



Succeeding in College –Counseling 49 Project

This handout, prepared by Marion Hinton, is designed to help you begin your research at the PCC Library and on the World Wide Web. If you need further assistance, please consult a librarian at the Reference Desk during library hours.

FINDING BOOKS

Voyager, the Library's online catalog, indexes books, pamphlets, and other material by subject, author, title, keyword, and call number. To search *Voyager* by subject, enter a term and click on "subject heading search" in the pull-down menu. Like most American academic libraries, LBCC Library uses Library of Congress subject headings, such as the following:

college students	time management
college student orientation	achievement
motivation	test taking skills
learning strategies	success
community college students	

To search *Voyager* by keyword, enter essential keywords preceded by the "plus" sign; enter phrase searches in quotations, as shown below:

+study +skills	"study skills"
memory	"note taking"

Voyager will lead you to **E-Books or electronic versions** of books that you can read online. There are several e-books concerning college success. Just follow the links to read the books or ask a librarian for assistance.

FINDING ARTICLES

Journals and magazines usually provide the most current information on a topic. Journal articles are more scholarly or professional while magazine articles tend to be shorter and more general. Newspaper articles, while not usually scholarly or professional, can give you the most current news and some additional facts about your topic.

The library subscribes to several databases which are collections of journal, magazine and newspaper articles. The database that is perhaps the most useful for this assignment is **ProQuest** (for general newspaper and magazine articles).

ProQuest offers thousands of articles on a wide variety of topics. Dates of coverage vary, but some are available from 1985 to the present. The database is updated daily. A password is required.

How to Access databases

- ☐ First, point your web browser to the Library's homepage at <http://lib.lbcc.edu>.
- ☐ Click on the button labeled "**Online Databases.**" You will see a list of databases available for searching. Click on the database you want to search.

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If you are accessing the databases remotely from your home or office, you may be prompted for a user name and password. You may obtain a list of the current user names and passwords from a librarian at the Reference Desk.

For a quick start to database searching, go to the LBCC Libraries' **Web Tutorials** page at <http://lib.lbcc.edu/tutorials.html>.

To become proficient in database searching, the librarians recommend that you attend our free workshops. There, you will receive individual instruction and hands-on practice. Please set up an appointment with the Reference Librarian.

GENERAL WEB SEARCH

Keyword searches in search engines such as *Google* <http://www.google.com>, *Yahoo* <http://www.yahoo.com>, and *Ask.com* <http://www.ask.com> should yield many pertinent web sites. Ask.com is particularly recommended for this assignment because of the way the searching options are presented. Many tips for narrowing and broadening your search are embedded in the search results.

SELECTED WEB SITES

About.com adult/continuing education guide (<http://adulthood.about.com>) This guide consists of sites related to adult learning and education hand-picked by a named educator. The articles tend to be useful and the links are relevant except that this is a highly commercial site with lots of pop-up ads.

Study Strategies Homepage

(http://www.d.umn.edu/kmc/student/loon/acad/strat/study_strat_enr.html)

Maintained by the University of Minnesota Duluth, this site offers many strategies for developing study skills competency.

Study Guides and Strategies (<http://www.studygs.net/>) A study skills site.

The Study Stack (<http://www.studystack.com/java-studysta/frames.jsp>) An online memorization tool that allows you to make your own stacks of flash cards of information that you need to learn and to use these cards in online exercises. Although it is free, it does require that you register.

TILT-Texas Information Literacy Tutorial (<http://tilt.lib.utsystem.edu/>). This is an interactive tutorial to increase your information competency skills; i.e. to more effectively search, select and evaluate the resources available to you in libraries and the Internet.