



How to do a literature review?

Doing efficient library research

Contents of the presentation

- Creating an efficient search strategy
- Finding journal articles
- A word about bibliographies and citations
- Refworks

Creating an efficient search strategy

Some help guides:

- [How to find articles?](#)
- [Other “How to guides”](#)
- [We even have video tutorials!](#)
- [The Research Guide for Geography](#)

Creating a search strategy step by step

- I. Get familiar with your topic:
 - a. If necessary, use dictionaries and encyclopedias to understand the main concepts and theories in the area
 - b. Define a research question that is not too broad and is realistic.
Discuss it with your professor!

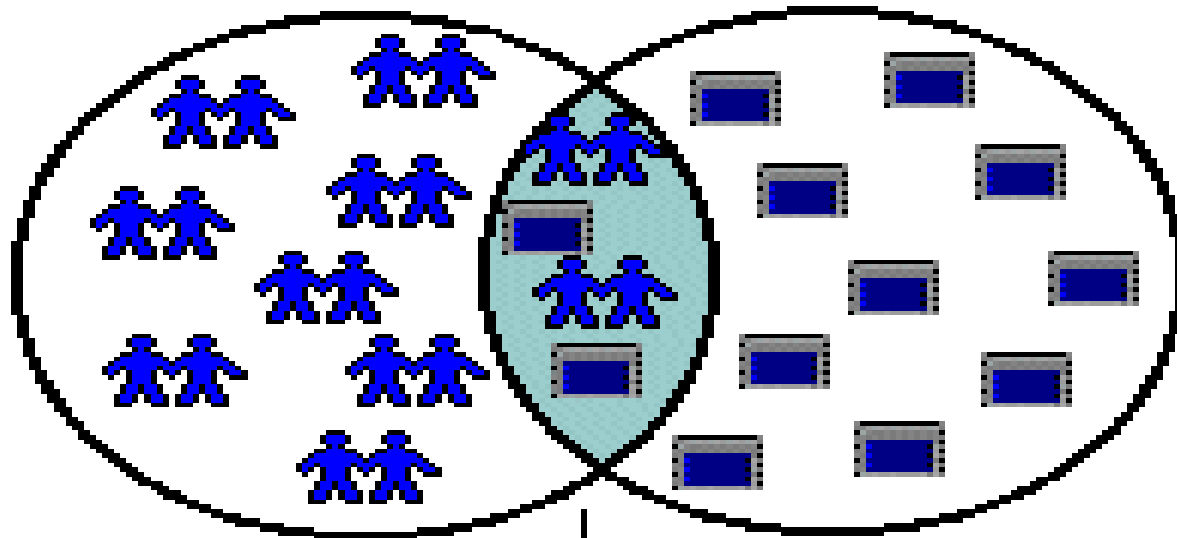
Creating a search strategy step by step

2. Identify your main search keywords
 - a) Each important concept or aspect of your research should have its keyword(s)
 - b) Find synonyms or related terms for each keyword

Boolean operators: **AND**

children

television

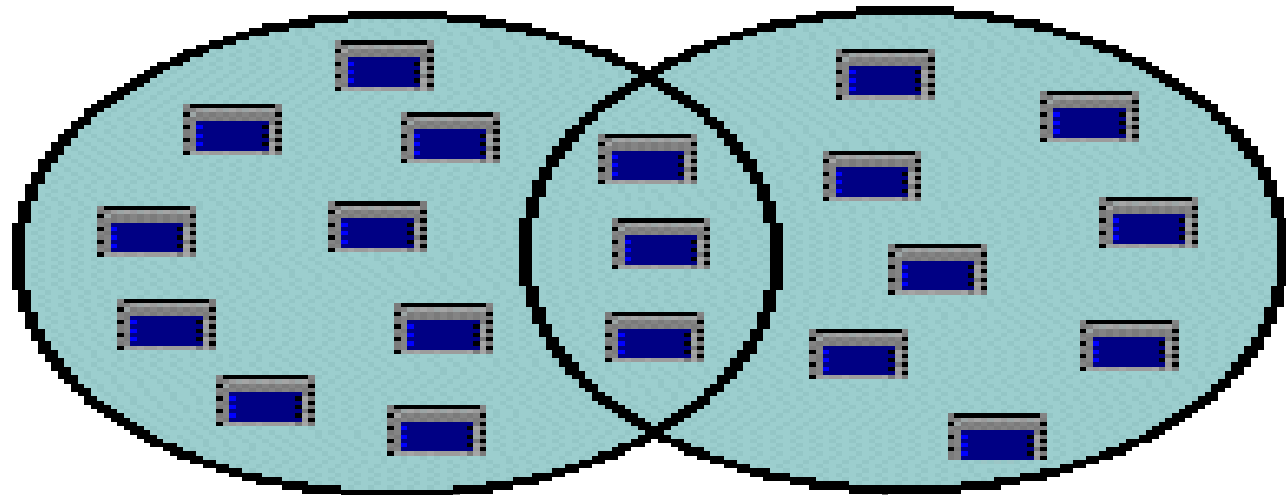


children AND television

Boolean operators: OR

tv

television



tv OR television

Create a search “equation”

