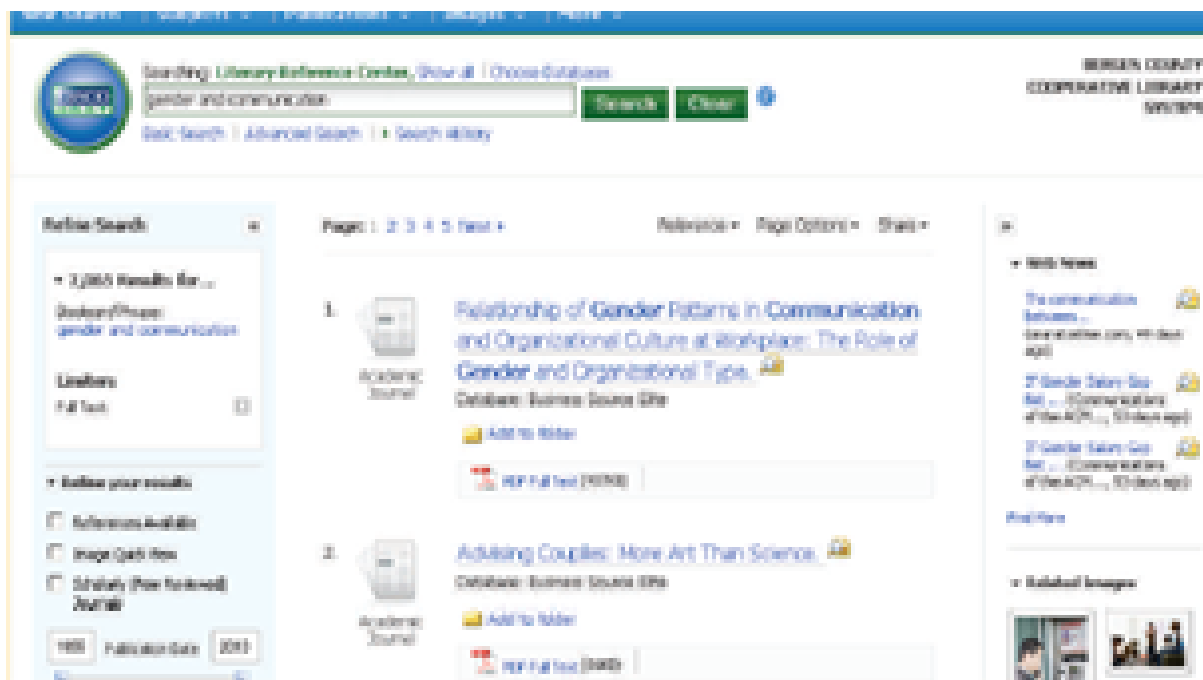# Lesson Proper for Week 8

USING LIBRARY DATABASES

　　Library databases are the most effective way to locate and access scholarly journal articles. If you can, visit your library for a tutorial on using databases. Use the following steps to find articles in databases.

