



Library Research Worksheet

Political Science 120A

Your responses in the exercises below will help to ascertain what you already know about library research and pinpoint areas where you need further instruction. In this way, your work will determine the content covered in the library session on [date]. It is important that you do each section independently, without the assistance of a peer, a librarian, etc.

I. Following a Citation Trail

A tried and true method of finding sources on a research topic is to start with a publication you've already read. Whether it's an article or book, scholarly works typically end with a list of references the author consulted -- which may include other books, scholarly journals, magazine or newspaper articles, government, NGO or IGO reports, etc.

The article "The Era of Leading Power Peace" by Robert Jervis is reprinted in your course text International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues. In his References, Jervis includes 33 citations to other sources, including the five below. Do your best to determine whether these five sources are available in the library, either in print, online, or both. If you're unable to find a source after making an effort, say so. (There are no penalties, except for not trying!) For each source, answer the following:

- a) Where did you look to make your determination? Be as specific as possible. For example, rather than say you found a source "on the library web page," or using a "library search engine" name the search tool/engine/database you used.
- b) Is the source available in print (e.g., on the library shelves), online, or both?
 - o For sources available in print, name the library or libraries on campus that own copies and provide the call number.
 - o For sources available online, indicate the path you took to finding them in a step-by-step fashion -- as though you were giving instructions by phone to someone else who wanted to find the same source.

1. Art, Robert J. 1996. "Why Western Europe Needs the United States and NATO." *Political Science Quarterly* 111 (Spring): 1-39.

a)

b)

2. Cain, Peter. 1979. "Capitalism, War and Internationalism in the Thought of Richard Cobden." *British Journal of International Studies* 5 (October): 229-47.

a)

b)

3. O'Hanlon, Michael E. 2001. *Defense Policy Choices for the Bush Administration*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

a)

b)

4. Oneal, John R., and Bruce Russett. 1999. "Is the Liberal Peace Just an Artifact of Cold War Interests? Assessing Recent Critiques." *International Interactions* 25 (3): 213-41.

a)

b)

5. Schweller, Randall L. 2000. "Democracy and the Post-Cold War Era." In *The New World Order*, eds. Birthe Hansen and Bertel Heurlin. New York: St. Martin's Press. 46-80.

a)

b)

II. Finding Books Using the Melvyl Catalog

The library catalog is the main point of entry into the riches of a library's collection. The trickiest part about using it, as you've probably discovered while doing research in the past, is choosing the search terms that will get the best, most relevant results. This exercise is a trial-and-error exploration using Melvyl, the catalog of all nine UC-system libraries. To get to Melvyl, start at the library home page at <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/>, and find its link under the red tab labeled "Library Catalogs."

Your topic:
(State as narrowly as you can at this point)

Before you begin, note that the default search "type" on Melvyl's opening screen is a "title" search (notice the "pull down" menu to the left of the search box). You can experiment with the search type by changing the current selection from "title" to "keyword" or "subject", for example. For almost any search topic, you will have to try several different search term(s) and/or combinations of terms before you're satisfied with the results: searching is, ultimately, a discovery process, and the first terms you think to use are not always the most effective.

Letting your instinct guide you, experiment with different terms and search types (and combinations thereof) to find books on your topic. For each search (make at least 3 tries) record a) the search type you use (e.g, "title", "author", "subject"), b) the search term or terms (exactly as you type them in the search box), and c) the number of results. With each search, review your results, paying attention to how useful and relevant they seem to you: Are they too broad, too narrow, just right, a mix?

Search 1

a) search type: _____

b) search term(s):

c) number of results: _____

Search 2

a) search type: _____

b) search term(s):

c) number of results: _____

Search 3

a) search type: _____

b) search term(s):

c) number of results: _____

Of the three "strategies" you tried above, note the one that seemed to get results that are most useful and relevant to your research topic. From the result list, select one source that most interests you:

Title: _____,

Publication Date: _____

Author: _____

Available at UCB? (If so, "UCB" will appear in the field mark "Libraries"): YES / NO

If at UCB, provide call number: _____

III. Finding Scholarly Journal Articles

The annotated bibliography you will turn in requires you to include articles from academic (or “scholarly”) journals. By any means you may have used in previous research, using any search tool you think is suitable for the purpose, try to find a scholarly article on the topic you’re working on. This exercise, too, is just exploratory: you are not expected to include the article you find on your final bibliography.

1. Describe here how you went about searching for articles published on your topic. Where did you look? Did you use a specific search tool, search engine, or library database -- or more than one? Please be as specific as possible, avoiding generic responses such as “the Internet” or “the library web site”.

2. If you were unable to find any articles on your topic, indicate here. Be sure you answer question (a), above, explaining where you looked.

3. Provide the following information for one article you found.

Author: _____

Article Title: _____

Source (Journal Title):

Volume: _____ Issue: _____ Pages: _____

Year: _____

Available Online? In Print? _____

Final Question:

After completing these short exercises, carefully re-read the Annotated Bibliography Assignment description. What is the most pressing, unanswered question you have about finding your sources?