AND

AND

Concept 1

Concept 2

Concept 3

River

Quebec

OR

Pollution

OR

Lake

OR

Estrie

OR

Contamination

OR

Stream

Laurentians

Scholarly journal articles

- Articles are sent to a number of academic reviewers (peers) who can either:
 - Accept the paper with minor modifications
 - Accept the paper with major modifications
 - Reject the paper
- These articles address very specific topics
- Most present research results
- They have lengthy reference lists
- They make multiple citations
- Sometimes use footnotes

Bibliographic databases

- You will **not find** articles in CLUES!
- Databases are specialized tools geared at finding articles
- Peer-reviewed articles are rarely available for free online...
- But if you insist, use [Google Scholar](#)!

How to choose a database

- Some databases cover (nearly) all disciplines: **Academic Search Complete**
- Most databases are subject-specific
- You can use the database finder to identify databases relevant to your field
- Or drop by the reference desk!

Selected databases for geography

- All aspects of geography
 - Geobase
 - Academic Search Complete
 - ProQuest Dissertations & Theses --Fulltext
- Physical geography and environmental sciences
 - Biosis Previews (biology-related fields)
 - GreenFILE (environmental sciences)
 - Web of Science
 - SciFinder Scholar (chemistry and related fields)
 - Compendex (environmental engineering)
- Human geography and urban planning
 - Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals
 - Sociological abstracts
 - Social Science Abstracts



GEOBASE DEMO

How to retrieve the fulltext of the article?

Method 1:

Find it! @ Concordia

- Will bring you to the required article immediately
- Easiest method but...
- Does not always work!

Method 2: Journal title search in CLUES

1. Copy the journal title, **not the article title!**
2. Open a CLUES window and choose *Journal Title* from the Search Options menu (top right)
3. Paste the title in the top search box
4. Choose one of the records (one for print format; one for electronic format)
5. If you get “No matches found”, try the search box that says ***Electronic Journals only***

From a citation to the fulltext...

Example:

Kelley, J., De Graaf, N. (1997): National context, parental socialization, and religious belief: results from 15 nations. *Amer. Sociological Rev.* 62: 639-659.

1. Find the complete journal title:
 - a. Caltech Library Services links to ISI (Web of Science) [Journal Title Abbreviation List](#)
 - b. [All that JAS](#) is a good online directory of journal title abbreviation lists
 - c. Can't find it? Consult *Periodical Title Abbreviations* at the **reference desk**
2. Type in American Sociological Review in CLUES (journal title search)
3. Choose the record for “electronic resource”
4. Connect to the fulltext (make sure to choose the appropriate date range)



HANDS-ON EXERCISES

Bibliographies and citations

- You need to make appropriate quotations *and* citations in your papers
- Failure to do this may be considered plagiarism
- Choose a citation style (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.) and stick to it

RefWorks

- **RefWorks** is a bibliographic management tool that can help you with making proper citations and creating bibliographies
- This is only an overview of RefWorks
- For a complete instruction including hands-on exercises attend the [RefWorks: the Bibliography Builder](#) workshop

What is RefWorks?

- Web-based tool that:
 - Facilitates organization of references
 - Is accessible from any Internet connection
 - Simplifies the process of preparing bibliographies
- [Access RefWorks](#) through the Quick Links menu of our Web site

RefWorks

1. Create an account
This will be anywhere accessible via the Net...
as long as you are a Concordia student!
2. Create your database of citations
 1. Export citations from CLUES and databases
 2. Manually enter citations in your database
3. Make references on the fly using *Write-n-Cite*
4. Create a bibliography in any style you choose



REFWORKS DEMO

RefWorks –Help Guides

The following guides are available from the RefWork's page:

- [Export/Import instructions for Databases](#)
- [Basic of RefWork Tutorial](#)
- [Detailed Refworks help pages](#)

QUESTIONS?