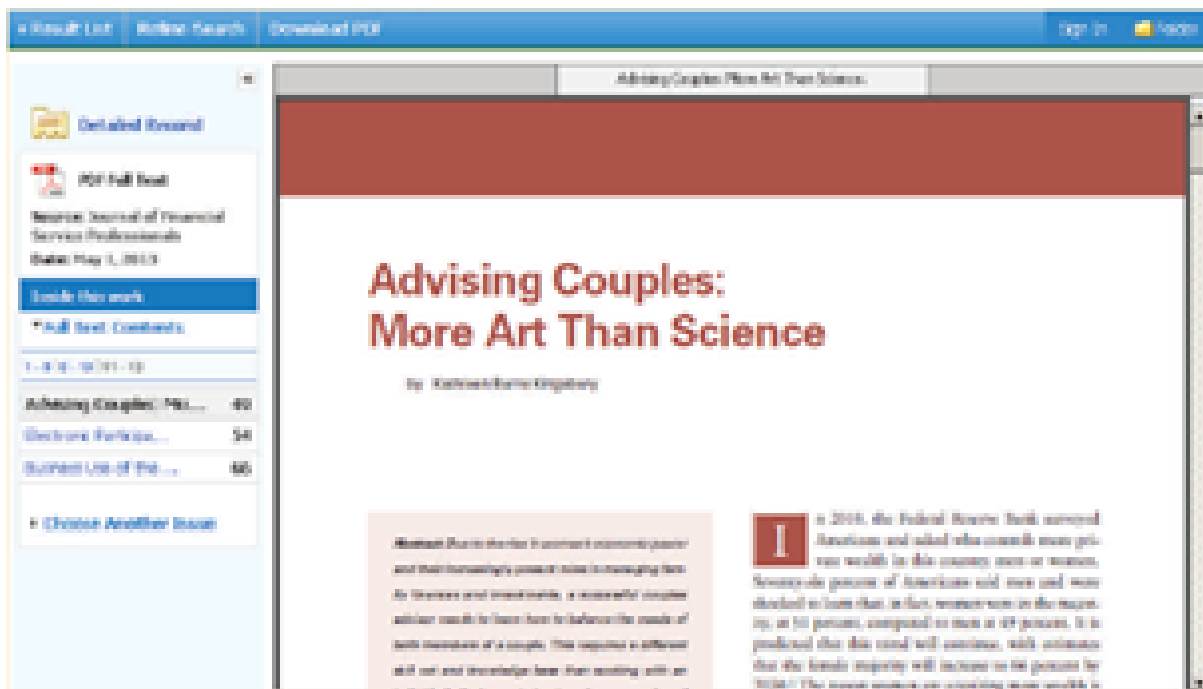　　1. Go to your library home page and find the links to the databases.

Every library's home page is different, but you can usually find a section that will link you to the database collections.

　　2. Select a database and search by keyword for articles on your topic.

A keyword search for "gender and communication" results in a list of articles like the one above. From your results list, you can preview article titles and publication information to select articles that look promising for your topic.

3. Locate the full text of the articles you need.

By clicking on the "PDF Full Text" link on the search results page, you can download the full text of this article. If the full text is not available online, you will need to copy the title and publication information and find the printed article in your library stacks.

Be sure to record the author, title, and publication information for your source, as well as the database you used to retrieve it. You'll need that information later for your works cited page.

Finding Indexes by Topic in the Appendix

The list is organized by topic, so you can find the best references for your field. Shown below are three of the entries for music:

· *Bibliographic Guide to Music.* Boston: Hall, 1976–present. Annually. This reference work provides an excellent subject index to almost every topic in the field of music. It will give you the bibliographic data to several articles on most topics in the field.

· *Music Index.* Warren, MI: Information Coordinators, 1949–date. This reference work indexes music journals such as *American Music Teacher, Choral Journal, Journal of Band Research,* and *Journal of Music Therapy.*

· *RILM Abstracts of Music Literature.* Online and in print. This massive collection provides you with brief descriptions to help you in selecting appropriate works for your bibliography.

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature

The *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature* (online and in print) indexes important reading for the early stages of research in magazines such as:

American Scholar	*Foreign Affairs*	*Psychology Today*
Astronomy	*Health*	*Scientific Review*
Business Week	*Oceans*	*Science Digest*
Earth Science	*Physics Today*	*Technology Review*

Social Sciences Index

The *Social Sciences Index* (online and in print) indexes journal articles for 263 periodicals in these fields:

Anthropology	Geography	Political science
Economics	Law and criminology	Psychology
Environmental science	Medical science	Sociology

Humanities Index

The *Humanities Index* (online and in print) catalogs 260 publications in several fields:

Archeology	Folklore	Performing arts
Classical studies	History	Philosophy
Language and literature	Literary	Religion
Area studies	Political criticism	Theology

Other Indexes

Other indexes of importance include:

- *Applied Science and Technology Index* for articles in chemistry, engineering, computer science, electronics, geology, mathematics, photography, physics, and related fields.
- *Biological and Agricultural Index* for articles in biology, zoology, botany, agriculture, and related fields.
- *Business Periodicals Index* for articles in business, marketing, accounting, advertising, and related fields.
- *Education Index* for articles in education, physical education, and related fields.

