

Course Outline for LIBR 5

INTRO TO GEN RESEARCH DATABASE

Effective: Fall 2009

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

LIBR 5 — INTRO TO GEN RESEARCH DATABASE — 0.50 units

Introduction to research techniques in a college library: electronic resources found in general research databases. Focus on campus and remote use of multi-disciplinary research databases, search strategies, distinction between scholarly journals and popular magazines, evaluation of relevant resources, recognition of plagiarism, and bibliographic citation of articles from magazine, journal, and newspaper databases.

0.50 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Pass/No Pass

Discipline:

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	9.00
Total Hours:	9.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. Locate LPC Library homepage and identify multi-disciplinary databases;
- B. Contrast and compare databases to determine the most appropriate resources for a topic;
- C. Use general periodical databases proficiently;
- D. Formulate effective research strategies for locating magazine, journal, and newspaper articles on a selected topic in LPC general databases;
- E. Distinguish between popular magazines and peer-reviewed journals;
- F. Evaluate articles using assessment techniques such as abstracts, controlled subject vocabulary, date, and relevancy rating to determine the best articles;
- G. Demonstrate the ability to cite information;
- H. Explain ethical, social, and legal issues concerning plagiarism; and
- I. Develop and modify effective search strategies to compile a bibliography on a chosen topic using a standard citation style.

V. CONTENT:

- A. General Databases
 1. Introduction to general databases on LPC Library homepage
 2. Research Applications
 - a. Uses, commonalities, and differences
 - b. Scope and coverage
 3. Search strategy
 - a. Articulate a problem, issue, or research question
 - b. Identify appropriate research terms
 - c. Develop and modify effective search strategies
 4. Search techniques
 - a. Use Help screens to discover search options for each database, including toolbars, basic and advanced search screens, refining search options
 - b. Use limiters and expanders, Boolean operators, truncation, wildcards, and proximity searching to narrow or broaden searches.
 - c. Search by publication, subject terms, cited references, and images.
 - d. Recognize results list features, such as persistent link to searches, print/e-mail/save options, browsing cited references, detailed citation features, and HTML and PDF full-text features.
- B. Popular Magazines and Peer-Reviewed Journals
 1. Differences between the two
 2. Limit search to scholarly or peer-reviewed journals
- C. Evaluation Criteria
 1. Determine appropriateness of publication to the topic.
 2. Ascertain authority of author by looking at other articles on the topic
 3. Use of evaluation tools: abstracts, controlled subject vocabulary, date, relevancy rating.

- D. Plagiarism
 - 1. Define plagiarism.
 - 2. Ethical, social, and legal issues
- E. Citation Formats
 - 1. MLA, APA, and other citation formats
 - 2. Use of bibliographic citation composer
- F. Bibliography
 - 1. Functions
 - 2. Types (annotated, works cited, bibliography, reference list)

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. **Demonstration** -
- C. One-on-one consultation with a librarian
- D. Group work with discussion
- E. Written assignments
- F. In-class, hands-on skill work

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Discussion 1. Compare and contrast the differences and commonalities between America's Newspapers and Academic Search Premier on selected topics 2. Which general database would be better for researching local topics B. Demonstration 1. Formulate search strategy 2. Demonstrate retrieval of relevant articles C. Written Assignments 1. Write citations for the selected articles 2. Prepare a bibliography on the assigned topic

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Projects
- 2. Group Projects
- 3. Other:
 - a. Methods
 - 1. Skill demonstration in class: find articles on an assigned topic using appropriate search strategies in the two general databases
 - 2. Group presentation: present differences between the two databases in researching a particular topic
 - 3. Final project: written bibliography of newspaper, magazine and journal articles on a chosen topic
 - 4. Consultation with librarian to demonstrate search strategy, discuss sources chosen for bibliography, and review citation and bibliographic format for correctness

B. **Frequency**

- 1. Frequency of Evaluation
 - a. In-class evaluation of database search strategies
 - b. In-class evaluation of selected database articles on an assigned topic
 - c. End of class final project: bibliography.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. LPC Library *User Guides and Tip Sheets.*, -, 2006.
- 2. Gibaldi, Joseph *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 6th ed., The Modern Language Association of America, 2003.
- 3. - *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. 5th ed., American Psychological Association, 2001.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Student I.D. card
- B. GoPrint Card