**Preliminary Research ReportAssignment**

History 1810: Wars that Changed the World

2016-2017

**Week of 9 Jan: start your bibliography research**

Set aside about 5 hours over the next 2 weeks to complete these steps. You might think of this as a “research lab” and a “lab report” that will reflect that you completed each step of this research “experiment” and what you learned along the way. This investment of your time will pay off for the next 4 years, regardless of your fields of study in the future. This is also the first half of your Annotated Bibliography Assignment (final draft due week of February 13).

**Due in tutorial, week of 23 Jan**: ***Preliminary Research Report (components described below)***

Complete all these steps – using Research how-to videos and webpages available online through Western Libraries website: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials>

Note: In citing all your example sources, you must use Chicago style, the preferred citation method in History. Consult the 16th edition of the Chicago Manual of Style, available electronically through Weldon Library for instructions on how to format a bibliography entry in Chicago style. You should easily be able to find it after you have completed this assignment and become an expert at navigating our wonderful libraries at Western. You might also find this site useful: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/>

1. Before you begin the tutorials, pick any topic from World War II or the Vietnam War that interests you to use as you complete these steps. You do not have to keep this exact topic for your final annotated bibliography, but this is an opportunity to see if there are enough sources on a topic you are considering, or if perhaps you should change your focus slightly in order to take advantage of available sources.

Topic: **The Tet Offensive**

Next, read and/or watch these ***very short*** topics under the alphabetical list of tutorials

<http://www.lib.uwo.ca.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/browse/>

Complete each step in order. As you read/watch these, use your chosen topic to try out each of these steps in the research process. As you go, keep track of how your topic (and research question) changes (narrows, broadens, shifts, etc) by filling in the blanks next to each and entering each search into your search log.

1. Watch [The Peer Review Process](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/peerreviewprocess/index.html) and [Evaluating Sources](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/evaluatingsources/index.html). Then, answer these 3 questions:

* How are articles that you find via Summon (the library search engine) different from items you find using the same keyword search in Google? Try it once, and see what you find (answer in 1 sentence)  
    
  On Google search the first hit was the Wikipedia page for the Tet Offensive. However, on Summon, the first result was a book titled ‘The Tit Offensive’ by Marc Jason Gilbert and William P Head.
* What about the difference between search results in Summon and Google Scholar? Will you be able to get the full text (for free) of any of the books or articles you find, regardless of which search engine you use? Or are there advantages to using the Summon search engine on the library homepage? (answer in 1 sentence)

Google Scholar only provides previews of some of the books. Summon on the other hand allows full access to these documents through electronic copies, if available, and hard copies in Weldon. The advantage of using Summon is that it provides access to all its content one way or another for Western students free of charge.

* What are the titles of three journals you should be able to trust on your topic? (Give 3 titles here)
  1. The Tet Offensive: The Turning Point of the Vietnam War
  2. The Tet Offensive: A Concise History
  3. Rethinking American press coverage of the Vietnam War, 1965-68

1. Watch [Research Guides](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/researchguides/index.html) and [Picking the Right Database](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/pickingtherightdatabase/index.html). Then try it out: which research guides did you consult? Which databases did you pick?

List research guides:

* History 1810E - Wars That Changed the World: The Vietnam War
* American Studies
* War - Selected Library Resources

List (at least 3) databases:

* Bibliography of Asian Studies
* America: History and Life
* Historical Abstracts
* Asia-Studies Full-text Online
* JSTOR
* Oxford Reference Online

1. Watch [Keeping a Search Log](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/keepingasearchlog/index.html) – keep this as you go through the steps below and turn in a copy as below or attach as a pdf. Enter your searches here as you go through the rest of this tutorial.