Searching for an Index to Abstracts

An abstract is a brief description of an article, usually written by the author. An index to abstracts can accelerate your work by allowing you to read the abstract before you assume the task of locating and reading the entire work. You may find them at the electronic book catalog by entering the keyword "abstracts," which will produce a list with great variety. It will look something like this:

DT: Article

TI: Methamphetamine Laboratories: The Geography of Drug Production

AU: Weisheit, Ralph A. and L. Edward Wells

SO: Western Criminology Review; 11(2): 9–26. 17p. 5 figures/3 tables

IS: 1096-4886

AB: There has been considerable public concern and legislative activity surrounding the issue of domestic methamphetamine production. What has not been extensively examined is the broader context within which domestic methamphetamine production takes place. This study utilizes geographic location data on 14,448 seized methamphetamine laboratories to document the association between the presence of methamphetamine labs and economic factors, social factors, and crime. The study shows that laboratory seizures spiked upward immediately prior to the implementation of legislation restricting access to methamphetamine precursor drugs and declined immediately after the legislation was passed, remaining well below pre-regulation levels. However, more than a third of U.S. counties reported laboratory seizures after strict precursor regulations were in place, suggesting that while the problem of local methamphetamine lab production was diminished by precursor regulation, it was not eliminated. The study also examined factors most strongly associated with the seizure of methamphetamine laboratories at the county level. Economic instability was not a good predictor of the presence of methamphetamine labs, nor were spatial or geographic variables. In general, counties with higher lab seizure rates tended to have a predominantly White, English-speaking population with a substantial representation of evangelical churches. Methamphetamine laboratory counties also tended to have employment based on manufacturing, a larger farm population, single-female-headed households, a higher than average property crime rate, be more racially segregated, have a population that moved into the household within the past year, and have a higher percent of occupied housing. In sum, neither traditional measures of social disorganization nor measures of civic engagement consistently predict the presence of methamphetamine labs.

Figure 5: Sample entry from an abstract index search.

(1) DT = document type; (2) TI = title of the article; (3) AU = author; (4) SO = source;

(5) IS = ISSN number; (6) AB = abstract of the article.

A more specific keyword search will include your discipline, such as "psychology abstracts." This will produce a reference, most likely, to PsycINFO, the searchable database produced by the American Psychological Association. It will give you the type of entry shown in Figure 5.

Searching for Abstracts of Dissertations

You may also want to examine the abstracts to the dissertations of graduate students in *Dissertation Abstracts International,* which you can access from the Internet. For example, an online search of *ProQuest Dissertations & Theses* for 2011–2012 listed an entry shown in Figure 6 under the heading "American Novelists."

You may cite the abstract in your paper, but inform your readers you are citing from the abstract, not the actual dissertation.
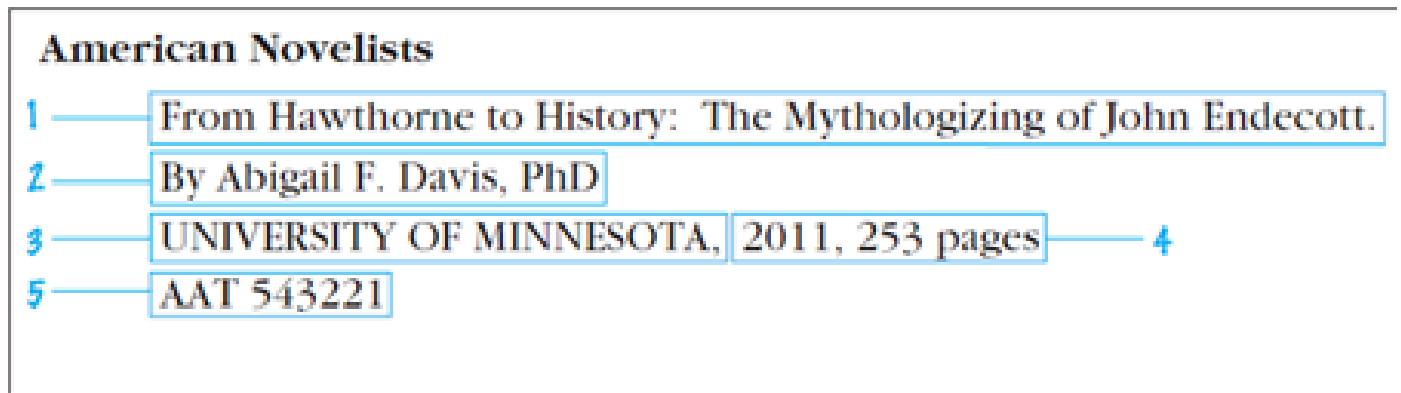

