciplinary; Click “News”; Scroll down to the publication of interest and click the title; Enter your search term: incarceration; Apply post-search filters to your results to focus in on a specific time period
Journals, Magazines, & Newsletters: Log into Westlaw; In the “All Content” box click “News”; In the “Browse News” box select “Journals, Magazines, & Newsletters”; In the “Tools & Resources” box select “Individual Publications: A – Z”; Browse for the publication “Social Justice”; Search the publication using Boolean Logic: incarceration
From where I stand: "We are trying to build a drone...to dispense medicines in rural areas"

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Girl child, Science & technology, Ethiopia

Fifteen-year-old Ena Ekanem was among 80 girls from 34 African countries who attended the first Coding Camp in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 24 August 2018. The camp marked the launch the African Girls Can CODE Initiative, a joint programme
1. SUBSCRIPTION ARCHIVES:
   a. Accessible Archives
   b. Archives Unbound

2. SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES:
   a. ProQuest Historical Newspapers
   b. Black Studies Center
   c. Oxford African American Studies Center
   d. EBSCOhost
      i. America: Life & History
Suggested Practices: Website Searching

- Locate and use the “Advanced Search” feature
- On search forms select “Full Text” search options
- Use google.com/advanced_search to run a search over the website’s domain
For Your Reference:

http://library.law.howard.edu/multidisciplinary
Research Consultations

with Ms. Capatosto

Email me to schedule an appointment:

victoria.capatosto@law.howard.edu

Stop by during my office hours:

Mondays, 2:30pm-4:30pm
Need Help with Off-Campus Access?

Contact:

Mr. Happ, Access Services Librarian

jason.happ@law.howard.edu

202.806.8104