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Doing Research is a lot like taking a trip

*We’re going to do some research, what do we need to do to get ready or plan for?*

- What do I want to learn?
- How long do I have?
- What are the limitations or parameters?
  - What kinds of sources do I need? Do I need scholarly journals?
- What do I already know?
- Is there something specific I need to find out?
- How will I know when I am done?
- Has anyone else written about this topic?
- What sources do I have access to that will help me?

*Now that we’ve thought through our plan, reread through our plan and see if we’ve covered all our bases and see if there are follow up questions.*
Introductions & Objectives

Why is this topic important?
— Good research is the foundation of good scholarship.
— Our job is to give you some tools and some skills for becoming a savvy researcher who can synthesize rather than summarize.
— Practice planning out your research process pays off: it saves you time and makes your work more efficient.

What are we going to do today?
— Talk about your research process, search strategies, the library, locating review and peer review articles, managing searches, synthesizing rather than summarizing, and other important library/archives services.

What are we not going to do today?
— In depth discussion of source management, citation searching, or your role as a scholar in the scholarly conversation.

What if you want to know more than we cover today?
— There are lots of resources available including other research skills workshops in this series, library staff, or online resources & tutorials.
Searching for sources at the library

http://library.oregonstate.edu/
Searching for sources at the library

GO TO http://library.oregonstate.edu/

http://library.oregonstate.edu/
Finding and using review articles: use what you know to find what you need to know

Review articles sum up the current state of the research on a particular topic.

They can help you identify:

• main people in a field
• recent advances and discoveries
• significant gaps in the research
• current debates about issues
• ideas for future research
• vocabulary words used by people in the field

Locating review articles: Review articles sum up the current state of the research on a particular topic. Review articles will teach you about:
• the main people working in a field
• recent major advances and discoveries
• significant gaps in the research
• current debates
• ideas of where research might go next
• vocabulary words used by people working in the field
See http://www.lib.utexas.edu/lsl/help/modules/review.html for more.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/maile/1745480/in/photostream/
What is the “scholarly conversation”? 
• You’ll recognize authors, labs, research institutions 
• You’ll recognize common or discipline specific ways for organizing thoughts or research findings 

Compare & contrast review article and peer-reviewed scholarly articles (2 minutes)
• What is peer review? “Peer Review is a process that journals use to ensure the articles they publish represent the best scholarship currently available.”
• Review articles and peer review articles may be similar or dissimilar depending on your discipline.
• See [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/lsl/help/modules/peer.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/lsl/help/modules/peer.html) for more.

Each discipline has different ways of review articles and methods for doing peer review. Explore and review yours on your own.
Managing Searches

**Save your searches**
- Email the citations to yourself
- Use social bookmarking software
- Save your search history in databases

**Keeping track is critical**
- Bibliographic management software
- Library tools are available

From Flickr: "This Cannot Be Deleted"
I love British mystery novels and movies like I love planning trips.
What does a detective need?
Not taking someone else's word for it – original research
Detective needs evidence – different types like written, physical, oral
Original statements from witnesses
Knows who's who – who are the crooks? Who do you ask for gossip?
Knows the procedures / laws

http://activehistory.ca/2014/02/navigating-archival-research-roadblocks/
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1318150/iPhone-cheats-cracking-Britains-biggest-hedge-maze-minutes.html
Different source types for different projects
SCARC site
Collections list
Records with pictures
Finding aid – title, dates, quantity, scope of collection, big/hist note, related papers, inventory
Finding things
Log your research & take notes

Research logs help you plan and organize research time, shape your searches, make informed choices about the best search tools for your topic, modify your searches based on experience, document your sources, and retrace steps if needed.

No matter which one you use, keeping a research log that records research activities (sources, search terms, and outcomes) is a good idea.

When creating a research log, keep track of...

- dates when you search,
- where you search (places and the search tools you use),
- search terms and strategies you use,
- types of materials you find,
- ideas to use during the next research session,
- other notes that will help your research time be more productive.
We’re moving beyond the book review – remember “synthesis not summary”

• The book review summarizes what you’ve read; a literature review for a scholarly paper synthesizes what you’ve read with your own ideas with the ideas of other scholars or researchers in your field.
You can use your research log to see themes and help develop your outline!

- Search for common themes/concepts/relationships
- Group literature by these concepts (some papers may fall in several concept groups)
- Search for gaps
- Don’t simply list article summaries
- Synthesize, create something new
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