

## **WML Information Literacy Instruction Assessment 2023-24 Classroom Activity Report**

**Faculty Librarian:** Sheli Pratt-McHugh

**Semester:** Fall 2023

**Course Number and Name:** PS 210: Political Science Research (EP)

**Course Instructor (Last Name):** Hopper

**Date(s) of Information Literacy Instruction:** 9/15/2023

**Time(s) of Information Literacy Instruction:** 10:00-10:50am

**Location:** WML 202

**Number of Students Registered in Course:** 15

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### **Summary of research assignment or task**

Students were writing a research paper and needed to find books, articles, and databases. I created a handout for developing keywords to use in the class session (attached).

### **Classroom Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) – at least one, no more than three**

SLO 1: As a result of this information literacy instruction, students will create a list of keywords to use in searching Royal Search and other databases.

SLO 2: As a result of this information literacy instruction, students will be able to find a research article in Royal Search.

### **How will you know how students are doing as they work toward meeting these outcomes?**

I will give time at the end of class to search for articles, and I will walk around and check in with each student to see if they are finding appropriate results. I will also check if they are filling out the keyword handout and if they need help brainstorming keywords/subject headings.

### **Based on your experience teaching this class and any assessment of student work you were able to do, what can you change next time to improve how you teach it? Or, what was successful that you want to be sure to do again the next time you teach it?**

Now that I've done two rounds of both PS 110 and PS 210 and now incorporated Royal Search, I think I can create two different lesson plans that build on one another. In the future, for PS 210, I

can review basic Royal Search techniques, and then focus more on advanced searching techniques, citation chasing, and Zotero/citation management.

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**Information Literacy Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) – at least one, no more than four – this information literacy instruction supports**

PLO3: Students will identify the appropriate level of scholarship among publication types (scholarly journals, trade publications, magazines, websites, etc.) in order to critically evaluate the usefulness of the information for their research need.

PLO4: Students will articulate the key elements in their research questions in order to develop and execute a search strategy.

## Library Databases - Developing a search strategy

Librarian: Professor Sheli Pratt-McHugh ([sheli.pratt-mchugh@scranton.edu](mailto:sheli.pratt-mchugh@scranton.edu))

Narrowing your Research Question and Creating some Search Terms

1) Let's start with a broad research question?

Climate change and social justice

Reframe into a question: Is climate change a social justice issue?

Break your question into specific ideas or concepts:

Who?	What?	What else?
People Humans Climate scientists Animals Insects	Climate change Social Justice Government Law Poverty Politicians/Politics Energy	Environment Human rights Forests Ecosystems Pollution Air pollution Water pollution

2) Can you create a new research question from the concepts in the chart:

- \_\_\_\_How does Climate Change impact human rights?\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_How does pollution effect global warming?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_How does poverty effect climate change on a particular community
- How humans impact the ecosystems  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Library Databases - Developing a search strategy

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3) What is your topic or research question?

4) Break your question up into specific ideas or concepts (subjects). These concepts will form the building blocks of your search strategy.

Who?	What?	What else?

### Why?

Databases don't like sentences!

Long phrases or sentences will confuse the database and lead to disappointing or NO results.

Pick out the words that indicate the main points of your topic.

5) Conduct a search for your topic in a database of your choosing. What keywords/subject terms do you see appearing in the articles included in your results list? Are there any keywords/terms mentioned that you think are interesting and/or relevant to your assignment? List them below.

6) Create a more sophisticated search by combining your topic with some of the terms from questions 4. Write what you tried down here. **Database Tips:** When searching in databases, you can use **AND** to look for articles that include all terms. You can also use **OR** between keywords to look for similar search terms. Use quotation marks to search for multi-word terms.

Examples: Google AND social justice vs. Google AND "social justice"  
Google AND (racism OR discrimination OR diversity)

## Library Databases - Developing a search strategy

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7) Utilizing your answers from above and the search strategy you created, locate at least three articles you feel helps support your topic. Write down the following information or copy and paste the citation:

- a. Author
- b. Article Title
- c. Publication
- d. Volume/Issue numbers
- e. Date Published
- f. DOI or URL
- g. CITATION

- a. Author
- b. Article Title
- c. Publication
- d. Volume/Issue numbers
- e. Date Published
- f. DOI or URL
- g. CITATION

- a. Author
- b. Article Title
- c. Publication
- d. Volume/Issue numbers
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- g. CITATION

### Remember!

- TAKE NOTES – write down what terms you have tried, where they worked, and where they didn't
- You can change your keywords at any time if you aren't getting results that you find relevant.
- Research is an iterative process – try different combinations of terms, use different keywords, see how articles you think are relevant are tagged/described.
- The same search techniques won't yield the same sorts of results in different databases. They all have their own specific vocabulary.
- If you are frustrated try one or more of the following:
  - Walk away - take a short break and come back to things a little while later
  - Share your topic with a peer – maybe they could think of some key terms or subject terms you hadn't thought of.
  - Meet with a librarian! Stop by Research Services on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Library or use the Ask a Librarian Chat for help.