Researching Across Disciplines
Strategies and Tools Available to HUSL Students

Victoria Capatosto, Research & Instruction Librarian
January 29, 2019
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?
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

Son

Broader:
- Child

Narrower:
- Brandon

Related:
- Parent
- Guardian

Pregnant

Broader:
- Expecting a baby
- Expecting
- With child

Narrower:
- Parturient
- Gravid

Related:
- Conceive
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:  “Federal Witness Protection Program” site:.gov
Google Scholar: Enter a basic search for phrases: “police questioning” “interview practices” “interrogation room”; Click “Related Articles” to expand your research
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. LAW JOURNALS & REVIEWS
2. 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:
Law Journals & Law Reviews

• Access the specific collection on Lexis, Westlaw, Bloomberg Law, or HeinOnline

• Locate and use the “Advanced Search” feature

• On search forms select “Full Text” search options
Westlaw Edge: Open “Secondary Sources”; Open “Law Reviews & Journals”, then select all; Use Boolean Logic to Search: "prosecutorial discretion" OR "progressive prosecutors"
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”; Enter Search: gender AND “police force”
JSTOR: Select “Advanced Search”; Enter Search: “black men”; Pre-Filter: “Criminology & Criminal Justice” and “Law”; Run search; Search within Results: disproportionate; Post-Filter: 2010-2019
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 “Title” and “contains”: “police culture” OR “police training” OR “law enforcement culture” OR “law enforcement training”
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 click the link to “Journals, Magazines, & Newsletters”; Search the publication using Boolean Logic: “Kamala Harris”
UN Women’s Watch: http://www.unwomen.org/en; Click the search icon; Enter a search string using phrases: “family dispute” “rights of children” “children’s rights”; Review results
Historical Information

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