

Rhetoric & Composition 102
Research Session
Spring 2014
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Library Research Services

- **Research Appointments**
 - Meet with a librarian to discuss research strategies and sources for your papers
- **Interlibrary Loan (ILLiad)**
 - Get books and articles that aren't available at Oberlin

Make a Research Plan

- Determine what kind(s) of information is needed
 - books or articles or films, etc.
 - popular or scholarly or technical
 - primary sources or secondary sources
- Consider who is likely to be producing the information needed
 - scholars
 - journalists
 - professionals in a field
 - fans
- Determine which sources will help you find that information
 - library catalogs
 - databases
 - blogs or other open web sites
- Brainstorm terminology
 - be flexible and creative
 - how many ways can you describe what you are looking for?
- Search and then re-search
 - learn how to revise your search from each set of results

Summon is a library search engine for all subject areas that quickly pulls together all kinds of material – books, articles, videos, images, government reports, data, etc.

It's a great starting point for any topic and a place to dig up hard to find items.

Find Background and Context in Reference Sources

The Library has a wide variety of print and online reference sources in nearly every subject area. These articles are often helpful for finding terminology.

- Oxford Reference
- Gale Virtual Reference Library
- SAGE Knowledge

Find Books (and Other Library Materials) in OBIS and the OhioLINK Library Catalog

When looking for materials by topic be aware of the difference between search options:

- **Subject Heading:** searches for official Library of Congress Subject Headings only
- **Keyword:** searches for words or combinations of words anywhere in a record

Find Articles Using Databases

There is a database for almost every subject area – e.g. education, literature, music, history, religion, biology, etc.

There are databases for finding specific types of articles:

- scholarly journals
- magazines
- newspapers

Find Media Using Databases

Some databases provide access to videos, images, and sound files, e.g.:

- ARTstor
- American History in Video
- Naxos Music Library