

IDH 2029 Honors **Library Research Methods**

Professor: N. Yevstigneyeva

Librarian: Chad Mairn

Phone: 727.341.7181

Email: mairn.chad@spcollege.edu

Web: <http://www.spcollege.edu/> (keyword search: mairn)



Some important questions to consider:

- What is the assignment and why am I doing this research?
- What kind of information, how much, and when do I need it?
- What do I already know about my topic and can I apply what I am learning now?
- Did I completely answer my initial research question and support it with relevant resources?
- How can I best share my conclusions with others?

To find a book (circulating or reference):

- Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on **#4 Library Catalog** >>> it helps sometimes to narrow your search for items located on the **Gibbs campus** or to a certain **format**, **date**, and/or **language** >>> conduct a **subject**, **title**, **author** or **keyword** search?

A search for **vladimir putin** within the **subject field** displays 12 results. Conducting the same search within the **keyword field** displays 16 results. If you have several results, then adding more specific keywords and/or an appropriate subject heading to your search can help to narrow down your topic.

To find appropriate subject headings:

- You can click on the **Browse Lists** button inside the Library Catalog and search for other subject terms. Discovering other subject terms can help you narrow or even broaden your topic. (e.g. **subject begins with ... putin, Vladimir**. See: [Putin, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1952- -- Interviews](#))
- Or you can use the four volume print set found in the Reference section and search within the **Library of Congress Subject Headings**.
- Or you can do a basic or advanced search and notice other hyperlinked subject headings inside the bibliographic record.

You can add Boolean operators (i.e. AND, OR, NOT) easily in the **Advanced Search** mode. Searching for **putin, vladimir** as a **subject** AND **leader*** as a **keyword** (* = truncation) will locate 2 records.

Search by: Keyword
and Subject
and Author
At: St. Petersburg College All campuses
Exact phrase: No Yes (Applies to all search fields)

[AND = both terms/phrases must be present (this will narrow your search results). You could use OR to find synonymous terms/concepts or NOT to eliminate certain terms/phrases.]

Note: It is possible to request books from other libraries and have them sent to your main campus library!

St. Petersburg/Tarpon Springs Circulation	HF5381 .T2212 2006	Available	Request
Valencia/East	Circulation HF5381.T2212 2006	Available	Request



Borrower ID = Student Number

PIN = Last 4-digits of Social Security Number

Find Electronic Books via NetLibrary: Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on #5 Netlibrary. [name =spc and password = _____].

(Note: You are now able to search for all of our electronic books (over 60,000 titles) within our main library catalog!) However, using netLibrary will allow you to search within the Full Text of the electronic book.

Try an Advanced Search for Subject: stalin, joseph AND Full Text: leadership)



To find articles in journals, magazines, newspapers and more:

- Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on #1 Articles and Databases >>> Here you will find several databases. (**Biography Resource Center, Academic Search Premier, and Jstor** are excellent first choices.) In some cases, you can simultaneously search more than one database!
- Can also search a printed index like the **Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature**, the **Humanities Index** etc. – they are especially helpful if the power goes out! Don't forget to ask a librarian for help.

Biography Resource Center: find full-text biographies from reference books and periodicals.

Try a *Name contains* search for sojourner truth.

Search by Name

sojourner truth

Name contains Start of last name

Academic Search Premier: largest scholarly, multi-disciplinary full text database containing full text for nearly 4,650 serials, including more than 3,600 peer-reviewed publications.

Try a basic search for **gates, bill** and narrow results by subject and/or by type or resource (e.g., academic, magazines, newspapers etc.).

Find: gates, bill

in: Academic Search Premier

Narrow Results by Subject

[GATES, Bill, 1955-](#)

[MICROSOFT Corp.](#)

[UNITED States](#)

[CHARITABLE uses, trusts, & foundations](#)

[OPERATING systems \(Computers\)](#)

[EDITORIALS](#)

Or if you have conducted some background research and have a specific thesis in mind, try a more precise search for **gates, bill AND leader* w7 educat*** (TX All TEXT)

Find: gates, bill in

and in

and in


Research Tip: Academic Search Premier will generate citations in APA, Chicago, MLA, and other styles!



“Find it at SPC” using Google Scholar.

Try a search for “**indira gandhi**” leadership.



Research Tip: Within Google Scholar preferences, you can select a Bibliography Manager to import citations. Also,  <http://www.worldcat.org> can cite sources too! Just copy/paste the title.



Although many articles are now available in full-text, you may find some that are in a printed format (i.e., bound in book form) or available in one of our many other databases. If the article is not in full-text, then you will need to determine if our library owns that particular edition. This is a great time to Ask-a-Librarian to help you locate these articles that are not available in full-text.



If you do research via the World Wide Web please consider the following:

- Anyone can create a website.
- Can you clearly determine who has written the article? Do they have subject expertise?
- Is the website relevant to your research? Is it comprehensive? Up-to date? Biased?
- Can the information be verified?



Don't forget to cite your sources!

- Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on **#6 Citing Sources** >>> this will help you cite your sources properly.
- Also, check out Landmark's Citation Machine at: <http://www.citationmachine.net>
- <http://www.worldcat.org> can cite sources too!



Some more things to consider ...

1. Computers do fine jobs storing and retrieving information; however, they are only as intelligent as their users. We must continue to use our brains and critically evaluate what we read and judge it accordingly. Computers allow researchers to find lots of information easily, but it is clearing the thickening "data smog" that can be difficult while at the same time rewarding.
2. Try to add content that you may think is missing from an article and ask vital questions along the way. This will force you to think more openly about a topic and to remain focused throughout the research process.
3. Don't forget to cite your sources! Take good notes and remember to document where and when you found the information. Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> and under Quick Links select Citing Sources for more information. Read SPC's Academic Honesty Policy at <http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/admit/honesty.htm>.
4. Have fun and enjoy the learning process!

Do you have a question? Are you completely lost? ...



Librarians are available to help every person select and effectively use the library's resources within the library and even in cyberspace!