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
STARTING LINE
Research resources

• Books

• Databases of journal articles
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
YOU must evaluate what you find on Google...

- 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
- Will the information I find through Google meet my professor’s requirements for scholarly materials?
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
Question-based literature review strategy

What is the problem?
“Public school teachers should be allowed to spank misbehaving students.”

What is the question?
“Should corporal punishment be allowed in public schools to discipline students?”

What are the question’s concepts?
1: corporal punishment
2: public school
3: student behavior
4: discipline
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

Web Sites

- Research Resources for the Social Sciences <www.socsciresearch.com/>
- Intute <www.intute.ac.uk/blog/>
- Social Science Research Network www.ssrn.com/
- Stay Informed guides.lib.umich.edu/stayinformed
• Web sites need to be evaluated
• 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://libraryguides.msmc.edu/garofalo_classes