Research Tips and Hints

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Learning Objectives

- Review research resources
- Review effective strategies for searching and accessing resources from the Web and databases
- Live demo on using library research databases
Research resources

- Books
- Databases of journal articles

[Images of books and database logos]
Did you know........
- information available on the Internet is not regulated for quality or accuracy
- almost anyone can publish anything they want on the Web
- often difficult to determine authorship of Web sources

Why do you need to evaluate information found on the Internet?
even if the author is listed, he or she may not always be represented honestly
the author may represent opinions as fact
Therefore, the responsibility is on the user to evaluate resources effectively

Why do you need to evaluate information found on the Internet?
"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."
Why not Google?

- Anyone can publish anything on the Internet
- Millions and millions of hits
  - Which are accurate and valid?
  - Requires *your* time to evaluate
- Does **not** include information found in library databases of scholarly journals
Some domains are more authoritative than others
  • .edu
  • .gov

Ask yourself
  • Who wrote the information?
  • When was it written?
  • Why was it written?

Will the information I find through Google meet my professor’s requirements for scholarly materials?
No Brainer
Which database to choose?
Databases are key

- Premium online subscription information resources
- Online collections of journal and newspaper articles, information from published works
- Searchable
- Often contain full-text articles
How to start?

- Put the problem in the form of a question
- Search
- Examine your results
- Revise your search question if needed
What is the problem?
“Research something about the Dominican Order, like the Order's educational tradition or history.”

What is the question?
“What are some significant events of the early history of the Dominican Order?”

What are the question’s concepts?
1: Dominican Order 2: history
General Rule

Start big
then
narrow down

Is the reason for 0 results because there is nothing in this database or (more likely) were the wrong words used?
Library Databases

- Academic Search Premier
- ProQuest Central
- Wilson OmniFile FullText Mega

Web Sites

- Virtual Religion Index <virtualreligion.net/vri/>
- Catholic Encyclopedia <www.newadvent.org/cathen/>
- The Dominicans <curia.op.org/en/>
Steps to evaluating Web sites
Avoid Google and other search engines
Review effective strategies for searching and accessing library research resources
On to the live demo!!!
Thank you

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This presentation available online at
http://faculty.msmc.edu/garofalo/presentations.html