American Novelists

1 —— From Hawthorne to History: The Mythologizing of John Endecott.
2 —— By Abigail F. Davis, PhD
3 —— UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, 2011, 253 pages —— 4
5 —— AAT 543221

Figure 6: Example of an online search of *ProQuest Digital Dissertations.*

(1) Title of dissertation, (2) author, (3) affiliation, (4) number of pages, (5) publication number.

Searching for a Biography

When you want to examine the life of a person, you will find biographies in both books and articles and in print versions as well electronic versions. The electronic book catalog will usually provide multiple sources if you enter the keywords "biography + index."

Several electronic indexes, like InfoTrac and ProQuest, will provide you with abstracts to some biographies and even full-text biographies, such as these:

Biography Reference Bank

Current Biography Illustrated

Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated

Other indexes, in print and online, also have value for finding biographies.

Biography Index

The *Biography Index* in its printed form has long been a starting point for studies of famous persons. It will lead you to biographical information for people of all lands. See Figure 7 for the information provided in a biography search.

Summit, Pat, 1952- Present. Women's basketball coach

Summit, Pat, 1952-Present, women's basketball coach

Summit, Pat. *Sum It Up: One Thousand and Ninety-Eight Victories, a Couple of Irrelevant Losses, and a Life in Perspective.*
New York: Crown. 2013.

Figure 7: From *Biography Index*.

Current Biography Yearbook

Current Biography Yearbook provides a biographical sketch of important people. Most articles are three to four pages in length, and they include references to other sources at the end. It is current, thorough, and international in scope.

Contemporary Authors

Contemporary Authors provides a biographical guide for current writers in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, journalism, drama, motion pictures, television, and a few other fields. It provides a thorough overview of most contemporary writers, giving a list of writings, biographical facts (including a current address and agent), sidelights, and, in many cases, an interview by the editors of the guide with the author. Most entries include a bibliography of additional sources about the writer.

Dictionary of Literary Biography

The Dictionary of Literary Biography provides profiles of thousands of writers in more than 100 volumes under such titles as these:

American Humorists, 1800–1950

Victorian Novelists after 1885

American Newspaper Journalists, 1926–1950

Searching for Articles in Newspaper Indexes

Electronic networks enable you to find newspaper articles from across the nation. Your library may have a newspaper search engine on its network, or you may need to go to the Internet to access newspapers.com. It will take you quickly to more than 800 newspapers, from the *Aspen Times* to the *Carbondale Valley Journal.* In most cases, online newspapers have their own internal search engine that enables you to examine articles from the archives. In addition, several indexes are helpful:

Christian Science Monitor Historic Archive

The New York Times Index

London Times Index

Wall Street Journal Index

Searching Special Subject Directories

Also important for developing a working bibliography are databases that feature articles on a common topic. For example, ProQuest provides archives of sources such as newspapers, periodicals, dissertations, and other aggregated databases. Content is accessed most commonly through library Internet gateways, with navigation through such search platforms as eLibrary, CultureGrams, or SIRS.