**Search Log for: Zaid Albirawi (January 23rd, 2017)**

**Research Topic/Question: How did The Tet Offensive change the momentum of the Vietnam War?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Database/ tool name | Search | Limits | Notes | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | Saved results? |   Saved items? |
| Bibliography of Asian Studies & America: History and Life & Historical Abstracts | “Vietnam War” AND (“Tet offensive” OR “General offensive”) AND (outcome\* OR impact\* OR “turning point”) |  | Also found by JSTOR | The Tet Offensive: The Turning Point of the Vietnam War. **Downloaded** |
| Bibliography of Asian Studies & America: History and Life & Historical Abstracts | outcome\* OR impact\* OR “turning point” | Subject Terms: Vietnam War, Tet offensive | Remembering the Tet: Vol. 11 Issue 5 of David Hunt’s Radical America. Vol. 11 is not available at Weldon. Also, found in The Oxford Companion to American Military History bibliography | Television's Visual Impact on Decision-Making in the USA, 1968: The Tet Offensive and Chicago's Democratic National Convention. **Unavailable**  Remembering the Tet Offensive. **Unavailable** |
| Bibliography of Asian Studies & America: History and Life & Historical Abstracts | “Tet offensive” AND (outcome\* OR impact\* OR “turning point”) AND “Vietnam War” AND (outcome\* OR impact\* OR “turning point”) |  |  |  |
| Oxford Reference Online | Tet Offensive AND Vietnam War | BY AVAILABILITY: Unlocked, Free  REFINE BY SUBJECT: Military, History | Found in The Oxford Companion to American Military History bibliography | Tet! **Call Number DS557.A62T46**  The Tet Offensive and Its Aftermath **Call Number DS557.3.A53 1993** |
| JSTOR | "Vietnam War" AND ("Tet offensive" OR "General offensive") AND (outcome\* OR impact\* OR "turning point") |  |  | Appropriating Tet. **Downloaded**  The Tet Offensive **Call Number DS557.8.T4T47 1996** |
| JSTOR | "Tet offensive" AND (outcome\* OR impact\* OR "turning point") | Content Type: Journals | The Media, the War in Vietnam, and Political Support: A Critique of the Thesis of an Oppositional Media |  |
| JSTOR | "Tet offensive" AND impact\* | Content Type: Journals | Decision-Making Leading to the Tet Offensive (1968) - The Vietnamese Communist Perspective |  |
| JSTOR | "Vietnam War" AND "turning point" AND “1968” | Content Type: Journals |  | Turning Point: 1968 **Call Number E846.U53 1988** |

1. Watch: [Developing a Research Question](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/developingaresearchquestion/index.html) – my research question is:

How did The Tet Offensive change the momentum of the Vietnam War?

1. Watch: [Developing Search Terms](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/developingsearchterms/index.html): my search terms are:

* Cold War
* Vietnam War
* Tet Offensive
* General Offensive and Uprising
* 1968
* Outcomes
* Effects
* Aftermath
* Results
* Impact
* Turning point
* Momentum shift

1. Watch: [Putting Together Your Search Terms](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/puttingtogetheryoursearchterms/index.html), [Revising your search strategy](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/revisingyoursearchstrategy/index.html) and [Refining your search with fields](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/refiningyoursearchwithfields/index.html) – here are my new search terms and combined search terms:

* “Vietnam War” AND (“Tet offensive” OR “General offensive” OR “1968”) AND (outcome\* OR effect\* OR aftermath OR result\* OR impact\* OR “turning point” OR momentum)
* “Vietnam War” AND (“Tet offensive” OR “General offensive” OR “1968”) AND (outcome\* OR impact\* OR “turning point”)
* (“Tet offensive” OR “1968”) AND (outcome\* OR impact\* OR “turning point”)

1. Watch: [Subject Headings](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/subjectheadings/index.html). I discovered these 3 subject headings that might help me find sources on my topic:

* Tet Offensive
* Vietnam War
* History
* War
* Communism

1. Watch: [Two ways to search a database](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/twowaystosearchadatabase/index.html). Then try searching a database using both ways of searching (all in one and search history).

* Which one did you search?

Bibliography of Asian Studies & America: History and Life & Historical Abstracts

* What search terms did you use?
* “Tet offensive” AND (outcome\* OR impact\* OR “turning point”)
* “Vietnam War” AND (outcome\* OR impact\* OR “turning point”)
* What are the first 5 results of each search? (paste them here – unformatted text)

**\*\*\*Next to each search result, write either “Relevant,” “?” (not sure if it’s relevant or useful, I’ll have to read it to be sure) or “Irrelevant” (unhelpful search result)\*\*\***

1. **All-in-one search:**

1. There is no place in our institutions for radicals. **?**

2. The Tet offensive gamble, July 1967-March 1968: Hanoi's difficult strategic decision, July 1967 and January 1968; The impact on the Johnson administration, March 1968; Communist Party assessment, March 1968. **Irrelevant**

3. The Tet Offensive: The Turning Point of the Vietnam War. **Relevant**

4. Television's visual impact on decision-making in the USA, 1968: The Tet Offensive and Chicago's Democratic National Convention. **?**

5. THE VIETNAM WAR FROM BOTH SIDES: REVISITING "MARIGOLD," "SUNFLOWER" AND "PENNSYLVANIA. **?**

1. **Search History:**

1. There is no place in our institutions for radicals. **?**

2. The Tet offensive gamble, July 1967-March 1968: Hanoi's difficult strategic decision, July 1967 and January 1968; The impact on the Johnson administration, March 1968; Communist Party assessment, March 1968. **Irrelevant**