Social Issues Resources Series (SIRS)

Social Issues Resources Series (SIRS) collects articles on special topics and reprints them as one unit on a special subject, such as the influence of social media, prayer in schools, or pollution. With *SIRS,* you will have ten or twelve articles readily available. Figure 8 shows one of numerous sources on the topic of online privacy and social networking, as listed in *SIRS Researcher:*

"Toward of historical Sociology of Social Situations"
Diehl, David and Daniel McFarland.
American Journal of Sociology Vol. 115, No. 6
May 2010; Lexile Score: 1370; 22K, SIRS Researcher

Summary: In recent years there has been a growing call to historicize sociology by paying more attention to the contextual importance of time and place as well as to issues of process and contingency. Meeting this goal requires bringing historical sociology and interactionism into greater conversation via a historical theory of social situations. Toward this end, the authors of this article draw on Erving Goffman's work in Frame Analysis to conceptualize experience in social situations as grounded in multilayered cognitive frames and to demonstrate how such a framework helps illuminate historical changes in situated interaction.

Figure 8: An annotated bibliography from *the SIRS Researcher.*

The CQ Researcher

The CQ Researcher will have categorized articles, like *SIRS,* devoted to one topic, such as "Energy and the Environment." It will examine central issues on the topic, give background information, show a chronology of important events or processes, express an outlook, and provide an annotated bibliography. In one place you have material worthy of quotation and paraphrase as well as a list of additional sources.

Searching for Government Documents

All branches of the government publish massive amounts of material. Many of these documents have great value for researchers, so investigate the following source if your topic is one that government agencies might have investigated:

GPOAccess is a site that will take you to the files of the Government Printing Office. The database list includes *Congressional Bills, Congressional Record, Economic Indicators, Public Laws,* the U.S. Constitution, and much more. Following is a Works Cited entry for a report from *GPO Access,* a catalog of U.S. government publication:

United States. Congress. House. Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation and Regulatory Affairs. "Unintended Consequences: Is Government Effectively Addressing the Unemployment Crisis." *Hearing.* 113th Cong., 1st sess. S Hearing 113–2. Washington: GPO, 2013. Print.

Other works that provide valuable information on matters of the government are:

- *Monthly Catalog of the United State Government Publications.* The printed version of GPO.
- *Public Affairs Information Service Bulletin (PAIS),* online and in print. This work indexes articles and documents published by miscellaneous organizations. It's a good place to start because of its excellent index.
- *Congressional Record,* online and in print. This daily publication features Senate and House bills, documents, and committee reports.
- *Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States,* online and in print. This work is a publication of the Executive Branch, which includes not only the president but also all members of the cabinet and various agencies.

Searching for Essays within Books

Some essays get lost in collections and anthologies. You can find essays listed by subject on this database at your library:

Essay and General Literature Index

This reference work helps you find essays hidden in anthologies. It indexes material of both a biographical and a critical nature:

King, Martin Luther, 1929–1968

Raboteau, A. J. Martin Luther King and the tradition of black religious protest. (*In* Religion and the life of the nation; ed. by R. A. Sherrill, p. 64–83).

Your electronic book catalog will give you the call number to Sherrill's book.

Your Research Project

1.   Visit your library to conduct a basic preliminary search for sources that are relevant to your research. This will help you refine your topic. Take the help of the librarian if you feel you are stuck at any time.

2.   List all the resources you wish to use as references for your research. You can maintain this working bibliography either in the form of handwritten notes or as an electronic document. Keep adding to the working bibliography as your research proceeds.

3.   Using an electronic database like JSTOR, to which your library network will give you access, locate some of the

3.   Using an electronic database like JSTOR, to which your library network will give you access, locate some of the abstracts and full-text articles that you think are relevant for your research topic.

4.   Test yourself on how best you can use your library resources. Try to search for information to find out what life would have been like for a young adult in the 1940s. Look up the major events that took place in your hometown in that decade and how people reacted to them.

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ⓘ Fair Warning

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ⓘ 2nd Semester Enrollment

Activities

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