3. The Tet Offensive: The Turning Point of the Vietnam War. **Relevant**

4. Television's visual impact on decision-making in the USA, 1968: The Tet Offensive and Chicago's Democratic National Convention. **?**

5. THE VIETNAM WAR FROM BOTH SIDES: REVISITING "MARIGOLD," "SUNFLOWER" AND "PENNSYLVANIA. **?**

1. Watch: [Decoding Search Results](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/decodingsearchresults/index.html), [Getting Full Text](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/full_text_article_get_it/index.html) and [How to Find Journal Articles](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/howtofindjournalarticles/index.html).

In these videos, you learned how to locate different kinds of materials from your search results. Now, go and get them! Type the properly cited titles of three articles, books, or chapters from your search results below, and also attach them as PDFs OR enter the call numbers and location (which floor?) in Weldon Library here. (You must get full text of 3 items relevant to your topic – but they can be any format (book/article/book chapter).

* 1. Oberdorfer, Don, *Tet!* (The Johns Hopkins University Press Baltimore and London, 1971). **Call Number**: DS557.A62T46, Weldon 3rd floor.
  2. Falk, Richard, “Appropriating Tet,” *The Massachusetts Review* (1988): 391-420. **Attached**
  3. Walton, Jennifer, “The Tet Offensive: The Turning Point of the Vietnam War,” *OAH Magazine of History* (2004): 45-51. **Attached**

1. Find a Book Review. Reading a book review is a great way to find out quickly whether a book you have found in your searches will actually have the information you want (without checking it out of the library). Using one of the databases you picked above (and limiting your search to only find reviews of books), find a scholarly review of a book (ie, one that is printed in a peer-reviewed journal) you think might be helpful to your research – attach a PDF of the book review (you will need to download it, save it, and then attach it electronically or print it out), AND include the full and proper citation here:

Albertson, Dean, review of *Turning Point: 1968* by Irwin Unger and Debi Unger, *Oxford University Press*, April, 2006, The American Historical Review, http://www.jstor.org/stable/2163991.

1. On your own: [Evaluate Sources](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/evaluatingsources/index.html) (review that video if needed).

List 3 sources that you have found in all your searches that you might need to use with caution or skepticism, and explain why:

* 1. The Tet offensive gamble, July 1967-March 1968: Hanoi's difficult strategic decision, July 1967 and January 1968; The impact on the Johnson administration, March 1968; Communist Party assessment, March 1968. **Reasoning:** Irrelevant, and not peer reviewed.
  2. Television's visual impact on decision-making in the USA, 1968: The Tet Offensive and Chicago's Democratic National Convention. **Reasoning:** could be relevant, however, outdated.

3. The Tet offensive. **Reasoning:** outdated.

1. Read: [Annotated Bibliographies](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/annotatedbibliographies/index.html). Use this tutorial to complete your Annotated Bibliography due at the end of this unit. (**DUE week of 13 Feb in tutorial – see assignment sheet for Annotated Bibliography**). Note that this tutorial may not use Chicago style citations, but you must do so! Also, since you have to summarize and evaluate 10 sources for your Annotated Bibliography, start choosing those sources and reading them NOW.
2. Watch: [Plagiarism](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html).

Circle one: True or **False**

If I plagiarize, my professors will be very, very sad.

1. [Tour of the D. B. Weldon Library](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/tourofthedbweldonlibrary/index.html). After reading this tutorial, GO to the ACTUAL library and take a photo of a book that you found using the catalogue online (the same one from #10 above if you wish). <insert photo here> For extra credit: include a picture of this book in your bedroom, to prove that you actually checked it out and took it home to skim. ☺

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Now that you have completed this research tutorial report, you should turn in the results of your research, following the assignment as outlined above. On the cover page of this Preliminary Research Report, include a summary that lists the following: the **keywords and research questions that you developed, as well as a list (properly cited in Chicago Style) of 2 books and 1 article, and 3 or more databases that you found through this tutorial that were helpful in identifying sources** for this example research project. You should also include a paragraph on evaluating these sources that discusses which sources seem most relevant and trustworthy, and which ones seem less useful or reliable than others.

Attachments checklist: don’t forget to include these when you turn in your report (as PDFs or in hard copy, as your tutorial leader prefers):

* Search log
* Full-text of a book review
* Full-text scholarly article /or book chapter
* 1 or 2 photos of a book you found at the Weldon library (on the shelf, at your home)